The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M

Waterways of Russia
St. Petersburg • Moscow

Cruising aboard the Deluxe M.S. VOLGA DREAM
June 28 to July 9, 2017
Howdy, Ags!

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 two 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 dot the verdant landscape, and the gentle light of lingering summer evenings gives an otherworldly aura to the banks of Russia’s great “blue road” of inland waterways.

Sail aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe small ship M.S. VOLGA DREAM, the premier ship cruising Russia’s waterways. Accommodating only 90 guests in deluxe, river-view suites and staterooms, the M.S. VOLGA DREAM and its highly trained, English-speaking staff ensure you will enjoy an intimate atmosphere, personalized service and highly praised continental cuisine throughout your cruise.

Explore the preeminent artistic, historical and architectural treasures of classical Russian culture and several “Golden Ring” cities during an excellent time of year. Visit splendid St. Petersburg—Russia’s “window on the West” and its cultural capital—the majestic legacy of the most visionary of czars, Peter the Great. From St. Petersburg, cruise through the heart of Russia, where daily life unfolds at the steady, measured pace it has kept for generations. Here, villagers still dwell in traditional wooden cottages and preserve the old-world, time-honored customs of their ancestors, while spectacular onion-domed churches and fortified monasteries testify to the abiding faith of the Russian people. Conclude your cruise with two nights aboard ship in the fabled city of Moscow, the political and commercial capital of the world’s largest country.

This unique travel program features the best ship in Russia and a thoughtfully crafted, comprehensive itinerary with opportunities to experience 11 UNESCO World Heritage sites. This popular program is a great value and sells out quickly, so reserve your space today while Early Booking Savings are still available!

Gig ’em!

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs
Traveling Aggies
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or (800) 633-7514
Fax: (979) 845-9263

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.
U.S. 
Wednesday, June 28
Depart the U.S.

St. Petersburg, Russia
Thursday, June 29
Arrive in regal St. Petersburg, Peter the Great’s elegant urban achievement and Russia’s cultural capital, and transfer to the deluxe small ship M.S. VOLGA DREAM. The ship remains docked overnight on the great Neva River, which flows majestically through the heart of St. Petersburg, known as Russia’s “Venice of the North.”

St. Petersburg
Friday, June 30
Explore the city’s historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site where legendary landmarks are scattered across more than 100 islands and linked by more than three times as many bridges. St. Petersburg’s main thoroughfare, Nevsky Prospekt, showcases exquisite examples of Russian Baroque and neoclassical architecture. See the ornate Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood (Church of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ), built on the site of Emperor Alexander II’s assassination; see the iconic golden spire of the Admiralty; and visit 19th-century St. Isaac’s Cathedral to admire its dazzling interior of malachite and lapis lazuli—the church’s striking golden dome is one of the glories of the city’s skyline. 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. The impressive Baroque-style Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul contains the tombs of czars from Peter the Great to Nicholas II, the last of the Romanovs.

This afternoon, enjoy time on your own or join the optional excursion to visit the imperial compound of Pushkin and Catherine the Great’s elaborate Rococo palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

See the extraordinary 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 in 2003 in honor of the 300th anniversary of the city of St. Petersburg.

This evening, you may choose to attend an optional Russian ballet or musical folk show (performance schedule to be determined).

St. Petersburg
Saturday, July 1
Enjoy a specially reserved early entrance and tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-designated State Hermitage Museum, the former czarist palace of Catherine the Great and the repository of one of the world’s oldest and most important art collections, rivaled only by the museum’s lavish interior. View the priceless collection of 19th- and 20th-century French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works as well as 74 masterpieces “lost” in a storeroom during World War II and rediscovered in 1995.

The afternoon is at leisure in St. Petersburg, or you can choose to join the optional excursion to skim over the Gulf of Finland by hydrofoil to UNESCO World Heritage-designated Petrodvorets, the grand summer palace and splendid parklands commissioned by Peter the Great to rival Versailles.

Enjoy the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening as the ship departs St. Petersburg.

