

# TSARS, TOLSTOY & RUSSIA'S MIGHTY VOLGA



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Cruise the mighty Volga, Europe's longest river, from St Petersburg all the way to Moscow. On your voyage you will discover Russia's magnificent cities, world-class museums and historical towns.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable river cruise. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our river cruise. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.

### Day 1: UK to St Petersburg D

Depart London on your scheduled flight to St Petersburg. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your ship. Board your ship and enjoy a bread and salt welcome ceremony — a traditional Russian symbol of hospitality.

### Day 2-3: St Petersburg B/L/D

Enjoy two days in this historic city, the first incorporating a fascinating guided tour to visit the Peter and Paul Fortress and the world-renowned Hermitage Museum, and the second at leisure.

### Day 4: Mandrogui B/L/D

Cruise along the Volga, coming to the historic village of Mandrogui where you'll see charming homes built in gingerbread-style woodwork.

### Day 5-6: Kizhi and Goritsy B/L/D

Continue to Lake Onega's picturesque island of Kizhi for a visit to the remarkable Museum of Wooden Architecture. Cruise across the White Lake the following day and visit the Monastery of St Cyril.

### Day 7: Yaroslavl B/L/D

Today, travel by bus to a local market before seeing the Church of St Elijah, visiting the Church of St Nicholas and the Governor's House art gallery in Yaroslavl.

### Day 8: Uglich B/L/D

This morning, arrive at the historic riverside city of Uglich. Enjoy a walking tour where you'll visit the territory of Kremlin, Dmitry on the Blood Church and Transfiguration Cathedral. Enjoy your farewell dinner.

### Day 9-10: Moscow B/L/D

Sail along the Moscow Canal to Russia's capital. Embark on a guided city tour, visiting the imposing Kremlin, the colourful domes of St Basil's Cathedral and the historic Red Square. Enjoy some time at leisure.

### Day 11: Moscow to the UK B

Disembark for your airport transfer and flight to the UK.

## Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily are taken on board the ship.

Any dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.



Gingerbread style houses, Mandrogui

### SHIP INFORMATION AND ROUTE MAP

#### Ship information - 4★ MS Nikolay Chernishevsky (Departures 03/08/19, 24/08/19 and 14/09/19)

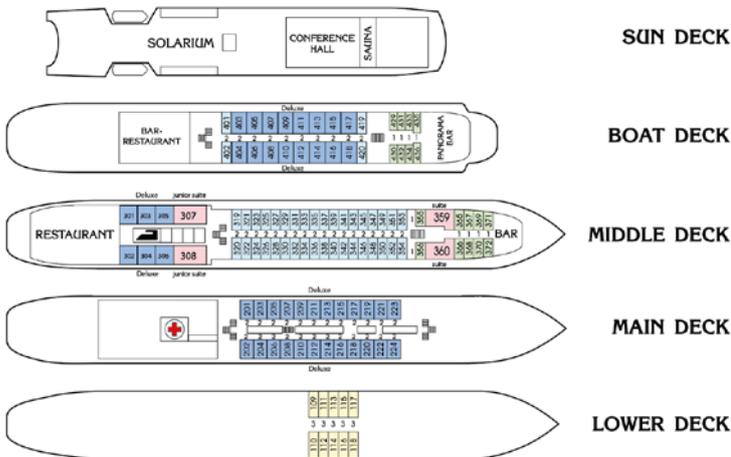
Accommodating 228 guests this ship provides both a spacious sun deck and a lounge bar with picture windows.

Length: 125m long  
Width 16.7m wide

Capacity: 228 passengers  
Cabins: 118

#### Facilities

- Restaurant ■ Restaurant bar ■ Piano Bar ■ Coffee Bar ■ Souvenir shop
- Solarium ■ Sauna ■ On board entertainment to include Russian language lessons, Captain's bridge tour, dancing and live music concerts



#### The Cabins

All cabins are equipped with air-conditioning/heating, shower and toilet, fridge and radio.

Boat deck: 28 cabins - 16 deluxe twins, 4 twins and 8 singles.

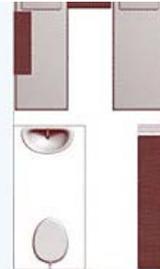
Middle deck: 56 cabins - 36 twins, 6 deluxe twins, 10 singles, 2 suites and 2 junior suites.

Main deck: 24 deluxe cabins (all twins).

Lower deck: 10 cabins (all triples).

Final confirmation of your deck and cabin will be confirmed at booking. Please contact us if you have any queries.

