COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL

Waterways of Russia
St. Petersburg • Moscow
Cruising aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Deluxe Volga Dream
August 2 to 13, 2019
Dear Club Members,

Experience the timeless pageantry and traditional folkways of Russia, revealed along the scenic rivers, lakes and canals that link St. Petersburg with Moscow. Between these grand cultural capitals lies a countryside seemingly untouched by the modern age. Golden-domed churches rise up from the early morning mist, quaint wooden villages and old-world farms cover the meadowed landscape and the light of lingering summer evenings reflects the banks of Russia’s inland waterways.

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe Volga Dream, the premier small ship on Russia’s waterways, accommodating only 90 guests in elegant, river-view Suites and Staterooms. The expert, English-speaking staff ensure you will enjoy an intimate atmosphere, personalized service and fine cuisine throughout your cruise.

Explore the preeminent artistic, historical and architectural treasures of classical Russian culture and several “Golden Ring” cities. Visit splendid St. Petersburg—Russia’s “window on the West” and its cultural capital—the legacy of the most visionary of tsars, Peter the Great. Then, cruise through the heart of Russia, where daily life unfolds at a generations-old measured pace and villagers dwell in traditional wooden cottages to preserve the time-honored customs of their ancestors. Characteristic onion-domed churches and fortified monasteries testify to the abiding faith of the Russian people. Conclude with one night in the fabled city of Moscow, the political and commercial capital of the world’s largest country.

This unique travel program with Commonwealth Club Travel and co-sponsors the University of California, Berkeley, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, along with other educational groups, features the best ship in Russia and a thoughtfully crafted, comprehensive itinerary with opportunities to experience nine UNESCO World Heritage sites. Professor Ian Duncan from the University of California, Berkeley, will lead educations lectures aboard the ship. This popular program is an excellent value—reserve your space today while Early Booking Savings are still available.

Best regards,

Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director
(415) 597-6720
U.S.
Friday, August 2
Depart the U.S.

St. Petersburg, Russia
Saturday, August 3
Arrive in regal St. Petersburg, Peter the Great’s elegant urban achievement and Russia’s cultural capital, and transfer to the centrally located, Five-Star Belmond Grand Hotel Europe. This evening, attend the Welcome Reception in the hotel. (r)

St. Petersburg
Sunday, August 4
This morning, by specially reserved early entrance, visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated State Hermitage Museum, the former tsarist palace of Catherine the Great and among the largest and most respected museums in the world. Its prestigious collections are rivaled only by the museum’s lavish interior. Then, tour the new halls of the State Hermitage Museum’s General Staff Building to view priceless 19th- and 20th-century French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works, including 74 masterpieces presumed “lost” in a storeroom during World War II.

This evening, choose to attend an optional Russian ballet performance (schedule to be determined). (b)

St. Petersburg
Monday, August 5
Explore the city’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated historic center, where legendary landmarks are scattered across more than 30 islands and linked by 342 bridges. See exquisite examples of Russian Baroque and neoclassical architecture along the main thoroughfare, Nevsky Prospekt; the ornate Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood (Church of the Resurrection of Christ), built on Emperor Alexander II’s assassination site; and the iconic golden spire of the Admiralty, to admire its dazzling interior of malachite and lapis lazuli. Tour St. Petersburg’s oldest edifice, the Peter and Paul Fortress, built in 1703 to guard the country’s only outlet to the Baltic Sea.

Later, visit the imperial compound of Pushkin and the elaborate Rococo Catherine Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the jewel-encrusted Amber Room, laden with six tons of solid amber, deftly carved and framed in gold leaf and said to be the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” Stripped and confiscated by the Nazis in 1941, it was meticulously reconstructed over 25 years to honor St. Petersburg’s 300th anniversary.

This evening, you may choose to attend an optional Russian folklore performance in Nicholas Palace (schedule to be determined). (b,l)

St. Petersburg
Tuesday, August 6
Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated site of Petrodvorets, commissioned by

Cover photo: Stroll along the majestic Grand Cascade at Petrodvorets, a UNESCO World Heritage site often referred to as “Russian Versailles.”

Photo this page: Admire the architecture of Red Square in Moscow, including the Kremlin and St. Basil’s Cathedral.
Peter the Great to rival Versailles, and tour the Grand Palace and the elaborately landscaped grounds, encompassing two centuries of imperial style, executed to perfection; enjoy lunch in the Lower Park.

