

# tourism&leisure in **Russia**

THE  
PUBLICATION  
"NATIONAL  
TOURIST  
ROUTES OF  
RUSSIA"

ESCAPE THE ORDINARY

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FIFA World Cup*

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**Where  
to go on  
holiday?**

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## ON THE COVER

The face of this first issue of "Tourism & Leisure in Russia" is Alexandra Lapteva: although she is only 12, Alexandra is a passionate football fan. She is very excited about the FIFA World Cup matches that will be held at Russia's main "Luzhniki" stadium in Moscow, which will host the opening match, one semi-final and the final. Alexandra is fluent in English and French, and hopes that she will be able to volunteer for the World Cup. She has an amazing voice, and plans to devote a song to the forthcoming competition.

Photo by Alyona Kunda

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 E-mail: info@rustur.ru  
 tlussia.com

**Publisher Otdyh Media Ltd.**

**Printed in the "Deviz" Printing Complex.**  
 195027, St. Petersburg, Yakornaya  
 Street, 10, block 2, letter A, room 44.  
 Tel: +7 (812) 335-18-30.  
 Order No. Td 5969

SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM  
 THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN  
 FEDERATION FOR CREATIVE PROJECTS  
 OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE IN THE  
 FIELD OF CULTURE AND ART.



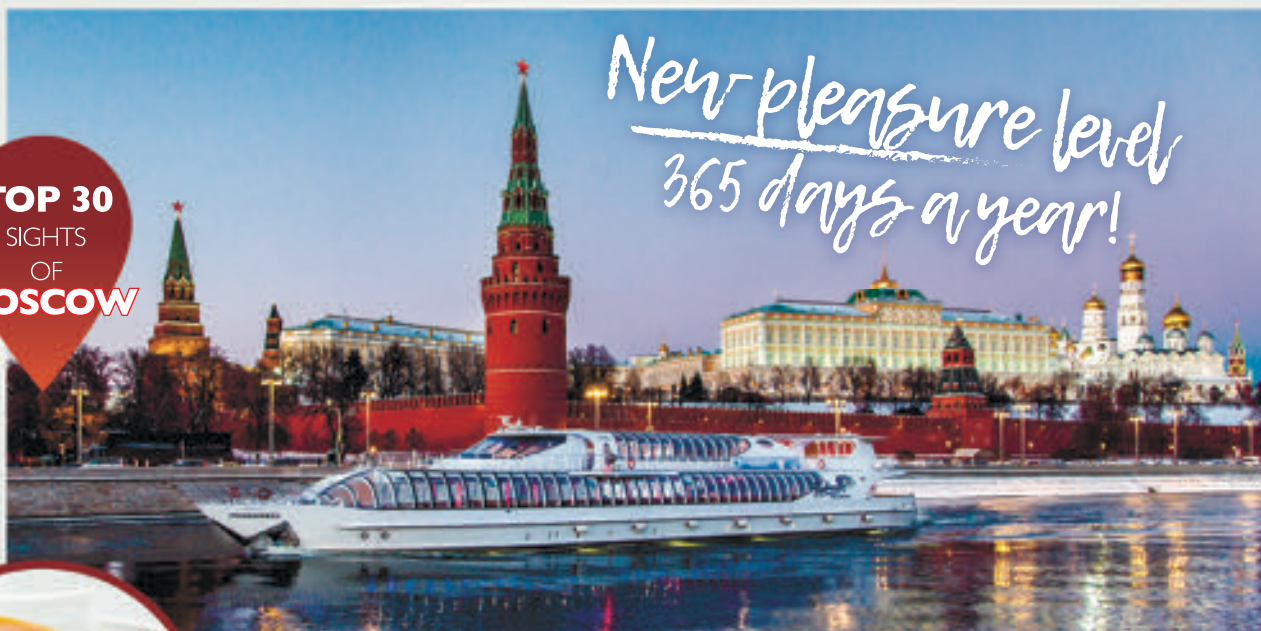


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## DIRECT SPEECH

**Anton Semenov,**  
General Director  
Otdyk Media

Welcome to a new magazine that presents Russia and its tourism potential to a foreign audience in attractive full-colour format. It includes information on tourist routes covering the entire territory of Russia – including many that are new and, unlike the classic Golden Ring, not yet widely known abroad. I hope that the magazine's informative stories and outstanding illustrations will both excite and absorb readers.



**Kathleen Zabelina,**  
Editor, English Edition

As a foreigner who has considered Russia her full-time home for the past eight years, it is easy to understand the growing interest in the country as an international tourist destination. Guests will be surprised by the country's cosmopolitan cities, wealth of cultural landmarks, and plethora of natural wonders. Whether you are planning to visit Russia for business or leisure, I am sure that you will be inspired by the dynamism of Russian society and the creativity and hospitality of its people.



**Mikhail Kozhukhov,**  
Journalist, traveller

For a long time, I thought that the most beautiful place on Earth was the Polar Urals, with their unique mountains of amazing forms, and pure and severe beauty. Because it is difficult to get to, few people travel there. You have to go on foot for more than 100 kilometers, or fly by helicopter. But then I saw the Sikhote-Alin mountain range in autumn, and I fell in love with it. It is something incredible! Another amazing place is the Putorana Plateau. You can get there only by helicopter. Every way you look, you can always see three waterfalls.

**Nikolai Drozdov,**  
TV presenter,  
researcher,  
traveller



I remember my journey on the icebreaker “Yamal” along the Northern Sea Route. We went onshore at the New Siberian Islands, Wrangel Island, and passed through the Bering Strait... I have been at the North Pole three times. The closer the icebreaker comes to the pole, the thicker the ice. The ship crushes it with its prow, pushing away three-meter ice blocks, which turn over with an incredible roar. The icebreaker pushes forward day and night, and you can always hear the noise, even in your cabin. You can't help thinking, “How can the bulkheads stand it?”

**Leonid Marmer,**  
General Director Intourist  
Thomas Cook

Russia boasts some of the most dazzling cultural and natural sights in the world. In this issue, readers can discover some of Russia's most popular tourist routes and destinations.

Many are already famous – like the wonderful “Golden Ring” route, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2017. One of the first Intourist packages, it is one of the most beautiful in the country. “Golden Ring” takes visitors to some of Russia's most stunning and historically important towns and cities, which reveal so much about the country's culture and traditions. Come and see it all for yourself!



PHOTO FROM PERSONAL ARCHIVES



# November 22-23, 2018

Sochi city, the Imeretinskaya Valley Main Media Centre



INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN SOCHI  
IS THE MAIN GROUND  
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TOURISM IN RUSSIA

**Russia is rich in natural resources** – a country with huge travel potential that is supported and funded by the government and different investment projects.

The Winter Olympic Games 2014 started large-scale renewal of city infrastructure and accommodation facilities and turned Sochi into a famous year-round resort. Hundreds of international events are held in Sochi every year

- One of them – **the International Forum for Tourism SIFT** – is held under the auspice of the City Municipal Administration and addresses many business needs:
- Introduction of tourist destinations of different regions of Russia
- Introduction of accommodation facilities in Sochi City
- **Conclusion of contracts**
- Conducting negotiations with GMs of the top travel agencies of Russia
- Participation in business programmes and congress events
- Presentation of new services and destinations to a wide audience of specialists

**In 2017 this event will run an independent audit of statistics.**

**In 2016 more than 8,000 travel business representatives from different regions visited the Sochi International Forum for Tourism SIFT.**

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ORGANIZER



TOUR OPERATOR  
ALEAN (MOSCOW)





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This is a cultural and educational tour, which includes a visit to four cities

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More than 6,000 cultural heritage sites are concentrated in the cities and towns around the Russian capital. The most popular tourist destinations are Sergiyev Posad, Kolomna, Istra, Klin and Dmitrov.

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Situated in the centre of St. Petersburg, the iconic Belmond Grand Hotel Europe is a short walk from the city's most famous sights.

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The warm sea, high mountains, unique sites of nature, modern health resorts, nature reserves and national parks all come together in the Far East region.

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Taking part in the "Easy Flying" kite festival, during the contest on the embankment, near the family centre "Kazan".





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The Summer festival "Yhyakh", with the traditional Algyys rite of blessing – feeding the fire. Kumys (fermented mare's milk) and Siberian pancakes are given to the spirits of the upper world.



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Guests coming to Russia to attend World Cup matches can experience different facets of Russian culture.

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The Russian folk show "Golden Ring" allows viewers to see the diversity of Russian traditions and cultures, without leaving Moscow.

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Public Russian baths are an amazing, deeply national and cultural phenomenon. They are a trademark of Russia along with samovar, balalaika, vodka and caviar.