#### Twin Cabin



#### Suite



#### Junior suite A



### SHIP INFORMATION

#### Ship information - 3★ MS Zosima Shashkov (Departures 10/08/19 and 21/09/19)

Accommodating 280 guests, the MS Zosima Shashkov is a comfortable 4 deck vessel, refurbished in 2013.

Length: 129m long  
Width 16.7m wide

Capacity: 280 passengers  
Cabins: 154

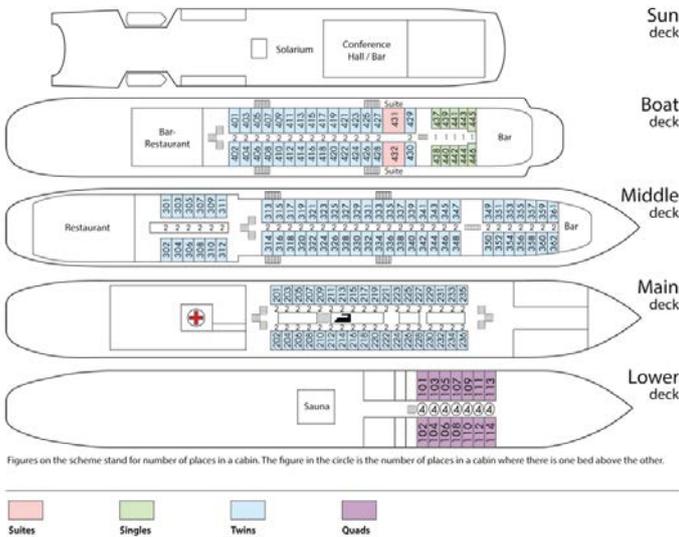
#### Facilities

- Restaurant ■ Restaurant bar ■ 2 bars ■ Souvenir shop ■ Medical room
- Solarium ■ Sauna ■ On board entertainment programme to include Russian language lessons, live music concerts, music for dancing in the bar, Captain's cocktail party ■ Conference room



Motorship "Zosima Shashkov"

type 302



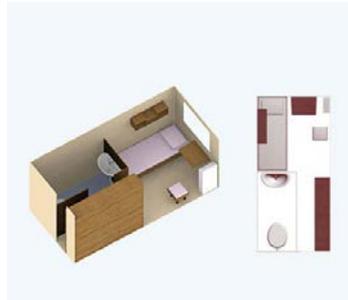
#### The Cabins

All cabins are equipped with private facilities, air conditioning, refrigerator, radio and wardrobe. All cabins have a large picture window except for lower deck cabins which have a porthole.

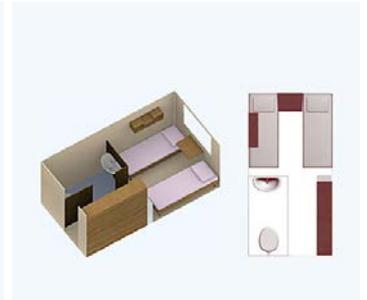
- 2 Suites
- 10 Singles
- 128 twins
- 14 quads (2 upper and 2 lower berths)

Final confirmation of your deck and cabin will be confirmed at booking. Please contact us if you have any queries.

