



# RUSSIAN HISTORY CRUISE FROM MOSCOW TO ST. PETERSBURG

*Moscow • 9-night river cruise with Uglich, Goritsy, Lake Onega/Kizhi Island, Mandrogi • St. Petersburg*

Peel back complex and colorful layers like an intricate matryoshka nesting doll when you join Vantage on this Russian journey, unlocking mysterious secrets and the juxtaposing allure of what awaits beyond the former Iron Curtain.

Explore iconic UNESCO-designated sights like the magnificent Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and Moscow's Red Square. Waltz back in time through the grand history of Ivan the Terrible and the Empire of the Tsars; and forward through the Communist Revolution, KGB lore, and into contemporary life. Visit the rural villages and pastoral landscapes of the motherland's countryside as you sail along the Golden Ring.

Search for answers to some of Russia's most elusive questions as you chart the thrilling, yet lesser navigated waters of the Volga River aboard the m/s Crucelake. Enhance your understanding of this country along the way, with riveting discussions and lectures on myriad subjects. Experience home-hosted hospitality and engage with local families in an intimate small group.

Plus, don't miss your chance to extend your tour along the Gulf of Finland, by adding an optional excursion to Helsinki. Travel in first-class comfort and style aboard the luxe Allegro Train as you're whisked off to yet another of Europe's most dazzling cities.

Reserve Today! Call Toll-Free **1 800 322 6677** - [WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/RMS24](http://WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/RMS24)

# JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

## RED SQUARE



Visit Red Square, the heart of Russia and Moscow's most iconic site, as well as St. Basil's colorful cathedral

## THE KREMLIN



With a name that literally means "fortress inside a city," the Kremlin serves as the official residence of the President of the Russian

## MANDROGI



Step back in time at the living-history village of Mandrogi and admire wooden sculptures that recreate scenes from Russian literature

## KIZHI ISLAND



Admire wooden houses, windmills, and churches dating back to the 18th century, most built without a single nail

## HERMITAGE MUSEUM



This historic six-building complex houses millions of artworks, and part of it was formerly the Winter Palace for emperors

## CATHERINE'S PALACE



The former residence of the tsars is now an opulent, gold-laden museum

## PETERHOF GRAND PALACE



Watch the fountains dance at Peterhof, the “Russian Versailles” that is the brainchild of Peter the Great

## ST. PETERSBURG



Called the “Venice of the North,” these waterways are part of an area that is collectively a UNESCO World Heritage Site

# YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- **Purchase your airfare from Vantage** and your airport transfers, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees are included
- **Private shore transfers in your Vantage group**
- **Accommodations:** 9 nights aboard the *m/s Crucelake*, 1 night at the *Hotel National Moscow* (or similar), and 2 nights at the *Angleterre Hotel* in St. Petersburg (or similar)
- **31 meals:** 12 breakfast, 8 lunches, and 11 dinners
- **32 included features and Cultural Connections**
- **One glass of white or red wine with dinner** every night on board, plus one included beverage with all included lunches
- **3 private tea times on board the ship** including cakes, sandwiches, tea/coffee & one drink to choose (wine, champagne, vodka, soda)
- **6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites**
- **The services of a Vantage Cruise Director**, plus shipboard commentary, regional experts, and private motorcoach for excursions
- **Exclusive English-speaking Concierge** for Vantage groups onboard
- **Gratuities for local guides and drivers**
- **All transportation on tour**
- **All transfers and baggage handling overseas**, beginning with your first hotel
- **Vantage's 5% Travel**, received upon your return, to use toward your next Vantage journey

# SPECIAL INTEREST



## ART & CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- See why the elaborated decorated Moscow Metro is like an art gallery during an included tour
  - Visit Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, the foremost depository of Russian fine art in the world
  - Enjoy the opportunity to admire some 3 million works of art at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg
  - Savor Russian tradition when you participate in a bread-breaking ceremony
- Try your hand at painting during a matryoshka nesting doll craft session
  - Be enchanted by Russian fairytales during a folk lecture
  - Learn about Russian history during a history lecture
  - Visit a local home for tea in Uglich
  - Visit a local school in Goritsy
  - Admire hundreds of works of art at Peterhof Palace



**CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS** Russia's food is mostly underappreciated and even misunderstood, but this country's rich gastronomy was once considered among the world's most refined cuisines. This voyage will introduce you to Russian specialties and unforgettable cooking lessons. Here's a little taste of what you'll enjoy:

- Learn the art of breaking bread that is served with salt — a traditional Slavic treat
  - Visit a local family, where home-hosted tea and tasty pies await
- Learn how to cook Russian specialties during a culinary lesson, followed by vodka and tea with a blini tasting. These traditional pancakes are usually made with buckwheat flour and garnished with sour cream, butter, or caviar
  - Enjoy a series of regional foods on board. Menus consist of foods served in the region, with an emphasis on fresh seafood
  - Although all meals are included aboard m/s Crucelake during your cruise, you do have opportunities to go out on your own and sample the cuisine in local restaurants at certain ports. Your Cruise Director can recommend restaurants and menu options that you may want to try!



**PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS** You've traveled a long way for this journey, and photography will be key to keeping these memories alive for years to come. Here are a few tips:

- Take your time to capture an image. Think like a photographer and slow down to compose your shot. Remember: Tourists take pictures, while photographers make images
- You'll encounter some larger-than-life scenes and landmarks on this trip, which might create pressure to fit everything into one shot. Instead, try focusing on a distinctive feature rather than trying to incorporate everything into frame
- Use your surroundings. Instead of edging out other tourists from your photos, utilize them to enhance the scene. Try tilting the camera at your target, including tourists and the real scene in the background or forefront, and the image is instantly more intriguing than a generic snapshot
- Pursue quirky composition — shooting off-center makes for a more artsy, unique shot



**RELIGIOUS HIGHLIGHTS** Russia may be a secular country, but its deep Orthodox Christian roots are evident in lavish cathedrals and Byzantine religious icons. Here's a few of this journey's religious highlights:

- Explore iconic Red Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring colorful St. Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Mausoleum
- Visit Kizhi Island's Church of the Transfiguration, an ornate structure with 22 domes, built entirely without nails
- Admire St. Petersburg's Church on Spilled Blood, where Emperor Alexander II was assassinated in March 1881
- Enjoy the tranquil village of Goritsy's fascinating history as a former home to several monasteries



**UNESCO & HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Be surrounded by history in Red Square and learn about the origin of its name (not the pigment of the bricks, or the color associated with Communism) in Moscow
- Visit the Kremlin, a UNESCO site immortalized as the center of official state ceremonies in Russia's capital

- Admire the glittering canals and historic treasures in the city of St. Petersburg, collectively known as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Marvel at the UNESCO-designated Transfiguration Church of Kizhi Island, built entirely without nails
- Peterhof Palace — including its enchanting fountains set to music — is a UNESCO site known as the “Russian Versailles”
- Enjoy a visit to the exquisite Catherine Palace, a UNESCO site



demonstrations

**SOLO TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS** Your solo-friendly river cruise has been enhanced with special features catering to independent travelers, including:

- A lively social media night and musical performances most nights
- Solo-friendly social activities, including a Solo Connection mixer
- Onboard entertainment, lectures, and cooking



**CONCIERGE SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS** The Worldwide Concierge service will be available throughout your entire river cruise to help you customize your journey. Here are just a few services your Concierge can provide:

- Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, family reunion or other important event you want to celebrate on board? Let your Concierge know and he or she can make all the special arrangements, whether it's a private reception in your suite, a gathering in the lounge, and more
- Restaurant reservations. Just notify your Concierge of your interests, and he or she will be happy to make recommendations, and will call ahead to reserve your table
- Special excursions. Would you like a limo to take you for a special night in the city? Perhaps you'd like to look up long-lost relatives. Your Concierge is here to help!
- Extend your stay! Your Concierge can help modify your hotel reservations and flights if you decide to stay on

