

Bolgar, Tatarstan, Russia

One of the oldest cities of medieval Russia, Bolgar sat at the crossroads of Eurasian civilisations. Today its vast archaeological park — a UNESCO World Heritage site — draws both history travellers and Muslim pilgrims to the place where the Volga Bulgars embraced Islam in 922 CE.

 Docked (river pier)  Typical call: 4–6 hrs  Russian Ruble (RUB)  Russian / Tatar

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Cruise ships dock directly at Bolgar river terminal; no tender required

Best For: Medieval history, Islamic heritage, UNESCO archaeology

Walk to complex: Museum of Bulgarian Civilization is steps from the pier; White Mosque ~1 km

Don't Miss: Cathedral Mosque & Great Minaret, White Mosque, Museum of Bulgarian Civilization

 Getting around:  Taxi  Negotiate locally

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Bolgar Historical & Archaeological Complex** — Walk the atmospheric ruins of medieval Volga Bulgaria: the Cathedral Mosque, Great Minaret, Khan's Palace remains, Black Chamber, Northern and...
- **White Mosque (Ak Mosque)** — Opened in 2012, this gleaming modern mosque — three domes, two minarets, granite-lined reflecting pool — is nicknamed the 'Tatar Taj Mahal'.
- **Museum of Bulgarian Civilization & Koran Museum** — The riverside Museum of Bulgarian Civilization covers 1,600 exhibits tracing Bolgar's medieval golden age.
- **Museum of Bread** — A charming open-air complex on the edge of the park with a reconstructed windmill, watermill, blacksmith's shop, and exhibits on Tatar and Russian...

BEST WALKS

- **Riverfront to Ruins Loop** 3–4 km · 1.5–2.5 hrs · mostly flat grassy park — From the pier, pass through the Western Gate into the UNESCO complex.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 4:41AM–6:47PM · Jun 3:04AM–8:24PM · Aug 4:18AM–7:16PM · Sep 5:16AM–6:00PM · Oct 6:13AM–4:44PM	
Apr	47°	33°	10d		
Jun	73°	59°	8d		
Aug	76°	62°	7d		
Sep	62°	50°	8d		
Oct	47°	38°	11d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear comfortable shoes. The archaeological complex is large and entirely outdoors on uneven ground — you'll easily walk 3–4 km between monuments.
- Dress modestly for mosques. Women should carry a headscarf; bare shoulders and shorts are not appropriate inside the Cathedral Mosque or White Mosque.
- Bring rubles in cash. Card acceptance at small kiosks and museum entrances is inconsistent; smaller notes are useful for museum tickets and snacks.
- Photography is allowed throughout the outdoor complex. The White Mosque's reflecting pool and the Great Minaret make the best shots — morning light is ideal before crowds arrive.
- Allocate the full call. A typical stop is 4–6 hours; the complex rewards a leisurely pace. Rushing through in 2 hours means missing the outer mausoleums and Museum of Bread.
- Free entry to grounds. The park grounds are free; individual museums (Bulgarian Civilization, Koran, Bread) each charge a modest fee. Combination tickets are available at the Western Gate.

Bolgar, Tatarstan, Russia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Болгарский государственный историко-архитектурный музей-заповедник

Ancient Bolgar ruins and historical museum complex.

2 Музей «Дом лекаря»

See an ancient healer's house and medical practices.

P Cruise port / terminal