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Russian Waterways Tour

20 Day Conducted Tour
for \$6,295 per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes and fuel levies

This is great value for a tour of this nature because all the following are included:

- Air fares with Singapore Airlines from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Moscow and out of Copenhagen, plus a flight from Helsinki to Copenhagen.
- A 12 day river cruise between Moscow and St Petersburg including all port taxes.
- A 1 day stopover in Singapore on the way over.
- A 2 day stopover in Helsinki.
- A 3 day stopover in Copenhagen.
- Good accommodation, mainly 3 – 4 star.
- All transfers and transport, most entrance fees and many meals.
- A 2nd class train ride from St Petersburg to Helsinki.
- Prepaid gratuities to the guide and driver in Singapore, Helsinki and Copenhagen (not included in Russia).
- Services of local tour guides and if there are 12 or more participants there will be an Australian tour escort.



For a single room there is an extra cost of \$1095.

Tour departs Australia 8th May and returns 27th May 2016

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Russian Waterways Tour

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

08.05.16 Australia – Singapore

Depart Brisbane at 9.10am on SQ 256, arriving in Singapore at 3.30pm.

Depart Melbourne at 10.30am on SQ 238, arriving in Singapore at 4.20pm.

Depart Sydney at 11.15am on SQ 232, arriving in Singapore at 5.40pm.

Upon arrival we are met and transferred to the hotel.

Accommodation: Copthorne King's Hotel

09.05.16 Singapore

(B/D)

This morning we have a Gardens by the Bay Tour. Discover a world of wonders at this award winning attraction. It features more than 500,000 plants from over 2,200 species. Replicating the cool and dry Mediterranean climate, the Flower Dome features nine different gardens from six continents:

- Baobabs & Bottle Trees
- Succulent Garden
- Australian Garden
- South African Garden
- South American Garden
- California Garden
- Mediterranean Garden
- Olive Grove
- Changing Flower Field Display

At the Cloud Forest, explore the highlands amidst orchids, pitcher plants and ferns from the cool, moist Tropical Montane region. Featuring one of the world's tallest indoor waterfalls at 35 metres as well as seven discovery zones:

- Lost World
- Cloud Walk
- Tree-top Walk
- Crystal Mountain
- Earth Check
- +5 Degrees
- The Secret garden

The tour includes admission to two conservatories, but does not include the OCBC Skywalk.

Afterwards we are returned to the hotel.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. We have a 6pm late checkout from our hotel rooms.

This evening we depart on our "Singapore By Night" tour. We enjoy an included dinner by the river at Singapore's latest sunset haunt. Take in the beautiful sights of the Central Business District via Benjamin Sheares Bridge, enroute to the world's largest fountain. Next we proceed to Bugis Street or other night Bazaars during the festive period, where our guide will take us for a stroll at the night market or 'pasar malam' where we can pick up some bargains. Our last stop for the evening will be at Raffles Hotel for a taste of Singapore's very own concoction, the 'Singapore Sling'. As the saying goes, 'If you have not been to Raffles, you have not been to Singapore'. (Please note that entry to the Raffles Hotel is subject to the hotel's discretion). The tour ends with a transfer to Singapore airport for our flight to Russia.

10.05.16 Singapore – Moscow, Russia**(B/D)**

Depart Singapore at 2.30am on SQ 62, arriving in Moscow at 8.10am. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to the city centre for some free time. Afterwards we are transferred to our ship, the MS Tolstoy. This afternoon there will be an information briefing. Dinner is onboard the ship, followed by live music in the bar for this evenings entertainment.

The MS Tolstoy is a luxury five deck vessel (by Russian cruise standards). It is 115 metres long and travels at a speed of up to 25 Kms per hour. The ship was constructed in Austria using high quality materials and at a much higher cost than other ships. The Tolstoy was originally designed for high ranking Kremlin officials and to host foreign dignitaries. It can take 160 passengers and is equipped with a restaurant, Panorama Bar and musical lounge, small swimming pool, coffee bar, beauty salon, medical room, souvenir store and more. All cabins are outside with scenic windows and equipped with private facilities, air conditioning, refrigerators and electricity supply.

Accommodation: On board

11.05.16 Moscow**(B/L/D)**

Moscow is Russia's largest city, as well as it's political and economic capital. Through bribes, diplomacy and coercion, Moscow overcame its two rival principalities to become Russia's first city. Moscow's role was briefly challenged when Tsar Peter the Great moved the capital to his new city Saint Petersburg, on the shores of the Baltic Sea. Today we have a bus city tour including Leningradskaya Avenue, Tverskaya Street, Theatralny Passage, Lubyanka, K.G.B. Building and Manezh Square. We also have some free time in Red Square. See GUM department store building, Historical Museum, Resurrection Gate, Kazan Church, Intercession Cathedral and the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Lunch is at a restaurant in the city.