Embark the deluxe, small ship Volga Dream this afternoon and attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception. (b,l,r,d)

Neva River/Lake Ladoga/Svir River/Svirstroy

Wednesday, August 7

Admire the passing wilderness of serene meadows, virgin pine and birch forests lining the banks of the mighty Neva River along the shores of Lake Ladoga, Europe’s largest lake. This afternoon, call at charming Svirstroy, a riverside village evoking a pastoral way of life. See the historic Lodeynoe Pole, where Peter the Great established the Olonets Shipyard, birthplace of the Baltic Fleet. Visit the home of a local villager and enjoy tea and Russian pies before continuing along the gleaming Svir River between Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega. (b,l,d)

Lake Onega/Kizhi Island

Thursday, August 8

Early this morning, be on deck for the unforgettable approach to Kizhi Island, then tour the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Kizhi Pogost, a remarkable open-air museum of 18th-century Karelian and north Russian wooden architecture. Admire the Church of the Transfiguration, considered the world’s tallest entirely wooden building and an architectural masterpiece, featuring 22 cupolas built completely of wood and without a single nail.

Cruise scenic Lake Onega, with over 1600 small islands, in view of the beautifully untouched Karelian countryside, home to both Finns and Russians. (b,l,d)

Lake Beloye/Goritsy/Sheksna River

Friday, August 9

Along the shores of Lake Beloye, admire rural communities continuing the long-standing traditions of Old Russia. From tranquil Goritsy, transfer to the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, founded in 1397, and see its collection of paintings, early printed books and pictorial embroidery. It is said that Vasily III prayed here for an heir, and soon after, his wife Elena gave birth to the future Ivan the Terrible, Russia’s first tsar.

Catch glimpses of a bygone era along the Sheksna River as you pass by rustic family
Tour the remarkable State Hermitage Museum, the second largest repository of artwork in the world.

Uglich's Church of Prince Dimitri-on-the-Blood.

farms and quaint dachas, traditional Russian wooden cottages.

This evening, enjoy a dinner of Russian delicacies followed by a specially arranged sampling of Russian vodkas. (b,l,d)

**Lake Rybinskoye/ Volga River/Yaroslavl**
**Saturday, August 10**
Cruise Lake Rybinskoye, surrounded by scenic wilderness. Dock in Yaroslavl, the oldest city on the Volga River and one of the “Golden Ring” of fortified 11th- to 15th-century cities and villages built to encircle Moscow. This UNESCO World Heritage site is renowned for its 17th-century stone churches crowned with painted onion domes and soaring turrets.

Stroll along the river to the exquisite Church of Elijah the Prophet, an architectural masterpiece in the heart of the Old Town and filled with well-preserved frescoes. See the elegant Monastery of the Transfiguration, founded in the 12th century. (b,l,d)

**Moscow**
**Monday, August 12**
Arrive in Russia’s illustrious capital city, which has embodied the nation’s heart and soul for over 850 years. Disembark the ship for a panoramic tour of Moscow featuring the Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer, the monument of Peter the Great, the renowned Bolshoi Theatre and expansive views of the city from University Square.

Explore Moscow’s cultural and historical treasures beginning with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Kremlin, the imposing “Citadel of the Tsars.” See magisterial Red Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site where both Romanov tsars and Soviet commissars have flexed their power, and admire the grandeur of 16th-century St. Basil’s Cathedral, one of the country’s most striking Orthodox monuments.

Check into the Five-Star Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel and enjoy dinner in the hotel this evening. (b,l,d)

**Moscow/U.S.**
**Tuesday, August 13**
Continue on the Iconic Moscow Post-Program Option, or transfer to the airport for your flight to the U.S. (b)
The deluxe VOLGA DREAM sets the standard for ships cruising the waterways of Russia. Its meticulous design, elegant appointments and richly deserved reputation for impeccable service provide you with an unprecedented level of comfort on Russia's waterways.

Each Suite and Stateroom features a wood- and marble-accented private bathroom, one queen bed, one double bed or two twin beds, individual climate control, telephone, satellite television, minobar, safe, radio and plush robes.

Onboard chefs specialize in the preparation of savory continental and local Russian cuisine for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner. Complimentary house wine and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner. Coffee and tea are available 24 hours a day. You will also experience an authentic Russian tea ceremony on board.

While cruising Russia's tranquil rivers and lakes, you may enjoy the ship's inviting lounge offering live music, a bar with panoramic windows; a library with Internet access; or the full-length Sun Deck, which recreates the ambiance of an oceangoing yacht with teak planking and deck chairs. The ship also has a boutique, fitness room, sauna and laundry service. There is a doctor on board.

**Iconic Moscow Post-Program Option**

Further explore the jewels of Russia's capital and delve deep into its Cold War and pre-revolutionary past.

