ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

DAY 1  ARRIVAL INTO MOSCOW
DAY 2  SIGHTSEEING IN MOSCOW
DAY 3  SIGHTSEEING IN MOSCOW
DAY 4  SIGHTSEEING IN MOSCOW, EMBARK VOLGA DREAM
DAY 5  SIGHTSEEING IN UGLICH
DAY 6  SIGHTSEEING IN YAROSLVAL
DAY 7  SIGHTSEEING IN GORITSY
DAY 8  SIGHTSEEING IN KIZHI
DAY 9  SIGHTSEEING IN SVIRSTROY
DAY 10 DISEMBARK, SIGHTSEEING IN ST. PETERSBURG
DAY 11 SIGHTSEEING IN ST. PETERSBURG
DAY 12 SIGHTSEEING IN ST. PETERSBURG
DAY 13 DEPARTURE
TRIP DESCRIPTION & HIGHLIGHTS

Volga Dream Gold tour caters to discerning travelers who prefer to travel privately or in an intimate group. This journey includes accommodation in the 5 star hotels in Moscow and St. Petersburg and extensive touring of the most breathtaking sites in a group of 25 or fewer guests.

- Visit to the Kremlin and Armory
- Special early entrance to the Hermitage Museum and access to the Gold Room
- Catherine Palace and Peterhof
- 6 breakfasts in the hotels
- 6 breakfasts / 6 lunches / 6 dinners aboard MS Volga Dream with unlimited house wine, beer and soft drinks included without limit with all lunches and dinners
- 4 fascinating lectures by Russian professors about Russian history and politics
- Diverse range of cultural activities aboard MS Volga Dream
Upon arrival in Moscow, you will be transferred to the luxurious Marriott Aurora, only steps from the Kremlin and Red Square.

The rest of your day is at leisure to relax or explore on your own. This evening there will be a welcome reception with your guide and fellow travellers.

**Meals**
None

**Hotel**
Marriott Aurora
Begin your day today with a “Moscow Architecture” tour. The city boasts unique diversity and variety in terms of building styles: classic, modern, empire and eclecticism amazingly sit alongside more monumental designs, such as Stalin’s towering skyscrapers from the mid-20th century. The architecture of the capital, though seemingly contradictory and contrasting, makes for a dazzling combination in a quite unique city.

End your half day tour with a visit to the famous Novodevichi Cemetery, where well-known Russian authors, musicians, playwrights, and poets are buried along with famous actors, political leaders, and scientists.

**MEALS**
B

**HOTEL**
Marriot Aurora
This morning enter the Kremlin for a visit to the Armoury Museum to view its collection of opulent coronation finery, hand-forged armour and weapons, royal carriages and sleighs, and dazzling Faberge eggs.

After lunch, walk around the famous Red Square and visit GUM - Moscow’s largest department store. Make your way to one of Russia’s medieval masterpieces, St. Basil’s Cathedral.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

**MEALS**
B

**HOTEL**
Marriot Aurora
This morning, enjoy some time at leisure.

This afternoon, your guide will take you to the State Tretyakov Gallery, located in one of Moscow's most interesting neighborhoods. This area, called Zamoskvoreche (“beyond the Moscow River”) was originally settled in the 13th century. The small winding streets give this area an almost old-fashioned atmosphere, with historic churches and the mansions of 19th century wealthy merchants. The museum only houses Russian artists, ranging from Rublev’s 12th century icons to 20th century masterpieces.

Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to experience the fascinating interiors of the Moscow Metro stations, ornately decorated with beautiful paintings, carvings and chandeliers! The Moscow Metro was created as complex of monumental structures featuring designs of the very best Soviet architects. The stations, most built between 1930 and 1960 are underground palaces, featuring exquisite frescoes, statues, mosaics and stained glass. Each station has its own special theme- our favorite is Teatralnaya. Today this massive public transportation system is one of the largest in the world, carrying over 9 million passengers per day (twice as many as London or Paris!).

Later, you will be transferred to the awaiting luxurious MS Volga Dream to begin sailing along the Russian waterways. Gather for the Captain’s welcome reception and dinner as you begin your cruise.