Neva River/Lake Ladoga/
Mandrogi/Svir River/
Lake Onega
Sunday, July 2
Admire the passing wilderness of serene meadows, virgin pine and birch forests lining the banks of the mighty Neva River and the shores of Lake Ladoga, the largest freshwater reservoir in Europe.
This afternoon, the ship calls at Mandrogi, a small riverside village evoking the peaceful, traditional ways of rural life, where you will have time to explore on your own before continuing along the sparkling Svir River between Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega, dotted with over 1600 small islands.

**Kizhi Island/Lake Onega**

*Monday, July 3*

Early this morning, be on deck for the unforgettable approach to picturesque Kizhi Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Tour this remarkable open-air museum, a treasure trove of 18th-century Karelian and north Russian wooden architecture. Admire the Church of the Transfiguration, an architectural masterpiece featuring 22 cupolas built completely of wood without a single nail.

Enjoy an afternoon cruise on scenic Lake Onega in view of the beautifully untouched, pastoral Karelian countryside, home to both ethnic Finns and Russians.

**Lake Beloye/Goritsy/Sheksna River**

*Tuesday, July 4*

Along the shores of Lake Beloye, admire rural communities continuing the traditions of Old Russia. From the tranquil village of Goritsy, visit 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 came here to pray for an heir, and soon after, his wife Elena gave birth to the future Ivan the Terrible, the first czar of Russia. Further along the Sheksna River, catch glimpses of a bygone era as you pass by rustic family farms and quaint dachas, traditional Russian wooden cottages.

This evening, enjoy a dinner of typical Russian specialties followed by a specially arranged sampling of Russian vodkas.

**Lake Rybinskoye/Yaroslavl**

*Wednesday, July 5*

This morning, cruise Lake Rybinskoye, surrounded by scenic wilderness. Following lunch, 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, known as the “Florence of Russia,” is renowned for its 17th-century stone churches crowned with painted onion domes and soaring turrets.

*The beautiful 16th-century Goritsy Monastery, founded by a daughter-in-law of Ivan the Terrible, was once a retreat for politically exiled women of noble birth and today houses a small community of nuns.*
Stroll along the river to the Church of Elijah the Prophet, an exquisite architectural masterpiece located in the heart of the Old Town and filled with well-preserved frescoes. See the magnificent fortified Monastery of the Transfiguration, founded in the 12th century.

Uglich/Volga River Thursday, July 6
Arrive in the “Golden Ring” city of Uglich and walk to the 17th-century Church of Prince Dimitri-on-the-Blood, built on the site where Ivan the Terrible’s young son met his tragic demise. Admire its cluster of red turrets capped with shimmering blue onion domes and the elegant frescoes that adorn the interior. Continue on to see the stately five-domed Cathedral of the Transfiguration, built along the Volga River in 1713.

This afternoon, cruise the great Volga River, the main artery of the Russian heartland for over a millennium, and into the Moscow Canal, which gives Moscow access to the White, Baltic, Caspian, Azov and Black Seas.

Kizhi Island’s 17th-century Church of the Transfiguration is built completely of wood and without a single nail.

Kizhi Island’s 17th-century Church of the Transfiguration is built completely of wood and without a single nail.

Moscow
Friday, July 7
Arrive in Russia’s illustrious capital city, which has embodied the heart and soul of the country for over 850 years and is located on the banks of the tranquil Moscow River.

Explore Moscow’s cultural and historical treasures beginning with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Kremlin and the imposing halls of this fabled “Citadel of the Czars.” Tour the Armoury, the oldest museum in Russia, and see the authentic imperial treasures including magnificently bejeweled Fabergé eggs commissioned by the Romanov czars.

See magisterial Red Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site where both Romanov czars and Soviet commissars have flexed their might and power, and admire the multicolored grandeur of the 16th-century St. Basil’s Cathedral, one of the country’s most strikingly beautiful Orthodox monuments.

Moscow Saturday, July 8
During the panoramic city tour, see Moscow’s most impressive sites including the Bolshoi Theatre, the monument to Peter the Great, the golden-domed Cathedral of Christ the Savior and Moscow University. From University Square, admire a picturesque view out across the entire city.

The afternoon is at leisure to further explore Moscow on your own.

Moscow/U.S. Sunday, July 9
Disembark the ship and continue on the Moscow Post-Cruise Option, or transfer to the airport for your flight to the U.S.

