



July 5-17, 2010 (13 days)
 from approx. \$3,295 pp/do
 plus airfare and taxes
 dates and prices are subject to change
 Alumni Holidays

Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great

From Moscow to St. Petersburg

Hosted by Professor Pat Willerton



Journey through the heart of Russia on this spectacular cultural adventure! Sail to charming Goritsky and witness the amazing architecture of Kizhi Island. Explore the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, and immerse yourself in Russian history in Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral. Trace the steps of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg and see The Bronze Horseman — the famous statue of Peter the Great — and marvel at one of the world's most impressive art collections in the prestigious State Hermitage Museum. In Star City — home to Russia's space program — enjoy a talk with a cosmonaut, and tour the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center. Admire the scenic countryside as you sail to Uglich and beautiful Yaroslavl.

Daily Itinerary

- 1 depart for Moscow.
- 2 arrive in Moscow and board the *M.S. Krasin*.
- 3 see the famed Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, and the Kremlin.
- 4 see the State Tretyakov Gallery. Set sail along the Volga and enjoy the welcome reception.
- 5 spend the day in Uglich.
- 6 experience Yaroslavl.
- 7 visit Goritsky.
- 8 explore Kizhi Island.
- 9 spend a leisurely day sailing. Stop at midday in Mandrogi.
- 10 tour St. Petersburg, featuring St. Isaac's Cathedral and The Bronze Horseman. In the evening, enjoy a performance at the Hermitage Theater.
- 11 visit opulent palaces, Petrodvorets (Peterhof), and Catherine's Palace.
- 12 enjoy the State Hermitage Museum and an afternoon in St. Petersburg at leisure. Relax at the farewell party aboard ship.
- 13 transfer to the St. Petersburg airport to return home.



Inside Russia: A Dynamic Evolution

by John P. (Pat) Willerton

Associate professor of political science at The University of Arizona, specializing in Russian politics and foreign policy



It's a great time to visit Russia! AHI travel offers a spectacular itinerary on the Passage of Peter the Great tour scheduled for July 2010!

I have traveled to Russia (and the former Soviet Union) for more than 20 years, and every visit brings new impressions and fresh images of this quickly evolving country. The metropolises of Moscow and St. Petersburg are vibrant, exciting, and full of life. Czarist and Soviet pasts are melded with the burgeoning capitalism of the 21st century. Meanwhile, provincial cities, such as Yaroslavl, offer a window into Russia's ancient history, and illustrate how socioeconomic and cultural changes are affecting the entire country.

During the Passage of Peter the Great, we tour the Volga River as we move between Moscow and St. Petersburg. The Volga is considered Russia's traditional "highway," and its shores have a rich history. We will see churches, palaces, towns, settlements, and a very rich agricultural countryside during our leisurely trip on the river. I have cruised the Volga during many of my visits to Russia, and I never tire of its picturesque scenes and natural splendor.



AHI has created the perfect tour of the heart of Russia, including the not-to-be-missed sights of the Red Square and Kremlin, the State Hermitage Museum, and Peter the Great's fabulous Petrodvorets country palace with dazzling gardens and fountains. It also includes a visit to the less-well-known, small town of Uglich. You'll get a chance to see its

beautiful ensemble of cathedrals and churches and the unique island-outdoor museum of 18th century wooden architecture, Kizhi.

I'm especially excited that the seldom-visited village of Goritsky is on the itinerary. It includes a trip to the magnificent Kirillo-Belosersky Monastery. I've never had the opportunity to visit this historically important site, which until recently was closed to foreigners. We'll also visit the more recently developed small village of Mandrogi, located not far from St. Petersburg. It offers a quiet opportunity to take in the countryside while meeting local artisans (and getting a chance to buy unique souvenirs). And all the while, we'll be staying on the recently renovated *MS Krasin*, which boasts a very good restaurant and lots of on-board activities!

I recall my first tour to Russia back in the Soviet times: Travel was challenging, and the cuisine uninspiring. How things have changed! You'll be comfortable in our hotels and on the *MS Krasin*, and let me tell you — the cuisine is superior! You may end up buying a Russian cookbook so you can continue to enjoy their unique delicacies when you return home.

I always love traveling to Russia, but AHI's Passage of Peter the Great is simply the best way to see this wonderful country! Russia has experienced so many exciting political, economic, and social changes in the past two decades. This tour gives you the unique opportunity to see and understand many of these changes, firsthand! I hope you'll seriously consider coming to Russia and cruising down the Volga in July 2010. You'll not only learn a lot, but have a good deal of fun in the process. And aren't the Kremlin and Hermitage on every traveler's bucket list?