



VIKING
RIVER CRUISES

Exploring the World in Comfort®

Russia Explorer **2013 At-A-Glance**



The centerpiece of this 13-day cruisetour is an unforgettable 7-night cruise along the Volga and Neva Rivers to explore Golden Ring towns like Uglich and Yaroslavl, breathtaking churches and monasteries, and fascinating open air museums. Your voyage is bookended by hotel stays in the heart of Russia's two greatest cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg. Enjoy 2 nights in Moscow with easy access to the capital city's storied Kremlin, Red Square and extraordinary museums and landmarks. And 3 nights in gracious St. Petersburg provide ample opportunity to discover opulent palaces and the architecture, cuisine and people of one of the world's most beautiful cities. Explore Russia in style!

Sail dates available September to October 2013
Moscow to St. Petersburg *or* St. Petersburg to Moscow
Ship sailing this itinerary: Viking Truvor

Russia Explorer **Included Features**

- 8-day cruise with river-view stateroom
- 11 guided tours with audio headset
- 3 nights in St. Petersburg: Hotel Angleterre; 2 nights in Moscow: Radisson Royal* **
- Most meals: 12 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 dinners, featuring regional specialties and including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner and Captain's Farewell Dinner
- Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Culture CurriculumSM: Enjoy onshore music and dance performances; learn a little Russian; listen to lectures about Romanov Czars, the Soviet Union and current affairs; attend a Russian cooking workshop; participate in Russian tea time.

Included Tours:

Hermitage Museum tour
Ballet or opera performance
Pushkin excursion
St. Petersburg city tour
Kizhi Open Air Museum tour
Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery walk
Yaroslavl city tour
Uglich guided walk
Moscow city tour
Classical folkloric concert
Kremlin tour

Optional Activities:

Hermitage Privileged Access
Cossack Folk Songs & Dances
Peterhof Palace & Park tour
St. Petersburg canal city cruise
Sergiev Posad tour
Moscow Cosmonaut Museum
Old Tretyakov Gallery
Moscow by Night tour
Matryoshka Doll Painting
The Russian Banya
Kommunalka Visit
Kremlin Supplement Armoury Chamber

Note: Optional tours are purchased on board ship and are subject to availability & minimum participation

* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

** Hotel rooms generally can only be occupied in the afternoon. Your luggage will be transferred between hotel and ship and delivered in your (state- or hotel-)room at the earliest possible time.

See your travel agent or call Viking River Cruises at 1-877-668-4546
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Russia Explorer **Journey Highlights**

The World's Largest Art Museum

Over the span of 250 years, the collection of the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, has grown to over three million items including works from noted artists such as da Vinci, Michelangelo, Matisse, Rubens as well as Cézanne, van Gogh and Picasso. These treasures are housed along the embankment of the Neva River, in the heart of St. Petersburg. The highlight in this architectural ensemble is the Winter Palace, former residence of Russian Czars including Catherine the Great—just one of the works of art you'll see on your tour.

An Architectural Feat

Once you arrive at the island village of Kizhi you will set out on a walking tour through the Open Air Museum of Architecture. Here, you will see ancient wooden houses, windmills and churches, highlighted by the famous three-tiered *Preobrazhenskaya* (Transfiguration) Church. This fairytale structure was built in 1714 without the use of a single nail.

The Heart of Moscow

In Russian, the word *kremlin* refers to any major fortified complex. But in Moscow there is one very special Kremlin, adjacent to Red Square. Inside its crenellated red brick walls you will see four palaces and a variety of churches, monasteries and official buildings—as well as one enormous bell. It also serves as the official residence of Russia's President.

A Legend Restored

Constructed of amber panels backed with gold leaf and mirrors, the Amber Room was given to Peter the Great by a Prussian King in 1716. Installed at Catherine's Palace in Pushkin, it was later extended to cover nearly 600 square feet with over six tons of amber. During World War II, German soldiers disassembled the room and it was never seen again. In 2003, a painstaking reconstruction was completed, enabling visitors to once again enjoy its brilliance. Admire it on your palace tour.

Russian Specialties

A large country, Russia has quite a varied cuisine—but some things everyone loves. A staple of the Russian diet is *pirozhki*, small pastries stuffed with fish, meat, eggs, potatoes, cabbage or mushrooms and either baked or quick-fried. Another traditional dish is *blini*, thin crêpe-like pancakes served with butter, sour cream, fruit preserves and/or caviar. Taste these specialties on board.