The extraordinary Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood features over 80,000 square feet of intricate mosaics.

Kizhi Island's 17th-century Church of the Transfiguration is built completely of wood and without a single nail.

Moscow/U.S. Sunday, July 9
Disembark the ship and continue on the Moscow Post-Cruise Option, or transfer to the airport for your flight to the U.S.

Kizhi Island’s 17th-century Church of the Transfiguration is built completely of wood and without a single nail.
The exclusively chartered, deluxe M.S. VOLGA DREAM sets the standard for ships cruising the waterways of Russia and will accommodate only 90 guests on this cruise. Its meticulous design, elegant appointments and richly deserved reputation for impeccable service provide guests 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 or two twin beds, individual climate control, telephone, satellite television, minibar, safe, radio and plush robes.

Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner are served in single, unassigned seatings in the dining room. Chefs specialize in the preparation of savory continental and local Russian cuisine. Complimentary house wine and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner. Coffee and tea are available 24 hours a day. An authentic Russian tea ceremony will be served on board.

The inviting lounge offers live music, a bar and panoramic windows, and the library has Internet access. The full-length Sun Deck with teak planking and deck chairs recreates the ambiance of an oceangoing yacht. The ship has a boutique, fitness room, sauna and laundry service. There is a doctor on board the ship.

**Imperial St. Petersburg**

Pre-Cruise Option

In UNESCO World Heritage-designated St. Petersburg, known for its romantic waterways and 18th-century architectural treasures, cruise the rivers and canals for a unique perspective on this splendid city. Admire the fabulous collection in the Fabergé Museum, and visit Yusupov Palace, the infamous setting for Rasputin’s assassination. In Pavlovsk, tour the 18th-century Great Palace, built by Catherine the Great. Accommodations for two nights are in the centrally located, Five-Star KEMPINSKI HOTEL MOIKA 22.

**Iconic Moscow**

Post-Cruise Option

Further explore the jewels of Russia’s capital with a visit to the magnificent State Tretyakov Gallery; tour the fascinating Cold War Museum at the Bunker-42 on Taganka, a former secret military complex; and visit the opulent, 17th-century Novodevichy Convent, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Spend two nights in the Five-Star MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA HOTEL, ideally located in the city center.

Pre- and Post-Cruise Options and Optional Excursions are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
St. Petersburg’s Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul was the city’s first building to be commissioned by Peter the Great in 1703.

Included Features

On board the exclusively chartered, deluxe M.S. VOLGA DREAM

◆ Ten-night cruise with port calls at Mandrogi, Kizhi Island, Goritsy, Yaroslavl and Uglich, including two nights aboard ship in both St. Petersburg and Moscow.

◆ Cruise 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.

◆ Deluxe, air-conditioned, river-view accommodations, each with a private bathroom.

◆ Continental cuisine is served at all meals—breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea, with dinner featuring regional Russian specialties.

◆ Complimentary house wine and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner.

◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.

◆ Specially arranged Russian vodka tasting.

◆ Exclusive traditional Russian tea ceremony on board ship.

◆ Coffee and tea are available 24 hours a day.

◆ Exclusive early entrance and guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-designated State Hermitage Museum.

◆ City tour of St. Petersburg, a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring visits to the 18th-century Peter and Paul Fortress and neoclassical St. Isaac’s Cathedral.

◆ Walking tour of fascinating Kizhi Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

◆ Visit to the 14th-century Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery near Goritsy.

◆ City tour of medieval Yaroslavl, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

◆ Walking tour of historic Uglich, with a visit to the Church of Prince Dimitri-on-the-Blood.

◆ Visit to Moscow’s imposing UNESCO World Heritage-designated Kremlin and its Armoury Chamber, displaying incredible czarist treasures such as the world’s largest collection of Imperial Fabergé eggs.

◆ Tour of Moscow, highlighted by the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Red Square and brightly hued St. Basil’s Cathedral.

Enhanced Travel Services

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).

◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.

◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions.

◆ Optional excursions to Petrodvorets and Catherine Palace in Pushkin are available at additional cost.

◆ An optional cultural performance is available at additional cost.

◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.

