

CRUISE THE RUSSIAN WATERWAYS

ST. PETERSBURG TO MOSCOW

May 06 - 20, 2006 (15 days)

INCLUDING
All excursions, tips, etc.
SPECIAL LECTURE
by a Russian Cosmonaut



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

3503 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5K 2A8
Tel: 604-291-1332 • Fax: 604-291-1378 • Email: sti@intergate.ca
www.sticanada.com

A special cruise aboard the MS CHEKHOV - INCLUSIVE all excursions and sightseeing, all meals, tips – the best way to experience the highlights between St. Petersburg and Moscow. Journey through the vast expanse of Russia and get to know its people, culture, history and scenery. In 863 the brothers Cyril and Mephothy set out from Constantinople on a missionary journey to bring Christianity to the Slavs. As a result of their ministry and that of their followers, Christian Orthodoxy became the area's religion. You will encounter countless fascinating churches, monasteries, palaces, as well as art treasures witnessing the faith and creativity of the Russian people and their leaders. English speaking guides will immerse you into the past and present day Russia.

Day 01,

May 06, Sat: **CANADA – ST. PETERSBURG**
Departure from Canada for Russia

Day 02,

May 07, Sun: **ARRIVE ST. PETERSBURG**
After arrival in St.Petersburg we transfer to our floating hotel – time to relax before welcome dinner. The balance of the day is at leisure to relax, get acquainted with the ship, the cruise staff and meet your fellow passengers

Day 03,

May 08, Mon: **ST. PETERSBURG**
Peter the Great wanted the city to rival Venice – and with its 101 islands, 66 canals and hundreds of bridges the city is without a doubt the country's most beautiful - on today's city tour we experience the wonderful blend of city planning and architecture – Peter and Paul fortress with its cathedral and many other monuments like St. Isaac Cathedral and St. Petersburg University will impress us today

Day 04,

May 09, Tue: **ST. PETERSBURG**
The Hermitage is one of the world's most extensive art collections with over 3 million exhibits in 320 halls from famous artists throughout the centuries – formerly the Winter Palace, it was the home of the last six czars – we will also enjoy the Nevsky Prospect, the district with shops and bars – we will be entertained by a special folklore show this evening

Day 05,

May 10, Wed: **ST. PETERSBURG**
Another day to get to know the city as we visit Catherine the Great's Palace south of the city – Pushkin, the great poet studied at the Lyceum nearby – there is also time to do some shopping before our farewell dinner

Day 06,

May 11, Thu: **VALAAM**
An interesting and unusual stop is on today's program as we stop in Valaam, an island in the lake for a walking tour of the "New Jerusalem" Monastery – Lake Ladoga with its almost 7000 square miles is Europe's largest lake and still surrounded by natural beauty

Day 07,

May 12, Fri: **MANDROGA OR SVIR STROY**
We stop in either Madroga or Svir Story, quaint riverside villages full of stone cottages – along Svir River, connecting Lake Onega and Lake Ladoga - this is primarily a recreational stop, perfect for a refreshing walk, meeting the locals

Day 08,

May 13, Sat: **KIZHI**
Today we end up on Kizhi Island, on the northern end of Lake Onega (Europe's second largest lake with over 1000 islands) – we visit the Open Air Museum of Wooden Architecture (notably the 18th century Church of the Transfiguration with 22 domes entirely built of wood and without the use of nails), assembled from various areas of the country (the buildings here seem to be right out of a fairy tale – and you will feel like in the middle of the Dr. Zhivago movie) – a great glimpse at the past

Day 09,

May 14, Sun:

GORITSY

We cruise to Lake Onega, passing Cherepovets, the biggest steel production city of Russia. Today we have a land visit and near the small settlement of Goritsy we will visit the remains of the Nunnery of the resurrection - the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, founded in 1397 - it is surrounded by fortress walls, crowned with magnificent towers and decorated with brick patterns and it houses one of the best collections of Russian Icons in the World – We continue cruising the Volga-Baltic Waterway, a system of rivers and canals that link the Black and Caspian Seas through the Volga with the Baltic Sea – this great waterway was completed in 1964

Day 10,

May 15, Mon:

YAROSLAVL

Stretching for 30 km along both banks of the river, the town is an important Volga harbor - It was founded in 1010 by Yaroslav Mudry (the Wise) and it became a large center of trade and crafts in the 17th century – of special interest are the magnificent 13th century Spassky Monastery, a group of majestic cathedrals (like the church of Ilia Prorok/ prophet Elijah from 1605 with wonderful fresco paintings, the churches of Nicola Nadein from 1622 and of Rozhdestva Khristova from 1644) and ancient trading center

