imperial
RUSSIAN WATERWAYS

Aboard the Volga Dream • July 3–16, 2009
Dear Smith alumna,

Join us for an exciting, in-depth view of Russia from its most cosmopolitan cities to the countryside immortalized by artists and writers. Specially arranged programs and behind-the-scenes access, conversations with high-level dignitaries, private museum and palace tours, and musical performances offer unparalleled insight into the complex nature of Russia today.

Marvel at the infamous Kremlin opposite the whimsical spires and cupolas of St. Basil’s Cathedral in Moscow, and the centuries-old grandeur of gleaming St. Isaac’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Enjoy local folk performances, and come face-to-face with some of the world’s most impressive Russian icons. Sail through Europe’s two largest lakes—Ladoga and Onega—and past the serene horizon of Kareliya, a stunning wilderness area laced with Russian and Scandinavian settlements. And on the island of Kizhi, view the 22-domed wooden Transfiguration Church, built without a single nail.

Travel in grand style aboard the five-star Volga Dream, the most elegant ship in Russia, known for its luxurious décor and gracious international staff. Expert study leaders accompany us to offer insider perspective and reflect on the lavish lifestyle and grandeur of the tsars. Travelers from the American Museum of Natural History, Commonwealth Club, and the Smithsonian will also join us on this adventure.

We look forward to welcoming you on this remarkable voyage on the waterways of Russia.

Sincerely,

Carrie Brown, Ed.M. ’82
Executive Director
Alumnae Association of Smith College

P.S. Availability is very limited on this program. I encourage you to make your reservation right away. Please call Liz Bigwood at Smith Travel, 800-225-2029, to book space today.
Stacy Senechal is the Louise Wolff Kahn Professor Emerita in Mathematics and History of Science and Technology at Smith College. She first traveled to the former Soviet Union in the 1970s for a year as an exchange scientist at the Shubnikov Institute of Crystallography in Moscow. Since then she has returned frequently for scientific conferences, and also as co-chair of “Basic Research and Higher Education,” a joint Russian-American project which has established scientific research and education centers in 20 Russian universities. Marjorie serves on the board of directors of the Civilian Research and Development Foundation (co-sponsor, with the Russian Ministry of Education and Science, of BHRE). She has lectured in more than 20 countries and is the author of books on topics as diverse as geometry and crystallography, the people of northern Albania, and the history of American silk. Her favorite historical character is Peter the Great.

Mariana Carpinisan is truly a citizen of the world. Born in Romania and educated in France, Italy, and the U.S., she brings a global perspective. As former Assistant Curator with the Cleveland Museum of Art, she organized exhibitions, planned educational programs, and developed an interdisciplinary curriculum of art and music for organizations such as the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Toronto Symphony. Mariana has taught at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland and is currently an adjunct professor at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. In addition to her work as an art history consultant and art critic, she conducts seminars and lectures for the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program. Over the past six years, Mariana has served as study leader for more than forty study tours, including a variety of programs in Russia.

Robert Wessling is an Academic Director of Undergraduate Education and Lecturer in the Humanities at Stanford University. He holds a PhD in Russian literature from UC Berkeley and has published on nineteenth-century Russian literature and medicine. His lecture series on the Volga will include the following topics: Russian icons and Orthodox spirituality, Russian towns and cities, what 19th-century Russian literature tells us about being Russian, and the Soviet experiment and its legacy.
**U.S. * MOSCOW, RUSSIA**  
**Friday, July 3 & Saturday, July 4**  
Arrive in Moscow on Saturday afternoon on the recommended overnight flight, or independently. After settling in to the centrally located hotel, enjoy a special welcome reception and a private performance of classical balalaika.  
**MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA HOTEL (R)**

**MOSCOW**  
**Sunday, July 5**  
After a private guest lecture by a government dignitary, visit the Tretyakov Gallery, the first museum dedicated exclusively to Russian fine art. Step outdoors to the Sculpture Park, where traditional statues of Dzerzhinsky and Pushkin mingle with modern works. Later, explore Moscow’s Metro, known for its architectural splendor.  
**MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA HOTEL (B,L)**