Volga Dream Experience: Bread, Salt & Vodka ‘Welcome Aboard’ Ceremony

MEALS
B, D

HOTEL
Volga Dream
Uglitch

After a full day of cruising through forested countryside, dock in the ancient trading town of Uglitch -- one of the spokes of Russia’s renowned Golden Ring. Explore the impressive Church of St. Dmitri-on-the-Blood, erected on the site where Dmitri, son of Ivan the Terrible, was murdered in 1591, and attend an enchanting concert of choral music at St. John’s Church.

Volga Dream Experience: Costumed Russian Tea Ceremony & Russian Cooking Class

Meals
B, L, D

Hotel
Volga Dream
YAROSLAVL

Founded in 1010, Yaroslavl is one of the oldest cities in central Russia and the Volga’s first port. In the Spassky Monastery see the Transfiguration of the Savior and admire the mosaics at the Church of Elijah the Prophet. Take part in a costumed reception at the governor's house, and then re-board the MS Volga Dream in time for lunch.

**Volga Dream Experience: Barbeque on the Sun Deck**

**MEALS**
B, L, D

**HOTEL**
Volga Dream
Goritsy

This morning you cross Lake Beloye, formerly known as the “tsar’s fishing grounds”, before arriving in the peaceful village of Goritsy. Tour the Ferapontov Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with magnificent frescoes by Dionysius, one of Russia’s most renowned icon painters. He painted the temple ceiling about 10 years before Michelangelo even started on the Sistine Chapel! Return to the ship for a late lunch and afternoon cruising.

*Volga Dream Experience: Russian Dinner with Vodka Tasting*

**Meals**
B, L, D

**Hotel**
Volga Dream
KIZHI

The Kareliya region, which spans the area from St. Petersburg to the Arctic Circle, is a vast wilderness of forest and water. Discover Lake Onega, fed by 58 rivers and home to 1,369 islands, including Kizhi. See a collection of ancient Russian wooden houses and windmills, and the famous Transfiguration church, built in 1714 without a single nail.

*Volga Dream Experience: Piano Concert – pieces by Tchaikovsky and Rakhmaninov*

**MEALS**
B, L, D

**HOTEL**
Volga Dream
Svirstroy

The highlight of your day in Svirstroy is being invited into a local resident's home. Warm and welcoming Svirstroy villagers will offer tea with jam and “pirozhki” (local pies). They will enthusiastically tell you all about Russian tradition, lifestyle and the attractions of Svirstroy village while proudly showing off their homes and kitchen gardens. After tea, a bus will take you for a tour of the nearby town to see the WWII monument and visit a local primary school.

Volga Dream Experience: Farewell Dinner

MEALS
B, L, D

HOTEL
Volga Dream
DISEMBARK- ARRIVAL INTO ST. PETERSBURG

Arrive in St. Petersburg via the Neva River and disembark MS Volga Dream.

Enjoy a city tour of St. Petersburg which includes: Split of Basil Island (walking tour), Spilled Blood Church (photo stop), Peter and Paul Fortress (outside), St. Isaac Cathedral, and a drive down the famous Nevsky Prospekt.

After the tour, check-in to the Grand Hotel Europe.

MEALS
B

HOTEL
Grand Hotel Europe
St. Petersburg

The morning takes you to one of the most famous museum in the world, the awe-inspiring Hermitage in the lavishly decorated Winter Palace. The Hermitage occupies six magnificent buildings and houses 3 million artworks ranging from Stone Age to modern times. The collection includes Leonardo Da Vince, Rafael and Titian. The main building and largest part of the museum is the rococo-style Winter Palace, once the residence of the Czars. Your visit incorporates a unique opportunity: a private visit to see the stunning XVIII century mechanical masterpiece - Peacock Clock - in action. A special early entrance, before official opening hours, has been arranged.

Next, travel to the meticulously restored Peterhof, St. Petersburg’s most famous and spectacular Imperial estate, often cited as the Versailles of Russia. Stroll in the vast Lower Park with 176 fountains of various forms and styles and four cascades, majestic palaces and numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes. Return to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil.

**MEALS**
B, L

**HOTEL**
Grand Hotel Europe
DAY 12

ST. PETERSBURG

Enjoy the morning at leisure.