Day 11,

May 16, Tue:

UGLICH

Today we visit one of Russia's most beloved towns on the shore of the Volga River – the Cathedral of the Resurrection and St. John's Church are part of our tour of the town – Maria Nagaya, seventh wife of Ivan the Terrible lived in honorary exile at the Kremlin at Uglich

Day 12,

May 17, Wed:

MOSCOW

We arrive in Moscow in the afternoon and visit the Tretjakov Gallery with extensive collections of ancient Russian art (paintings and sculptures) - Moscow is the Capital of Russia and the crossroads of its people

Day 13,

May 18, Thu:

MOSCOW

Today we start with a City Tour of the capital of Russia – It boasts modern boulevards and parks, but is also the guardian of over 800 monuments of Russian history and World culture – we see many of the sights of the city during the introductory tour – from the Red Square to Moscow University and the Bolshoi Theater and St. Basil's Cathedral with its multi-coloured onion domes – we will have some great photo stops during the tour: from the Lenin Mausoleum and the WWII Memorial to the New Maiden Convent of the 16th century – there is also some time at leisure in the afternoon as well for some shopping at the GUM department store

Day 14,

May 19, Fri:

MOSCOW

Today we visit the fortified Kremlin, former residence of the Russian czars, an architectural ensemble of unique beauty – then we tour the Armory Museum, home of the treasures of the czars – there will also be an opportunity to see parts of the Moscow metro system (some of the stations resemble art collections with their mosaics and stained glass panels) – we also experience a lecture by a Russian Cosmonaut today

Day 15,

May 20, Sat:

MOSCOW - CANADA

We leave our floating hotel and head to the airport for our flight home where we arrive same day



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Included:

- Air fare Canada – St. Petersburg;
Moscow – Canada
- Private bus for all transfers,
touring etc prior to cruise and after cruise
- Full Sightseeing with local experts throughout
the cruise including all entrances
- Special guest lectures by professors from
Russian Universities on history, culture, economy
- Guest lecture by a Russian Cosmonaut
- English speaking guides
- All meals aboard (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Entertainment aboard (dancing, folklore concerts etc)
- Port and harbor taxes
- Taxes and service charges
- Tips for drivers, guides and cruise staff

Not Included:

- Departure taxes
- Insurance
- Visa fees Russia

**COST PER PERSON: IN CANADIAN \$
(traveling from Toronto / Montreal)**

	in Twin/Double	in Single
BOAT DECK		
Cabin Category BD:	\$ 3970	
Cabin Category BS:	n/a	\$ 5270
Suite:	\$ 4970	
UPPER DECK		
Cabin Category UD:	\$ 4170	
Cabin Category US:	n/a	\$ 5470
MAIN DECK		
Cabin Category MD:	\$ 4370	
Cabin Category MT:	\$ 4370	
Cabin Category MS:	n/a	\$ 5670

From Ottawa add \$ 100

From Vancouver/Calgary/Edmonton/Halifax/Saskatoon/Winnipeg/Regina add \$ 300



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INSURANCE PREMIUMS

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The following are the main areas of coverage - for the full details (and we advise you to read them carefully) refer to the brochure that you will receive after booking.

The KEY POINTS in regards to insurance: that you are in good health. Please note that PRE EXISTING CONDITIONS are not covered. Do check with us if you have any questions in regards to these points!

The following 2 are the packages we offer for this particular trip – if you have any questions... feel free to call us.

THE ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE

RATE PER PERSON:	TO AGE 60	61 – 65	66 – 70	71 - 76	77 +	.
St. Petersburg to Moscow Cruise	\$ 185	\$ 215	\$ 244	\$ 316	\$ 427	.

The following are part of the ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE offered:

- * CANCELLATION AND INTERRUPTION
- * EMERGENCY MEDICAL (\$2 Million limit)
- * FLIGHT ACCIDENT
- * TRAVEL ACCIDENT
- * BAGGAGE & PERSONAL EFFECTS

If you wish you can also choose the CANCELLATION AND INTERRUPTION insurance alone – that plan is suitable if you have sufficient medical coverage already! (the rates apply to any trip length)

CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION INSURANCE

RATE PER PERSON:	TO AGE 70	71 +	.
St. Petersburg to Moscow Cruise	\$ 251	\$ 264	.