**MOSCOW * EMBARK THE VOLGA DREAM**  
**Monday, July 6**  
At the Kremlin, enjoy a specially arranged before-hours visit to the Armory Museum, with its opulent collections of coronation finery, hand-forged armor, royal carriages and sleighs, and dazzling Fabergé eggs. Take a private tour of the 17th-century Terem Palace, ordinarily closed to the public. Continue to Red Square and marvel at the iconic, fairy-tale confection of St. Basil’s Cathedral. Transfer to the Volga Dream along the Moscow Canal. **VOLGA DREAM (B,L,D)**

**UGLICH**  
**Tuesday, July 7**  
Relax aboard the Volga Dream as she cruises into the heart of central Russia. Pause at the ancient trading town of Uglich, where artisans produce traditional lacquerware and Russian crafts. Walk through the town center, marked by the dramatic architecture of churches such as St. Dimitri-of-the-Blood. **VOLGA DREAM (B,L,D)**

**YAROSLAVL**  
**Wednesday, July 8**  
Yaroslav, founded in 1010, is one of the oldest cities in central Russia and the Volga’s first port. At the Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior, climb the bell tower for a panoramic view of this tree-lined city. Later, admire the mosaics at the Church of Elijah the Prophet, and walk along the river past richly decorated merchant residences. This evening enjoy a private musical performance by a local folk ensemble. **VOLGA DREAM (B,L,D)**

**GORITZY**  
**Thursday, July 9**  
In the tiny settlement of Goritzy, visit the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, founded in 1397, and now home to one of the best collections of Russian icons in the world. After a guided tour, continue toward majestic Lake Onega. **VOLGA DREAM (B,L,D)**

**KIZHI ISLAND**  
**Friday, July 10**  
The Karelia region, which spans the area from St. Petersburg to the Arctic Circle, is a vast wilderness of forest and water. Discover Lake Onega, fed by 58 rivers and home to 1,369 islands, including Kizhi. See a collection of ancient Russian wooden houses and windmills, and the famous Transfiguration church, built in 1714 without a single nail. **VOLGA DREAM (B,L,D)**

**LAKE ONEGA * SVIR RIVER * LAKE LADOVA**  
**Saturday, July 11**  
Cruising along the 139-mile-long Svir River, which connects these two lakes, appreciate the quiet, understated beauty of a region that has long inspired artists and poets. The ship passes quaint riverside hamlets before reaching Lake Ladoga. **VOLGA DREAM (B,L,D)**

**PLYOS**  
**Sunday, July 12**  
 Plyos, a lovely Russian village perched on a high hill crowned by a 17th-century church, is known for its artists and spa, as well as
Gold statues at Peterhof

ST. PETERSBURG * DISSMBARK
THE VOLGA DREAM

Monday, July 13
Arrive in St. Petersburg via the Neva River and disembark the Volga Dream. Travel to Catherine the Great’s Palace, which houses the extraordinary Amber Room, its six tons of solid amber deftly carved and framed in gold leaf. Once deemed the “eighth wonder of the world,” the room was stripped by the Nazis in 1941, but majestically reconstructed in honor of St. Petersburg’s 300th birthday. After lunch at a countryside restaurant, the balance of the day is at leisure for independent exploration.

ASTORIA HOTEL (B,L)

ST. PETERSBURG

Tuesday, July 14

Enjoy a city tour of St. Petersburg, including Peter and Paul Fortress, burial place of the Romanov monarchs; St. Isaac’s Cathedral, famous for its gilded dome and finely decorated interior; and Nevsky Prospect, where fine shops, cafes, and museums are found. Attend a special late opening at the renowned Hermitage Museum, home to one of the most important collections of European art in the world.

ASTORIA HOTEL (B,L)

Wednesday, July 15

Drive along the shores of the Gulf of Finland for a special early entrance to the monumental Summer Palace of Peter the Great (Peterhof). Return to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil, followed by an afternoon at leisure. Gather this evening for a gala farewell dinner.