This afternoon is very special, as we will go inside the Kremlin - the ancient castle built to withstand the Mongol hordes. Throughout history, the Kremlin has been the centre of political power in Russia and it remains a symbolic political centre even today. It is the official site of the inauguration ceremony of the Russian President. The Kremlin is a living museum of Russia's history. This historical treasure has been so well preserved that it seems that we are travelling back in time. We will see the most interesting places in the Kremlin as we follow our professional guide in the steps of some of the world's greatest leaders and its most terrible dictators. See the Palace of Congresses, Senate Square, Arsenal & Senate buildings, residence of the President of the Russian Federation, Tsar Bell and Tsar Cannon. Also see Assumption Cathedral and Annunciation Cathedral, with a visit to one of them.

Afterwards we are returned to the ship (unless doing optional tours).

This evening you may wish to take part in some of the optional excursions on offer which may include the National folk show 'Kostroma' or Moscow by Night & Metro.

Accommodation: On board

12.05.16 Moscow**(B/L/D)**

Today is at leisure to explore Moscow or relax on the ship. The optional excursions available should include Sergiev Posad, Tretyakov Gallery and New Maidens Convent. Later this afternoon all passengers will return to the ship for our departure to Uglich. Tonight there will be a presentation of the crew and staff with the Captain's Welcome Cocktail Party. You are requested to be elegantly dressed for this evening. Dinner is onboard the ship followed by live music in the bar.

Accommodation: On board

13.05.16 Uglich**(B/L/D)**

This morning there will be a presentation on Uglich and Yaroslavl. Uglich is a small town located on the Volga River. It is most famous for the tragic events that took place in 1591, when the 10 year old Prince Dimitry, the last heir to the throne of the ancient Rurik Dynasty, was killed here. Historians now agree that he was killed by Boris Godunov, adviser to Dimitry, who wanted the throne to himself. Dimitry's death plunged Russia into decades of political turmoil known as the Time of Trouble.

In the afternoon we will discover the town on a walking tour with a visit to the Kremlin, Transfiguration Cathedral and the church of Saint Dimitry on the Blood.

This evening the ship departs for Yaroslavl.

Whilst cruising on board the ship, you will experience live music concerts, a Russian language course, Russian song lessons, dancing music in bars nightly and the Captain's bridge tour.

Accommodation: On board

14.05.16 Yaroslavl**(B/L/D)**

By today's standards Yaroslavl is small, but its place in Russia's history and culture can not be underestimated. Before it was annihilated by the Mongols it was Russia's largest city. It was the economic, political, cultural and scientific centre. It was rebuilt shortly after but was once again burnt to the ground. While the Mongols had been preoccupied with Yaroslavl, Moscow was able to harness enough power to overthrow the 'Mongol yoke.' This morning we will explore this town on the Volga River by bus with stops in Nikolas Wonderworker, Governor's House Art Gallery and church of the Prophet Elijah (outside visit). There will also be some free time to explore the local market. This afternoon the ship departs for Goritsy.

Accommodation: On board

15.05.16 Goritsy**(B/L/D)**

Goritsy is famous for the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery (1397). This monastery's strong walls and bastions were used by some nobles as a safe house during the Time of Trouble. The Polish Armies stormed it, but never succeeded in capturing it. Unfortunately, the monastery was not successful in repelling the attacks of other invaders four centuries later. The Bolsheviks closed the monastery in the early 20th century and sent its monks to the prison camps. On our walking tour around the small town you will go inside the local Monastery of Saint Cyril on the White Lake, an exceptional museum of icons.

This afternoon the ship departs for Kizhi.

Accommodation: On board

16.05.16 Kizhi**(B/L/D)**

This morning there is a presentation on Kizhi. Kizhi is the name of a unique island located on Lake Onega. In the centre of the island stands the amazing Transfiguration Church. This wooden church and its 22 domes are said to be built without a single nail. In fact, originally, the Transfiguration Church was located in another place. The Bolsheviks, who had little, if no, respect for religion, had some respect for its architectural value. So they decided to move this unique church as far from the major cities and people as possible, to distant Kizhi Island. We will devote this afternoon on the island to the open-air museum of wooden architecture. This evening the ship departs for Mandrogi.