# ST. PETERSBURG TO MOSCOW

DAY 1:	Fly to St. Petersburg
DAY 2:	Arrive in Russia's Imperial Capital <i>Angleterre Hotel or similar</i>
DAY 3:	Landmarks of the "Window on the West" <i>Angleterre Hotel or similar</i>
DAY 4:	Follow in the steps of the tsars and embark the m/s Crucelake <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 5:	Marvel at Peterhof, the "Russian Versailles" <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 6:	Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress and the Hermitage Museum <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 7:	Marvelous Mandrogi <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 8:	Lake Onega and Kizhi Island <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 9:	Toast Goritsky discoveries <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 10:	Life on the Volga along the Golden Ring <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 11:	Marvelous Moscow <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 12:	Capital delights beckon <i>m/s Crucelake &gt;</i>
DAY 13:	Immerse yourself in the arts <i>Hotel National Moscow or similar</i>
DAY 14:	Depart for home





**DAY 1:** Fly to St. Petersburg

Travel to Russia on an overnight flight bound for St. Petersburg. If you took our pre-trip extension to Helsinki, you'll arrive by train.

**DAY 2:** Arrive in Russia's Imperial Capital

If you booked your airfare through Vantage, a Vantage representative will greet you and

arrange your transfer to your hotel. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Briefing and Dinner at the hotel.

Included meals: Dinner  
*Angleterre Hotel or similar*

**DAY 3:** Landmarks of the "Window on the West"

Today you'll begin your discovery of St. Petersburg, Peter the Great's "Window on the West," a dazzling baroque city of white, gold, and pastels — and one of the best reasons to travel to Russia. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the city that's been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll admire the Church on Spilled Blood, where Emperor Alexander II was assassinated in March 1881, and Nevsky Prospect, the city's main thoroughfare that is the focal point of shopping, dining, and nightlife. Its

myriad bridges make it a lovely walking path to admire the glistening canals — the reason why this metropolis is often called the “Venice of the North.”

This afternoon, after lunch on your own, tour St. Petersburg’s canals and beautifully-adorned bridges. You’ll also tour Yusupov Palace, legendary site of Rasputin’s slaying.

Vantage Exclusive:

- Tour the rivers and canals of St. Petersburg, including Yusupov Palace

**Included Feature:**

- City tour of St. Petersburg  
Included meals: Breakfast  
*Angleterre Hotel or similar*

**DAY 4:** Follow in the steps of the tsars and embark the *m/s Crucelake*

This morning you’ll visit Catherine’s Palace, yet another magnificent landmark of the tsarist era and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Originally built for the wife of Peter the Great, the palace is surrounded by serene gardens and once served as the summer residence of the Russian tsars.

Upon your return to St. Petersburg, you’ll embark the *m/s Crucelake* before having the afternoon at leisure to further explore this magnificent city on your own. Perhaps you’ll spend the afternoon enjoy the city’s public parks or taking a hop-on, hop-off canal cruise. The day is yours to explore.

Included Features:

- Excursion to Catherine’s Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

**Cultural Connection:**

- Enjoy a “bread and salt” welcome upon embarkation  
Included meals: Breakfast & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake* >

**DAY 5:** Marvel at Peterhof, the “Russian Versailles”

Travel a short distance outside of St. Petersburg this morning to visit Peterhof, a UNESCO site often called the “Russian Versailles.” Peter the Great built the splendid palace and elaborate gardens on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. You’ll admire the spray of fountains set to music and a marvelous art collection, including a stunning room filled to the brim with historic portraits. Enjoy lunch and an afternoon at leisure on board the ship. Or, head back onshore to explore more of St. Petersburg. Visit St. Isaac’s Cathedral, do a little shopping, or ask the Cruise Director for a restaurant recommendation.

