

General Conditions

Volga German Tours, 75 Stone Ridge Way #1F, Fairfield, CT 06824
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Description of the 2019 Tours

Tour A: June 7-17 Tour C: August 2-12
Tour B: June 12-22 Tour D: August 7-17
The tour dates overlap because the two tours in June and the two tours in August will spend their time in Moscow and St. Petersburg together.

Tour A may include any of the following colonies: Anton, Balzer, Beideck, Dönhof, Franzosen, Huck, Kutter, Messer, Moor, Norka, Schilling, Pobochnaya, Yagodnaya Polyana.

Tour B may include any of the following colonies: Bangert, Dinkel, Dobrinka, Dreispitz, Jost, Holstein, Kraft, Kukkus, Laub, Lauwe, Shcherbakovka, Stahl am Tarlyk, Straub, Warenburg.

Tour C may include any of the following colonies: Brabander, Dehler, Göbel, Herzog, Hildmann, Kamenka, Katharinenstadt, Krasnoyar, Leichtling, Louis, Mariental, Ober-Monjou, Pfeifer, Reinwald, Semenovka, Wittmann.

Tour D may include any of the following colonies: Bauer, Dietel, Frank, Grimm, Hussenbach, Kautz, Kolb, Kratzke, Merkel, Walter.

All Tours: Additional colonies may be added, subject to the approval of VGT. All tours will visit Saratov, Engels, Volgograd, St. Petersburg, and Moscow.

Hotels/Meals

Hotels: All hotels are clean and comfortable according to Russian standards. All hotel rooms have a private bath. Single room upgrades are available at additional cost. There may not be cable TV (or TV at all in some places). There should be WiFi available in all hotels.

Meals: All meals will be included with the tours (exclusive of when in the Moscow airport and 4 dinners (2 in Moscow & 2 in St. Petersburg). All alcohol and drinks ordered separately from the meal are not included. While some locations may be able to provide dietary accommodations, some meals will be prepared locally by people living in the former colonies and VGT cannot make specific requirements regarding food preparation. If you have very strict dietary requirements, this trip is not for you.

Cost, Payment, & Cancellation

Cost: The total tour cost per person is \$4,200 (double) or \$4,800 (single).

Tours A & C: These rates include: Round-trip airfare from New York City's JFK Airport to Moscow; airfare from Moscow to Saratov, from Volgograd to Moscow, & from St. Petersburg to Moscow (all airfare is exclusive of baggage fees, if applicable); train fare from Moscow to St. Petersburg; all ground transportation in Russia (exclusive of private taxi); 9 hotel nights in Russia; daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner in Russia (exclusive of when in the Moscow airport and 4 dinners while in Moscow & St. Petersburg); museum and archives admittance fees; tour guides; departure fees and taxes; and tips.

Tours B & D: These rates include: Round-trip airfare from New York City's JFK Airport to Moscow; airfare from St. Petersburg to Saratov; airfare from Volgograd to Moscow (all airfare is exclusive of baggage fees, if applicable); train fare from Moscow to St. Petersburg; all ground transportation in Russia (exclusive of private taxi); 9 hotel nights in Russia; daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner in Russia (exclusive of when in the Moscow airport and 4 dinners while in Moscow & St. Petersburg); museum and archives admittance fees; tour guides; departure fees and taxes; and tips.

Deposit: A deposit of US\$650.00 per person is required with the Tour Application. The entire

deposit will be applied to your balance. Payment of the deposit indicates understanding and acceptance of all terms and conditions as outlined in this General Conditions document. If application is made after 1 January 2019 (for Tours A & B) or 1 March 2019 (for Tours C & D), full payment is due with application.

Reservation Acceptance: There are a limited number of seats on these tours (30 per tour). Each participant will be notified when their Tour Application Form has been accepted. Do not make other travel plans until you have been notified that the Tour Application Form has been received and accepted.

Final Payment: Payment in full must be received by VGT on or before 1 January 2019 for Tours A & B; on or before 1 March 2019 for Tours C & D. If application is made after these dates, full payment is due with application.