Accommodation: On board

17.05.16 Mandrogi**(B/L/D)**

This morning there is a round table discussion where the ship guides are glad to answer

any questions you may have about Russian life. Afterwards we visit Mandrogi, which is the name of a small village that has no architectural wonders, giant castles or churches. You will however discover the unique style and architecture of the northern tribes that have occupied these lands for centuries.

Here among the beautiful landscapes of this peaceful place we will have a picnic ashore with a famous Russian shashlik (meat kebab) made on the grill. We will have free time to stroll around the town to visit typical wooden houses, numerous craft exhibitions, Russian pancake and pie houses and possibly buy some souvenirs, before returning to the ship. In the afternoon the ship departs for St Petersburg.

This evening we have the Captain's Dinner. It is requested that you are elegantly dressed for this occasion. Afterwards we have a talent show, performed by the guests on board. This is followed by music and dancing in the bar.

Accommodation: On board

18.05.16 St Petersburg

(B/L/D)

St Petersburg is Russia's cultural and historical treasure, one of the world's most beautiful cities. It is known as the 'Venice of the North', thanks to its numerous canals and hundreds of bridges. It can rightly be called a living museum as many of its buildings are a part of Russia's history.

Today there is a bus city tour to Smolny Convent, Tavrishesky Palace, Summer Garden, Palace Embankment, Winter Palace, Buildings of Stock Exchange and Nevsky Prospect. There is a walking tour of St Peter and Paul's Fortress. Lunch will be in a city restaurant, before an afternoon visit to the Winter Palace, which is home to the Hermitage Museum - the largest collection of Russian art in the world. The Hermitage originally started as the private art collection of Catherine The Great. The art works are displayed in numerous halls, many of which are works of art in themselves. Tonight you may like to take part in an optional excursion to a Russian Folk Show.

Accommodation: On board

19.05.16 St Petersburg

(B/L/D)

This morning we have a walking tour of magnificent Peterhof (lower park only). See the Grand Cascade with the Samson Fountain, Greenhouse, Roman Fountains, The Chessboard, Trick Fountains (Oaklet, Umbrella, Bench), Palace Monplezire and a view of the Gulf of Finland. Afterwards we return to the ship for lunch. Later in the afternoon there should be a 'Rivers & Canals' optional tour available.

Accommodation: On board

20.05.16 St Petersburg

(B/L/D)

Today is at leisure to explore St Petersburg. You may wish to take the optional excursions on offer to Pushkin (Catherine Palace and Park). Tonight there should be an optional excursion available to the ballet.

Accommodation: On board

21.05.16 St Petersburg – Helsinki, Finland

(B)

After breakfast we are transferred to the railway station to board our train to Helsinki (second class ticket). Upon arrival in Helsinki we are met and transferred to our hotel for check-in. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: Sokos Hotel Presidentti

22.05.16 Helsinki

(B/L)

Today we have a sightseeing tour of Helsinki and Old Porvoo. The tour begins in Sibelius

Park, where we get off the coach to view the Sibelius Monument, before moving on past the Olympic Stadium, built for the 1952 Olympic Games. Next is the city's main street Mannerheimintie, along which are many fine buildings such as the modern Opera House, the Alvar Aalto designed Finlandia Hall, the National Museum and the Kiasma Modern Art Museum. Nearby is the main railway station, which is an architectural show piece in its own right. Subject to availability, we will also visit the Temppeliaukio Church, also known as the "Rock Church" as it is carved into solid rock. Next up is the Esplanade, an elegant boulevard with exclusive shops. With leafy parkland in the centre, it is a popular sitting area with occasional live concerts and buskers. At the base of the Esplanade is the bustling Market Square and harbour, overlooked by the imposing red brick onion-domed Uspenski Russian Orthodox Cathedral. There will be time to walk around Senate Square and the green-domed Lutheran Cathedral which is the symbol of the city.

Afterwards we travel out of Helsinki and less than an hour later arrive at the picturesque town of Porvoo, the second oldest town in Finland.

Stroll through the medieval Old Quarter, along old cobbled streets of historic painted wooden houses, cafes and antique stores. The town is famous for its ochre-painted shore houses along the riverside. The 13th century cathedral is the town's major historic landmark. Whilst in Porvoo we have lunch with tea and coffee at a local restaurant. Afterwards we are returned to our hotel.

Accommodation: Sokos Hotel Presidentti

23.05.16 Helsinki – Copenhagen, Denmark

(B) Today we are transferred to Helsinki airport for our flight to Copenhagen. Upon arrival in Copenhagen we are transferred to our hotel for a three night stay.

