Yale Educational Travel

Sail the mighty Volga River into the heartland of Russia, stepping ashore in ancient Golden Ring towns April 10-24, 2016

Moscow to St. Petersburg Aboard Volga Dream

June 5–15, 2019

Waterways of the Tsars

Ivo Banac
Bradford Durfee Emeritus Professor of History

Special savings of $750 per person for the first 20 to sign up!
Dear Yale Traveler

Sailing the waterways of Russia was a royal tradition for her rulers, and the Romanovs’ imperial yacht, the Standart, was the envy of Europe when Nicholas II reigned. Please join Yale Educational Travel next year to sail the mighty Volga River into the heartland of the country, stepping ashore in Golden Ring towns few Americans have visited.

In Moscow, stay at the Four Seasons for three nights. Enter the Kremlin before public hours, go backstage at the Bolshoi, and discover the masterpieces in the Pushkin Museum and Tretyakov Galleries. Visit an open session of the Duma, or Russian Parliament (pending confirmation), and enjoy a cocktail at Spaso House, the home of the U.S. Ambassador. Then embark on a six-night voyage aboard the elegant Volga Dream. Call at Uglich, founded a thousand years ago, to hear an a cappella choir inside a 15th-century church. Visit two medieval monasteries in Goritsy and explore the magical island of Kizhy. Enjoy stunning scenery as you cross Europe’s largest freshwater lake to call at the village of Svirstroy, where you will visit a resident’s home before continuing to St. Petersburg to disembark. Onboard classes in Russian language and cuisine will add to the pleasures of this voyage.

An optional three-night postlude is offered in St. Petersburg.

Ivo Banac, Bradford Durfee Professor of History, Emeritus, will offer lectures on Russian history, which will be complemented by talks on Russian art and architecture by Karen Stamm, a conservator from The Metropolitan Museum of Art. James Salzman, a visiting professor of environmental law at Harvard University, will also be joining the cruise.

I hope you will join Yale on this unforgettable voyage to experience the fascinating history, vibrant culture, and idyllic landscapes of Russia, in the congenial company of members of the Harvard Alumni Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Please visit yaleedtravel.org/tsars19 to register now, or call Yale Educational Travel at (203) 432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lauren Summers
Senior Director for Lifelong Learning and Travel
Association of Yale Alumni
Yale Study Leader

Ivo Banac

Ivo Banac is the Bradford Durfee Emeritus Professor of History at Yale University. From 1995 to 1999, he was Professor of History at the Central European University at Budapest, where he also directed the OSI/ CEU Institute on Southeastern Europe. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University, and is the author of the award-winning *The National Question in Yugoslavia: Origins, History, Politics* (1984), and *With Stalin Against Tito: Cominformist Splits in Yugoslav Communism* (1988), along with numerous additional publications. Professor Banac served as a member of the Croatian parliament, or Sabor (2003-2007) and was also president of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (2007-2009).

Front cover: St. Basil’s Cathedral, Moscow

Upcoming Trips

**Cuba by Sea Aboard Variety Voyager**
1/24/19-2/1/19  
*Michael Veal, Professor of Music, African-American Studies, and American Studies*

**Discovering the Caucasus: Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan**
5/19/19-5/31/19  
*Harvey Goldblatt, Professor of Medieval Slavic Literature*

**Adriatic Odyssey: Dubrovnik to Venice Aboard Sea Cloud**
6/30/19-7/8/19  
*Boris Berman, Professor of Piano, Yale School of Music*
ITINERARY
JUNE 5–15, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Tuesday, May 21 (Tentative)
Please join a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Ivo Banac, at 4:00pm Eastern to meet other travelers, learn more about what to expect, and ask questions.

DEPARTURE
Wednesday, June 5
Depart on an overnight flight to Moscow.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA
Thursday, June 6
Arrive in Moscow and transfer to the Four Seasons Moscow for check-in. In the afternoon enjoy a walking tour of Red Square, home to St. Basil’s Cathedral, Lenin’s Tomb, and the famous GUM department store facing the Kremlin. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel. (R/D)

MOSCOW
Friday, June 7
Following a morning lecture, visit the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, housing a remarkable collection of French Impressionist and Old Master paintings. Alternatively visit an open session of the Duma, or Russian Parliament (pending confirmation). Discover the newly restored Bolshoi Theatre during a guided tour and meet with a dancer from this prestigious company, or drive to Spaso House, the home of the United States Ambassador, for a special visit and cocktail (pending confirmation). The balance of the day is at leisure. (B/L)

MOSCOW / EMBARK
VOLGA DREAM
Sunday, June 9
Enter the Kremlin before public hours for a private visit to the Armory Museum, with its collection of tsarist thrones, ceremonial crowns, coaches, and gifts of state. Continue to the beautifully frescoed 15th-century Assumption and Annunciation Cathedrals. Following lunch, tour the ornate stations of the Moscow Metro, “the People’s Palaces.” Travel north of the city to the river port, to board Volga Dream. (B/L/D)

