

Russia: Rivers and Lakes of the Czars

DATE: JUNE 18 – JULY 1, 2006

Sunday, June 18th

Depart Chicago / St. Petersburg Russia

Your exciting holiday begins today with a trans-Atlantic flight to St. Petersburg.
(Meals en route)

Monday, June 19th

St. Petersburg

Upon arrival, you are greeted by the friendly Uniworld staff and transferred to your floating hotel, the *Yesenin*. The rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure – relax, get acquainted with the ship and the cruise staff, meet your fellow passengers. (B, L, D)



Tuesday, June 20th

St. Petersburg

This morning enjoy an excursion to Pushkin for a visit to the spectacular Baroque Catherine Palace, one of the finest examples of rural country residences. Visit the spectacular palace including the famous, recently restored, Amber Room. Stroll along the alleys of the park with its numerous pavilions, ponds and sculptures. The afternoon is at leisure in St. Petersburg. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, June 21st

St. Petersburg

This morning, a guided tour takes you through the world-renown Hermitage Museum, located in the former Winter Palace of the Czars. This afternoon you are free to explore on your own. This evening, enjoy a performance by dancers, singers and musicians representing Cossack culture, one of the brightest in Russia (B, L, D)



Thursday, June 22nd

St. Petersburg

Another full day in the “Venice of the North” to spend as you please. Your elegant ship departs this evening. Enjoy welcome cocktails and a gala welcome dinner on board. Take in beautiful vistas as your ship sails along the gentle Neva River. (B, L, D)

Friday, June 23rd

Mandrogi

You may want to explore the village on your own enjoying its ancient Russian architecture, or visit the unique Vodka Museum featuring over 250 varieties of Russia’s national drink!
(B, L, D)

Saturday, June 24th

Lake Onega and Kizhi Island

Cruise through Lake Onega, the second largest lake in Europe and one of the world’s purest. In the afternoon, arrive on enchanting Kizhi Island, one of the highlights of your waterway journey. Here, a walking tour will offer a chance to see splendid examples of 18th-century Russian architecture, including typical wooden churches, houses and a windmill.(B, L, D)

Sunday, June 25th

Goritsy

Enjoy breathtaking scenery as you sail north through White Lake, once known as the “Czar’s fishing grounds,” and through the Volga-Baltic Canal. Arrive in Goritsy, a peaceful farming community where your cruise pauses for a few hours for a tour ashore and a visit to the well-preserved, fortress-like, Kirill Belosersk Monastery. In the afternoon, continue northward. In the summer, the days are long and the sun brings a glow to the river and landscapes until well after ten at night.(B, L, D)

Monday, June 26th**Yaroslavl**

Arrive this morning in Yaroslavl, another Golden Ring city, founded in 1010 by Grand Prince Yaroslavl the Wise of Kiev. With its wide, tree-lined streets and attractive parks, it's easy to see why Yaroslavl has always been considered one of Russia's most beautiful cities. Its man-made treasures make the city lovely too; several of its buildings rank among the world's greatest in architecture. Visit a masterpiece of local architecture, the exquisite Church of Elija the Prophet, on your sightseeing tour. You'll also see the 12th century Transfiguration Monastery with murals depicting the apocalyptic visions of St. John. It was here that "The Lay of Igor's Host" one of Russia's greatest literary treasures was discovered. Enjoy a performance by a local folklore ensemble before continuing your journey northward, cruising through the vast Rybinsk Lake. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, June 27th**Uglich**

A relaxing day onboard as you cruise along the Volga, Europe's longest river. Enjoy shipboard activities, including lectures on Russian history and language. After lunch, arrive in the historic town of Uglich. As you approach this picturesque Golden Ring city, be prepared for the lovely sight of its Cathedral and St. John's church coming into view. Founded in 1148, Uglich is one of the oldest towns in Russia. Infamous for being the site of the mysterious death of Ivan the Terrible's son, Dimitry, the town hosts a commemorative church – the Church of St. Dimitry on the Blood – on the site where the young Prince's body was found. On your tour of the city, you will see the Kremlin, the Palace of Czarevich Dimitry, and visit the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Savior. Enjoy the Captain's farewell dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, June 28th**Moscow**

The morning finds you cruising through the spectacular Moscow Canal connecting the Volga River with the River Moskva. Arrive in the port of Moscow this afternoon. After lunch, embark on a city tour and see the famous landmarks and major sights of Russia's grand capital. Explore Red Square, then drive to Lenin Hills for a splendid view of the River Moskva and the city below. (B, L, D)

Thursday, June 29th**Moscow**

Enjoy a morning city tour and see the major sights of Russia's most dynamic city. Drive to the Lenin Hills for a splendid view of the river Moskva and the city below. Explore Red Square and marvel at the sinister Kremlin walls and the flamboyantly colored onion domes of St. Basil's Cathedral. The afternoon is yours to do as you wish. Take an optional tour of the famous Moscow Metro, where each station is a living museum of marble statuary, intricate mosaics and crystal chandeliers. Stroll Arbat Street, a pedestrian-only street with souvenir shops. In the evening, a performance of the Moscow State Circus provides an exhilarating high point to your day. (B, L, D)

Friday, June 30th**Moscow**

This morning, visit the Kremlin and its incomparable Armory Museum. Walk within the Kremlin and take in the fascinating view of the lavish government (formerly the Czar's) palaces and splendid cathedrals. See three of the most important cathedrals in all of Russia – the Assumption which served as the traditional investiture place of the Czars, the Annunciation with its nine golden domes, and St. Michael's the Archangel which, until the time of Peter the Great, was the internment place of the Russian rulers. Inside the Armory, see the priceless collection of Royal treasures, including an extraordinary assembly of imperial carriages and the renowned Fabergé eggs. This afternoon, you are free to explore Moscow on your own or take an optional tour to the Tretyakov Art Gallery, recently reopened after a nine-year remodeling project. (B, L, D)

Saturday, July 1st**Moscow / Chicago**

Today, your fascinating "Waterways of the Czars" Grand Cruise through Russia comes to an end. It is time to say goodbye to your newly-made friends and fly home. (B)

Meals included indicated by: B=breakfast L=lunch D=dinner

Itinerary is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control or for the convenience of our travelers.