Policy for Cancellation by Volga German Tours: Should any of the tours fail to have a minimum number of 10 applications received and accepted by 1 January 2019 for Tours A & B or by 1 March 2019 for Tours C & D, VGT reserves the right to cancel that tour and all payments received by that date will be refunded to the applicant. VGT will not be responsible for refunds of fees incurred by the applicant for passports, visas, or invitations.

Policy for Cancellation by Participant: Each tour participant must provide a written cancellation statement to Brent Mai. The pro-rated refund schedule is as follows:

*120 days prior to departure: total payment-to-date will be refunded minus cancellation fee of \$200.

*119-70 days prior to departure: total payment-to-date will be refunded minus cancellation fee of \$400.

*69-31 days prior to departure: total payment-to-date will be refunded minus cancellation fee equal to 50% of total tour price.

*30 days or fewer prior to departure: zero refund (100% of tour price is cancellation fee).

Tour Price Does Not Include: passport fees, visa fees, invitation fees, phone calls, valet/laundry service, alcohol of any kind, after dinner coffee or tea, baggage fees, travel insurance.

Passport and Visa Requirements

Passport: All travelers are required to have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after the return date of the trip. You must have your passport before you sign up for this tour. It is the sole responsibility of the traveler to check their passport's expiration date.

Visa: A Russian visa is required to enter Russia. Each tour participant is responsible for obtaining an appropriate visa to enter Russia for the duration of the tour. Part of the visa application process includes obtaining an invitation which may also incur a fee that is the responsibility of the tour participant.

Mobility and ADA Compliance

Russia is not subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Much of this tour will take place in a rural part of Russia where ground will be uneven. There will be considerable walking. Each person must be able to get around under his/her own power. Walkers and motorized chairs and scooters are not permitted. There is no elevator in the hotel in Zhirnovsk (Tour D only). The tour bus will not have a lift. Each person will be responsible for porting their own luggage. Once the tour has started, VGT reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to determine whether or not a tour participant is physically capable of participating in any given activity during the tour. Should a participant be excluded from a particular

activity due for physical reasons, the participant will not be compensated for such exclusion.

Air Transportation

Air Travel: Air transportation by an IATA/ARC air carrier or other scheduled jet carrier is included, in economy class, with flights and air routings at the discretion of the air carriers. Each tour will depart from/return to JFK Airport in New York City [departure from LAX also possible at additional cost pending availability]. Each tour participant will be responsible for making his/her own arrangements to arrive at the departure airport with time to pick up baggage and re-check it for the flight to Russia.

Baggage: Airlines may charge baggage fees for checked luggage based on the policy of each carrier. It is the responsibility of each passenger to check with the airline prior to departure for baggage information, regulations, and compliance. VGT is not responsible for additional baggage fees imposed by air carriers. VGT accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to the tour participants' baggage or personal belongings at any time. At all times, each tour participant will be responsible for portage of his/her own luggage.

Seating Assignments: Requested seat assignments on airline flights will be attempted, but are not guaranteed.

Limitation of Liability for Air Travel: VGT is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. VGT is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to cancelled, rescheduled, or delayed flights by any carrier.

Responsibility

Volga German Tours (VGT), Dr. Brent Mai, Dr. Mila Koretnikov, and their agents act only in the capacity of agents in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours, and transportation. Except for the willful negligence of its direct employees, VGT is not liable for any damage, loss (including but not limited to personal injury, loss of enjoyment, distress, death, and property loss), expense or inconvenience caused by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or by any other person or reason whatsoever or by any delays or changes in the itinerary, or the acts and omissions of the tour leader/host or travel agent. VGT assumes no liability or responsibility for any injuries, inconveniences, illness, irregularity or incidental damages occasioned by circumstances beyond the control of the tour operator, or by any person or reason whatsoever, including but not limited to events such as strikes, revolts, wars, natural disasters, closures or airports, hotels, or included sites, default or omission of any common or private carrier. VGT reserves the right to cancel the tour at any time, to operate the tour with a substitute tour host/leader at any time, to decline or not retain any person as a member of the tour for any cause at any time. VGT reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary if needed including deleting and adding cities and changing the sequence of the itinerary, or whenever in the sole judgment of VGT as conditions warrant, or if VGT deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Disputes concerning the terms and conditions of this tour will be handled according to Russian law. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchasers of this tour and/or passengers.

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