Single Cabin

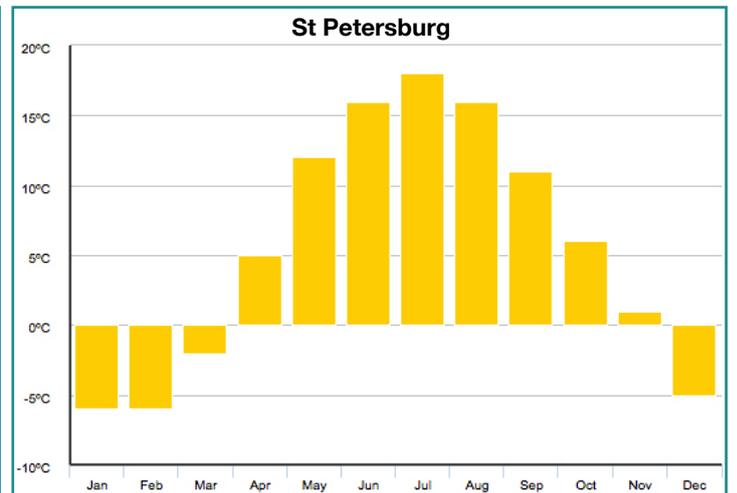


Twin Cabin



### WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

### Visas

To enter Russia you'll need a visa before travel - make sure you apply for the correct type and duration of visa. During periods of high demand, you should apply for your visa well in advance. Russian diplomatic missions and the visa application centres in London, Manchester and Edinburgh will collect biometric data (scanned fingerprints) from visa applicants above the age of 12. This applies to each Russian entry or transit visa application. **It is mandatory to visit the visa application centre in person to apply for Russian visa.** Visa applications for UK residents are to be submitted at the Russia Visa Application Centre in London, Manchester or Edinburgh (UK). For further information see the Russian Embassy website and the website of VFS Global who manage Russian visa applications on behalf of the Embassy. Tourist visa applications can take 10 working days to be processed and longer during busy periods. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/russia/entry-requirements> for more information. We can help towards application via a Visa Support Letter (VSL). You will need to send us the all of the required passport information within the API form we have sent to you. Shortly after we will send you your signed VSL. Upon receiving an authorised VSL you will need to go to your nearest UK based Russian embassy to apply. **Please note that only you can acquire a Russian entry visa due to biometric data (scanned fingerprints) collection. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months after the expiry date of your visa. You cannot apply for a Russian visa more than 6 months before the date of arrival in Russia. Tourist visa applications can take 20 working days to be processed and longer during busy periods.**

### Tour Guides

Excursions are escorted by an experienced, English speaking guide.

### Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion. There is an envelope in your cabin for this purpose that can be handed to reception at the end of your cruise.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in Russia is the Rouble (RUB). It may be more convenient to exchange Euros or US Dollars cash when you arrive in Russia. Sterling is not as easy to exchange. ATM machines are widely available on shore. Please note that there is no exchange office or ATM on board the ship.

### Personal Expenses

This cruise is Full Board, so you will only need to take a little extra money with you to cover any drinks on board, souvenirs and snacks purchased when off the ship, as well as any optional excursions you wish to book. Your final on-board bill can be settled by credit card or Russian roubles.

### Credit Card Information

Visa and Mastercard credit and debit cards are accepted on board the ship and throughout Russia. AMEX is not widely accepted.

### Electricity Supply

The electricity supply is 220V. You will need a European 2 pin plug adapter.

### Itinerary Changes

The Captain and ASLA reserve the right to alter/modify an itinerary at any time, should safety or external circumstances make this necessary, changes are also subject to weather conditions which can affect the water level and access to parts of the route. Some of the highlights may only be seen on optional excursions at an additional cost, or by exploring independently.

### Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

### Physical Accessibility

This river cruise is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves moderate days of walking on cobble streets and getting on and off the cruise ship. This cruise is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

## DRESS CODE & WHAT TO PACK

### Dress Code

There is no official dress code on board, however you'll be most comfortable during the day in smart casual clothing. You may wish to bring items that do not wrinkle easily as there is no iron provided on board ship. There is an ironing room and a laundry service on board both ships. Bring a variety of clothing for the weather expected on your cruise, including light clothing and bathing suits for hot weather, a jumper or jacket for cooler weather and of course a raincoat and/or small umbrella.

### What to Pack

- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers for sightseeing excursions
- Sun cream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Sunglasses
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your flight is to **St Petersburg Airport** with **British Airways (BA)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 5**.

**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

### Baggage Allowance

Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-in should be at least 3 hours before departure.

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extra Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

**Please Note:** In the unlikely event that your cruise does not operate, then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available, should the alternative dates offered be unsuitable.

## ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in St Petersburg you will be met by a representative from our local agent ASLA Travel Group, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ASLA Travel Group representative will show you to your transfer vehicle and escort you to your boat. If you need to contact ASLA Travel Group during your stay the details are:

**ASLA Travel Group**

Moscow office 007 495 605 3271  
St. Petersburg office 007 812 334 1650

**Emergency contact information**

Please find below the emergency contact details for **ASLA Travel Group**  
Moscow office 007 495 724 79 06  
St. Petersburg office 007 812 936 38 80  
Alternatively you can call 00441480 433 783 and follow the instructions for the out of hours procedure.

## EMBARKING & DISEMBARKING

**Embarkation Time:** 4pm  
**Disembarkation Time:** 9am-10am

If your arrival is before this time, you will be transferred to the docking area where you will be able to leave your luggage.  
Cabins must be vacated and keys returned by 9am, however the on board facilities are available until you depart for the airport.

## BOARDING DETAILS

Please see below for details of your boarding quay. Your cruise company is **ASLA Travel Group**.

Boarding location: River station, Utkina Zavod, Oktyabrskaya nab., 31, Saint Petersburg, Russia, Tel: 007 (812) 740-58-58

