

## Traveling the Russian Waterways...from St. Petersburg to Moscow



Al Eicher traveled the rivers and lakes on a 1200 mile journey capturing the sights and sounds along the way. Starting at St. Petersburg, Russia's largest seaport and second largest city, we begin our profile on the Legends and History of Russia's past plus current economy and lifestyles. St. Petersburg straddles 40 islands, here we travel over many of its 300 bridges to the historic Peter and Paul Fortress, the Palace of Catherine the Great, Peterhof, Yusupov Palace, St. Isaac Cathedral and the "Romeo and Juliette"

ballet at the Alexandrinsky Theatre. We visit an elementary school, visiting various classes then attend a student concert. Evening highlights include Dinner Theatre at a Palace and Russian Folk shows Touring the Historic city for 3 days plus its subways, churches and high fashion shopping malls with six tour guides, we now prepare for the Riverboat Cruise to Moscow.



Cruising begins on Lake Ladoga, to the Svir River, Lake Onega and the Volga Baltic waterway to the Moscow Canal. Our riverboat is elevated 354 feet while going through 25 sets of locks on the 1200 mile trip. Along the way we stop at the village of Svirstroy for a home visit and meal. Evidence of WWII Nazi occupation in Svirstroy is present. . Our ship the "Tikhi Don" then cruises to Kizhi Island for a visit to the 22 domed Church of the

Transfiguration and other structures at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Goritsy and the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery are the next stops with more exploration at the old city and trading center of Yaroslavl and its churches. The last village visited, before arriving in Moscow, is Uglich, a 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress used by Ivan the Terrible. Uglich had 130 churches before the Revolution, today only 26 are still standing and used for Russian Orthodox services. Our wonderful cruise ends at the port authority in Moscow.



At Moscow the auto and truck traffic are worse than St. Petersburg, as Moscow has 10 million people where massive construction of roads and buildings are ever present.. The 3 days in Moscow are filled with



history briefings and tours to Red Square, the Cathedral of St. Basil, the State Armory, the Kremlin, a visit with the cosmonauts at the Russian Space training center, the Kremlin Palace, The Moscow Circus, 1980 Olympic site, a Russian Folk show, Tretyakov Art Gallery and the Russian War Museum where we are greeted by the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. This ends our lecture and visual presentation in what we call a Reality Travelogue. call **Al** at **248-333-2010** or **al@program-source.com** .