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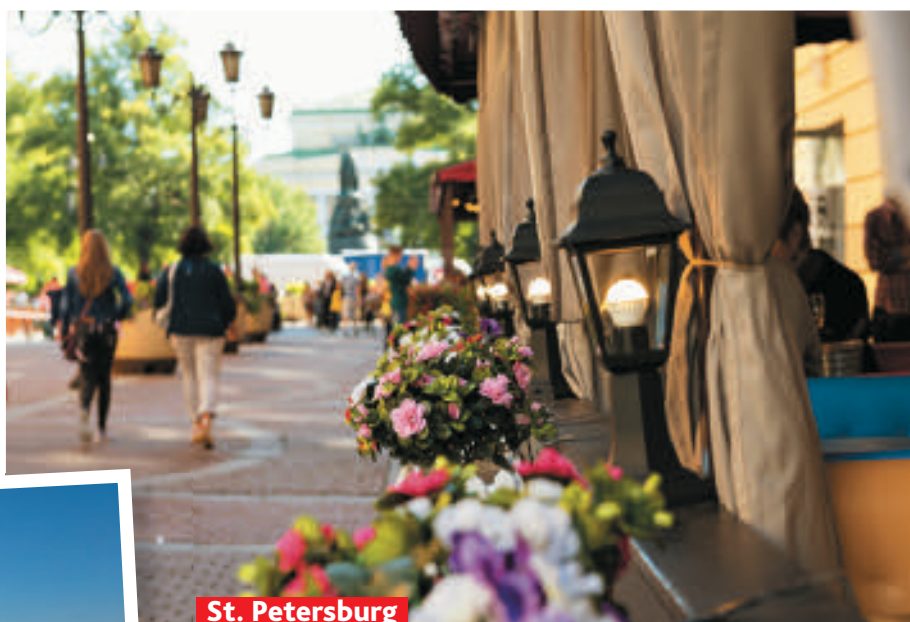
**Sochi**

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## **Elbrus** A RECORD ASCENT

Zinovy Slavinsky from Nizhny Novgorod has climbed Mount Elbrus at the age of 87, breaking the world record for that ascent. The previous record had belonged to the Ukrainian alpinist, Vladimir Monogarov, who in 2006 conquered Elbrus at the age of 80. For Slavinsky, climbing Elbrus is not his first such climbing record – in 2016, he climbed to the top of Mount Kazbek. During daily training he climbed the Volga slope, with a height about 40 meters, 25 times. In addition, over the past 50 years Slavinsky has never used lifts, and eats just once a day.



**St. Petersburg**

## **ST. PETERSBURG LEADS AGAIN**

The award ceremony of the most prestigious international tourism competition, the World Travel Awards, took place at the Ethnographic Museum in St. Petersburg. The city received the right to host the ceremony due to the fact that it had already won prizes in the competition twice before. This year Russia's Northern Capital was the victor in the "Best European City Direction 2017" nomination. "Tourism is an excellent means of communication between countries and peoples, it makes our world brighter and kinder," said Georgy Poltavchenko, Governor of St. Petersburg.

*The 190th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian writer Count Leo Tolstoy will be marked on 9 September 2018.*

## **Arkhangelsk**

### **DELICACIES FOR DARRA**

Darra Goldstein, the American professor of Russian who is an author of popular cookbooks, came to the Arkhangelsk Region to study Pomor cuisine, the cooking of Northern Russian. The first stop on her trip around the Russian North were the Solovetsky Islands, where she was treated to herring, salted herring, halibut, cod, salad from kelp with carrots and marmalade on agar-agar, and wicker nuts with blueberries and cottage cheese cakes. Darra herself admits that she adores cloudberry pie. Her impressions and materials collected from the trip will form the basis of her new book.



## **Moscow**

## **THE FLOATING BRIDGE**

CELEBRATIONS OF THE 870TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOSCOW INCLUDED THE OPENING OF THE NEW ZARYADYE PARK IN THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL.

The first major park created in the city for 50 years, its construction cost the city some \$250 million. On the territory of the park, there are four landscape zones that are typical of Russia – forest, tundra, steppe and flood meadows. The park also houses a concert hall, a scientific and education centre, an "Ice Cave", an exhibition and cultural complex, and a media centre. Its most impressive construction is the "floating bridge" observation platform which offers majestic views of Moscow, stretching 70 meters in length without supporting structures.





# CHECK INTO THE MOSCOW LEGEND!

*Metropol Hotel presents  
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The Metropol is a legendary historic hotel with the unique architecture built on the initiative of the renowned patron Savva Mamontov in 1905. The building is an outstanding example of the Moscow Art nouveau.

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# A TREASURE Map

PHOTO: VISUALRIAN

A TOURIST “ROUTE” IS NOT SIMPLY A LINE CONNECTING DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ON THE MAP. CITIES AND SIGHTS ARE UNITED BY A SHARED IDEA OR CONCEPT THAT SETS THE MOOD FOR ANY TRIP. EVEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES, WHEN CONNECTED ON A WELL THOUGHT-OUT ROUTE, WILL SPARKLE IN NEW COLOURS – LIKE PRECIOUS STONES THAT SHINE MORE BRIGHTLY WHEN LINKED IN SOME ORNAMENT. IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE BEST KNOWN RUSSIAN TOURIST ROUTES ARE NAMED AFTER JEWELLERY.

Text: **ANNA MAKAROVA**



# THE GOLDEN RING OF RUSSIA

PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS AND POPULAR ROUTE FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS IS THE "GOLDEN RING", WHICH FIRST APPEARED SOME 50 YEARS AGO. THIS CLASSIC ROUTE INCLUDES THE ANCIENT CITIES TO THE NORTH-EAST OF MOSCOW, WHICH CAN INDEED BE COMBINED INTO A KIND OF RING.

Initially, this circle included Vladimir, Suzdal, Yaroslavl, Pereslavl-Zalessky, Rostov the Great (Rostov Veliky), Kostroma, Ivanovo and Sergiyev Posad. But Uglich, Plyos, Yuryev-Polsky,

Tutaev, Kalyazin, Myshkin, Rybinsk, Murom, Gus-Khrustalny, Palekh, Shuya, Gorokhovets, Bogolyubovo, Kideksha and Dmitrov were soon added, known now as "the towns of the Great Golden Ring". Recently



In the city of Myshkin, Yaroslavl Region, the "mouse" brand is widespread.



In the restaurant "Ryapushka" in Pereslavl-Zalessky.



Antipyevskaya Church (1745) and Lazarevskaya Church (1667) in Suzdal.



One of the best souvenirs is the work of Palekh masters.



**GETTING THERE****How to get there**

It is most convenient to start any trip around the Golden Ring from Moscow. From there you drive along the Vladimir highway (now the M-7) to reach Vladimir, or along the M-8 in the direction of Yaroslavl. You can drive through Pereslavl-Zalessky and Rostov the Great, or the Sergiyev Posad area, then turn towards Kalyazin, and continue on to Uglich and Rybinsk. Most of the major settlements of the Golden Ring can also be reached by electric train or regular buses.

**Where to stay**

It is impossible to list all the accommodation options in these "golden cities" – the ring is also very popular with Russian tourists – but there is a wide range of hotels of different levels. In Vladimir, you can stay in the park hotel "Voznesenskaya Sloboda" on a high hill with a beautiful view of the surrounding area, choose the more modest "Vladimir Yard" or "Monomakh", or one of many hostels like "Air" or "Shankara". Yaroslavl has the colourful "Alyosha Popovich Dvor" and "The Volga Pearl", Kostroma the four-star "Golden Ring" and the "Snow Maiden" fairytale complex. "The Cat's House" is a good choice for those travelling with children to Myshkin, and Levitan's landscapes await guests at the reasonably priced "Private Visit" in Plyos.

**Where to eat**

You explore the Golden Ring to discover Russian culture, so the food en route should also be Russian. In Suzdal, the food and interiors of the "Gostiny Dvor" are famous, Yaroslavl has the exquisite "Penates" in an old wooden mansion, and in Pereslavl-Zalessky don't miss the "Montpensier" coffee house in the central square (especially the tea from the samovar and the spiced lamb). In Kostroma the "Old Marina" floating restaurant has interiors from the classic Soviet film "Cruel Romance". For lovers of Caucasian food, the famous "White Sun" restaurant is located right on the bank of the Volga. In the Volga region it is worth trying smoked fish, and in Suzdal it is difficult to avoid the local mead.

**What to buy**

The Golden Ring offers a wide choice of souvenirs. More expensive options include folk crafts, from enamel from Rostov the Great to Palekh boxes; cheaper options are ceramics and products made of flax. From Myshkin you can bring home all kinds of souvenir mice, the production and sale of which, it seems, engages about half the local population. (*Myshka* is the Russian word for mouse.)

