Itinerary for Russian River Cruise - Moscow to St. Petersburg • Expat Explore

Start Point:  
End Point:

DAY 1: Arrive in Moscow

Welcome to Moscow and day 1 of your Russian tour! Check in at the hotel lobby and meet your tour leader. Once you've settled in, you have the day to explore before joining us for the welcome dinner this evening. Make use of Moscow’s metro system, it’s the fastest mode of transport in the world. Trains run every 90 seconds during rush hour, and an estimated 9 million passengers use the metro every day!

Experiences

Enjoy a traditional Russian dinner with your tour leader and fellow travellers!

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✗  Lunch: ✗  Dinner: ✓
DAY 2: Moscow city tour

See the sights of Moscow from the comfort of the coach. Snap a few photos as you stop off at the iconic landmarks. No trip to Russia is complete without a visit to the Kremlin, known as the heart of the city. Walk along Old Arbat street and do some souvenir shopping. Spend the evening exploring the city, and perhaps sample some local vodka.

Experiences

City Tour of Moscow. The Red Square and the Kremlin are both on the UNESCO List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites. Glimpse the iconic colours of St Basil's cathedral and see the Russians go about their day.

Entrance to the Kremlin. The Kremlin architectural complex was originally built in the 12th century. Find yourself surrounded by the famous Cathedral Square, which includes the cathedrals of Assumption, Archangel and Annunciation. Not to mention the Church of Laying Our Lady's Holy Robe and the Patriarch's Palace with the Twelve Apostles' Church. Take the opportunity to visit Ivan the Great’s Bell-Tower complex.
Visit Old Arbat street for shopping. A mere 10 minutes from the Kremlin and only open to pedestrians, Old Arbat Street is a must for any visitor to Russia. This cobbled street used to be an affluent suburb in the 15th century. Since then it has become a local hotspot for artists and local performers. This is the best place to buy an authentic Russian souvenir. Russian dolls (also known as matreshkas or babushkas) are very popular.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ✓
- Dinner: ❌

**DAY 3: Moscow**

Today, check in to the cruise ship. Before stepping aboard, spend the morning exploring Moscow’s sights. Set out on your own, or speak to your tour leader about optional experiences available for you to join. Reconvene with your group back in the hotel lobby, hop aboard your shuttle and head to the ship.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ❌
- Dinner: ❌

**Accommodation**

- Cosmos Hotel
Optional Excursions

Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery: € 55

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 4: Sergiev Posad

Make your way to Sergiev Posad. This beautiful city is famous for its monastery, the blue domes of which can be seen from afar. Take your time exploring the city and all it has to offer. Here, you can take a step back as far as the 14th century! After exploring, meet back at the coach and head back to the boat. After a delightful dinner on board, sit back and revel in the onboard entertainment.

Experiences

Day trip to Sergiev Posad. Home to one of the holiest sites in Russia, pilgrims from all over the world flock to Sergiev Posad to visit the Troitse-Sergiev Monastery. Within the monastery complex you can visit beautiful churches and graves of famous Russians.
Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓  Lunch: ✗  Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

MS. Zosima Shashkov

Optional Excursions

Kostroma national folk show: € 70

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 5: Moscow: Free Day

It's the last day to soak up all that Russia's capital has to offer. Take the time to visit the sites you've missed the first time around. Join your tour leader on some intriguing optional excursions, or wander about on your own. Around late afternoon we'll fire the engines to make our way to our second stop on our Russian boat tour. Dine on board and see the city lights of Moscow disappear into the night.
Optional Excursions

Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery: € 55

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 6: Uglich

Wake up to the boat is cruising along the Volga River. Make use of the boat’s view decks and marvel at the scenery passing us by. We arrive in the city of Uglich in the late afternoon and waste no time to start exploring. Embark on a walking tour that includes the Kremlin and its surrounding sites, Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood and the Transfiguration Cathedral. Head back to the boat by early evening and sit down to dinner as the ship departs for Yaroslavl.

Experiences
Walking tour of the city. Situated on the banks of the Volga River, Ugлич is one of the most picturesque cities we visit on our tour around Russia. The combination of the landscape and the historic buildings is what makes Ugлич unique - it seems straight out of a painting. Wander through the Kremlin, and marvel at the Princely Chamber that survived the Polish invasion and is currently the Kremlin's oldest structure (dating back to the 15th century).

