

# VOYAGE ON THE VOLGA (A RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE)

*Journey through Russia's heartland on an 11-day RUSSIAN RIVER CRUISE and "in depth" multi-day experiences in both MOSCOW & ST. PETERSBURG.*

*Extensive sightseeing, entertainment, meals and more included.*

**July 25/August 4, 2009**

*(Passports and visas required)*



The Kremlin, Red Square & St. Basil's Cathedral  
MOSCOW

## **A PERSONAL INVITATION**

Please "come and go with us" as Please Go Away™ Vacations takes you on a voyage through the "Old Country". The Volga River Valley was the home of so many of our ancestors, and its customs and traditions have played such an important role in the development of our present-day lives. On this voyage you will be able to see and feel "where it all started". Two of the world's greatest cities are in Russia - Moscow and St. Petersburg. We will experience each thoroughly on multi-day stays in both. But, in between we'll literally cross the heartland of Mother Russia as we cruise its rivers and visit its smaller communities and see the areas "up close". Spaces are limited as the river cruiser, of necessity, accommodates many fewer passengers than ocean going ships. Call with questions - and to reserve - today.

*Your friends at*  
Please Go Away™ Vacations

## **A FEW OF YOUR SPECIAL EXPERIENCES**

- ◆ Experience an exciting lunch at the KGB Restaurant and learn much more about this mysterious organization.
- ◆ In one of the quaint riverside villages, join together for a traditional Shashik barbecue.
- ◆ Experience the traditional Russian Piroshki tea party.

## **YOUR DAILY ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Home / Overnight Flight:** Depart the U.S. and board your overnight flight en route to St. Petersburg, Russia.

**Day 2: St. Petersburg, Russia / Ship Embarkation:** This morning you arrive in St. Petersburg, Peter the Great's magnificent creation and one of the loveliest of European cities. Transfer to the m/v Mayakovskiy, your home for the next nine nights. This evening, spend time getting acquainted with your fellow passengers and the ship. Enjoy dinner aboard ship. (D)

**Day 3: St Petersburg:** Your morning tour of this fabled city of canals will take you to Palace Square, the historic heart of St. Petersburg, and along Nevsky Prospect, the city's main boulevard lined with shops and restaurants. You'll see the monumental St. Isaac's Cathedral, Admiralty Tower and other great buildings that stand as monuments to the extravagant splendors of Imperial Russia. This afternoon enjoy a guided tour through the world-famous Hermitage Museum, the crown jewel of St. Petersburg, located in the Winter Palace, former

home of Catherine II. No museum rivals the Hermitage in size, grandeur and holdings, including masterpieces by Da Vinci, Rembrandt, Rubens and Picasso. (B,L,D)

**Day 4: St. Petersburg / Cruising:** Today, take an excursion to Tsarskoye Selo (formerly known as Pushkin) and tour the magnificent Catherine Palace. Marvel at the blazing robin's egg blue of the exterior and tour its distinctive rooms, including the Hall of Lights, with its intricately painted ceiling, and the recently restored Amber Room. After your visit, enjoy lunch at a nearby folk restaurant featuring delicious local cuisine. *This afternoon we have included a special PLEASE GO AWAY™ VACATIONS bonus just for our travelers, an excursion to Peterhof, the opulent palace and gardens built by Peter the Great. This majestic complex is a fitting addition to your in depth experience of Mother Russia.* Early evening, set sail

through the countryside of Russia and enjoy nightly entertainment on board, along with unique samplings of local cuisine such as Blini and Caviar. Tonight, enjoy a welcome cocktail reception, followed by the Captain's welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

**Day 5: Svir River—Green Stop on Mandroghi or Svirstroy:** Today, cruise through the 119-mile Svir River which connects Lake Ladoga with Lake Onega. Pause for a few hours in a quaint riverside settlement where you may explore various buildings which represent country life in Russia. As you continue on your journey, you will enjoy a traditional Shashlik barbecue, a traditional meal in Russia. (B,L,D)

**Day 6: Lake Onega—Kizhi Island:** Enjoy cruising through picturesque Lake Onega, the second largest lake in Europe and one of the world's purest. This morning arrive at Kizhi Island, located at the northern end of Lake Onega. Kizhi is renowned for its open-air museum, fascinating buildings of northern wood architecture including the remarkable Church of the Transfiguration. This spectacular church has 22 domes in three tiers and is the ultimate in Russian fairytale architecture. During your cruise you will enjoy an authentic Piroshki tea party and learn about local tea traditions. (B,L,D)

**Day 7: Goritsy:** Enjoy breathtaking scenery as you sail south to Goritsy, a peaceful farming community. An optional walking tour is offered featuring visits to the well-preserved, fortress-like Kirill Belosersk Monastery and the House of Culture for an opportunity to experience the traditions of Russian hospitality. You will also view arts and crafts created by children. Later, sail in the vast White Lake, once known as the Tsar's fishing grounds. As you continue cruising, enjoy one of the many daily on-board discussions. (B,L,D)