Russia Explorer

Moscow to St. Petersburg Itinerary

Day 1 Moscow, Russia

- Moscow airport transfer*
- Hotel check-in

Day 2 Moscow, Russia

- Panoramic city tour including Red Square, Bolshoi Theater & St. Basil's Cathedral

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Moscow, Russia

- Hotel check-out; embark ship
- Full day at leisure
- Optional tours to Sergiev Posad, Tretyakov Gallery or Cosmonaut Museum
- Optional Moscow by Night tour

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Moscow & Moscow Canal, Russia

- Guided Kremlin tour
- Scenic cruising

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Uglich, Russia

- Guided walk with Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood and home-hosted visit

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Yaroslavl, Russia

- City tour of Yaroslavl, a UNESCO Site, including visit to the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet
- Free time

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Kuzino & Volga-Baltic Waterway, Russia

- Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery guided walk & or excursion to a children's art school
- Scenic cruising along the Volga-Baltic waterway

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Kizhi, Russia

- Walking tour of Open Air Museum of Architecture, a UNESCO Site

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Mandrogy, Russia

- Scenic cruising along the "Blue Route"
- Optional Matryoshka doll painting
- Optional banya experience

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 St. Petersburg, Russia

- Disembark ship; hotel check-in
- Hermitage Museum tour
- Ballet performance

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 St. Petersburg, Russia

- Pushkin excursion including Catherine's Palace
- St. Petersburg city tour including St. Isaac's Cathedral, Peter & Paul Fortress and Nevsky Prospekt
- Optional Russian folkloric performance

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 St. Petersburg, Russia

- Day at leisure
- Optional Peterhof Palace tour, canal cruise or home-hosted visit to a Kommunalka

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 13 St. Petersburg, Russia

- Hotel check-out
- St. Petersburg airport transfer*

Included Meals: Breakfast

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

Russia Explorer

St. Petersburg to Moscow Itinerary

Day 1 St. Petersburg, Russia

- St. Petersburg airport transfer*
- Hotel check-in
- Free time to explore St. Petersburg

Day 2 St. Petersburg, Russia

- Hermitage Museum tour
- Optional Hermitage Privileged Access
- Ballet performance

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 St. Petersburg, Russia

- Pushkin excursion including Catherine's Palace
- St. Petersburg city tour including St. Isaac's Cathedral, Peter & Paul Fortress and Nevsky Prospekt
- Optional Russian folkloric performance

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 St. Petersburg, Russia

- Hotel check-out; embark ship
- Day at leisure
- Optional Peterhof Palace tour, canal cruise or home-hosted visit to a Kommunalka

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Mandrogy, Russia

- Scenic cruising along the "Blue Route"
- Optional Matryoshka doll painting
- Optional banya experience

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Kizhi, Russia

- Walking tour of Open Air Museum of Architecture, a UNESCO Site

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Volga-Baltic Waterway & Goritzky, Russia

- Scenic cruising along rivers, lakes and canals

- Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery guided walk & excursion to a children's school

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Yaroslavl, Russia

- City tour of Yaroslavl, a UNESCO Site, including visit to the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Uglich, Russia

- Guided walk with Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood and home-hosted visit

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 Moscow Canal & Moscow, Russia

- Scenic cruising
- Panoramic city tour including Red Square, Bolshoi Theater & St. Basil's Cathedral
- Russian folkloric performance

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 11 Moscow, Russia

- Disembark ship; hotel check-in
- Full day at leisure
- Optional tours to Sergiev Posad or Cosmonaut Museum
- Optional Moscow by Night tour

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 Moscow, Russia

- Guided Kremlin tour
- Optional State Tretyakov Gallery tour
- Afternoon free time to explore Moscow

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 13 Moscow, Russia

- Hotel check-out
- Moscow airport transfer*

Included Meal: Breakfast

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

Explore More

More days means more to discover. We offer exciting ways to see even more of the region with extension packages you can add before or after your Viking journey.

Helsinki Extension

3-night extension—\$799 per person

Extend your journey with a stay in Helsinki, Finland. See the city's highlights, including Senate Square, the Government Palace and the landmark Cathedral, and explore its noted museums. Transfer from St. Petersburg, three nights at the **Radisson Blu Plaza** (or similar), daily breakfasts and a guided walking tour are included along with the services of a Viking host.

The superior first class **Radisson Blu Plaza** hotel is in the heart of Helsinki, located conveniently next to the Grand Casino Helsinki, Finnish National Theater, Museum of Contemporary Art and Central Railway Station. The foundation stone of the building was laid in 1917 and today various parts of it are protected by the Helsinki City Museum, including some beautiful painted glass windows. The hotel offers a restaurant and bar; laundry service; a fitness room and sauna; business center and free wireless access. Air-conditioned room amenities include telephone, television, wireless internet access, safe, minibar and hair dryer.