Visit the Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood (No Entry). Situated at the location of Prince Dmitry's untimely death, a wooden chapel was originally built to commemorate the young prince. In 1692, the current stone church was built as replacement. Due to the disturbing nature of the prince's death, many citizens rejected the explanation of suicide. This lead to the the city of Ugлич falling into what became known as Time of Troubles.

Transfiguration Cathedral. Marvel at the five-domed Transfiguration Cathedral that stands proudly above the city. Built in 1730, the carved iconostasis is something to behold as the golden images show significant Christian images. Next to the cathedral is the beautiful 30-metre bell tower.

### Included Meals
- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ✓
- Dinner: ✓

### Accommodation
- MS. Zosima Shashkov

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**DAY 7: Yaroslavl**
Open your eyes as we dock at our next destination - Yaroslavl. After breakfast on board, venture onto land and through the oldest and largest city on the Golden Ring. Catch a glimpse of all the sights on your city bus tour and take your time meandering through the local market. Capture a photo of the outside of the Church of St Elijah the Prophet, and wander inside the Church of St Nicholas the Wonderworker. Take part in an interactive tour of the former Governor’s House, which is now an art gallery. Then, it’s back to the boat, where you will be treated to lunch and your river cruise continues to our next stop.

Experiences

Bus city tour. Glimpse the sights and hear about the history of this city that was first mentioned in the 11th century. Known for its 17th century churches, Yaroslavl commemorates the urban planning done by Empress Catherine the Great.

Local market (free time). Spend time looking through the trinkets and souvenirs on offer in the local market. Take the time to see locals interact and hear the Russian language spoken all around you.

Church of St Elijah the Prophet (outside). This church is considered to be Yaroslavl city’s pride and joy. The church itself is considered to be a work of art, standing above the city with its green domes and white walls.
Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (inside visit). The beauty of this church is both inside and out. Mosaic murals cover both the interior and exterior of this 17th century church.

Former Governor's House (Art Gallery). Explore like never before as you are taken on an interactive tour of the Yaroslavl Art Museum. Housed in the 18th Century Governor's Mansion, the art is exhibited in palatial-style rooms.

Ship-bound entertainment this evening. End your day with some music and entertainment as your Russian boat cruise continues.

Russian Bingo. Take part in a round or two of Russian bingo and see whether Lady Luck is on your side!

Historical Russian documentary. Russia's history is one of tyrants, Tsars and treasures. Learn about the tumultuous history of the world's largest country.

Included Meals

- Breakfast: ✔
- Lunch: ✔
- Dinner: ✔

Accommodation

MS. Zosima Shashkov

DAY 8: Goritsky
Find your way towards Goritsy. Before reaching land, indulge in a Russian tea ceremony on board. Set off to explore the Monastery of St Cyril on the White Lake. Eat lunch on board and embrace Russian culture as you participate in traditional song and dance classes. Lose yourself in the Russian fairy tales before the Slavic dinner aboard. End the night with some live music in the bar.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✓ Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

MS. Zosima Shashkov

DAY 9: Kizhi

Spend the morning en route to Khizi, an island on Lake Onega. Take part in Russian language and napkin folding classes. Enjoy a relaxed lunch onboard with your fellow passengers. Participate in the Captain’s bridge tour and see what goes on behind the scenes of your Russian boat cruise. A pirate’s game will be on offer where you can “seek the treasure” before arriving in Kizhi. Roam the sights on a walking tour of the Khizi enclosure. Visit the open-air museum of wooden architecture and see the Transfiguration Cathedral. Next
up is the Intercession Cathedral, and exploring inside an izba (traditional wooden house). Tonight, get back aboard and sit down to a delicious meal. End the day with an evening show of Mr and Mrs Cruise and live music.

**Experiences**

Captain’s bridge tour. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of your Russian boat cruise from the person in charge - the captain of the ship.

