

# 10 Day Russian Cruise Tour Itinerary

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## DAY 1 - ARRIVE IN ST PETERSBURG (D)

Arrive in astonishingly beautiful St. Petersburg, nestled on the Neva River; transfer to the port to embark your cruise. After arrival formalities, time to rest, relax and enjoy your new surroundings. Tonight's dinner welcomes you to Russia and your cruise on the legendary Volga River.

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 2 - ST PETERSBURG CITY TOUR AND HERMITAGE MUSEUM (B, L, D)

Morning tour of enchanting St. Petersburg begins on the stunning Nevsky Prospekt, the main avenue of the city, planned by Peter the Great. Continue to the Palace Square, Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Isaac's Cathedral with its huge golden dome and the magnificent Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, a superb example of Russian architecture. This afternoon visit the world-famous Hermitage Museum, housing the largest collection of priceless masterpieces by Michelangelo, Van Gogh, Picasso, Monet, Rembrandt and many others. Tonight, after dinner, attend an optional performance of a traditional Russian ballet or opt to take a scenic cruise along St. Petersburg's legendary canals.

Optional: [Ballet Performance\\*](#)

Optional: [Rivers & Canals of St. Petersburg\\*](#)

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 3 - FREE DAY IN ST PETERSBURG (B, L, D)

Today is free to explore all of the delights of this magical city on your own. Or, join the optional excursion to Pushkin Palace and Peterhof Park. Travel to nearby Pushkin to visit the lavish 18th century Catherine's Palace, summer residence of the Russian Tsars, named for Catherine, widow of Peter the Great. Explore the luxurious palace, an architectural masterpiece, and the surrounding gardens. Visit the reconstructed Amber Room, with its walls covered with dazzling panels of amber, gold leaf and mirrors. Then, continue to Peterhof Palace with its gorgeous landscaped gardens and fountains overlooking the Gulf of Finland. This configuration of palaces and gardens was master-minded by Peter the Great, and is often called the "Russian Versailles." Return to the ship in the late afternoon and set sail from St. Petersburg. This evening, enjoy dinner on board and get to know your fellow traveling companions.

Optional: [Pushkin Palace & Peterhof Park\\*](#)

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 4 - VILLAGE OF MANDROGI (B, L, D)

Sail to Mandrogi, part of the Valaam Archipelago, a reconstructed 18th century traditional Russian village set amongst a picturesque landscape. Walk through the town with its traditional Russian houses (izba) and browse the shops for

handmade Russian crafts, paintings or traditional clothes. Stop at the popular Museum of Russian Vodka, with a collection of over 2500 varieties of vodka from across Russia. Explore the craft workshops where painting, wood carving, weaving lacework and pottery are demonstrated, and then cap off the afternoon with a traditional "shashlik" lunch, served in an open- air pavillion on the shore (weather permitting). In the late afternoon, sail for the island of Kizhi.

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 5 - KIZHI CHURCH OF TRANSFIGURATION (B, L, D)

This morning arrive to the island of Kizhi. Here, you will stand in awe at the Church of Transfiguration, one of the most impressive wooden structures ever erected. This fairy tale architectural landmark is largely responsible for creating one of the most frequented tourist attractions in Russia. The church features 22 cupolas of striking intricacy, built without using a single nail. Wander through the open- air wooden Architecture Museum with its collection of wooden houses, windmills and churches representing ancient Russian architecture. This entire area has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to the ship in time for lunch. This afternoon, attend a Russian tea ceremony on board, or a Russian song class as the ship sails towards Goritsy.

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 6 - MONASTERY OF ST CYRIL, GORITSY (B, L, D)

Morning at leisure on board. Afternoon arrival in Goritsy, an old Russian town with a rich historical and cultural heritage. Stroll the grounds of the 14th century Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, also known as the Monastery of St. Cyril of the White Lake, one of the largest and best preserved medieval Abbeys in Russia. The wooden churches and walls built at the original location were replaced over succeeding centuries by impressive stone and masonry structures. The monastery's fortifying walls, which measure 2400-feet-long and 22 feet thick, are truly a very impressive sight. In the late afternoon, reboard your ship and join a festive Russian vodka tasting while sailing for Yaroslavl.

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 7 - YAROSLAVL CITY TOUR (B, L, D)

Arrive this afternoon in the quaint Golden Ring city of Yaroslavl. This beautiful city, one of Russia's oldest, traces its roots back to the days of the Vikings. Stop at the fortified Transfiguration of the Savior Monastery and its Cathedral, the oldest building in Yaroslavl, dating back 800 years. Continue to the Yaroslavl Museum of Russian Art housed in the 18th century Governor's mansion, with its impressive collection of Russian paintings spread out across many palatial rooms. View the exquisite Church of Elijah the Prophet with its detailed frescoes and icons, a real masterpiece of ancient Russian art and the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker. Time to browse the local markets for handicrafts and treasures before returning to the ship for dinner.

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 8 - WALKING TOUR OF UGLICH (B, L, D)

Arrive in historic Uglich on the banks of the Volga River. Uglich played an important role in Russian history when Prince Dmitry used it as a hiding place from the bloody reign of his father Ivan the Terrible. His death made the town famous and led to an increasingly turbulent period in Russia's history. This morning's walking tour will visit the Church of St.

Dimitry-on-Blood built in honor of the Prince on the exact spot where he was killed by his father's forces, and the Transfiguration Cathedral marvelously decorated with painted icons and frescos. The ship will set sail for Moscow at noon. This evening join the Captain's dinner on board and a delightful show performed by the crew of the MS Zosima Shashkov.

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 9 - MOSCOW CITY TOUR (B, L, D)

This morning relax on board as you prepare for an exciting afternoon in Moscow, the fabled capital of Russia. After lunch on board, begin your panoramic city tour at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, St. Basil's Cathedral and the former headquarters of the KGB. Explore storied Red Square, and visit GUM, a large department store that could easily be confused with a palace. After dinner on board, perhaps opt to join the optional Moscow by Night tour that travels to lively Tverskaya Street, with its bustling shops, cafes and restaurants and to Victory Park and the observation platform at Sparrow Hills to see a panoramic view of the whole city. End the evening by traveling a few stops on the remarkable Moscow subway, with its lavishly decorated stations in marble, mosaics, chandeliers and statues.

Optional: [Moscow by Night\\*](#)

## DAY 10 - KREMLIN GROUNDS TOUR (B, L, D)

Visit the Kremlin, one of the best-known monuments in Russia - and in the world. The guided walking tour takes you inside the former residence of the Russian Czars. See the famous Czar Cannon, the 16th century Czar Bell, and Cathedral Square, home to three of Moscow's most elaborate cathedrals: the Cathedral of Assumption, the Cathedral of Annunciation, and the Cathedral of the Archangel. This afternoon return to the ship to rest, explore Moscow on your own or, take the optional afternoon tour to the 16th century Novodevichy Convent, proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a superb architectural monument that is one of Russia's best-known cloisters. Tonight, bid a fond farewell to your newfound friends on board.

Optional: [Kremlin Armory Chamber\\*](#)

Optional: [Moscow Novodevichy Convent\\*](#)

Overnight: River Cruise

## DAY 11 - DEPART RUSSIA (B)

Morning disembarkation in Moscow. The airport is approximately a two hour drive from the port. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.