Accommodation: First Hotel Twenty Seven or similar

24.05.16 Copenhagen

(B) Breakfast at the hotel. Afterwards we depart on a city sightseeing tour of Copenhagen. We begin by passing the Tivoli Gardens and the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Art Museum. We drive through the canal district, past the National Museum to Christiansborg Palace, home to the Danish Parliament. We continue on to the old Stock Exchange and across Kongens Nytorv, where we can see the Royal Theatre, which is famous for its Royal Ballet. We pass the colourful harbour district of Nyhavn to Amalienborg Palace, which is the winter residence of the Royal Family. This is followed by a visit to the Gefion Fountain and the Little Mermaid, inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale. We also pass many magnificent churches in Copenhagen and the Rosenborg Castle, where the Crown Jewels are protected by the Royal Guard. At approximately 1pm we are returned to the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

Accommodation: First Hotel Twenty Seven or similar

25.05.16 Copenhagen – Tour to North Zealand Castle

(B) Around 10am this morning we travel through the beautiful forest north of Copenhagen to the impressive Frederiksborg Castle in Hillerod, built in the Renaissance style by King Christian IV in 1625. The visit to the castle includes the very fine National Historical Museum, the Chapel and the Knights' Hall. Next we pass the Royal Family's summer residence of Fredensborg Palace, surrounded by a beautiful park. Upon arrival in Elsinore we will also visit the impressive Kronborg Castle, which was the scene of Hamlet. The castle was built between 1574 and 1585 to protect the Danish treasury by levying tolls on the shipping which passed through the narrow straits. We will then leave Elsinore and drive back to Copenhagen on the coastal road passing fashionable resorts and exclusive residential areas.

Accommodation: First Hotel Twenty Seven or similar

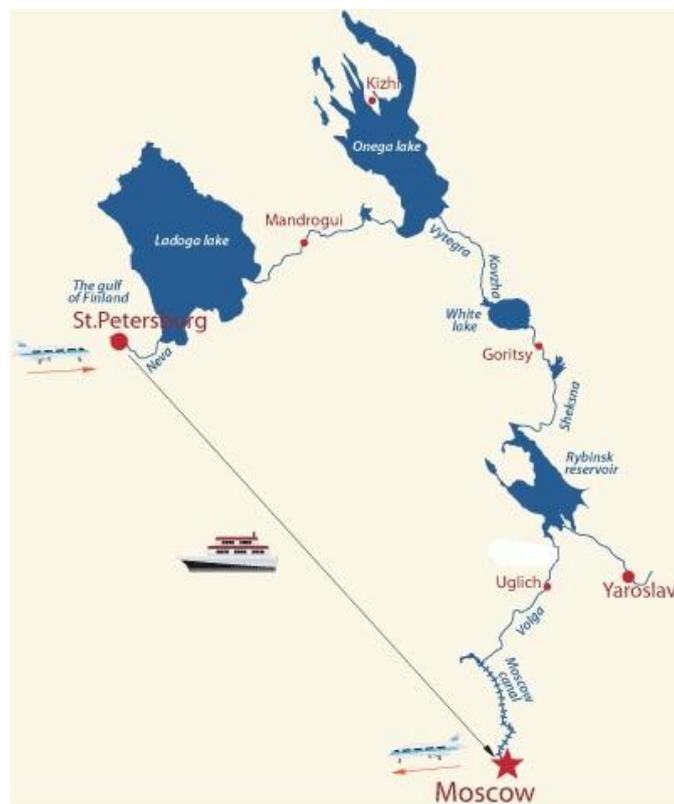
26.05.16 Copenhagen – Singapore

(B) This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flights home.
Depart Copenhagen at 12.30pm on SQ 351, arriving in Singapore at 6.30am the next morning (27.05.16).

27.05.16 Singapore – Australia

Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 7.45am on SQ 207, arriving in Melbourne at 5.10pm.
Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 9.35am on SQ 211, arriving in Sydney at 7.15pm.
Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.40am on SQ 245, arriving in Brisbane at 7.30pm.

Note: Please note that the tour itinerary in Russia is subject to minor changes. Also note that the cabins on the cruise ship are quite small, especially the single cabins.



Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Russian Waterways Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 10 weeks prior to departure.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bare no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. Visas are required for Russia and the current cost is \$150 plus \$30 processing. Please note that this cost is subject to any changes made by the Russian Consulate. No other visas are required on this tour if you are travelling on an Australian passport.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$55 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance, visas and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Booking through other Agents - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____

Passport Nationality _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.