**Suzdal Museum of Wooden Architecture.**

Sergiyev Posad, Pereslavl-Zalessky, Rostov the Great and Yaroslavl are also on one route. Ivanovo is traditionally combined with nearby Shuya and Palekh to visit the Ivanovo Chintz Museum and examine the lacquer miniatures in the Museum of Palekh Art. There is a series of programmes dedicated to the cities on the Volga, which offer entertainment for all ages and tastes, such as a tour along the Volga to the flooded Kalyazinsky belltower, a visit to the Ipatievsky Monastery of Kostroma, children's interactive programmes in the "Myshkin Chambers", and the house-museum of the artist Isaak Levitan in Plyos. In other words, the essence of Russian culture can be found in the central region of Russia. **TLR**

*This programme allows you to visit the famous Church of the Intercession on the Nerl and admire the frescoes of Andrei Rublev in the Assumption Cathedral of Vladimir.*

Kaluga and Kasimov also joined the list of "ring cities", meaning that the map today is decorated with a whole "jewellery set" of such destinations.

Of course, all the cities of the Golden Ring cannot be included in one programme – that would involve a tour of eight regions. More often travellers choose one or two larger towns and supplement them with small settlements in the vicinity. The classic weekend trip is Vladimir, Bogolyubovo and Suzdal, although from Vladimir you can also go to Murom or Gus-Khrustalny. This programme allows you to visit the famous Church of the Intercession on the Nerl – a UNESCO monument – and admire the frescoes of Andrei Rublev in the Assumption Cathedral of Vladimir, as well as exploring the





# THE SILVER NECKLACE OF RUSSIA

THIS JEWEL IS THE NORTHERN VERSION OF THE GOLDEN RING, LINKING THE ANCIENT CITIES AND SIGHTS OF THE NORTH-WEST OF RUSSIA.

**T**he idea of the route appeared only in 2012, but the cities themselves, united in a necklace, have long been popular with tourists. The route originally included Pskov, Izborsk, Pechory, Vyborg, Priozersk, Staraya Ladoga, Novgorod the Great (Veliky Novgorod), Staraya Russa, Velikiye Luki, as well as Ivangorod, Kingisepp and Porkhov. Later, large cities joined the route: St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Petrozavodsk, Arkhangelsk, Tikhvin, Vologda and even quite exotic places like Nar'yan-Mar and Vorkuta. These cities formed a second, much more extensive circle, stretching the necklace through 11 regions. This route has something of a military character: the necklace includes the medieval fortifications on the western borders of

**The Holy Dormition Pskovo-Pechersky Monastery is one of the largest and most famous monasteries in Russia, with a centuries-old history.**

**In the Republic of Komi, the ethnographic local charm and nature rich in mushrooms and berries are popular with tourists.**



PHOTO: ISTOCK / VALERY LVOV / ALEXANDER MELETSKY / EVGENY NIKHOREV



**The Kivach waterfall on the River Suna in Karelia.**

**Traditional Karelian shangi pies with potatoes and unleavened dough are cooked in a Russian oven.**

**The Solovetsky monastery breathes silence and tranquillity.**

the country, of which Pskov Krom and Izborsk fortress are especially famous.

Another major part of the route includes the attractions of nature, which are especially numerous in the Republic of Karelia and the Arkhangelsk Region, while the Solovetsky archipelago on the White Sea stands alone. For an ethnographic flavour alongside Karelia, the Republic of Komi and the Nenets Autonomous Region have sacred camps of reindeer-herders





### Leonid MARMER,

CEO of Intourist Thomas Cook:

*Unlike its "older brother" the Golden Ring, the Silver Necklace is geographically much wider and covers a fairly large area. It is impossible to visit all the sites and regions included in this route. Therefore, we recommend planning your itinerary, based on transport accessibility from major cities – Moscow or St. Petersburg. The Northern Capital is located in the centre of the Silver Necklace. You can get from St. Petersburg to the nearest cities, such as Pskov, Novgorod the Great or Petrozavodsk, in a few hours by car or by rail. For long distances, for example, to Murmansk, Arkhangelsk or Kaliningrad, it is easier to fly. On one trip it is best not to visit more than two or three regions included in the route, otherwise impressions will be overwhelming and memories blurred. The nature, the folk way of life, the monuments of architecture, and the historical sites all create a unique picture of the north-western region of Russia. There are so many interesting places which, without proper planning and prior booking of accommodation and services, will be very difficult to enjoy to the full extent. My personal recommendation – start with Karelia. There are lakes, rivers, forests and just a fantastic feeling of mystery. Fresh air, landscape views, and interesting impressions are guaranteed.*



and other northern wonders. Most tourists are attracted to the traditional sights: the Pskov-Pechersky Monastery and a complex of literary and memorial museums in the Pushkin Mountains; the ancient churches of Novgorod with the frescoes of Theophanes the Greek; the monuments →







Most of all, tourists go to Solovki to see the unique 15th century monastery.



*Staraya Russa in Novgorod Region is a resort where you can enjoy health treatments with local mineral waters, as well as visit the Dostoevsky House Museum.*

of wooden architecture in the Kizhi Reserve on Lake Onega, and the Solovki Monastery; Vyborg Castle and Monrepos Park, and the Museum of Vologda Lace.

And, of course, St. Petersburg with its magnificent palaces, museums and embankments.

If you prefer a more adventurous trip in Karelia there is river rafting as well as lake trips. Staraya Russa is a resort where you can enjoy health treatments with local mineral waters, as well as visit the Dostoevsky House Museum. Excursions to Valaam Island

depart from Priozersk, and pilgrims visit the Assumption Monastery in Tikhvin, where the icon of the Tikhvin Mother of God was revealed. Arkhangelsk also has an interesting museum of wooden architecture, "Small Korely". **TLR**

**The town of Tikhvin in Leningrad Region is another pearl in the Silver Necklace. Here you can often see performances of folk groups.**

## GETTING THERE



### How to get there

Those travelling by car from Moscow can drive north to Pskov or Novgorod the Great (if a trip to the fortresses of the North-West and St. Petersburg planned). In the direction of Karelia or Arkhangelsk, you pass through Vologda. If travelling without a car, the most convenient point to start the route is St. Petersburg, from where it is easy to go for a day to Vyborg or take a train to Pskov.



### Where to stay

In St. Petersburg, the range of prices for accommodation is considerable: in the historical Grand Hotel Europe a night costs from \$315, while in the elegant three-star mini-hotel Herzen House nightly rates start from \$65. In Pskov, a

night in one of the best city hotels – the Old Estate – costs \$90, and the more modest "Rizhskaya" is \$50. In Novgorod, you can choose between, for example, the "Park Inn Radisson" (from \$75 per night) or the three-star "Sadko" (from \$50).



### Where to eat

When travelling to the regions of the North, you definitely need to discover the local cuisine. In Pskov and Novgorod travellers expect Russian cuisine (for example, in the picturesque Novgorod restaurant "Berg House"), while in the capital of Karelia, it is worth finding the "Karelian Room" to try real tartlets with berries, *sulchini* – pancakes with porridge – or fish soup with cream.

In Kaliningrad, look out for the German restaurant "Tetka Fisher" and order traditional Königsberg meatballs. You will find a range of fish dishes at most points of the route.



### What to buy

The westernmost "link" of the Silver Necklace – Kaliningrad – is mostly associated with Baltic amber jewellery. In Karelia there are souvenirs from Karelian birch and a variety of berry tinctures and liqueurs (the most interesting taste is cloudberry). And from Novgorod the Great – all kinds of crafts from birch bark, which are especially numerous in the bazaar near the Vitoslavlitsa museum of wooden architecture.



According to legend, the Church of the Transfiguration on Kizhi Island was built by Nestor the carpenter with an axe and no nails.





# RUSSIAN ESTATES

DEVELOPED IN 2015, THIS ROUTE HAS NOT ACQUIRED ANY SPECIAL NAME DERIVED FROM JEWELLERY, AND IT HARDLY NEEDS ANY SUCH LAVISH DESCRIPTIONS. IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF: IT IS DEVOTED TO A SPECIAL PHENOMENON OF THE RUSSIAN WAY OF LIFE AND HISTORICAL CULTURE, THE ESTATES OF THE NOBILITY.

**I**ts theme is lyrical: country manor or estate life, richly reflected in literature and painting, brings a whole range of associations. The core of

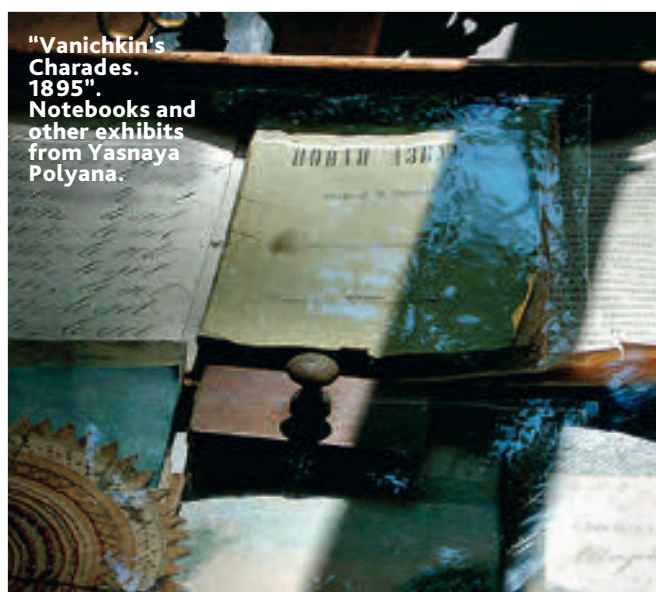


The decoration of this fireplace in Polenovo was created by the artist himself and his younger sister.