UGLICH
Monday, June 10
Enjoy a leisurely morning cruise to Uglich, whose medieval buildings loom above a sharp bend in the river. At the five-domed Church of the Transfiguration, an a cappella concert creates a starkly beautiful contrast with the glittering iconostasis surrounding the singers. Learn about the important 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/R/D)

YAROSLAVL
Tuesday, June 11
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. Stroll in the lively market before joining Volga Dream for lunch. As you cruise this afternoon, a Russian language class will be offered. (B/L/D)

GORITSY
Wednesday, June 12
Visit the UNESCO-listed Ferapontov Monastery, graced with frescoes that are considered among the finest examples of medieval Russian art. Enjoy some free time in the peaceful village of Goritsy, 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 13
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 14
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 we will be welcomed into a local resident’s home for tea with jam and pirozhki (local pies). Learn about Russian tradition and village lifestyle from your hosts. (B/L/D)

ST. PETERSBURG / RETURN
Saturday, June 15
Disembark in St. Petersburg this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

What is Included:
- Program of lectures and discussions with Ivo Banac, the Bradford Durfee Emeritus Professor of History, and other experts.
- Three nights hotel accommodations at the Four Seasons in Moscow.
- Six nights cabin accommodations aboard Volga Dream.
- Meals during the cruise (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals.
- House wine/beer and soft drinks with lunches and dinners aboard Volga Dream; vodka tasting during the Russian dinner; four-hour coffee station; open bar during cruise*; bottled water in cabins and for each shore excursion.
- Welcome Russian vodka, bread, and salt ceremony; fruit basket in cabin; Captain’s welcome aboard cocktail reception (complimentary champagne and snacks); Captain’s farewell cocktail reception.
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks; all onboard entertainment programs, including live piano performances in the evenings.
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits.
- First Aid aboard Volga Dream.
- Customary shipboard gratuities; port charges.
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; pre-departure materials.
- Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance.

*Open bar aboard Volga Dream includes tea, coffee americano, water, and soft drinks; red and white house wines; standard Russian vodka; standard Russian champagne; standard whiskey Johnny Walker Red Label class; standard gin and tonic; standard Russian beer. (Open bar does NOT include: super premium alcohol brands as well as specialty coffees.)

What is Not Included:
- International airfare.
- Passport / visa fees.
- Meals not specified.
- Alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions.
- Personal items and expenses.
- Travel insurance.
- Optional St. Petersburg postlude.
- Excess baggage.
- Airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights.
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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

Optional Postlude in St. Petersburg
June 15–18, 2019
At the peak of the White Nights season of the midnight sun, experience vibrant St. Petersburg, founded by Peter the Great in 1703. Travel to Peterhof, “the Versailles of Russia.” This magnificent complex of palaces and gardens has been renovated to its former Baroque splendor after near-destruction during World War II. Tour the Hermitage Museum on a day when it is closed to the public. On a visit to Catherine Palace, view the exquisitely restored Amber Room and stroll in the formal gardens. Other highlights include a White Nights Festival performance or concert at the famed Mariinsky Theatre. Accommodations are at the elegant Rocco Forte Hotel Astoria.

Double rate/per person: $2,999
Single rate: $3,699
Includes three nights accommodations at the Rocco Forte Hotel Astoria; breakfast daily, two lunches, and one dinner; sightseeing as noted; performance at Mariinsky Theatre.

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

www.yaleedtravel.org/tsars19
The finest riverboat in Russia is celebrated for her elegant appointments, meticulous design, and impeccable service. All 56 staterooms have river views and marble-accented private bathrooms. Complimentary wine and beer are offered at meals, which showcase Continental cuisine alongside Russian specialties. The lounge, decorated with paintings by contemporary Russian artists, offers panoramic views, live music, and Wi-Fi. The teak 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 register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person. Final payment is due February 5, 2019.

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- ❑ Visa
- ❑ Mastercard
- ❑ Discover Card

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**Terms & Conditions**

**MOBILITY & FITNESS TO TRAVEL**

The right is retained to decline, to accept, or to retain anyone 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 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 120 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: (203) 432-1952.

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

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**To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to Arrangements Abroad to:**

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

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Bradford Durfee Professor of History Emeritus

June 5–15, 2019

Meet a dancer during a behind-the-scenes tour of the Bolshoi Theatre

Delight in the stirring voices of an intimate choral ensemble, enhanced by the flawless acoustics at the Cathedral of the Transfiguration in Uglich

Discuss life since the fall of the Soviet Union with residents of the riverside village of Svirstroy