ASTORIA HOTEL (B,D)

ST. PETERSBURG * U.S.

Thursday, July 16
Transfer to the airport for early afternoon flights on the recommended flight itinerary, or independently, to the U.S. (B)

program rates include:

Two nights at the Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel in Moscow and three nights at the Astoria Hotel in St. Petersburg • Seven-night cruise aboard the Volga Dream • Meals and beverages as indicated in the itinerary • Educational program by study leaders, on-site guides, and local experts • Comprehensive program of shore excursions and special events • All on-tour transportation • State-of-the-art headsets for clear reception of expert commentary during excursions • Special early/late entrances at sites as specified in the daily itinerary • Top guest speaker in Moscow • Gala farewell dinner at a private palace in St. Petersburg • Transfers and baggage handling between airports, piers, and hotels for those traveling on group flights • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, waiters, and ship’s crew for all group activities • Port dues and embarkation taxes • Entrance fees • Wine with welcome and farewell dinners and all dinners aboard ship • Welcome reception • Bottled water provided on coaches and with group lunches and dinners • Complete packet of pre-departure information, including educational materials, reading list, and luggage tags

ST. PETERSBURG

an unhurried provincial character. Stroll the promenade stretching along the Volga and visit the museum of Isaac Levitan, a well-known 19th-century artist known for his mastery of Russian landscapes. Then visit the town’s small museum, which features local archeological finds that date back to Plyos’ founding in 1410. VOLGA DREAM (B,L,D)
Rebuilt and redesigned in 2006, the 100-passenger *Volga Dream* sets a high standard of luxury and service on Russian waterways. Each elegantly appointed cabin features outside views, as well as a host of amenities including temperature controls, satellite flat-screen TV, safety deposit box, and minibar. Public areas include a fitness center with sauna, a library, boutique, outdoor bar with teak furniture, and a wood-paneled lounge. The charming dining room serves all passengers in a single seating.

**Program Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabin Type</th>
<th>Double</th>
<th>Single</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standard Cabin</strong></td>
<td>$7,995</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Superior Cabin</strong></td>
<td>$8,995</td>
<td>$12,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deluxe Cabin</strong></td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Superior Stateroom</strong></td>
<td>$11,495</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Suite</strong></td>
<td>$12,495</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Superior Junior Suite</strong></td>
<td>$13,495</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Owner’s Suite</strong></td>
<td>$14,495</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*per person, based on double occupancy

**Potential Fuel Surcharge**

Every effort is made to keep program costs as low as possible, and rates do not include allowances to cover possible increases in fuel costs. Please be aware that the volatile nature of oil prices may make it necessary to assess a fuel surcharge. We appreciate your understanding.

**Airfare**

Round-trip airfare between New York and Moscow with return from St. Petersburg is not included in the program rates. As of August, 2008, economy class airfare is estimated at $1,779 (subject to change). Cost savings may be available through our tour operator, who is happy to assist you with making your air travel arrangements.

**Rates Do Not Include**

- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Airport security fees imposed by the government or airline
- Meals and beverages, including alcohol and wine, not specified as included
- Baggage and cancellation insurance
- Arrival and departure transfers and baggage handling for those not participating in group flights
- Personal items such as laundry, telephone, fax, and email charges, gratuities for non-group services, and other items not specified as included
Terms & Conditions

Reservations and Payments: A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm all reservations. Please make your deposit check payable to High Country Passage and send it, with your completed reservation form, to Smith Travel, AASC, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. If you prefer, you may fax the form to Smith at 1-413-585-2015, or call 1-800-225-2029 to charge your MasterCard or Visa. Final payment is due by March 5, 2009, 120 days prior to departure. All tour prices and airfares quoted in this brochure are based on tariffs, costs, and exchange rates of the United States dollar that were in effect at the time of publication. Consequently, prices herein are subject to change. Due to fluctuations in oil prices, a fuel surcharge may be added to your tour fee. Details and costs will be advised prior to your departure. High Country Passage reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time.