This palace in Bogoroditsk was built for the illegitimate son of Catherine II and Grigory Orlov.

the route is the Tula Region, which has the famous estate of the great Russian writer Leo Tolstoy, "Yasnaya Polyana", which was where Tolstoy was born and spent much of his life. However, the idea of this thematic itinerary is so good that, with the help of such more popular examples, attention is also drawn to estates that are less well known and less well preserved, especially if the names of their owners have also gone down in history. The Tula Region also has Ivan



"Vanichkin's Charades. 1895". Notebooks and other exhibits from Yasnaya Polyana.

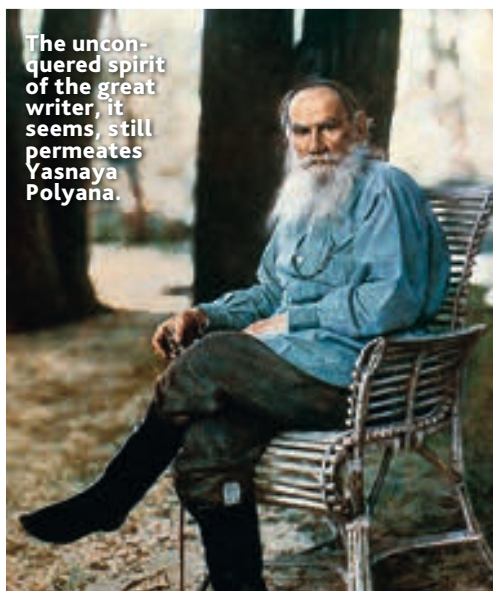
Bunin's estate at Efremov and the Bobriki estate, which once belonged to the illegitimate son of Catherine II, Count Bobrinsky. In total, the route comprises different estates in 12 regions, including the well-known Arkhangelsk near Moscow, Vyazma and Spasskoye-Lutovinovo, the home of another great writer, Ivan Turgenev. These attractions are divided by topics and areas: one such tour, for example, takes in the old manors of the Moscow Region, associated with the names of the noble aristocracy like Sheremetev, Volkonsky and Buturlin.

The route "From Tula to Polenovo" includes not only the estate of the famous artist Vasily Polenov, but also the estate of the scientist and writer Andrei Bolotov and that of the philosopher Alexei Khomyakov and his family. The "Prioksky manors" can be found in the southern suburbs of Moscow, where you can visit the Troitskoye estate of Yekaterina Dashkova, and the ancient patrimony of the Dolgorukov princes, Podmoklovo, with its remarkable beautiful church of the Nativity of the Virgin. These and other such routes are





The bell tower in Bogoroditsk amazes with its grandeur, but needs repair.



The unconquered spirit of the great writer, it seems, still permeates Yasnaya Polyana.



Tolstoy's estate cultivates such patriarchal images.

## GETTING THERE

### How to get there

The central point of most of these manor routes is Tula, from where you can easily reach Yasnaya Polyana and Bogoroditsk, visit Polenovo and less famous manors around Serpukhov, and also travel to Melikhovo, located near the town of Chekhov. However, there are other options, such as travelling to the town of Tver, and from there to Bernovo and Domotkanovo. A number of estates – such as Arkhangelsk to Turgenev's Spasskoye-Lutovinovo – can be visited on one-day trips from Moscow.

### Where to stay

Such old estates rarely boast hotel complexes, so you usually have to stay in the nearest town for the night. Yasnaya Polyana, however, has a hotel of the same name, and there is also the mini-hotel "Varvarovka Manor" in the vicinity, as well as the park hotel "Grumant" with a SPA centre. Melikhovo has a reasonably priced guest house.

### Where to eat

"Manor cuisine" may be an unusual term, but behind it lies long-lasting traditions of home-made feasts, derived from the cook books of the past owners of the manors, including their family recipes. In such a way, gastronomic heritage has been gradually rediscovered by restaurant-owners on the manor route. Yasnaya Polyana has the excellent cafe "Preshpekt", where dishes are cooked according to the recipes of Sofia Andreevna Tolstoy. The cafe of the "Peshkov Manor" hotel complex in Chekhov has a special menu "What Chekhov Ate", with dishes as described in the records of the writer's cook, mother, and sisters.

### What to buy

From the estates that once belonged to writers, tourists inevitably come away with books as souvenirs, and from the estates of artists, with albums with reproductions of their work. But there are more original options. At Yasnaya Polyana, visitors are offered traditional folk crafts and handicrafts of farmers of the Tula region, such as ceramics, embroidery, quilts and souvenir dolls. Visitors to Abramtsevo can buy carved items in the Neo-Russian style, unique pieces by graduates of the local art college, which developed from the workshop created at the end of the 19th century by Yelena Polenova and Yelizaveta Mamontova (for that, you need to visit the department of the museum-estate in Khotkovo, and its Department of Artistic Crafts).

*In total, the route comprises different estates in 12 regions, including the well-known Arkhangelsk near Moscow, Vyazma, and Spasskoye-Lutovinovo, the home of another great writer, Ivan Turgenev.*

aimed at independent tourists and are described on the project website: [eng.visitusadba.ru](http://eng.visitusadba.ru).

You certainly need to be prepared for the fact that a significant number of such locations are, in reality, abandoned ruins sited in overgrown parks: only a few such estates have been restored or host museums. The most famous country estates are included in excursion programmes from a number of tour operators. The classic "manor set", of course, includes Tula and Yasnaya Polyana, supplemented by excursions to Polenovo and Melikhovo. **TLR**



The Archangel Michael Church in the museum estate Arkhangelskoye.



# THE GREAT VOLGA ROUTE

THE VOLGA FEDERAL DISTRICT IS ATTRACTING TOURISTS WITH THE HELP OF THE HISTORICAL "VOLGA ROUTE", ONCE A FAMOUS MEDIEVAL TRADE ROUTE BETWEEN THE STATES OF SCANDINAVIA AND THE ARAB WORLD.



An ancient  
reconstructed  
boat at the  
open-air museum  
in Khokhlovo.



Until the 11th century, Old Rus' traded with the East through Volga Bulgaria, an ancient Bulgar state centred on the confluence of the Volga and Kama rivers, which covered the modern Republics of Tatarstan and Chuvashia, and the Ulyanovsk, Penza and Samara Regions. Its history is ancient but the route is new – development began in 2016 – and naturally includes cities that were not yet on the map when that trade route was active, with the exception of perhaps Kazan, which is central to a number of packages currently on offer. In addition to the Kazan Kremlin, the famous Syuyumbike Tower, churches and mosques, the programme includes a visit to a Bulgar settlement, founded in the 10th century, to familiarize tourists with national colour and history. From Kazan tourists travel to Ulyanovsk, Lenin's hometown, and Samara (where the theme of the trip changes dramatically, to old merchant mansions and Lenin museums) or to Yoshkar-Ola. The Republic of Mari El is another gateway to the Volga route: there are routes from Yoshkar-Ola to Kozmodemyansk and further to Cheboksary in Chuvashia. In the capital of Mari El, the main tourist sites are →



**In Cheboksary, as in most cities of the Volga region, the main street is the embankment.**

***The Republic of Mari El is another gateway to the Volga route: there are routes from Yoshkar-Ola to Kozmodemyansk and further to Cheboksary in Chuvashia.***



**A clock on the main city square of Yoshkar-Ola.**



**Leonid MARMER,**

CEO of Intourist Thomas Cook:

*Given the title of this route, I recommend travelling the Great Volga route by water. At the moment, several operators offer regular river cruises along the Volga. The route often starts in Moscow, where flights from many countries of the world arrive. By starting your journey in the Russian capital, you not only enjoy the beauty of the Volga – the main waterway of Russia – but also visit virtually all the major cities on the southern route. It is worth noting that a river cruise makes it possible to visit some cities of the Golden Ring (Yaroslavl, Kostroma, Plyos) as well as several cities of the Volga route (Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Ulyanovsk, Samara, Saratov, Volgograd, Astrakhan). River navigation operates only in the warm season – from May to September.*





In the Samara Space Museum you can see a real rocket.

relatively new, and certainly unexpected: copies of the embankment of Belgium's Bruges and the Spassky Tower of the Moscow Kremlin. In Kozmodemyansk you can learn about the culture of the Mari people by visiting the open-air ethnographic museum.

The route includes Togliatti and Syzran, Nizhny Novgorod, Kirov and Perm, Penza and Saratov. Excursions and entertainment on these routes are very different: from tasting Zhigulevsky beer and the VAZ museum to Tarkhan, the estate of the great Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov. But the most interesting thing on the Great Volga Route is the opportunity to learn more about the life of the Tatars, Mari and Chuvash. **TLR**

*Kazan is a real paradise for gastronomic exploration. You can try soup with noodles – “tokmach” (aza in Tatar) – and different pelmeni and pastries.*



The most interesting thing about this tour is the way of life and the culture of the peoples of the Volga Region.

