



The Great Patriotic War Stalingrad to Moscow

September 29th to Oct 13th, 2009

One of the most important parts of Russian history is World War II. Russia was affected by this war in a way almost unfathomable to the outsider. Join us for this 15-day cruisetour aboard the deluxe river cruiser, Viking Pakhomov as we visit important cities along the Volga River including Saratov, Samara, Ulyanovsk, Kazan with three nights each in Stalingrad and Moscow.

The Battle of Stalingrad is often cited as one of the turning points of the war in the European Theater and was one of the bloodiest battles in human history, with combined casualties estimated to be above 1.5 million.

Had Hitler succeeded in his attack and taken control of the Caucasus oil fields, he would have had enormously greater resources with which to fuel his armies. Having failed to do so, and having lost an enormous and experienced army in the process, was disastrous. After Stalingrad the Russians advanced almost continuously all the way to Berlin.

The battle was marked by brutality and disregard for military and civilian casualties by both sides. The German offensive to take Stalingrad, the battle inside the city, and the Soviet

counter-offensive which eventually trapped and destroyed the German 6th Army and other Axis forces around the city was the second large-scale defeat of the Second World War.

Come and walk the battlefields, meet eyewitnesses of the battle, listen to firsthand stories of the veterans, follow the warfare operations you read about in the books of Zhukov, Beevor, Chuikov or Craig.



Victory Museum, Saratov

Other highlights of the cruisetour include a visit to **Saratov**, which was a "closed city" during the Soviet era and off limits to foreigners. This was a major aircraft manufacturing site, the home of the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin and a vital part of the Soviet Space program.

Samara During World War II Samara was the second capital of USSR. The city's growth was stimulated by its distance from

the war zone and the evacuation of numerous government functions when Moscow was threatened by German attack. Tour Joseph Stalin's WWII bunker, one of the best kept secrets of Soviet Russia.

Ulyanovsk. This city was the birthplace of Vladimir Lenin. We will tour his home and memorial complex.

Kazan. During WWII many industrial plants and factories were evacuated to this area, subsequently becoming a great center of military industry, producing tanks and airplanes. Here we will visit the White Kremlin of Kazan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Moscow. Russia's capital city where we will visit Red Square, the Kremlin and several excellent museums including the Central Armed Forces Museum, the Museum of the Great Patriotic War and the Defense of Moscow museum.

Payment Information

\$3,999 Per Person Double Occupancy

All cabins are double occupancy on this cruisetour. Single travelers will have the option of being paired with a roommate for the tour or will have to pay for double occupancy. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

Early booking discount of \$500 per person for tours paid in full by July 1st, 2008

Package includes accommodations, transfers, guided tours, admission to attractions listed, most meals and taxes.

Airfare to/from Russia is not included but we can assist with these arrangements. Travel Insurance is optional but highly recommended.

A deposit of \$500 per person is due at time of booking, Final Payment will be due June 1st, 2009. Payment plans are available.

It's Your Trip! Travel & Tours

5447 Maple Canyon Ave
Columbus, OH 43229
1-888-685-0260 Tollfree
(614) 306-6091 phone
(614) 360-0009 fax
jstacy@itsyourtrip.com

A passport and Russian Visa are required for this trip and are extra to the cost of the cruisetour. We would be happy to assist in securing these important documents.

Tour Overview

Day One (D)

- Arrive Volgograd (Stalingrad)
- Transfer to your hotel
- After check-in, the rest of the day is free to explore the city
- Welcome dinner this evening.

Day Two (B, L)

- Battle of Stalingrad Tour - Part One
- Return to hotel - evening free

Day Three (B, L, D)

- Battle of Stalingrad Tour - Part Two
- Transfer to our river cruise ship

Day Four (B, L, D)

- Morning free with afternoon departure
- Cruise through the afternoon.

Day Five (B, L, D)

- Arrive Saratov after breakfast
- Visit Victory Park honoring the 177,000 Saratovites who died during WWII.
- Cruise through the afternoon.

Day Six (B, L, D)

- Cruise through lunch to Samara.
- Tour Stalin's WWII bunker, visit the Samara Art Museum and see where Lenin practiced law.

Day Seven (B, L, D)

- Ulyanovsk, birthplace of Lenin. Visit the Lenin House & Memorial Complex.
- Afternoon free to sightsee before returning to our ship for dinner.

Day Eight (B, L, D)

- Today features a guided visit to the "White Kremlin" in Kazan

Day Nine (B, L, D)

- Spend a full day cruising on the Volga River

Day Ten (B, L, D)

- Kostroma & Yaroslavl to visit historical area churches and the Ipatievsky Monastery, which was founded in 1330.
- Afternoon visit to marketplace.

Day Eleven (B, L, D)

- Uglich and visit the Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood

Day Twelve (B, L, D)

- Arrive in Moscow and take an afternoon city tour.
- Tonight dinner is followed by traditional Russian Folkloric music.

Day Twelve (B, L, D)

- Arrive in Moscow and take an afternoon city tour.
- Tonight dinner is followed by traditional Russian Folkloric music.

Day Thirteen (B, L, D)

- After breakfast visit the Kremlin and the Armory.
- Lunch at a local Russian restaurant
- Visit the Armed Forces Museum

Day Fourteen (B, L, D)

- Free day to experience Moscow on your own.

Day Fifteen (B, L, D)

- After breakfast, disembark and we transfer you to the airport for your flight home.

B = Breakfast

L = Lunch

D = Dinner

PLEASE PRINT, CUT OUT AND MAIL/FAX WITH DEPOSIT

The Great Patriotic War - Sept 29th to Oct 13th, 2009

Legal Name/Passport Number: _____ Birthday: _____

Legal Name/Passport Number: _____ Birthday: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: () _____ Work / Cell: () _____

Room Type: Double: _____ Single: _____

Type of Payment: Check for Amount of: \$ _____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ CCV # _____

*Make checks payable to: **It's Your Trip! Travel & Tours** * Deposit of \$500 per person due at time of booking. Discount of \$500 early booking bonus for trips paid in full by July 1st, 2008. Mail to: It's Your Trip! Travel & Tours * 5447 Maple Canyon Ave * Columbus, OH 43229 or FAX to 614-360-0009. Historical Expeditions is a division of Its Your Trip! Travel & Tours. Thank you for your interest in our tours.*