Note: Insurance rates are valid at time of printing and subject to change



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MS CHEKHOV

. BOAT DECK

BAR 	↑	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	Suite	2	BAR
		136	134	132	130	128	126	124	122	120	118	116	114	112	110	108	106	
	↓			2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	Suite		
				133	131	129	127	125	123	121	119	117	115	113	111	109	107	

UPPER DECK

Restaurant	↑	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1/2	1/2	2	↑	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	Library
		248	246	244	242	240	238	236	234	232	230	228	226	224	222	220	218		214	212	210	208	206	204	202	200	
	↓	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1/2	1/2	1/2	↓	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	
		249	247	245	243	241	239	237	235	233	231	229	227	225	223	221	219		215	213	211	209	207	205	203	201	

MAIN DECK

↑	doctor			3/2	3/2	3/2				2			2	↑	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
				352	350	342				326			318		316	312	310	308	306	304		
(reception									
↓				3/2	3/2	2	3/2	3/2	3/2	3/2	2	2	1/2	↓	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
				341	339	335	333	331	329	327	325	323	321	319		315	313	311	309	307	305	303

Passenger cabins / descriptions



All 108 cabins are outside cabins – and have an ensuite washroom; cabins have 2 single beds or 1 single bed (for single use). The MS Chekhov underwent complete renovations in 2003/2004. The cabins aboard the ships on the Russian waterways are comparatively smaller than on other European rivers – the suitcases (after unpacking) are being stored elsewhere on the ship. One enters the vessel on the MAIN DECK.

MAIN DECK:

Cabins MD (18 cabins)
2 separate beds;
size: 2.25 m X 4.50 m
=10 sqm (approx 110 sqfeet)

Cabins MT (10 cabins)

2 separate beds & 3rd bed (high bed) can be folded down to accommodate 3rd person
size: 2.25 m X 4.50 m
=10 sqm (approx 110 sqfeet)

Cabins MS (1 cabin)

1 single bed
size: 2.25 m X 4.50 m
=10 sqm (approx 110 sqfeet)

UPPER DECK:

Cabins UD (36 cabins)
2 separate beds;
size: 2.25 m X 4.50 m
=10 sqm (approx 110 sqfeet)

Cabins US (12 cabins)

1 single bed
size: 2.25 m X 3.60 m
=8 sqm (approx 90 sqfeet)

BOAT DECK:

Cabins BD (24 cabins)
2 separate beds;
size: 2.25 m X 4.50 m
=10 sqm (approx 110 sqfeet)

Cabins BS (5 cabins)

1 single bed
size: 2.25 m X 3.60 m
=8 sqm (approx 90 sqfeet)

Suites (2 cabins)

2 rooms
living room size: 3.1 m X 4.50 m
=14 sqm /approx 150 sqfeet)
& bedroom size: 2.5 m X 4.50 m
=11.25 sqm /approx 120 sqfeet)



The Hermitage Museum is Russia's best gallery of world art, one of the most prominent art museums in the world and definitely the main tourist attraction of St. Petersburg. The museum was founded in 1764 when Catherine the Great purchased a collection of 255 paintings from Berlin. Nowadays, the Hermitage has about 2.7 million exhibits and displays a full range of world art from Ancient Egypt to early 20th century Europe. It includes works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Titian, unique collections of Rembrandt, Rubens, French Impressionists (Renoir, Cezanne, Manet, Monet, Pissarro), plus Van Gogh, Matisse, Gauguin and sculptures by Rodin.



Russia...

a country of many faces



St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, Russia. The building rises from Red Square in an irresistible profusion of colours and shapes. Its montage of domes, cupolas, arches, towers and spires each bearing a distinctive patterns and hue, have fascinated the eyes of all the visitors since its construction in the 16th century. Although St. Basil's Cathedral was built to commemorate Ivan the Terrible's capture of the Mongol stronghold of Kazan and is properly named Cathedral of the Intercession, its popular name has long been associated with a ragged prophet who foretold the Moscow fire of 1547.



Kizhi Island, at the northern end of Onega Lake, is a living history museum where the wooden structures of early Russia have been preserved. A highlight is the Transfiguration Cathedral which has 22 unique cupolas. The first monuments were brought to the island for display in 1951 and the museum was opened to visitors in 1966. Today we can find 82 monuments of wooden architecture there. Monuments of folk wooden architecture, peasant life, applied wooden and ancient Russian pictorial art are still finding their way to Kizhi island.