## GETTING THERE

### How to get there

It is most convenient to start a trip from Kazan, which an independent tourist can easily get to by car or train. From the museum-reserve “Bulgar Hillfort” you can take a boat along the Volga or a bus. The journey can be continued by going to Ulyanovsk (by car the trip will take three hours, by train or bus about six). Another option is to go to Nizhny Novgorod and further by car to Kozmodemyansk, Cheboksary and Yoshkar-Ola.

### Where to stay

In Kazan, there are several five-star hotels, like “Mirage” (from \$80) and Korston Royal (from \$100). Four-star accommodation will be more expensive if you choose the “Riviera” hotel with its large aquapark (from \$150 per night). In the three-star “Tatarstan” rooms start at \$45. The most luxurious hotel in Ulyanovsk is the five-star “Imperial Club Deluxe” in Alexander Park, from \$83 per night, while in three-star hotels like “Venets” and “Oktyabrskaya” rooms are about \$30–40.

### Where to eat

Along the Volga route, you need to discover Tatar cuisine, and in Kazan there are a lot of opportunities for such gastronomic research. Tokmach (aza in Tatar), a soup with noodles, and different types of dumplings and pastries (echpochmak, elesh, kystyby) are recommended. In the “Panorama” restaurant these are all available with a view of the historical centre, and in the “Tatar Estate” you can buy souvenirs at the same time. Mari cuisine is a more exotic phenomenon, and in Yoshkar-Ola it is worth visiting the “Warm River” tavern or the more modest “Sandal” cafe to try their dumplings with different fillings.

### What to buy

From Tatarstan tourists can take home edible souvenirs, such as Tatar sweets or horse meat sausage. Lovers of ethnography can find all the elements of traditional Tatar costumes, including skullcaps, the famous kalfak headdresses for women, leather slippers with elongated toes, or unusual felt boots from the Kukmorsky felt factory. In Mari El you can find national dolls, amulets and clothes with traditional embroidery, but often tourists limit themselves to figures of Yoshkin cat and souvenirs with the image of this strange animal.



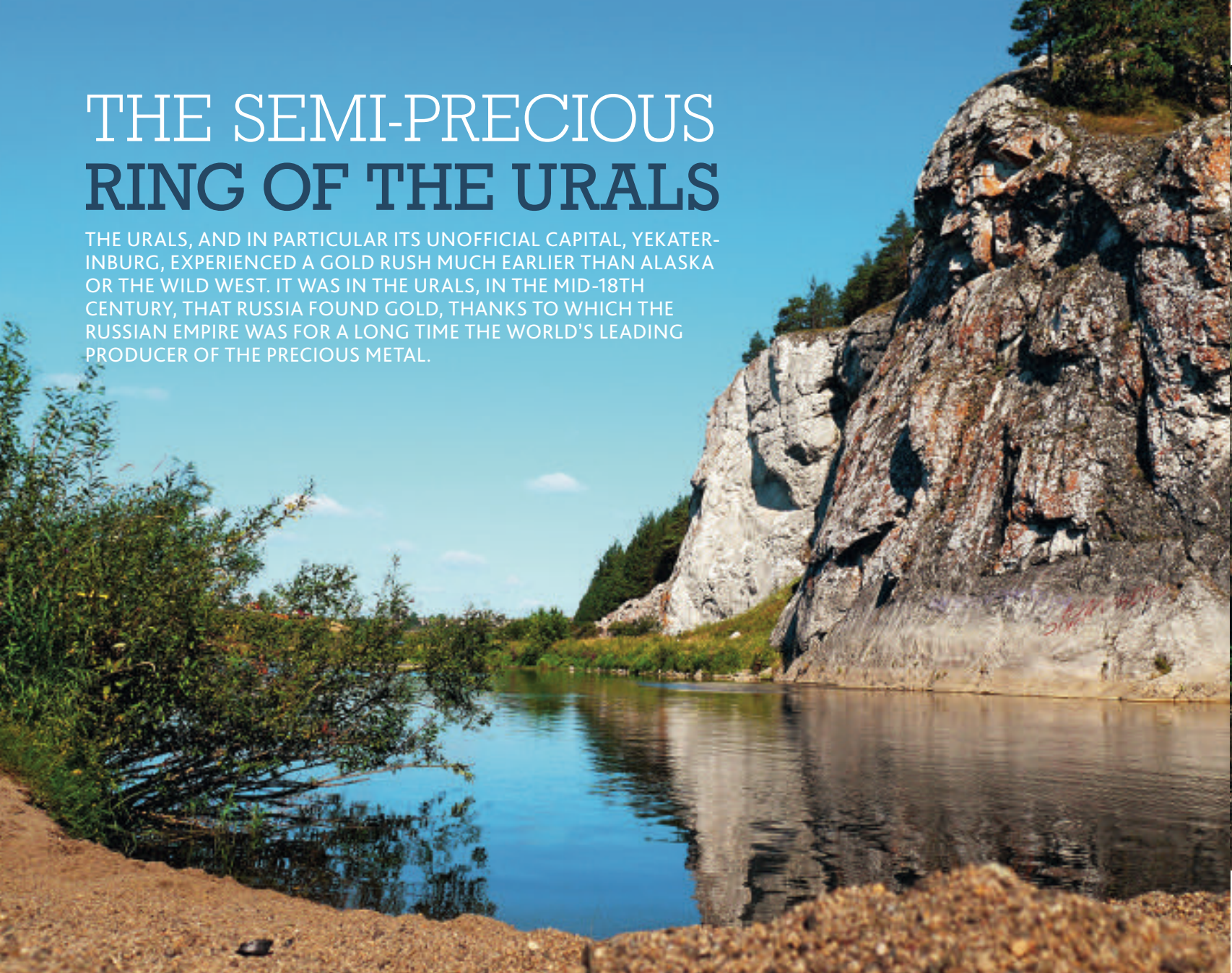


A Dymkovo  
"Turkey" toy.  
Dymkovo toys  
are an old  
Russian folk  
art handicraft.



# THE SEMI-PRECIOUS RING OF THE URALS

THE URALS, AND IN PARTICULAR ITS UNOFFICIAL CAPITAL, YEKATERINBURG, EXPERIENCED A GOLD RUSH MUCH EARLIER THAN ALASKA OR THE WILD WEST. IT WAS IN THE URALS, IN THE MID-18TH CENTURY, THAT RUSSIA FOUND GOLD, THANKS TO WHICH THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE WAS FOR A LONG TIME THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCER OF THE PRECIOUS METAL.



**T**he discovery of gold in Russia occurred in 1745 in the valley of the river Berezovka, near Yekaterinburg. Today in Berezovsky, several museums and monuments are dedicated to gold-mining. Another name for the Urals is the “homeland of gems”, which explains the name of its new tourist route. The Central Urals have already launched a dozen tours under the “gemstone” brand between Yekaterinburg, Nev'yansk, Nizhny Tagil, Murzinka, Alapayevsky, Irbit, Artemovsky, Rezh and Berezovsky. The richest excursion programme is in the capital of the region, Yekaterinburg: the geological and mineralogical museums display local stone treasures, and in the History of Stone-Cutting and Jewellery Museum you can

**The Urals are mountains with meandering rivers and beautiful lakes with clean, clear water. Here winters are cold and summers are warm.**

**In the Museum of History of Stone-Cutting and Jewellery Art in Yekaterinburg, you can find out all about Ural gems. There are items made of malachite, jasper, agate, rhodonite, topaz and quartz.**





**Residents of the Urals sometimes joke about themselves: Like the Urals, we go up but never come down.**

**The "Deer Streams" nature park is one of the most popular spots in the central Urals. There are several tourist routes with a length of 40 km.**

**A "Swan Princess" tray produced by the Nizhny Tagil Enamelware Factory. By Irina Shlykova**

see what these mountain treasures were turned into by local masters – those fabulous malachite boxes and flowers from ornamental stones. Equally impressive are the exhibitions of the Yekaterinburg Museum of Fine Arts and the architecture of the city itself, where carved wooden buildings and luxurious merchant houses have been preserved.

In Nevyansk, famous for its iron-smelting plant and gold deposits, you can see the fine Nevyanskaya Tower dating back to the mid-18th century. In Nizhny Tagil the museums devoted to the history of the region, and to fine arts and crafts are interesting – the city is famous for its painted tin



## GETTING THERE



### How to get there

Tours through the Urals start from Yekaterinburg, which can be reached from Moscow by train in just over a day, or in two hours by plane. If you are travelling independently, it is easiest to follow the whole route along the Gem Ring by car, but without a car there is plenty to do in the capital of the Urals. From Yekaterinburg it is easy to travel by bus to Berezovsky, Nevyansk, Nizhny Tagil and Alopayevsk in one to three hours.