**Included Feature:**

- Excursion to UNESCO-listed Peterhof Palace  
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake* >

**DAY 6:** Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress and the Hermitage Museum

Today you’ll visit Peter and Paul Fortress back in the city, the original citadel of St. Petersburg founded by Peter the Great in 1703. Though this small island originally housed prisoners, it makes for a majestic sightseeing destination today with its sparkling tower rising above the Neva River. Then, enjoy regional culinary specialties during lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Hermitage Museum, a UNESCO site which features over 3 million works of art, a collection that was begun by Empress Catherine the Great and is spread out over a complex of five massive

buildings that once formed the Winter Palace. In the evening, enjoy the Captain's Welcome Dinner and Reception.

**Included Features:**

- Excursion to the Peter and Paul Fortress
- Hermitage Museum visit

**Cultural Connection:**

- Lunch in a local restaurant
- Evening musical entertainment in the ship's lounge

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake >*

**DAY 7:** Marvelous Mandrogi

After breakfast this morning, learn the art of painting matryoshka (nesting dolls) and get insights on Russian History during a shipboard lecture. You'll enjoy a shashlik (Russian barbecue) lunch on board before the afternoon takes you on an excursion around the village of Mandrogi, where you'll visit a wooden home and a local handicrafts market. Later, partake in a lively "Russian for Travelers" language lesson. After dinner, enjoy live music in the bar.

Included Feature:

- Walking tour of Mandrogi

**Cultural Connections:**

- Russian Fairytales presentation
- Learn the art of painting *matryoshka* (nesting dolls)
- Russian History Presentation
- Enjoy a lively Russian language for travelers lesson

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake >*

**DAY 8:** Lake Onega and Kizhi Island

This morning, arrive at Kizhi Island and enjoy a visit to the Open-Air Museum of Wooden Architecture, a true site to behold. Here, you'll admire fascinating examples of traditional wooden buildings collected from around Russia. Among the notable structures is the Church of the Transfiguration, an ornate structure with 22 domes, built entirely without nails. See the Kizhi Pogost, whose church and the adjacent clock tower are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After you depart Kizhi Island and enjoy lunch on board, visit the Captain's Bridge to marvel at views of Lake Onega. This afternoon enjoy a lecture on Russian history. After dinner on board, enjoy live music in the bar.

Vantage Exclusive:

- Kizhi Island excursion, with visit to the Open-Air Museum of Wooden Architecture

**Cultural Connection:**

- Russian History Presentation
- Presentation on Soviet and Post-Soviet Times
- Russian language lesson

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake >*

**DAY 9:** Toast Goritsky discoveries

This morning you'll learn more about Russian history during an onboard lecture before arriving in Goritsy for a walking tour. Be enchanted by the tranquil village's fascinating history as a former home to several monasteries. Visit a local school, as well as a local home to learn about day-to-day life. Resurrection Monastery awaits you next, and its storied history (founded by one of Ivan the Terrible's daughters-in-law) is as fascinating as the architecture.

This afternoon back on board, try your hand at Russian specialties during a cooking lesson, followed by vodka and tea with pies and a blini tasting. These traditional pancakes are usually made with buckwheat flour and garnished with sour cream, butter, or caviar. Later, enjoy a cocktail reception before dinner on board.

Included Features:

- Walking tour of Goritsy
- Visit Resurrection Monastery

### **Cultural Connections:**

- Learn more about Russian history during an on board lecture
  - Visit a local school to learn about day-to-day life, as well as a local home
  - Try your hand at Russian specialties during a cooking lesson, followed by vodka and tea with pies and a *blini* tasting
  - Presentation on Russian Culture
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake >*

### **DAY 10:** Life on the Volga along the Golden Ring

Away from the cities, Russia is a land of villages, fields, forests, and lakes, all threaded by rivers such as the mighty Volga, Europe's longest. Discover Uglich this morning, one of the motherland's oldest towns and part of the storied Golden Ring. A favorite of Ivan the Terrible, you'll learn more about its fascinating history on a walking tour. The highlight is seeing the outside of the Dmitry of the Blood Church and Transfiguration Cathedral in the city's kremlin (it can be visited on your own). Immerse yourself in tradition when you visit a local home, where home-hosted tea and tasty pies await.

