

# Russian Capitals & Waterways Bridge Cruise

*An exciting and affordable 18 day holiday*

Enjoy 11 days on board our ship, which cruises the beautiful waterways that connect the imperial cities of St Petersburg and Moscow. Features a guided tour of the Hermitage Museum.

Cruise the Neva, Svir and Volga rivers, the Volga-Baltic and the Moscow Volga Canals, passing through 16 locks.

**Your bridge host Derrick Browne will conduct bridge sessions on board the ship.**

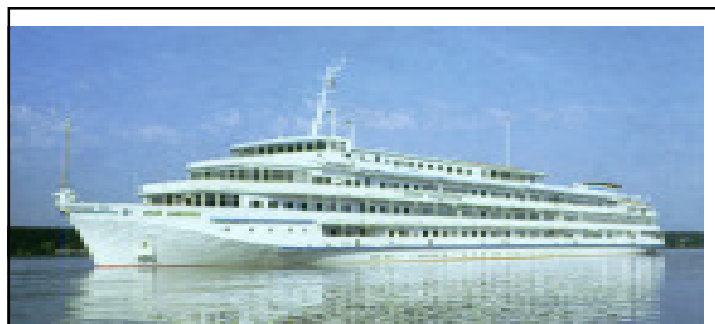


In St Petersburg your guided city tour includes Peter & Paul fortress, St Isaac's Cathedral, Nevsky Prospekt, beautiful buildings, squares and magnificent parks, highlighted by a guided tour of the world famous Hermitage Museum.

Your Moscow tour will include The Kremlin and its architectural treasures, Tsar Bell, Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and the famous GUM store.

As you cruise the beautiful countryside you will see picturesque riverside villages with magnificent buildings and monasteries. There are included guided tours and ample time to wander the villages, meet the locals and buy some souvenirs. All meet and greet and private transfers are included.

**Tour departs 1 September 2010  
from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne & Perth**



*Your ship is MS NOVGOROD, a comfortable 3 star ship with 270 passenger capacity. All cabins are outside position, private ensuite and air conditioning. All meals are included on the ship with basic on board entertainment and activities.*

*An on-board English-speaking tour director will co-ordinate all included sightseeing tours and optional tours. Optional tours include Peterhof Summer Palace, Metro Tour, ballet, circus and folklore entertainment.*

**Excellent price \$6387pp** twin share

**Limited singles available just \$951 supplement**

*Single cabins allocated on a first come first served basis.  
Once all singles are sold, singles will be twinned together*

**Cabin upgrade to Middle Deck - only \$120pp**

**Non bridge player discount \$400**

#### **Tour inclusions and checklist:**

Flights with Cathay Pacific and Finnair including airline taxes

One night in Helsinki - hotel and transfers

Ten nights in outside cabin on our Russian cruise ship

One hotel night in St Petersburg (pre cruise)

One hotel night in Moscow (post cruise)

33 meals (14 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 10 dinners)

English-speaking guide whilst cruising

All airport/hotel and hotel to ship transfers included  
in St Petersburg & Moscow

One night Hong Kong stopover - hotel and return transfers

**Initial enquiries should be directed to Derrick on (02) 9969 5959 or by contacting...**



**www.bridgetravel.com.au**

**email: [bridgetravel@bigpond.com](mailto:bridgetravel@bigpond.com)**

*All travel arrangements will be organised by Travelabout (Licence No 2TA001724, ABN 43 002 845 909; Full Member of Travel Compensation Fund). Deposits will be held until 10 or more bridge players have entered at which stage the trip will be confirmed. Until then, deposits are fully refundable.*

## ***Bridge Travel's Russian Capitals & Waterways Cruise***

### **New detailed itinerary**

#### **Day 1 Wed 1 Sep Homeport - Bangkok**

Depart Sydney for Hong Kong on Cathay Pacific flight CX100 departing at 2.15pm. Arrive in Hong Kong at 9.45pm and later connect with Finnair flight AY68 departing at 12.25am (2 Sep).

Brisbane passengers depart at 11.45am on Cathay Pacific flight CX163 and arrive in Hong Kong at 10.25pm.

Melbourne passengers depart at 9.35am on Cathay Pacific flight CX163 and arrive in Hong Kong at 8.55pm.

Passengers from other points speak to agent for details.

#### **Day 2 Thu 2 Sep Arrive Helsinki - Independent Sightseeing**

Arrive in Helsinki at 6.05am and following the usual formalities, we have arranged transfers to our centrally located hotel. The rest of the day is free; maybe join the hop-on hop-off sightseeing tour and independently discover this lovely city. O/n Helsinki.

#### **Day 3 Fri 3 Sep Helsinki - St Petersburg**

This morning we have arranged transfers for our Finnair flight AY165 departing at 9.50am, arriving St Petersburg at 11.50am where we take private transfers to our centrally located hotel. The rest of the day is free for independent sightseeing - maybe wander nearby Nevsky Prospect with its fashionable shops and cafes.