### Where to stay

Yekaterinburg is a city of business tourism, with a number of five-star hotels: Ramada, "Hyatt Regency", "Atrium Palace" and "Vysotsky". The more extensive selection of four-star hotels include "Park Inn Radisson", "Novotel", "Palais Royal", "Onegin" and "Moskovskaya Gorka". From the "three-stars", "Yekaterina" and "Marins Park" are popular, but you can always stay in the historic hotel "Yekaterinburg-Central" in a 1928



Art Nouveau style building, where both Nikita Khrushchev and Fidel Castro stayed in their time.



### Where to eat

If the "brand" of the Urals is gems, then in food the Urals means pelmeni, or dumplings. Try this familiar dish in the local version at the "Pelmeni Club" restaurant, where the menu includes many kinds of ravioli, vareniki and other hand-made delights, and "Pelmeni Dozen" is also good. You can enjoy contemporary Russian cuisine in the splendid interiors of the restaurant

"Troyekurov", and in the restaurant "Panorama A.S.P." on the roof of the "Vysotsky" hotel with its fine view of the city.



### What to buy

The main souvenirs to take back from Yekaterinburg are products made from semi-precious stones, but you need to be careful when buying them. The "malachite boxes" are made of malachite that has been brought from Africa, because the famous stone is no longer mined in the Urals! But jasper, serpentine and amethyst are local, and you can also find jewellery made from stones with romantic names like aventurine and charoite. Precious stone crafts are available not only in souvenir shops, but also in the market, which is nicknamed "Piglet" and constantly changes its location. In recent years, it has been found near the "Geological" metro station, near the Ural Economic University. In addition to stones, antique pottery and other interesting souvenirs are sold there.

trays. Around the village of Murzinka, you can take an excursion around mineral mines. In Alapayevsk, where Pyotr Tchaikovsky spent part of his childhood, there is a museum dedicated to the great Russian composer. This city is also connected with some terrible periods of Russian history – in 1918 members of the Romanov family, including the canonized Grand Duchess Yelizabeta Fyodorovna, were shot and thrown into a mine near Nizhnyaya Sinyachikhha. Only in 2009 were all the victims of this crime rehabilitated.

Today, on the site of their death, stands the Monastery of the New Martyrs of Russia. Irbit and Rej are noteworthy for their old architecture, and there is also a Mineralogical Museum in the mansion of the manager of the Titov Zotov estate. You can also walk around the eco-park over the Rezh river or visit another series of mines in the vicinity. **TLR**





Yakut diamonds make even the most beautiful woman even lovelier.

# THE EASTERN RING OF RUSSIA

THE FAR EAST IS A REGION RICH IN NATURAL TREASURES: HERE YOU CAN VISIT KAMCHATKA'S VOLCANOES AND GEYSERS, THE LENA PILLARS, AND FIND YAKUT DIAMONDS AND EVEN THE RARE AMUR TIGER. ALL SUCH POSSIBILITIES HAVE NOW BEEN UNITED IN A NEW INTERREGIONAL ROUTE.



In the Chochur-Muran ethno-complex, tourists can learn about Yakut culture.

**T**he only problem is the logistics – the cities and nature parks of the Far East are scattered across the map, the distances between them are significant, and transportation is not cheap. Despite all these issues the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), the Buryatia, Zabaikalsky, Kamchatka, Primorsky and Khabarovsk Territories, the Amur, Irkutsk, Magadan and Sakhalin Regions, and the Chukotka and Jewish Autonomous Regions have joined the route, although it is difficult to connect these regions in one trip. From Vladivostok to Khabarovsk is an overnight ride by train, and then you catch a flight to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. As part of this programme, you can visit the Pacific Fleet Museum on Russky Island, admire the view of Golden Horn Bay, take a boat trip along the Amur River, see the Sikachi-Alyan petroglyphs, and visit Avachinskaya Bay and the

Valley of Geysers. There are programmes connecting Primorye and Khabarovsk with Sakhalin and Kamchatka, and also with Yakutia. The tour with the best name is the “Tiger Diamond” route, which involves a journey between Vladivostok and Yakutsk which takes in the “Land of the Leopard” park, the casino Tigre de Crystal, the safari park with the animals of Ussuri taiga, a diamond processing plant, the ice complex “Kingdom of Permafrost” with the residence of the Yakut version of Santa Claus, Chiskaan, and on to the Lena Pillars nature reserve and the Chochur-Muran ethnographic complex. You can understand that this combination of jewels, luxury, natural wonders and rare predators is very expensive. These tours were developed with foreign, primarily Asian, tourists in mind. It is difficult to organize such an expensive trip, but it is possible to plan more economical options







The "Tiger Diamond" tour takes you to a safari park with rare animals.



The famous lighthouse at the entrance to the Golden Horn Bay in Vladivostok.

**As part of this programme, you can visit the Pacific Fleet Museum on Russky Island, admire the view of Golden Horn Bay, and take a boat trip along the Amur River.**

## GETTING THERE



### How to get there

The gateway to Primorye is Vladivostok, which is eight hours by plane from Moscow. Yakutsk is a six-hour flight, and Khabarovsk seven. But bear in mind that you still have to travel considerable distances onwards to reach many natural monuments. Reaching the famous Lena Pillars involves sailing on a boat from Yakutsk for several hours, while the Sikachi-Alyan petroglyphs are a couple of hours by car from Khabarovsk.



### Where to stay

One of the best hotels in Vladivostok is the five-star "Hyundai" hotel, where room prices start from \$180. The four-star "Astoria" (the oldest in the city) and the three-star "Versailles", are around \$130. A three-star option is more modest: "Amur Bay" – part of

the Azimut chain – costs from \$60. In Yakutsk one of the best hotels is the four-star "Polar Star" complex, also part of the Azimut chain, from \$135 per night. Rooms at the three-star "Ontario" start from \$40.



### Where to eat

The proximity of Asia is reflected in the gastronomic choices that Primorye offers – Chinese and Korean cuisine is popular here. You can go to the Pan-Asian restaurant Zuma – one of the best in the city. A popular chain of cafés is "Dumping-Republic", which, unsurprisingly, prepares *dim sum* dumplings with different fillings. The second main component of local gastronomic traditions is seafood. To inspect that full diversity, it's worth visiting the local fish markets, such as that in the "Pervorechensky" shopping centre (locals call it the "First

with trips to the outskirts of Vladivostok – from there, it's possible to go to the safari park and to Russky Island, and the Primorsky Oceanarium. **TLR**

River market"). In Yakutsk, you can visit the "Chochur-Muran" ethnographic complex which has a national cuisine restaurant – try *stroganina* traditional strips of frozen raw northern fish and venison.



### What to buy

It would be nice to take diamonds home as a souvenir from Yakutia, but if that's beyond your budget, you can also find more modest gifts: amulets and ornaments made from tusks of mammoth and horsehair. Reindeer-skin boots are a lot warmer than they look but they, too, are not cheap. There are also gastronomic souvenirs: berries, dried horseflesh and fish. From Vladivostok, seaweed and pine nuts are popular purchases. Another popular and inexpensive gift is the famous "Bird Milk" candy from the "Primorsky Confectioner" factory.

In Kamchatka, everything is unforgettable: the volcanoes, the geysers, and the marine life.





Stunning views  
of Lake Baikal  
open directly  
from the  
windows of the  
train. Shown  
here, to the  
right: Olkhon  
Island.



# THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY

**THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY IS THE LONGEST RAILWAY ROUTE IN THE WORLD, AND AROUSES ALMOST THE SAME INTEREST AS THE LEGENDARY ORIENT EXPRESS. AFTER ALL, YOU CAN REACH EUROPE VIA THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY, CROSSING 9,300 KM FROM VLADIVOSTOK TO MOSCOW.**

**I**t is, of course, tempting to take a pre-planned route, and exclusive train-hotels, complete with stylish interiors, offer trips for more than two weeks. There are about 90 cities along the route, but only eight stops for tourists: Moscow, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Ulan Bator and Vladivostok. Passengers cross the Amur River over a bridge that is 2,600 meters long, visit Lake Baikal and ride along the Circum-Baikal Railway. Such trip allow travellers to visit the Urals, Siberia, Buryatia, Mongolia, Transbaikalia and the Far East in one go, to stand on the border of Europe and Asia, to visit the Museum of the Irkutsk Decembrists and the Buddhist monastery of Gandan →

*Passengers cross the Amur River over a bridge, visit Lake Baikal and ride along the Circum-Baikal Railway.*





– the sites and impressions along the way are many and varied.

It's true that passengers will spend a lot of time in a luxurious but enclosed space – the train does not stop every day, and some regions can be seen only from the windows. There are shorter travel options – through Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Khabarovsk and Vladivostok. The Moscow-Beijing route is very popular with Chinese tourists, and the journey can begin in either Russia or China. Experienced travellers recommend organizing your trip on the Trans-Siberian using ordinary trains and stopping overnight in cities along the route – that way, it's more pleasant and cheaper. Travel agencies also offer a range of different variants for travelling



The train makes long stops in all the major cities along the route.