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**Day 8: Uglich:** As you approach the picturesque Golden Ring city of Uglich, be on deck for a lovely view and panorama of the magnificent architectural monuments. Your walking tour includes the historic Transfiguration Cathedral, where a local choir brings the church's acoustics to life during a brief demonstration. Also see the blue domed Church of Prince Dimitry of the Blood. Visit a local handicraft market where you will see the talent of the locals and learn about the Chaika watches. Continue along the mighty Volga River through unspoiled forests and rural villages. This evening, enjoy a festive Captain's dinner. (B,L,D)

**Day 9: Moscow, Russia:** Today you arrive in Moscow, the grand capital of Russia and its most dynamic city. Moscow is one of the largest cities in the world and home to more than nine million people. Enjoy a highlights tour of many of the historic and famous landmarks viewing Red Square, Sparrow Hill and St. Basil's Cathedral. Travel on Tverskaya Street, the grand boulevard of central Moscow, lined with shops and restaurants. This afternoon, enjoy an exciting lunch at the KGB Restaurant and learn about this mysterious organization. The balance of your day is at leisure...you may choose an optional tour to the Tretyakov Art Gallery, which features a magnificent collection of Russian icons, as well as the largest collection of Russian art in the world. (B,L,D)

**Day 10: Moscow:** This morning, take the Moscow Metro, also known as the "Underground Palace", to visit the 15th century Kremlin. Each Metro station was designed by a Russian architect, sculptor or artist. Arrive at the incredible Kremlin and view the priceless collection of Imperial treasures in the Armory Museum. This museum, filled with crown jewels, bejeweled royal scepters, icons, ancient weapons and armor, is sure to be a highlight of your trip. (B,L,D)

**Day 11: Moscow - Disembark Ship:** Your tour ends, leaving you with many pleasant memories of a wonderful vacation. A transfer will take you to the nearby airport to board your waiting plane that will bring you back to the U.S. As you fly high above the clouds you will reflect on what has been a most unusual and marvelous experience. It will be one that you will continue to relive and share with your new found friends that have been with you on this special "Voyage on the Volga". (B)

## YOUR CRUISE SHIP

The MS Vladimir Mayakovskiy is considered to be one of the best overall ships in its class. It was completely refurbished in 2002. The public facilities consist of a Gift Shop, Reception Desk and Snack Bar on the Main Deck, Dining Room, Souvenir Shop and Staff Office on the Middle Deck, a Piano Bar/Observation Lounge and an Entertainment Salon on the Upper Deck, and a Conference/Meeting Room on the Sun Deck. All river ships, because of the need to navigate narrow waterways, are small and narrow, generally accommodating less than 200 passengers. Early reservations are necessary to assure best possible staterooms. Accommodations are serviceable and compact. River cruising is the most ideal way to see the real countryside and villages of the areas visited - unpacking and packing only once, and awaking in a new area each day.

## SPECIAL BONUSES & IMPORTANT INFO

*This is a dream travel experience. Every person reserving with Please Go Away™ Vacations will receive the following special bonuses to make your experience even more memorable:*

- ⇒ "Memory Photo CD" of your Russian adventure filled with candid photos of members and sights taken while on tour.
- ⇒ Included Travel Guard group travel insurance protection.
- ⇒ Free passport/visa photos taken in Great Bend offices.
- ⇒ Reservation deposit is \$900 per person.
- ⇒ Camaraderie, safety, and security of traveling throughout the entire journey with a group of travelers from the Midwest who share your same travel interests.
- ⇒ Pre-departure party to distribute tour documentation, meet fellow travelers, answer all questions, provide information and actual examples of what to wear and buy.
- ⇒ Special "Russian Party" while in Russia just for Please Go Away™ Vacations tour members.
- ⇒ You will have a personal hostess throughout entire travel experience with minimum of 15 tour members.

**\$5491.90 ppdo - Main Deck**

**Upper Deck - Add \$200 / Boat Deck - Add \$400**

**(Full payment at time of reservation guarantees price)**

*Important - Price reflects "included" roundtrip air transportation from Wichita, KS. If another departure city is better for you we'll calculate and arrange flights if you prefer. Any increase or decrease resulting from departure from another city will be passed along to traveler. Price also includes all sightseeing, meals, etc. as described in this brochure.*

**Travel Wall of Fame Savings - Deduct \$40 per person  
Friendship Bonus Plan benefits also available**

*Fuel and other surcharges may apply. Departure/arrival taxes, if any, will be advised when known. Tour members will be invoiced to pay final balance due on or before full payment due date of March 25, 2009 "Full payment due date" will also be shown on reservation confirming invoice or any subsequent invoices. Passports and visas will be required. Although we will assist in obtaining, the responsibility and costs of doing so are those of the traveler. Cancellation assessments: From date of reservation to October 25, 2008 - zero; October 26, 2008 - March 25, 2009 / \$1000; March 26, 2009 - April 25, 2009 / \$3000; April 26, 2009—day of departure / 100% of tour cost.. Payment in full at time of reservation protects against surcharges.*



**Please Go Away™ Vacations**

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