

Partially escorted

**C**ruise through the Saimaa Canal, the route of Czars in the days of the 'Imperial Duchy of Finland' where the last, Alexander III, spent his summers. Visit the Imperial Fishing Lodge, Ovanlinna Castle and sail across the Ice Age sculpted Lake Saimaa, whilst enjoying the convivial intimacy of the MS Kristina Brahe, a meticulously maintained traditional steamer.

**DAY 1 UK – HELSINKI** Scheduled Finnair flight from Heathrow to Helsinki, self transfer to and overnight at Hotel Torni.

**DAY 2 HELSINKI – LAPPEENRANTA** Breakfast, self transfer to and embarkation on MS Kristina Brahe. Sail out and along the coastal archipelago past Porvoo to Kotka (SHORE EXCURSION) where the ship docks for four hours before leaving to navigate the Saimaa Canal.

**DAY 3 LAPPEENRANTA – SAVONLINNA** Dock at Lappeenranta (SHORE EXCURSION) lying alongside for three hours. Noon departure across Lake Saimaa to Savonlinna where the ship arrives early evening.

**DAY 4 SAVONLINNA – LAPPEENRANTA** Breakfast. (SHORE EXCURSION). Late morning departure for Lappeenranta stopping briefly at the exquisitely beautiful little town of Puumala.

**DAY 5 KOTKA – HELSINKI** Sail along Finland's southern coast from Kotka to Helsinki, self transfer and overnight at Hotel Torni.

**DAY 6 HELSINKI – UK** Day at leisure before self transfer to the airport and return flight to UK.



# Cruising in the Wake of the Czars



## SHORE EXCURSIONS

**KOTKA** Set where the Kymi River spreads its five tributaries into the Gulf of Finland, Kotka is an architectural essay in Finnish history with Swedish fortifications, Russian Orthodox and Finnish Lutheran churches. The high spot of your stop here is unquestionably Czar Alexander III's Imperial Fishing Lodge.

**LAPPEENRANTA** First fortified by the Swedes, Lappeenranta is a unique inland port made so by the 150 year old, 26 mile Saimaa Canal linking Lakes Saimaa's southern end to the sea. Beneath its modern cloak you find a collision of cultures: Swedish, Karelian and Russian.

**SAVONLINNA** Linnankatu, the town's oldest street runs down to Olavinlinna Castle which dominates the town and is probably the best preserved medieval one in the Nordic countries. Savonlinna in summer is a bustle of traditional Lakeland Steamer traffic, everyday life and opera goers.



## MS KRISTINA BRAHE

Refurbished in 2001 the twin funnelled Kristina Brahe is a traditional expedition style steamer faithfully maintained over the years by her Finnish owners and ideal in size for cruising the Saimaa Canal and Finnish lakes. The 45 cabins allow a maximum of 137 passengers which along with the intimacy of the ship and the genuinely friendly Finnish crew make cruising on the Kristina Brahe a truly Finnish experience.

## HIGHLIGHTS

• Czar Alexander's Imperial Fishing Lodge • Ovanlinna Castle • Lake Saimaa

## CABIN GRADES

Ulriika (U)	2/3 berths with WC shower	Deck 2
Aleksandra (A)	2/4 berths with WC/shower	Decks 2, 3 & 4
Kristina (K)	Double bed with WC/shower	Deck 4

## DEPARTURES

**Wednesdays** 8 June - 17 August

## AIRPORT DEPARTURE SUPPLEMENTS

**Alternative airport departure flight availability and prices on request**

Prices are in £ per person

## CRUISING IN THE WAKE OF THE CZARS

**SA10701**

CABIN GRADE	U	U	A	A	K	K
DEPARTURES	TWIN	SINGLE	TWIN	SINGLE	TWIN	SINGLE
<b>June 8, 15, 22, July 27 Aug 3, 10, 17</b>	<b>1065</b>	<b>1170</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>1345</b>
<b>June 29, July 6, 13, 20</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>1205</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>1325</b>	<b>1295</b>	<b>1385</b>

Prices include scheduled return Finnair flights from Heathrow to Helsinki • Passenger service charges and airport departure taxes • IN FLIGHT CABIN SERVICE • 2 nights in twin room(s) with private WC/shower and breakfast in Helsinki • 4 days (3 nights) on board MS Kristina Brahe in chosen cabin category • Breakfasts throughout, 4 lunches and 3 dinners • 3 shore excursions according to itinerary.