Ride the Moscow Metro, where train stations are museums in their own right. Tour the fascinating Cold War Museum at the Bunker-42 on Taganka, a former secret military complex. Visit the acclaimed State Tretyakov Gallery; the Armoury Museum—the oldest museum in Russia—to see the world's largest collection of Imperial Faberge eggs; and the Tolstoy House Museum, where author Leo Tolstoy lived in 1882. Spend two nights in the Five-Star Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel.

The Post-Program Option and Optional Excursions are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Included

◆ Exclusive lectures and presentations by study leaders
◆ Three nights in St. Petersburg in the Five-Star BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE
◆ Six nights aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe VOLGA DREAM
◆ Cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow on Russia’s legendary waterways—the Neva River, Lake Ladoga, the Svir River, Lake Onega, Lake Beloye, the Sheksna River, Lake Rybinskoye and the Volga River
◆ One night in Moscow in the Five-Star MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA HOTEL
◆ Meals as specified in the itinerary
◆ Complimentary house wine and soft drinks included with lunch and dinner, and coffee and tea available 24 hours aboard ship
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions
◆ All entrance fees and tours as described in the itinerary
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program
◆ Pre-departure materials, including a reading list
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company

Not Included

◆ International airfare
◆ Taxes of $150 per person (subject to change)
◆ Gratuities to ship personnel ($15 per person, per day)
◆ Hotel staff gratuities ($1-2 dollars per person, per day) and gratuities for activities on your own
◆ Passport and visa fees
◆ Meals and alcoholic beverages not listed as included
◆ Transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s)
◆ Two optional cultural performances, available at additional cost
◆ Any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s)
◆ Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access
◆ Accident/sickness, trip cancellation and baggage insurance
◆ Baggage charges on aircraft; airfare and associated local taxes not listed as included
◆ Airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included
◆ All other services not specifically mentioned in the “Included” section
Russia’s Cultural Capitals

Among the world’s prodigious capitals of culture, the two extraordinary Russian cities of St. Petersburg and Moscow are held in the highest regard. The very creation of St. Petersburg was a cultural statement by Peter the Great, whose vision was to “open a window on the West” to rival Europe’s greatest cities. This epicenter of art and architecture is highlighted during a specially reserved, early entrance and tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-designated State Hermitage Museum, allowing you to view the incomparable treasures of Catherine the Great’s spectacular art collections. True to Peter the Great’s vision, St. Petersburg, the artistic, literary and musical center of Russia, has engendered universally revered ballets, novels and classical compositions.

An important center of trade long before Ivan the Terrible declared it Russia’s capital in 1547, Moscow is a medieval city in its layout and original architecture. Today, this sophisticated city is a showcase of three UNESCO World Heritage sites and continues to be the heart of Russian finance, commerce, education and research. Here, you will visit the renowned Kremlin Territory and Red Square to see stunning, 16th-century St. Basil’s Cathedral and experience firsthand one of the most dynamic cities in the world.

Marvel at the grand interior and art collection within St. Petersburg’s renowned State Hermitage Museum.
## LAND/Cruise Tariff

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<th>Stateroom Category</th>
<th>LAND/Cruise Tariff (excluding taxes) *</th>
<th>Early Booking Tariff** through January 4, 2019</th>
<th>Tariff** after January 4, 2019</th>
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**Taxes are an additional $150 per person and are subject to change.

**Volga Dream has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

## Waterways of Russia Reservation Form

**Send to:** Commonwealth Club Travel  
110 The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Fax to:** (415) 597-6729  
**or call:** (415) 597-6720

**Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)**

**Title**  
**Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)**

**City**  
**State**  
**ZIP Code**

**Telephone:** (Home)  
**Mobile**

**Email Address**

**Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)**  
**Tour No.** 033-08/02/19-252

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Iconic Moscow Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

**Signature as it appears on credit card**

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by April 29, 2019.

We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one:

- I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.
- Please sign me up/renew my membership with the credit card information provided here.
- I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

**Card Number**  
**Exp. Date**

**Note:** Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

- I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised, from:
- I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
Admire the Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood, an iconic symbol of St. Petersburg.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: The Commonwealth Club and Gohagan & Company and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, and such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects, poisonous Animales or other creatures, acts of God or force majeure, or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

If you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transportation and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the physical and mental rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservations. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary. The participants are responsible for their own safety. The participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

ELIGIBILITY: We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a similar category for those listed in this brochure. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

CANCELLATION:

Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS).

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of The Commonwealth Club. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tarifis; cancellation 59 days or less prior to departure, a “no-show”, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion or attraction fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information about trip insurance will be sent with your confirmation.

RATES:

Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after final payment is made, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid by the participant upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will result from a final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION:

The Commonwealth Club CST#: 2096889-40; Gohagan CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.

BINDING ARBITRATION:

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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http://www.gohagancorporate.com

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