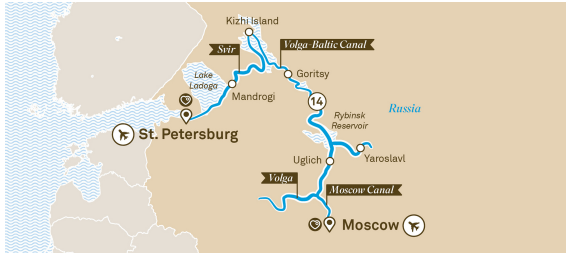


Jewels of Russia



Tour Name: Jewels of Russia

Tour Code: IRRC

Days: 15

Day 1	Moscow (D) Welcome to Moscow. If you had a hundred years, you couldn't exhaust all the wonder on offer here.
Day 2	Moscow (B,L,D) Start your day by seeing the city's finest sights, before an insightful ride on Moscow's Metro, which is guaranteed to surprise you. After lunch in a local restaurant, you'll discover world-renowned sights such as Red Square and the stunningly beautiful St. Basil's Cathedral. Though now more accessible to travellers from around the world, these incredible world icons still exude much of the enigma that has always defined them.
Day 3	Moscow (B,L,D) Your day begins with a visit to the Kremlin, the intriguing seat of the former Soviet Union. In the State Armory you'll see priceless weaponry, jewels, and ceremonial robes. Tonight, witness a thrilling Russian folk show complete with traditional costumes and dances.
Day 4	Moscow (B,L,D) Enrich Visit the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics, where you'll have the opportunity to meet a real cosmonaut and learn about the history of space exploration, with original exhibits and models relating to space technology, history and art. It's a beautiful and out-of-this-world experience that will have you seeing stars.
Day 5	Moscow (B,L,D) Freechoice: Visit the State Tretyakov Gallery or explore the fascinating Museum of the Great Patriotic War commonly known as the World War II museum, where you'll have an opportunity to see a vast collection of Russian military memorabilia.
Day 6	Uglich (B,L,D) Part of the 'Golden Ring' of cities surrounding Moscow, Uglich is well worth a long, deliberate examination and your guided walking tour will show you the many highlights of this city.
Day 7	Yaroslavl (B,L,D) Welcome to the fascinating and ancient city of Yaroslavl. In fact, dating back to 1010, it's even older than mighty Moscow. Today you'll have an opportunity to visit the Fine Art Museum, housed in the Governor's mansion, featuring the impressive collection of Russian paintings.
Day 8	Goritsy (B,L,D) Explore the Kirillo-Belozersky monastery, built in 1397 and home to a wonderful collection of Russian Orthodox icons. Toast the occasion with a little vodka, the beverage integral to Russian culture for over 600 years.
Day 9	Kizhi Island (B,L,D) Dock at Kizhi Island, an open air museum with a precious collection of wooden churches and chapels. View the Church of the Transfiguration with its 22 timbered onion domes, easily amongst the most magnificent examples of wooden architecture in Russia, if not the world.
Day 10	Mandrogi (B,L,D) Explore this charming museum village and its distinctive buildings and perhaps try shashlik, a traditional meal similar to shish kebab.
Day 11	St. Petersburg (B,L,D) Start your day with a guided tour of this uniquely beautiful metropolis, followed by a lunch in a local restaurant. Then, visit the Hermitage, formerly the Winter Palace and home to the Tsars. Today it houses one of the world's most magnificent art collections.
Day 12	St. Petersburg (B,L,D) Freechoice: Explore Catherine's Block and the fountains in the Lower Garden at Peterhof on a guided tour, or be seduced by the sheer extravagance of Peterhof's Grand Palace, which was modelled on the Palace of Versailles. Alternatively, wander the incomparable Upper and Lower Gardens at Peterhof, including the Palaces' majestic Fountains. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Freechoice: Visit magnificent St. Isaac's Cathedral, or Kupetz Eliseevs Food Hall where you will be treated to a gourmet tasting of local delicacies such as Caviar and Blini. Alternatively, tour Yusopov Palace and discover its link to Grigori Rasputin.
Day 13	St. Petersburg (B,L,D) This morning visit Catherine's Palace, famous for its grandiose white and gold façade and elaborate gardens. Afterwards enjoy a highlight lunch at the old-world wooden Podvorie restaurant. This afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore or relax as you please. Enrich Tonight you'll be treated to a glass of sparkling wine, followed by a private Russian ballet concert at the majestic Palace of Prince Vladimir. The Palace was the last imperial palace to be built in St. Petersburg and is an eclectic combination of architectural styles that will dazzle and amaze you.
Day 14	St. Petersburg (B,L,D) Today you'll enjoy a cruise through the city's canals and get to glide under some of the city's 400 bridges.
Day 15	St. Petersburg (B) After breakfast, your cruise comes to an end, as all good things must, but it's also the start of a lifetime of wonderful memories. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above.