

2010 Russian Ministries' Black Sea and Dnieper River Journey Itinerary

August 3-15, 2010



Day 1: Tues., August 3, USA – Odessa

Board your transatlantic flight to Odessa, Ukraine

Day 2: Wed., August 4, Odessa

Arrive in Odessa, Ukraine on the Black Sea. If you have purchased air tickets through Viking River Cruises, you will be met by a Viking representative and transferred to your ship, the m.s. Lomonosov. After boarding, enjoy time before dinner to relax, take a “welcome walk” and get acquainted with your ship, crew, and fellow passengers.

Day 3: Thurs., August 5, Odessa

After breakfast, enjoy a half-day tour of Odessa, an elegant city of terraced hills and landscaped parks. Lunch is aboard the ship followed by an afternoon visit to a new evangelical church in the “Privoz” region, one of the oldest regions of Odessa. Meet with church leadership, hear about their ministry and possibly visit an orphanage where they work; meet with Vasily Novokovets and hear about the importance of literature ministry through Association for Spiritual Renewal (Russian Ministries’ in-country affiliate). Choose to enjoy an optional evening opera performance.

Day 4: Friday, August 6, Sevastopol

Enjoy a morning lecture on Ukraine as we sail on the Black Sea. Arrive in Sevastopol, the base of the Russian Black Sea fleet. Tour the city center and see St. Vladimir Cathedral and Admiral Nakhimov Square. Join an optional tour of the ancient Greek city of Chersonese, founded in the 6th century B.C. In the evening, enjoy free time or attend the option Black Sea Choir concert.

Day 5: Saturday, August 7, Sevastopol

This morning enjoy a tour of the Tatar city of Bakhchisarai. Tour the Khan Palace, built in 1519, and see the many different architectural styles. After lunch, visit the new Church of Open Hearts that Russian Ministries helped to build, meet with School Without Walls coordinators, visit youth ministries such as camps and youth clubs, and listen to the director of the Christian Apologetics Center, Sergei Golovin.

Day 6: Sunday, August 8, Yalta

Enjoy a morning tour of the historic city of Yalta, visiting the White Palace, site of the 1945 Yalta Conference between Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill, and take a guided tour through official halls and private apartments of the czar’s family. After lunch, visit an evangelical Christian-Baptist church, meet with church leaders and hear about their ministries. Meet with the senior presbyter for all evangelical Christian-Baptist churches in the Crimean peninsula, and hear his observations about ministry in the region.



Day 7: Monday, August 9, Yalta

Take the morning to further explore Yalta, or you may join an optional tour. Spend a delightful morning at the beautiful mid-19th century Aloupka Palace and gardens, or visit one of Anton Chekhov's homes in Yalta, now a museum about the famous playwright.



Day 8: Tuesday, August 10, Kherson

After a morning of scenic cruising, arrive in Kherson mid-afternoon. Here, board a small boat and cruise the narrow canals to Fishermen's Island with the beautiful Dnieper Delta landscape as your backdrop. As we depart, dinner will be served.



Day 9: Wednesday, August 11, Zaporozhye

After lunch, arrive in Zaporozhye, ancestral home of the Cossacks and hometown of Russian Ministries' Senior Vice President, Sergey Rakhuba. The Zaporozhye region is also the birthplace of the evangelical movement and site of the first Mennonite settlement in Ukraine. Visit the Verkhne-Khortitsya Evangelical Christian-Baptist Church, meet with School Without Walls coordinators and pastors, and see a variety of different ministries such as an orphanage (please bring small gifts for the children, if possible), community youth club, Christian music school, gypsy ministry and enjoy a home-cooked Ukrainian meal at the church/ministry center. Later, enjoy a special Cossack horsemanship show including folkloric music and dance. Depart early evening.



Day 10: Thursday, August 12, Dnepropetrovsk

After breakfast, tour Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine's third largest city. Originally a fortress settlement, Dnepropetrovsk has now become one of Ukraine's most important commercial centers. In the afternoon, visit the Alpha Omega Christian Youth Center, and possibly an orphanage. Depart late evening.



Day 11: Friday, August 13, Dnieper River and Kremenchug

During this morning's cruising on the scenic Dnieper River, take part in a ministry meeting onboard ship. After lunch, enjoy a guided city tour of Kremenchug, an important industrial center, which has been rebuilt after being largely destroyed during World War II. Visit the Kremenchug Bible College (partner with our School Without Walls program) meet regional School Without Walls coordinators, church leadership, and visit a youth outreach club.

Day 12: Saturday, August 14, Kiev

Cruise toward Kiev this morning. After lunch, tour Kiev, one of Europe's oldest cities, and explore its historic buildings and monuments. Visit Russian Ministries/ASR national headquarters/training center in Irpen. Meet with Russian Ministries/ASR leadership team and national Christian denominational leaders. Pray for the work and staff of Russian Ministries/ASR, and enjoy a delicious, home-cooked Ukrainian dinner.



Day 13: Sunday, August 15, Kiev

After breakfast, disembark and depart to airport for your return flight home.