Visit an open-air museum of wooden architecture. The Khizi pogost (enclosure) is a unique architectural wonder. It consists of two 18th century churches built entirely from wood and an octagonal clock tower. The carpentry is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

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**Optional Excursions**

Mysteries of Restoration: €18

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

**DAY 10: Mandrogi**
Arrive in Mandrogi after breakfast and take your time admiring the landscape and the romantic village itself. Meander through the traditional Russian town and see the typical wooden houses and crafts exhibited by locals. Indulge at the Russian pancake and pie house or visit the Museum of Vodka (at extra cost). Before heading back to the ship, enjoy lunch in Mandrogi. This evening it’s time to dress up and dine with the captain. Spend your last evening on board dancing and enjoying music in the bar!

Experiences

Free time in Mandrogi. Mandrogi is a picturesque Russian village on the Svir River. Known for its carpentry, crafts and fairytale-like wooden houses, there’s no place like it.

Lunch in Mandrogi - try Shashlik, a dish of skewered and grilled cubes of meat popular throughout the Caucasus and eastern Europe.

Captain's dinner. Dress to the nines and you prepare to dine with the captain alongside your fellow passengers.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✔️ Lunch: ✔️ Dinner: ✔️

Accommodation

MS. Zosima Shashkov
DAY 11: Saint Petersburg

The cruise to St Petersburg has reached its final destination. After breakfast, explore Imperial Russia’s capital - St. Petersburg. The city tour will show you all the sights this magnificent city has to offer - from museums and monuments, to parks and palaces. Tour through the Peter and Paul Fortress, visit the iconic Hermitage Museum and its incredible exhibits. End your day back on the ship, with a hearty meal.

Experiences

Bus city tour. Visit the sights of St Petersburg including the Smolny convent, Tavrichesky palace and the Summer Garden. Then it’s onto the Winter palace and the Spire of the Basil Island. No visit to the city is complete without a glimpse of the Bronze Horseman and the Nevsky prospekt. Along the way there will be many more sights demanding your undivided attention.

Tour to Peter and Paul Fortress. Take a walking tour of the Peter and Paul Fortress, which belongs mainly to the State Museum of Saint Petersburg History. As the first structure ever built in the city, its rich in history. Wander through the sights of the fortress including the Boat house, Peter I monument and the Commandant's house. Not to be missed are the Nevsky Gate and St.Peter and Paul’s Cathedral, which has the tallest bell tower in the city.
Lunch at city restaurant. Enjoy a traditional meal after a day filled with exploring.

Hermitage museum visit. Egyptian hall, War Gallery of 1812, St. George Hall, the Peter the Great (Small Throne) Room, Italian Art collection (Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Titian, Michelangelo), Dutch Art (Rembrandt), Spanish Art (Ribera, Velázquez). Actual tour order may vary.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓  Lunch: ✓  Dinner: ✓

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**DAY 12: Saint Petersburg**

After breakfast on the boat, head back to land and to visit and explore Peterhof Palace. The Palace served as the summer residence of the emperors for 200 years. The design of the Lower Garden is based on that of 17th century formal French gardens. Enjoy lunch on the ship. This afternoon you have free time to explore as you please. End the day with a dinner on board.

**Experiences**
Peterhof walking tour (Lower Park only). The Lower Gardens are a sight to behold with their grand design and lush flora. As you meander through the beautiful scenery, be sure to spot the Grand Cascade with the Samson Fountain, Greenhouse and the Roman Fountains. There’s even more to see in the form of the Chessboard Hill Cascade, Trick Fountains and the Monplaisir palace. Make a turn and take in the view of the Gulf of Finland from the garden shores.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✓ Dinner: ✓

DAY 13: Saint Petersburg: Free Day

Another whole free day in St. Petersburg to spend as you please. Visit the town of Pushkin and all its historic sights, or head to Pavlovsk and the Pavlovsk Palace. Shop for some last-minute souvenirs or sit back with some vodka and watch the locals go about their day. This evening you could treat yourself to a night of Russian ballet, or enjoy an evening of music onboard.

Included Meals
Optional Excursions

Half day trip to Pavlovsk Palace and Pushkin Park: € 80

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 14: End of tour in Saint Petersburg

After breakfast, the captain and his crew bid farewell to all the passengers. It's also here that your tour ends. Be sure to exchange contact details with your fellow passengers and new friends!

Experiences

Your tour of Russia has come to an end. Checkout from the cruise ship is at 10am. Safe travels! Make sure you have exchanged contact details with your new-found travel friends, and share your amazing tour memories with us online using the hashtag #ExpatExplore.

Included Meals
Breakfast: ✔ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