



# LUXURY ADVENTURE VACATION B.C.

A FINE TRAVEL COMPANY INC. VENTURE

## The Fine Travel Company Inc.

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## BRILLIANCE OF THE BLACK SEA

MV Hebridean Spirit

Istanbul - Varna  
29/07/2008 - 08/08/2008  
Number of Nights: 10

- Taking in the historic Black Sea ports of Turkey, Russia and Ukraine Explore the emerald reaches of the Darien Jungle.
- For lovers of tea, fans of film and classical music, enthusiasts of ancient mosques and 20th century politics
- Fascinating voyage among the palaces of tsars, the dachas of dictators and the peaceful tree-lined boulevards of elegant resort towns

GUEST SPEAKER(S): Sir Edward Clay and Michael Smith

### Itinerary:

#### TUESDAY 29TH JULY

Istanbul, Turkey

Guests embark Hebridean Spirit in the historic metropolis of Istanbul.

#### WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY

Istanbul, Turkey

The morning is devoted to a tour of Topkapi Palace, the imperial enclave of unparalleled opulence that was the hub of Ottoman power for more than three centuries. The legendary Grand Bazaar, with its vast maze of interconnecting alleys and thousands of shops, can be visited afterwards. The afternoon is spent at sea, sailing north through the Bosphorus.

#### THURSDAY 31ST JULY

Sinop, Turkey

After a morning at sea, we arrive at this ancient Black Sea port. We visit the Alaaddin Mosque and its neighbouring Koranic school, the Süleyman Pervana Medrese, both from the 13th century. At the Sinop Museum, guests can view Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman exhibits. Afterwards, there is time to relax in the atmospheric harbour area.

#### FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST

Sochi, Russia

We arrive at this favoured getaway of Russian leaders after a morning at sea. The afternoon brings a tour of the Dagomys tea plantation, the most northerly in the world, followed by a tea-tasting with traditional snacks, music and dancing in a typical log house. There are unforgettable views on the mountainous drive to and from the coast.

#### SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST

Sochi, Russia

In the morning we tour the rock caves and mineral springs at Matsesta, a spa since 1902. Afterwards we visit the former dacha of Joseph Stalin, disguised in camouflage green among extensive grounds and preserved as it was in the feared dictator's heyday.

#### SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST

Yalta, Ukraine

After a morning at sea we visit Livadia Palace, the summer residence of the last Russian Tsar, where Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met for the 1945 Yalta Conference. We also visit Vorontsovsky Palace, designed by English architect Edward Blore. En route, we see the extraordinary Swallow's Nest castle, a 1912 folly perched on a rock above the sea.

#### MONDAY 4TH AUGUST

Yalta, Ukraine

We tour the Nikitsky Botanical Gardens. Established in 1812, its 11 square kilometres feature 50,000 different plants, a botanical museum and one of Europe's largest herbariums.

#### TUESDAY 5TH AUGUST

Sevastopol, Ukraine

A guided tour of the Crimean War battlefields includes the Alma Valley, Balaclava and the Sapoune Ridge from where Lord Raglan ordered the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade. The Panorama Museum is centred on the 115-metre panoramic canvas by the battle painter Franz Rubo.

#### WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST

Odessa, Ukraine

A city tour includes the picturesque Primorsky Boulevard, the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral and the Potemkin Stairs - Odessa's signature landmark and, after Eisenstein's 1925 Battleship Potemkin, one of film history's most famous locations. Guests can lunch ashore. In the afternoon we visit the 1832 Tolstoy Palace and the Literature Museum at Gagarin Palace, enjoying a classical concert in its ornate Golden Hall.

#### THURSDAY 7TH AUGUST

Odessa, Ukraine

A tour of the Fine Art Museum's unique collection of Russian and Ukrainian work is followed by a stroll among the linden trees and cafes of Deribasovskaya Street, and a look at the magnificent Opera House. The afternoon is spent at sea.

#### FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST

Varna, Bulgaria

Guests disembark Hebridean Spirit in Varna.

Including 3 Gala Dinners

## PRIVATELY ESCORTED TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY 31ST JULY

ALAADDIN MOSQUE

Commissioned by Sultan Alaaddin Keykubad after the Seljuk capture of Sinop in 1214, the elegant Alaaddin mosque is a magnificent example of early Turkish Islamic architecture.

FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST

DAGOMYS TEA PLANTATION

Russians drink more tea than any other nation, and the unique microclimate of the mountains south of Sochi allows the northernmost tea crop in the world, cultivated on these verdant slopes since 1896.

SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST

LIVADIA PALACE

Built in 1911 for Tsar Nikolai II, this palace of white Crimean granite in neo-Renaissance style hosted the 1945 Yalta Conference. Its Tudor-style English billiard room was where Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt signed their agreements on the future shape of Europe.

### Prices 2008

Single Cabin	Tariff Price	Best Price from *
Price Category E1	£7,228	£6,216
Price Category D1	£7,452	£6,409
Price Category C1	£8,268	£7,110
Price Category E2	£5,852	£4,565
Price Category D2	£6,084	£4,746
Price Category C2	£6,748	£5,263
Price Category B2	£8,888	£6,933
Price Category A	£10,524	£8,209

Price includes private return flights, transfers, privately escorted tours, all meals, specially selected wines, spirits and champagne on board, gratuities, port and passenger taxes.

\* The Best Price consists of the maximum savings available for occupancy rated deductions, full payment and past guest loyalty savings.

Please note that these prices are per person in British pounds. Prices include house wines and spirits, meals, gratuities and shore visits as detailed.