

General Conditions

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

There are three tours:

Tour A: 2-11 June 2017

Tour B: 4-13 August 2017

Tour C: 11-21 August 2017

Based upon the interests of the respective tour participants, each tour may include any of the following colonies: Anton, Balzer, Bangert, Basel, Bauer, Beauregard, Beideck, Bettinger, Brabander, Degott (abandoned), Dehler, Dietel, Dinkel, Dobrinka, Dönhof, Dreispitz, Enders, Ernestinendorf, Fischer, Frank, Franzosen, Galka, Göbel, Graf, Grimm, Herzog, Hildmann, Hockerberg, Holstein, Hölzel (flooded), Huck, Hussaren, Hussenbach, Jost (abandoned), Kamenka, Kautz (abandoned), Kind, Kolb, Kraft, Krasnoyarsk, Kratzke, Kukkus, Kutter, Merkel, Laub, Lauwe, Leitsinger (flooded), Louis, Marginal, Meinhard, Merkel, Messer, Moor, Neu-Straub, Nieder-Monjou, Norka, Ober-Monjou, Orlovskaya, Paulskaya, Pfeifer, Pobochnaya, Preuss (flooded), Reinhard, Reinwald, Rohleder, Rosenheim, Rothammel (abandoned), Schäfer, Schaffhausen, Schilling, Schönchen (abandoned), Schuck (abandoned), Schwab, Schwed, Seelmann, Sewald (abandoned), Shcherbakovka, Stahl am Karaman, Stahl am Taryk (flooded), Stephan, Straub, Susannental, Walter, Warenburg, Wittmann, and Yagodnaya Polyana. All tours will visit the colonies of Katharinenstadt and Zürich. Additional colonies may be added, subject to the approval of Volga German Tours.

Hotels/Meals

Hotels: All hotels are clean and safe, and comfortable according to Russian standards. Each double room will have two twin beds and 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 where we will be staying, although the best signal may be in the lobby.

Meals: All meals will be included with the tours (excluding alcohol). Drinks (soft drinks, bottled water, alcohol, etc.) ordered separately from the meal are not included, and you must pay directly for them. If you have very strict dietary requirements (for example, completely gluten free or vegan), this trip is not for you. While some hotel locations may be able to provide dietary accommodations, some meals will have been prepared locally by people living in the former colonies and we cannot make specific requirements regarding food preparation. In general, a standard vegetarian should be okay.

Cost & Payment

Cost: The total tour cost per person for either Tour A or Tour B is US\$4,300 (double occupancy)/US\$4,750 (single occupancy) and for Tour C is US\$4,500 (double occupancy)/US\$4,950 (single occupancy). This rate includes roundtrip airfare from New York City's JFK Airport (exclusive of baggage fees, if applicable); all ground transportation in Russia; 8 hotel nights in Russia (9 nights for Tour C); daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner in Russia; museum admittance fees; tour guides; departure fees and taxes; and tips.

Deposit: To reserve a place on the tour, a deposit of US\$650.00 per person is required. 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 May 2017, full payment is due with application.

Reservation Acceptance: There are a limited number of seats on this tour (30). 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 Volga German Tours on or before 1 March 2017 for Tour A; on or before 1 May 2017 for Tours B and C. If application is made after 1 May 2017, full payment is due with application.

Cancellation Policy: 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, phone calls, valet/laundry service, alcohol of any kind, after dinner coffee or tea, baggage fees.

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. The name you provide on the Application Form must match exactly with the name as it appears on your passport. If an airline ticket is issued with an incorrect name, you will not be allowed to board the plane.

Visa: You must also have a Russian visa to enter Russia. The visa must be obtained ahead of time; you may not purchase a visa upon arrival in Russia. Each tour participant is responsible for obtaining an appropriate visa to enter Russia for the duration of the tour.

Mobility and ADA Compliance

There neither a minimum nor a maximum permitted age for these tours. However, Russia is not subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This tour will take place in a rural part of Russia, and it is very important that each person be able to get around under his/her own power. Each tour participant will be doing a lot of walking. The ground will be uneven and walkers (with or without wheels) and motorized chairs and scooters are not advised. There is no elevator in the hotel in Zhirnovsk where all rooms are above ground level. The tour bus will not have a lift. Because assistance at the hotels cannot be guaranteed, each person will be responsible for porting their own luggage at all stops as well as at the airports. In most cases, if you are tired, you will be able to remain on the bus during a stop.

Air Transportation

Air Travel: Air transportation will be provided by an IATA/ARC air carrier or other scheduled jet carrier, in economy class, with flights and air routings at the discretion of the air carriers.

Airports: Each tour will depart from JFK International Airport in New York City. Each tour participant will be responsible for making his/her own arrangements to arrive at JFK with time to pick up luggage and re-check it for the flight to Russia.

Customs: On the flight to Russia, you will most likely go through customs in Moscow. On the return flight, you will go through customs at JFK Airport in New York City.

Baggage: Airlines may charge baggage fees for checked luggage based on the policy of each carrier. The maximum number of pieces of luggage, the weight allowance and baggage dimensions vary by airline from the USA to overseas destinations and beyond. It is the responsibility of each passenger to check with the airline prior to departure for baggage information, regulations, and compliance. Volga German Tours is not responsible for additional fees imposed by air carriers regarding baggage. Volga German Tours 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: Reservations are made for seat blocks. It is not guaranteed that you will be seated next to your friends. Once the carrier and flight numbers have been confirmed, it will be possible to call the airline and request to sit next to a specific person.

Limitation of Liability for Air Travel: Volga German Tours are not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. Volga German Tours 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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