Cancellations and Refunds: Deposits are fully refundable if a written notice of cancellation is received by Smith Travel within 30 days of receipt of deposit; after that, they are 100% non-refundable. Cancellations after final payment: 100% penalty. Cancellation of program by High Country Passage will result in full refund except for airline cancellation penalties incurred by purchasing non-refundable air tickets. Refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for any reason at all. High Country Passage reserves the right, without penalty, to require any participant to withdraw from a tour at any time at the tour operator’s or the various suppliers, including any acts or omissions on their part that cause, without limitations, injury, death, theft, damage to or loss of property, delay, inconvenience, or the cancellation, substitution, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, transportation, or other services. Additional terms and conditions may apply to our trip and will be sent to you with your registration acknowledgement, which you must sign and return to Smith.

Insurance: For your protection, cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended. Information about insurance will be sent to you.

What to Expect: All participants should be in good health and capable of walking unassisted over terrain that is often steep and rough. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

Responsibility: The Alumnae Association of Smith College (AASC) is the sponsor of this tour. As the sponsor, AASC has engaged independent tour operators to arrange the tours. Because the AASC does not own, operate, manage, or control, and is not in a partnership or joint venture with the tour operators or with the various independent companies and persons with whom the tour operator has arranged to supply services to the tour, the AASC and its officers, directors, trustees, agents, servants, employees, affiliates, and assigns are not liable for any negligent or willful acts or omissions of the tour operator or the various suppliers, including any acts or omissions on their part that cause, without limitations, injury, death, theft, damage to or loss of property, delay, inconvenience, or the cancellation, substitution, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, transportation, or other services. Additional terms and conditions may apply to our trip and will be sent to you with your registration acknowledgement, which you must sign and return to Smith.

imperial
RUSSIAN WATERWAYS
Aboard the Volga Dream × July 3–16, 2009

Please mail your completed reservation form and deposit to Smith Travel, AASC, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. Or fax it to 1-413-585-2015. For more information, please call Liz Bigwood at Smith Travel, 800-225-2029.

Please print:

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME 1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) ____________________________ SMITH CLASS ________
NAME 2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) ____________________________ SMITH CLASS ________
ADDRESS ____________________________
CITY _______________ STATE _______________ ZIP _______________
PHONE (HOME) _______________ (WORK) _______________ (CELL) _______________
FAX _______________ EMAIL _______________

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for $ ___________ ($1,000 per person, made payable to High Country Passage) for _____ spaces(s) on the Imperial Russian Waterways program.

☐ Please charge my deposit of $ ___________ ($1,000 per person) to the following credit card:

☒ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD NO. _______________ EXP. DATE (MM/DD/YY) _______________
CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _______________ DATE _______________
CARDHOLDER NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD ________

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference (refer to deck plan):
1ST CHOICE _______________ 2ND CHOICE _______________

Bed preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE APPLICANTS ONLY

☐ I prefer single accommodations.

☐ I plan to share accommodations with: ____________________________

☐ Please arrange a share for me (not guaranteed). I am a ☐ smoker ☐ non-smoker. I understand that if a roommate is not found by the final payment deadline of March 5, 2009, I will pay the single rate.

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS

I/We have read the program information and the Terms and Conditions in this brochure and agree to the terms as stated therein.

SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE _______________

SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE _______________
BRING A FRIEND AND EACH SAVE $1,000 PER CABIN

Plus NEW SINGLE RATES

DISCOVER the bold port cities, enchanting forested countryside, and quiet hamlets of the legendary Volga River.

EXPERIENCE world-class luxury aboard the Volga Dream, an elegant vessel featuring exceptional local food.

Gain an INSIDER’S PERSPECTIVE on current events during a private guest lecture from a high-level statesman.

Enjoy special EARLY ENTRANCES and private access to museums and palaces in St. Petersburg, including the Hermitage Museum and Peterhof, the summer palace of Peter the Great.

Attend FIRST-RATE private musical performances including classical Russian balalaika, folk music, and choral concerts by monks.