Moscow Extension Itinerary

2 nights—\$599 per person

Extend your trip with two additional days in Russia's capital city. You will enjoy a guided tour through the city's famed subways and have free time to explore museums and the local culture. See the country's national treasures at The Armory or delight in a meal at the Pushkin Café, located inside a baroque mansion. Two nights at **Radisson Royal Hotel** (or similar), with daily breakfasts and hotel/ship transfers are included with the services of a Viking host.

Radisson Royal Hotel is a five-star luxury hotel in Moscow city centre, on a bend of the Moskva River. The hotel was originally built in 1953 and was the tallest hotel in the world at the time of construction. This hotel offers free WiFi, a library, a spa and concierge services. Air-conditioned room amenities include telephone, television, wireless internet access, safe, minibar and hair dryer.

* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

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Explore More

St. Petersburg Extension Itinerary **2 nights—\$599 per person**

Spend two additional nights in magical St. Petersburg and visit the various palaces in this city. Enjoy a canal cruise and see why St. Petersburg is considered the “Venice of the North.” Or perhaps investigate the scene of Rasputin’s murder at the Yusupov Palace. Two nights at **Angleterre Hotel** (or similar), with daily breakfasts, hotel/ship transfers are included with the services of a Viking host.

The **Angleterre Hotel** was one of the first hotels in St Petersburg. In the 1920s it was a favorite destination for artists and poets. From its charming location overlooking St Isaac's Cathedral, it is perfectly placed for discovering the history and romance of the city. The hotel has the Borsalino Restaurant and Caviar Bar; spa, indoor pool, solarium and gym. All rooms are air-conditioned and offer a personal electronic safe, refreshment centre and hairdryer. The state-of-the-art interactive satellite television system includes internet as well as Video- and CD-on demand.

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The Viking Experience

Quietvox Tour Earphones

With our Quietvox tour earphones, there are no worries about missing any interesting details during your shore excursions. Each guest will receive a lightweight, portable receiver that can be worn around the neck or slipped into a pocket. The comfortable earpiece with individual volume control allows you to hear your guide's comments no matter where you are standing and makes every place on your tour the "best seat in the house."

Onboard Enrichment

Culture CurriculumSM. To help you further appreciate the countries that you will visit, we complement your shore excursion with a broad range of immersive activities, on board and ashore. Your cruise includes traditional Russian tea, Russian cuisine workshop, Russian ballet or opera, a Russian folkloric performance, a Russian language lesson, The Romanov Czars, Russian history, Putin & Democracy. Times and locations will be announced on board.

Expert Program Directors. Viking River Cruises Program Directors are selected for their comprehensive knowledge of the regions you will be visiting. They have a fine appreciation of each destination's nuances and a genuine passion for travel and are there to help from the first moment to the end of your journey. If you have any questions, would like recommendations or have any concerns during your itinerary, do not hesitate to contact your Program Director.

General Physical Fitness

Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, however, *because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, this tour may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions*. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. If you have concerns or questions, please discuss the nature of your itinerary with your Viking River Cruises Travel Consultant.

Complimentary Wine with Dinner and Lunch Service

Enjoy complimentary bottled wine with onboard dinner and lunch service. We feature two varietals—one white and one red—that pair beautifully with our onboard menu of contemporary and regional specialties.

Before You Go

Visit our website at vikingrivercruises.com (or vrc.com) where you can not only learn more about all the places you might go with Viking, but you can also immerse yourself in the experience from the comfort of your own home. There is information abound and you can watch videos of destinations, take a virtual tour of a cruise ship or get a list of recommended readings.

Passports & Visas

Passports and visas are necessary and required for U.S. citizens for this itinerary. Non-U.S. citizens, please check your consulate for visa information.

Viking's All-Inclusive Airfare & Transfers

For your convenience, you can purchase roundtrip trans-oceanic air travel directly from Viking in conjunction with your river cruise or cruisetour. Viking's air packages are a great value because they include your transfers between airport and ship or hotel. And, when you reserve your air with Viking and purchase Viking's all-inclusive travel protection policy, your air travel is covered by the policy as part of your Viking itinerary. Select from more than 165 different gateways (additional gateways available) in economy or the upgraded service of Business Class (trans-oceanic portion); once your reservation has been made, we will confirm your flight schedules 75 days before departure.

E-Check Program

Viking offers special incentives when you pay via e-check (electronic debit to your checking account)—a quick and convenient way to pay for your vacation. Ask for details when making your reservation.

Viking Travel Protection

Viking Travel Protection allows you to cancel your trip for any reason. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that whatever may arise—even a pre-existing medical condition—you retain 100% of your travel value. Premiums are based on trip cost and start at only \$249 per person!

Climate – Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Moscow	59/44	46/35
St. Petersburg	57/46	45/37

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