*The most famous tourist train-hotel on the Trans-Siberian Railway is the “Golden Eagle”, with comfortable two-berth compartments, each with its own bathroom, shower and washbasin.*



Shaman woman in a traditional attire sitting in a trance in an open area on Olkhon Island in Lake Baikal.



### **Leonid MARMER,**

CEO of Intourist Thomas Cook:

At the moment, a large number of regular trains run along the route of the Trans-Siberian Railway, and far fewer VIP-class charter trains. It's best to plan your trip four-six months in advance. Charter train operators include everything in the programme, from three meals a day to excursions during stops. Such tours are expensive, but high quality is guaranteed throughout the route. For budget travellers we offer regular passenger trains with luxury sleeping car cabins. The savings are noticeable, but the inconvenience is that at almost every important station along the route travellers will have to pack their things and change train: they run to their own schedule and won't wait for you. But you can visit the main sights at your own pace, spend the night in a hotel (and take a shower). Then the next day, a new train... travelling this way has its own sense of romance.

PHOTO: ISTOCK / PEI HSUAN





Ivolginsky datsan is a Buddhist Temple located in Buryatia.



"Ural Music Night" is a summer music festival in Yekaterinburg.



*The price of travel starts from €5,000 for two-person accommodation, and rises to €30,000 for a luxury compartment.*

**The classic option for a no-frills trip is the train "Rossiya", which departs from Yaroslavl station and arrives in Vladivostok 144 hours later.**

the Trans-Siberian Railway on regular trains: for 18 days you can ride through Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk (visiting the Stolby Nature Park), then move to Irkutsk and spend the day at Lake Baikal, and finally on to Ulan-Ude, Chita, Blagoveshchensk and Vladivostok. It is quite a roundabout route, but you can see more than from an express compartment, and the trip is much cheaper. **TLR**

## GETTING THERE

### Which train is best?

The most famous tourist train-hotel on the Trans-Siberian Railway is the "Golden Eagle", with comfortable two-berth compartments, each with its own bathroom, shower and washbasin. There is a laundry and a hairdresser on the train, and of course a dining-car and bar – excellent for brightening up the days of travel between the far-flung stations of Russia. Although the Trans-Siberian monument is located at the Yaroslavl railway station in Moscow (it is the classic starting point of the Trans-Siberian Railway), the "Golden Eagle" departs from the Kazan station. There is another tourist train, "Imperial Russia", which also offers passengers separate two-berth compartments with private bathrooms. The price of travel in these trains starts from €5,000 for two-person accommodation, and rises to €30,000 for a luxury compartment. The classic option of a no-frills trip is the train "Rossiya", which departs from Yaroslavl station and arrives in Vladivostok 144 hours later. You can choose a shared two- or four-berth compartment, or a space in a six-berth compartment-less wagon (some tourists choose that option specially, for an experience of "exotic Russia").

### Where to eat

Restaurant-cars on trains and station buffets are rarely noted for the variety of their menus, so for more interesting culinary experiences you need to look in the cities along the route. Considering how many regions you will pass through on the way, try Ural pelmeni, Buryat pies with horse meat, and milky Mongolian tea, bacon, and cakes with pine nuts. Traditional railway "fast food" are pies and berries, bought at the stations from local *babushkas*, although in recent years the authorities have clamped down on this technically illegal form of trading.

### What to buy

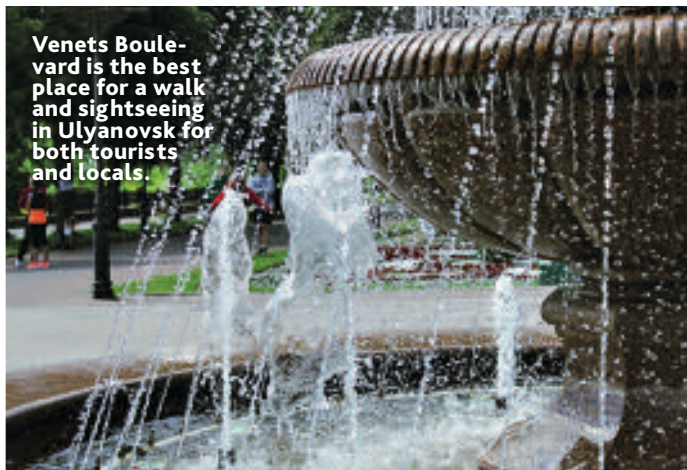
You can find all sorts of souvenirs on the trip and, unlike the pies, they can be bought safely at train stations. But a trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway is a case where it is worth buying something on the train itself: flash drives in the form of locomotives, coasters, notebooks and other souvenir products offered to the passengers by the train attendants will be a good reminder of the long railway journey.



# The Red Route

THIS IS A CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL TOUR, WHICH INCLUDES A VISIT TO FOUR CITIES IMPORTANT IN THE LIFE OF THE "LEADER OF THE WORLD PROLETARIAT", VLADIMIR LENIN (BORN VLADIMIR ULYANOV): MOSCOW, ST. PETERSBURG, ULYANOVSK AND KAZAN.

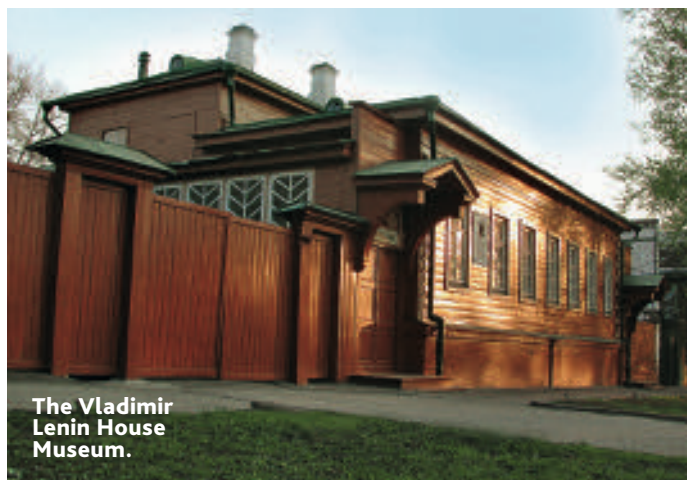
THIS ARTICLE WAS PREPARED BY  
THE ULYANOVSK REGION TOURISM AGENCY



**Venets Boulevard** is the best place for a walk and sightseeing in Ulyanovsk for both tourists and locals.



**The President's Bridge** is one of the longest bridges in Europe.



**The Vladimir Lenin House Museum.**

**U**lyanovsk is the city where Lenin was born, and lived for 17 years. Kazan is the city where he studied. St. Petersburg is the city where the October Revolution took place, and Moscow is the city where the foundations of a new state were laid and its new history began.

In Ulyanovsk, founded as Simbirsk and renamed in honour of Lenin's family name in 1924, the route passes through places associated with Lenin's childhood and youth. On a three-hour bus and walking excursion, tourists first visit the Lenin Museum House – the house of the Ulyanov family, and then learn about middle-class Simbirsk life in the Museum-Estate of city life "Simbirsk Life in the late 19th and early 20th



**The Lenin Memorial.** More than 18 million people from 120 countries have visited the museum complex.



**Interactive initiation ceremony** into the "Pioneers" – Lenin's youth organization.





The Ivan Goncharov house-monument.



Centuries". Additionally, tourists can learn about the intricacies of secondary education in tsarist Russia at the "Simbirsk Classical Gymnasium" museum.

At the Lenin memorial, you pass from the era that gave birth to the great revolutionary to the era born of his genius. The route ends with a colourful Pioneer initiation ceremony, after which tourists can enjoy a beautiful view of the Volga River.

The Red Route in Ulyanovsk is an opportunity to learn how the personality of the future leader of the world proletariat developed, what important political processes took place in the country and what impact they had on the development of Ulyanovsk. Guests in the city will appreciate the contrast between the architectural appearance of pre-revolutionary Simbirsk in the well-preserved historic quarter, and the monumental structures erected to mark the centenary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin. **TLR**

## GETTING THERE



### How to get there

From Moscow to Ulyanovsk, tourists can choose between a comfortable night train with a journey time of 14 hours, or a 1.5-hour flight. The flight St. Petersburg-Ulyanovsk takes 2 hours. The distance between Kazan and Ulyanovsk is 210 km, which is approximately a 3-hour drive.



### Where to stay

For those that appreciate luxury, there is the five-star "Imperial ClubDeluxe" hotel, which is located next to an aqua park. If you want to stay in the very centre, we can recommend the four-star "Hilton

Garden Inn" or "Barcelona". A bit more modest, but no less comfortable are the Volga, Venets, Rakurs, Art-Ulyanovsk, and Regatta hotels.