After lunch onboard, learn about Russian fairy

tales during an engaging lecture. Later this evening, indulge in a Captain's Farewell Reception and Farewell Dinner, with a talent show and on board entertainment.

Included Feature:

- Walking tour of Uglich

### **Cultural Connection:**

- Visit a local home, and get acquainted with Russian family life
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake >*

### **DAY 11:** Marvelous Moscow

Enjoy breakfast on board your ship before a port talk on Russia's capital. This afternoon you'll visit Russia's symbol of might and majesty, the Kremlin, on a guided tour that includes Assumption Cathedral and the State Armory Chambers, the repository of the bejeweled Fabergé eggs. Tonight's dinner is in a local restaurant, where you'll feast on regional specialties and get a real flavor for traditional culture.

Included Features:

- Visit the Kremlin and enjoy a guided tour that includes the Kremlin Grounds and Assumption Cathedral
- Visit to the Armory Chambers

### **Cultural Connection:**

- Enjoy dinner in a local restaurant
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake >*

### **DAY 12:** Capital delights beckon

This morning, enjoy a city tour including the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, the KGB building, the Kremlin Towers, and the Arbat.

Plus, you'll have free time to explore iconic Red Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where colorful St. Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Mausoleum beckon. On today's tour, you'll also visit Moscow's Metro, which serves as a sort of art gallery, a public-works remnant from the 1950s. Enjoy an included lunch and an afternoon at leisure. This evening, after dinner onboard, you'll admire even more views during an included Moscow by Night tour. You'll witness New Maidens' Convent, Victory Hill, and have several photo stops, including Red Square with its twinkling lights.

Vantage Exclusive:

- Moscow by Night tour

**Included Features:**

- City tour of Moscow
- Visit the Arbat pedestrian thoroughfare

**Cultural Connection:**

- Visit Moscow's Metro
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner  
*m/s Crucelake >*

**DAY 13:** Immerse yourself in the arts

This morning, disembark the ship and visit the Tretyakov Gallery — a fascinating introduction to Russian art and culture — with more than 100,000 works charting the development of Russian painting from the 10th to 20th centuries. After transferring to the hotel, you'll have an afternoon at leisure. Your Farewell Dinner will be in the hotel this evening.

Included Features:

- Tretyakov Gallery visit
- Included meals: Breakfast & dinner  
*Hotel National Moscow or similar*

**DAY 14:** Depart for home

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart for the Moscow airport for your flight home.

Included meals: Breakfast

**Important Notice:** The above day-by-day itineraries are preliminary and are therefore subject to change. If changes occur while on tour, you will be notified by your Vantage Cruise Director or regional expert.

# ACCOMMODATIONS



## Hotel National Moscow ★★★★★

Step inside these elegant accommodations nestled in the heart of bustling Moscow, with terrific vistas of the Kremlin and the Red Square. Delight in details of the property, such as authentic and rare Russian antiques, including vases, lamps, mirrors, statues and paintings. Tracing its history back to 1902, this classic hotel offers both old-world style and modern amenities in their historic suites, including high-speed Wi-Fi, luxury bath products, and plush bedding. Indulge in the property's sophisticated lounges, restaurant, and indoor pool areas, while keeping an eye out for esteemed...



## Angleterre Hotel ★★★★★

The Superior First Class Angleterre Hotel is located in the heart of St. Petersburg, just steps from the iconic St. Isaac's Cathedral, and close to the Hermitage Museum. Newly renovated, spacious rooms start at 236 square feet, feature Italian marble bathrooms, and have comfortable beds, air-conditioning, minibars, refrigerators, and satellite TVs. There's an on-site health club and indoor pool, with on-site dining featuring cathedral views.



## Hotel Haven ★★★★★

The centrally located Hotel Haven is a true haven in the heart of Helsinki. Built in 2009, you'll enjoy deluxe but modern amenities, with some rooms featuring fireplaces. You'll enjoy access to the health club and spa, air-conditioning, coffee-maker, free newspapers, nonsmoking rooms, a safe, cable TV, and wireless Internet access.