O/n St Petersburg (B)

#### **Day 4 Sat 4 Sep St Petersburg at leisure**

Most of today is free to independently explore this beautiful city. We suggest you take a boat ride and cruise the canals. Late this afternoon we are transferred by private bus to the ship MS Novgorod with ample time to check in before dinner. O/n MS Novgorod (B,D)

#### **Day 5 Sun 5 Sep St Petersburg - City Tour**

City sightseeing tour of St Petersburg includes Nevsky Prospekt, Palace Square, St Isaac's Cathedral and the battle cruiser Aurora. Referred to as 'Venice of the north', St Petersburg was created in 1703 by Peter the Great and was made the capital of all Russia. Parks, monuments, squares, wide boulevards, numerous canals and 600 bridges bewilder visitors, with the River Neva adding to its charm. Later we visit the Peter & Paul Fortress. O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 6 Mon 6 Sep St Petersburg - Hermitage Tour**

A highlight of our trip is a guided tour of the world-famous 'Hermitage' museum, which houses the royal art collection and 3 million works of art. Free afternoon to independently explore this beautiful Imperial City. Join an optional tour to the impressive Petrohof, the Imperial summer residence. The palace tour includes the Big Palace, gala halls, residential rooms and art. O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 7 Tue 7 Sep Cruising - Mandrogui**

Today we begin our river adventure, cruising along the shores of Lake Ladoga and the Svir River, stopping at Mandrogui surrounded by verdant countryside. The village is famous for its locally produced vodka and Russian pancakes (blini), which we will have ample time to sample. O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 8 Wed 8 Sep Cruising - Kizhy**

Your stop today is tiny Kizhy Island situated at the edge of Lake Onega. Your tour will include several examples of 19th-century peasant architecture, including a watermill, windmill, threshing mill and barns. You'll visit the Transfiguration Church with its 22 cupolas, treasury of icons, and unique iconostasis. We then stop at the Museum of Wooden Art. O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 9 Thu 9 Sep Cruising - Goritsy**

Enjoy the breathtaking scenery as we sail through the White Lake and through the Volga-Baltic Canal. After arriving in Goritsy we will

visit the historic Kiril-Belose Rskiy Men' s Monastery founded in 1397. Discover its rich history and magnificent architecture. O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 10 Fri 10 Sep Cruising - Yaroslavl**

Yaroslavl is one of the oldest and best-known towns along the "Golden Ring". During the coach and walking tour see the Church of Epiphany and the Church of St Elijah the Prophet with its completely intact icons and frescoes from the 17th century.

O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 11 Sat 11 Sep Cruising - Uglich - Moscow**

Enjoy magnificent views of Uglich on the Volga River and see the Cathedrals of the Resurrection and St John's Church on the horizon. On our walking tour, we will explore the Church of St Dmitry-on-the-Blood and visit the local kremlin. Later sail along the Volga Canal into Moscow to explore the Russian capital.

O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 12 Sun 12 Sep Moscow - City Tour**

Moscow is the capital of Russia, with more than 12 million people. During a city sightseeing tour we will see Red Square, Moscow University, the Bolshoi Theatre, the Lenin Hills, Tverskaya, the KGB Building, the GUM store, and St Basil's Cathedral with its colourful onion domes. O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 13 Mon 13 Sep Moscow - Morning Kremlin Tour**

Today's sightseeing incorporates the Kremlin's interior. Walk past the enormous Tsar Bell and Cannon, the Palace of Congress and the Offices of State, to arrive in historic Cathedral Square. Encircling the square are the Annunciation, Assumption, and Archangel Michael cathedrals, three of the Kremlin's best-known architectural treasures. Free afternoon. Maybe join an optional Metro station tour and visit the pedestrian Arbat Street. O/n MS Novgorod (B,L,D)

#### **Day 14 Tue 14 Sep Moscow at Leisure**

This morning we are transferred to Cosmos Hotel, located in a leafy area north-east of the city (six stops to city centre). Rest of day is free to independently explore this amazing city.

O/n Cosmos Hotel (B)

#### **Day 15 Wed 15 Sep Moscow - Helsinki - Inflight**

Most of today is free until our early afternoon private transfers to Moscow's SVO airport for our Finnair flight AY6843 to Helsinki departing at 5.10pm Arrive in Helsinki at 6pm and later connect with Finnair flight AY67 to Hong Kong departing at 11.45pm.

O/n Inflight (B)

#### **Day 16 Thu 16 Sep Arrive in Hong Kong**

Arrive in Hong Kong at 2.30pm and have private transfers to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax and enjoy this vibrant city. O/n Hong Kong (B)

#### **Day 17 Fri 17 Sep Hong Kong - Inflight**

The day is at leisure to visit the local attractions and for last minute shopping. Mid-afternoon we have transfers to Hong Kong airport for our flight to Sydney on Cathay Pacific flight CX111 departing at 7pm. Brisbane passengers depart at the same time. Melbourne passengers depart at 7.10pm on Cathay Pacific CX135.

#### **Day 18 Sat 18 Sep Arrive in Australia**

Sydney passengers arrive at 6.15am.

Brisbane passengers arrive at 9.35pm.

Melbourne passengers arrive at 6.20pm.

Sadly our wonderful tour comes to an end, but our memories and friendships will continue.