This afternoon, travel to Catherine the Great’s Palace, which houses the extraordinary Amber Room, its six tons of solid amber deftly carved and framed in gold leaf. Once deemed the “eighth wonder of the world,” the room was stripped by the Nazis in 1941, but majestically reconstructed in honour of St. Petersburg’s 300th birthday.

MEALS
B

HOTEL
Grand Hotel Europe
DEPARTURE

Your driver will meet you this morning for your group transfer to the airport.

MEALS
B
2019 Gold Tour Dates and Rates:

Moscow to St. Petersburg
June 20 – July 2
July 4-16
July 16-28
July 28-August 9
August 9-21
August 22-September 3
September 5-17

St. Petersburg to Moscow
May 31 – June 12
June 26-July 8
August 15-27
August 29-September 10

Standard Cabin (Twin) – Cabin Deck (101-108)
$4,495 per person, double occupancy, (+$2,925 Single Supplement)

Superior Stateroom (Twin) – Main Deck (201-210)
$5,195 per person, double occupancy, (+$3,380 Single Supplement)

Deluxe Stateroom (Queen) – Promenade Deck (301-324)
$5,695 per person, double occupancy, (+$3,700 Single Supplement)

Deluxe Stateroom (Twin) – Sun Deck (406-409, 411-412)
$5,895 per person, double occupancy, (+$3,835 Single Supplement)

Junior Suite (Queen) – Promenade & Sun (316, 405)
$6,695 per person, double occupancy, (+$4,355 Single Supplement)

Deluxe Junior Suite (Queen) – Sun Deck (402-404)
$7,495 per person, double occupancy, (+$4,875 Single Supplement)

Owner’s Suite (Queen) – Promenade Deck (300)
$8,995 per person, double occupancy, (+$5,850 single occupancy rate)

Standard Single (Single) – Promenade Deck (325-326)
$6,695 per person

Deluxe Single (Single) – Sun Deck (410)
$7,195 per person
MOSCOW – Marriott Aurora Royal Hotel
Built in 1999 The Marriott Aurora Royal Hotel is one of the most luxurious in town: Red Square, the Kremlin and the famous Bolshoi Theatre are all within easy walking distance. This hotel, quite literally, has the capital’s commercial, political and cultural heart on its doorstep. With its classical arches and spires, the hotel gloriously blends traditional Moscow with modern convenience.

ST. PETERSBURG – Belmond Grand Hotel Europe
A cultural and culinary landmark, Grand Hotel Europe has played a central role in the life of St. Petersburg for over 130 years. A truly iconic Orient-Express hotel, renowned for its impressive façade and decorative interiors the Belmond is on Nevsky Prospekt surrounded by the city’s great architectural treasures. Next door to Arts Square, the hotel has strong associations with the worlds of theatre, music and dance. Past guests include Tchaikovsky and Pavarotti, crowned heads and world leaders.

Rates include:
Arrival and departure group transfer
Introductory meeting with the guide
3 nights at the Marriot Aurora (some dates will stay at the Park Hyatt)
6 nights aboard Volga Dream
3 nights at the Grand Hotel Europe (some dates will stay at the Kempinski Moika 22)

Daily sightseeing in a group of 25 or fewer guests with an English speaking guide
All meals +complimentary house wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board MS Volga Dream
Amenities -25+ hours of the Russian Workshop (Discussions, Classes, Concerts, Films & Performances)
During the cruise: - 4 lectures by a Russian professor
  24 hour coffee station with snacks
  Welcome fruit basket
  Bottled Water replenished daily
  Port charges, local taxes, fuel surcharge

Not included:
Any airfare, visa fee, tips, personal medical insurance, medical treatment, laundry, minibar, personal expenses like gift shop purchases, beverages on board MS Volga Dream other than wine and soft drinks during lunch and dinner, drinks in the bar, telephone and Internet connection, other items not specifically mentioned as inclusion above.

Payment terms: 25% deposit to confirm the booking
75% 90 days prior the departure

Cancellation terms:
Written cancellations received less than 90 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost
- Deposit is non-refundable
- 90 – 60 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 59 days or less prior to departure, 100% of total tour cost.

All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.

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