Waterways of the Tsars:
Moscow to St. Petersburg
Aboard Volga Dream

Elihu Rubin
Associate Professor, School of Architecture
Russia, with its fascinating history, vibrant culture, and idyllic landscapes, has captivated travelers’ imaginations for generations. This vast nation is also home to some of the world’s greatest art and architecture, from Moscow’s colorful onion domes to St. Petersburg’s stunning palaces. Please join me next summer to explore these cosmopolitan cities and cruise into the heartland of Russia, stepping ashore to see Golden Ring towns few Americans have visited.

From the capital of Moscow, embark on a voyage aboard the Volga Dream. Call at Uglich, founded a thousand years ago, to hear an a cappella choir inside a 15th-century church. In Goritsy, visit two medieval monasteries known for their beautiful frescoes. Explore the magical island of Kizhy, a remarkable open air museum. Enjoy stunning scenery as you cross Europe’s largest freshwater lake to arrive in St. Petersburg for a three-day finale during the White Nights, when the evening sky never darkens. Enter Catherine Palace and see the exquisitely recreated Amber Room, and tour the Hermitage Museum when it is closed to the public. Onboard classes in Russian language and cuisine will add to the pleasures of our voyage.

I am delighted to be traveling with you to Russia. My talks will be complemented by lectures from Femke Speelberg, Associate Curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

I hope you will join me on this extraordinary cruise.

Sincerely,

Elihu Rubin
Associate Professor, School of Architecture

P.S. An optional prelude in Moscow includes a visit to the Kremlin before public hours, a performance and visit at the renowned Bolshoi Theatre, and a tour of the beautiful stations of the Moscow Metro, known as “the People’s Palaces.”
Yale Study Leader

Elihu Rubin

Elihu Rubin is Associate Professor of Architecture, Urbanism, and American Studies at Yale University. He received a doctorate in architecture and a master’s in city planning from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor of arts from Yale. His first book, Insuring the City: The Prudential Center and the Postwar Urban Landscape (Yale Univ. Press, 2012), was awarded the Kenneth T. Jackson Prize from the Urban History Association and the Lewis Mumford Award from the Society of American City & Regional Planning History. Mr. Rubin’s work focuses on the making and meaning of the built environment; architectural preservation and the politics of “heritage planning.” An enthusiastic lecturer, Elihu has also made documentary videos relating to urban history, the politics of public spaces, urban redevelopment, architectural modernism, and street life.

Upcoming Trips

Cuba by Sea:
Cienfuegos to Havana
Aboard Variety Voyager
1/25/18 - 2/2/18
With Alan Plattus ’76,
Professor of Architecture and Urbanism

The Enchanting Douro River
Aboard AmaVida
4/16/18 - 4/24/18
With K. David Jackson,
Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies for Portuguese

The Netherlands by Barge:
Bruges to Amsterdam
Aboard Magnifique II
4/22/18 - 4/30/18

Book Corner

Recommended reading on Russia

Russia of the Tsars
Peter Waldron
Waldron tells the stories of all the Russians, exploring how the vastness of the empire and its extremes of climate affected the lives of rulers and peasants alike. He recounts how Peter the Great and later tsars built the empire, and describes some of the individuals who worked for and against social change in Russia.

Moscow in the Plague Year
Marina Tsvetaeva, Christopher Whyte (Translator)
Admired by many of Russia’s literary greats, including Pasternak and Brodsky, these ironic and humorous poems embody the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the resulting famine.
ITINERARY
JUNE 2-12, 2018

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Tuesday, May 15
Join Professor Rubin and Yale travelers at 4 pm EST for a pre-trip welcome call in order to learn more about what to expect and ask any questions you may have.

U.S. DEPARTURE
Saturday, June 2
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Moscow.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA
Sunday, June 3
Arrive in Moscow and transfer to the river port north of the city to board the awaiting Volga Dream. (D)

UGLICH
Monday, June 4
Enjoy a morning cruise to Uglich, whose medieval buildings rise above a sharp bend in the river. At the five-domed Church of the Transfiguration, an a cappella concert creates a beautiful contrast with the glittering iconostasis surrounding the singers. Learn about the role Uglich played in the rise of the Romanov Dynasty at the Chapel of Dimitry, built on the site where Ivan the Terrible's youngest son met his death. Tonight, join the captain for a welcome reception and dinner. (B/L/D)

YAROSLAVL
Tuesday, June 5
The oldest city on the Volga River, Yaroslavl was unharmed during World War II, and many religious buildings dating from the 13th to 17th centuries remain intact. In the Spassky Monastery, see the Transfiguration Cathedral, adorned with murals depicting the apocalyptic visions of St. John; then view the richly frescoed Church of Elijah the Prophet. Enjoy a stroll in the lively market before returning to Volga Dream for lunch. As you cruise this afternoon, a Russian language class will be offered. (B/L/D)

GORITSY
Wednesday, June 6
Visit the UNESCO-listed Ferapontov Monastery, whose frescoes are considered among the finest examples of medieval Russian art. Enjoy some free time in this peaceful village, or tour the 14th-century Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery (the Monastery of St. Cyril on the White Lake), once one of the most important in Russia. Cross Lake Beloye – formerly known as “the tsar's fishing grounds” – en route to Lake Onega, the second-largest lake in Europe. (B/L/D)