◆ Hospitality desk aboard ship.

◆ The services of experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program.

◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.

◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.

◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.

St. Petersburg’s Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul was the city’s first building to be commissioned by Peter the Great in 1703.
Marvel at the grandiose design, gilding and decor inside St. Petersburg's renowned State Hermitage Museum.

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 four UNESCO World Heritage sites and continues to be the heart of Russian finance, commerce, education and research. Here, you will visit the mesmerizing Kremlin Museums complex, including the famous Armoury Chamber; see golden-domed cathedrals and the historic Patriarch’s Palace; and experience firsthand one of the most dynamic cities in the world.
Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

Add $1000 for reservations made after November 30, 2016.

Singles are available in category 5 at $10495* and in category 4 at $11195* on or before November 30, 2016.

wire transfer by March 24, 2017

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or

Card Number                        Exp. Date

____________________________________________________  _______________

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.

Make checks payable to 2017 Waterways of Russia.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:

Visa  MasterCard

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 033-06/28/17-104

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:

1st Choice _____  2nd Choice _____

Double occupancy (two twin beds).

Double occupancy (one queen bed).

Single accommodations.

I am reserving as a single but prefer

to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Moscow Post-Cruise Option

Double at $630 per person.

Single at $780 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer

to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We want you to book my/our air from

( Fill in departure city)

to St. Petersburg, Russia, with return from Moscow, Russia, at additional cost to be advised.

Economy Class  Upgraded Economy  Business Class  First Class

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

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or

to order by March 24, 2017.

Send to: Traveling Aggies

505 George Bush Drive

College Station, TX 77840

(979) 845-7514 or (800) 633-7514

Fax: (979) 845-9263

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and

$200 per person St. Petersburg Pre-Cruise Option and/or $200 per

person Moscow Post-Cruise Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, you 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.

Make checks payable to 2017 Waterways of Russia.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:

Visa  MasterCard

Card Number                        Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

M.S. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stateroom Category</th>
<th>LAND/Cruise Tariff excluding taxes*</th>
<th>Early Booking Tariff** through Nov. 30, 2016</th>
<th>Tariff* after Nov. 30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Stateroom with two twin beds and one or two portholes. Cabin Deck.</td>
<td>$5495</td>
<td>$6495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Stateroom with two twin beds and two windows. Main Deck, aft. (Limited availability)</td>
<td>$6395</td>
<td>$7395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Stateroom with two twin beds and two windows. Main Deck, midship.</td>
<td>$6995</td>
<td>$7995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stateroom with one queen bed and one or two windows. Promenade Deck, aft.</td>
<td>$7495</td>
<td>$8495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stateroom with one queen bed or one double bed and one or two windows. Promenade Deck, midship and forward.</td>
<td>$7795</td>
<td>$8795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stateroom with one queen bed and one or two windows. Promenade Deck, midship.</td>
<td>$7995</td>
<td>$8995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stateroom with two twin beds and one or two windows. Sun Deck.</td>
<td>$8295</td>
<td>$9295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Suite</td>
<td>Suite with one queen bed, two windows, sofa, chair and desk. Sun Deck and Promenade Deck, midship.</td>
<td>$8795</td>
<td>$9795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner's Suite</td>
<td>Large Suite with one queen bed, eight windows and sitting area with sofa, chair and desk. Promenade Deck, forward.</td>
<td>$9895</td>
<td>$10895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Taxes are an additional $150 per person and are subject to change.

†M.S. VOLGA DREAM

Singles are available in category 5 at $10495* and in category 4 at $11195* on or before November 30, 2016.

Add $1000 for reservations made after November 30, 2016.

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and

$200 per person St. Petersburg Pre-Cruise Option and/or $200 per

person Moscow Post-Cruise Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, you agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.
PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: may change without notice. through Gohagan. constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket companion who will be responsible for handling equipment. traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water, weather, or of force majeure, mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan. General responsibility therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund the amount paid by the participant. Gohagan is not required under these circumstances to refund the cost of any purchased travel insurance. Gohagan is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of the U.S. Government or any other bodies authorized by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

NOT INCLUDED: Taxes; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship and hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); fare or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan. event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or any other cause in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then exist. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

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