KIZHY
Thursday, June 7
This morning learn to make traditional crepes and dumplings (blini and pelmeni) at an onboard cooking class. In the afternoon, step ashore on the tiny island of Kizhy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Lake Onega. See the open air Museum of Architecture, including its fairy-tale Church of the Transfiguration. (B/L/D)

SVIR RIVER CRUISE/
SVIRSTROY
Friday, June 8
Be on deck as Volga Dream cruises the Svir River toward Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest freshwater lake, passing graceful willow, alder, and pine trees along the shore. Call at the village of Svirstroy, where you will be welcomed at a local resident's home for tea with jam and pirozhki (local pies). Learn about Russian tradition and village lifestyle from our hosts before visiting the nearby town. (B/L/D)

ST. PETERSBURG
Saturday, June 9
Stay three nights in this imperial capital, moored on the Neva River aboard Volga Dream. View the Hermitage's unparalleled French Impressionist collection, then travel by hydrofoil to Peterhof. Peter the Great's magnificent complex of palaces and gardens has been renovated to its former Baroque splendor after near-destruction during World War II. Try to outwit the “trick” fountains installed in the lower gardens, and enter Monplaisir Palace to see where Catherine the Great took her baths. (B/L/D)

ST. PETERSBURG
Sunday, June 10
Travel to Tsarkoe Selo (the tsar's village) to visit sumptuous Catherine Palace. See the Amber Room, exquisitely recreated after World War II, and stroll in the formal gardens. Enjoy lunch and an afternoon at leisure aboard Volga Dream. Return to the Hermitage this evening for an exclusive after-hours visit highlighted by a champagne reception and classical music performed by a chamber group. (B/L/R/D)
ST. PETERSBURG  
Monday, June 11  
On a city tour, marvel at the dazzling, five-domed Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood, built on the site where Tsar Alexander II was fatally wounded in 1881. Admire the city’s pastel palaces on a canal cruise and enjoy panoramic views from the Peter and Paul Fortress, final resting place of various Romanovs. Following lunch, you may choose a guided tour of impressive St. Isaac’s Cathedral or the exquisite Fabergé Museum. Celebrate your Russian voyage with a memorable farewell dinner on board.  (B/D)

U.S. RETURN  
Tuesday, June 12  
Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/R/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Reception/Dinner.

What is Included:
• Program of lectures and discussions with Yale Associate Professor Elihu Rubin.
• Nine nights cabin accommodations aboard Volga Dream.
• All meals as indicated in the itinerary; bottled water and coffee / tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wine and beer with lunches and dinners.
• Escorted sightseeing by motor-coach and entrance fees for visits.
• Airport / pier / airport group transfers for those on suggested flights; porterage.
• Taxes and service charges; gratuities to guides and drivers.
• Customary shipboard gratuities.
• Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance.

What is Not Included:
• International airfare.
• Passport / visa fees.
• Alcoholic beverages other than wine and beer at included lunches and dinners.
• Personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, internet, etc.
• Travel insurance.
• Optional Moscow prelude.
• Baggage in excess of one suitcase.
• Any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

OPTIONAL PRELUDE IN MOSCOW  
May 30–June 3, 2018  
Spend three nights in Moscow to enter the Kremlin when it is closed to the public, and see the stellar collections of the Pushkin Museum and Tretyakov galleries. Visit backstage at the legendary Bolshoi Theater and attend a performance (pending confirmation). Enjoy an afternoon walking tour of iconic Red Square. Another highlight will be a tour of the beautiful stations of the Moscow Metro, “The People’s Palaces.” Accommodations are at the newly opened Four Seasons in the historic city center.

$2,799 per person.  
Single supplement $599.

Includes three nights at the Four Seasons, breakfast daily, three lunches, and two dinners. Sightseeing as noted.

www.yaleedtravel.org/tsars18
One of the finest riverboats in Russia, M.S. Volga Dream is ideally suited to explore the scenic lakes and waterways between Moscow and St. Petersburg. All 56 staterooms have river views, marble-accented bathrooms, air conditioning, telephones, flat-screen satellite TVs, and a safe. Meals feature Continental cuisine alongside Russian specialties. The lounge, showcasing paintings by contemporary Russian artists, offers panoramic views and live music. The full-length sun deck is a lovely setting for al fresco dining. Other amenities include a fitness room, massage room, and sauna. A physician accompanies each cruise.
To reserve, return the above form with your deposit of $1,000 per person. Final payment is due February 7, 2018.

Optional Prelude
☐ I/We wish to join the optional prelude in Moscow

Payment Options
☐ pay by check made out to “Arrangements Abroad”

Please charge the deposit of $1,000 per person to:
☐ amex  ☐ visa  ☐ mastercard  ☐ discover card

card number
expiration date
security code

Accommodations
☐ I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
☐ I will share accommodations with:

cabin preference

Terms & Conditions
☐ I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read the Terms & Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Contact Information

date of birth  yale connection
passport origin  relationship to other guest

1) name as on passport

date of birth  yale connection
passport origin  relationship to other guest

2) name as on passport

date of birth  yale connection
passport origin  relationship to other guest

Terms & Conditions

MOBILITY & FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline, to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”) is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 91 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 20% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 90 days to 61 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 60 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Yale Educational Travel.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Arrangements Abroad, of which $500 (see CANCELLATION) is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, must be received 120 days prior to departure. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721. Or call: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944.

Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs

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Discover less-visited UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Ferapontov Monastery and the fairy-tale island of Kizhy

Explore the art of Russian cuisine and attend Russian language classes on board