### Where to eat

The Ulyanovsk region offers a variety of cuisine to suit all tastes. To imagine yourself as a resident of old Simbirsk, dine at the Russian restaurant "Oblomov", its interior created on the basis of Goncharov's novel of the same name. A pleasantly surprising restaurant is "Phoenix", which has a statue of Mao Zedong at the entrance and serves Asian cuisine. For lovers of

modern Russian cuisine, we can recommend the restaurant MATRÉSHKI with its national flavour and dishes created from natural farm products.



### What to buy

Choosing souvenirs from Ulyanovsk is simple: there are all sorts of items with Soviet symbols, ranging from old Soviet badges and stamps, to modern magnets and original postcards. If you want something original, look for jewellery made from the local stone simbirscite, also known as "Volga River Amber", which has a history of more than 200 million years.





The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity St. Sergius Lavra.

TEXT: ANNA MAKAROVA, ANASTASIA POBLOTOVA

# Five Jewels Close to Moscow

MORE THAN 6,000 CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE CITIES AND TOWNS AROUND THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL. THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHERE TO GO.

THE MOST POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF THE MOSCOW REGION ARE SERGIYEV POSAD, KOLOMNA, ISTRA, KLIN AND DMITROV.



At the "Yolochka" factory, Klin.

These cities, with their very different characters, can be visited for a day trip by car or train. All you have to do is to choose the most interesting route.

## The Town of St. Sergius

Sergiyev Posad is perhaps the main pilgrimage centre of Russia. The city grew around the monastery that was founded in 1342 by St. Sergius of Radonezh, the most revered saint of the Russian Orthodox Church. The monastery is called the Holy Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius and reports directly to His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

In the 16th century, the monastery built stone walls and watchtowers, which in the Time of Troubles withstood a months-long siege by Polish-Lithuanian troops. A relic of that heroic defence is preserved in the oldest church of the Lavra, the Trinity Cathedral. In the door of the southern porch there is a hole made by an enemy cannon ball. However, pilgrims come here not for the sake of contemplating the damaged door, but to worship the relics of St. Sergius. The iconostasis of the cathedral was created by Andrei Rublev, and it was for this that his famous "Trinity" icon was painted, which is now kept in



An Excursion in Sergiyev-Posad.



The Museum of Peasant Life in Sergiyev-Posad.



A magnificent view from the banks of the Konchur River.



## The Legend of the Horseshoe

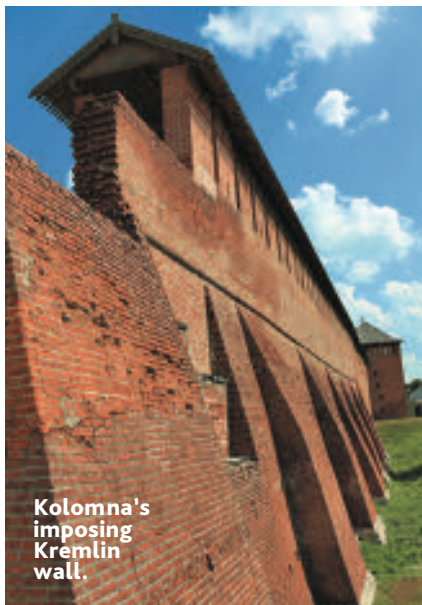
The small town of Dmitrov was founded in 1154 by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky, who is also considered the founder of the Russian capital. The prince named the new fortress after his son Dmitry. Legend says that Yuri chose the place for the city when his horse stumbled over a stone and broke a horseshoe.

Sceptics are shown a large stone on the territory of the Kremlin – supposedly the very same one. But the main historical monument is the Kremlin itself, surrounded by an earthen rampart – man-made witness to the medieval history of Dmitrov. You can walk along the ramparts and admire the ancient Assumption Cathedral, the Church of Elizabeth the Righteous, the buildings of the Presence and the Noble Assembly located inside. To the east of the Kremlin there is a modern building housing a museum with an extensive exhibition devoted to the history, way of life and culture of the inhabitants of the region.

Patriarchal Dmitrov in 1918 became a shelter for the famous ideologue of Russian anarchism – Prince Pyotr Kropotkin. This revolutionary spent three years in the modest home of his friend, Count Olsufiev, on Nobles' Street.

The Kropotkin House-Museum stands out among the modern buildings. It is worth taking a stroll along the pedestrian Kropotkinskaya Street, decorated with sculptures depicting the inhabitants of the old city: a school teacher, a pilgrim in bast shoes, and a gardener in the company of a well-fed cat. On this street, the gallery "A Tourist Dream" can be found. It is not only a souvenir shop, but also a... frog museum. Local residents claim that the "croaker" did not become a symbol of the city by accident: the location here was always marshy, and there were plenty of frogs. →

*The small town of Dmitrov was founded by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky, who is also considered the founder of the Russian capital. He named the new fortress after his son Dmitry.*



Kolomna's imposing Kremlin wall.

the Tretyakov Gallery (a copy of this masterpiece of icon painting is kept in the Trinity Church).

Gradually around the monastery a *posad* – a settlement of artisans – developed. Near Kelar Pond is the Toy Museum: craftsmen from surrounding villages have been famous for their carved wooden toys for decades. The "Horse Yard" near the White Pond under the walls of the Lavra is also interesting. In the ancient building of the monastic stables, exhibits about the past of the monastery and about the life of the Russian village are now housed. There is also an excellent collection of Russian dolls.

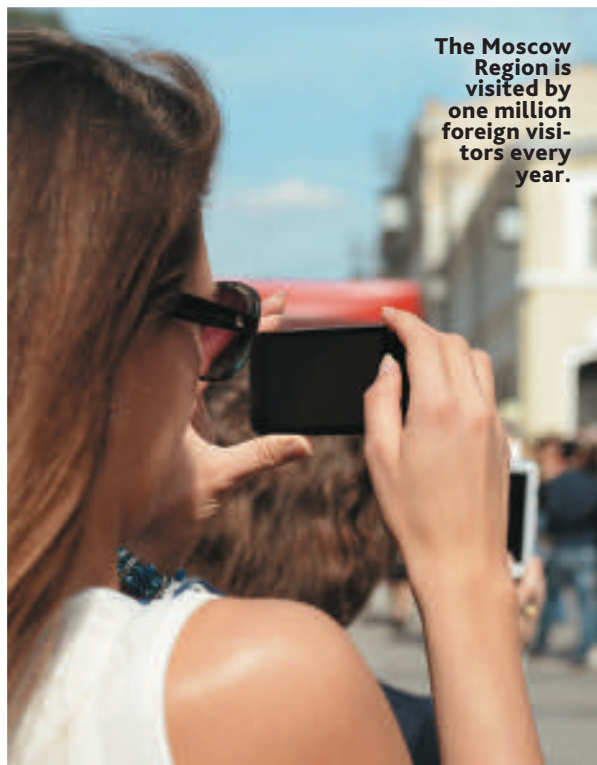
The architectural ensemble of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



The Tchaikovsky House-Museum, Klin.



## ROUTES **Moscow Region**



**The Moscow Region is visited by one million foreign visitors every year.**

inhabited by artists, whose works are exhibited there in the gallery.

### **The Musical feeling of Klin**

Klin is a venerable 700-year-old town. The main tourist attraction is the house of the great composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky. The composer of “Swan Lake” and “The Nutcracker” lived in Klin for almost 10 years, including his final two, and that was sufficient for his manor house to become a museum attracting tourists from all over the world. The atmosphere in which the composer lived and worked is preserved in the house, and trees have been planted in the park by visitors – stars of the world of music. And, of course, music is played here constantly – both on the headphones of the audio-guide, and during musical evenings and concerts.



**The New Jerusalem Monastery of the Resurrection.**

### **Kolomna, severe and sweet**

Such contradictory epithets describe well the character of Kolomna. The severity of this city on the southern borders of the medieval Moscow principality can be seen in the Kremlin, built in the 16th century. Fragments of the wall and seven towers give visitors an idea of the defensive power of the ancient fortress. Inside the Kremlin there are several churches, including the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin, and two monasteries – the Assumption of Brusensk and the Novo-Golutvinsky.

The sweetness can be tasted in the pastilles (traditional Russian fruit confectionaries), which have long been produced in Kolomna. The lost technology of this dessert production was restored by the founders of the Museum of Forgotten Taste “Kolomenskaya Pastila”. On the merchants’ estate guests learn about the history and recipes of pastilles, and you can try different varieties. You can also visit the museum factory, delving into all the details of the production process in the company of actors performing the role of confectioners.

Theatrical museum programmes are also available in English. Pastilles are not the only interesting tastes to discover in Kolomna – in the bakery at Pyatnitsky Gate there is the “Kalachnaya” museum, where secrets of traditional baking are revealed.

It is worth dropping in there, if only for the sake of buying and trying fresh rolls. The museum “Artkom-munalka” is devoted to times closer to the present day in Kolomna. It recreates the atmosphere of the Soviet communal apartment – in the kitchen, for example, there are traditional dishes from the 1960s, and in the courtyard you can play board games. But the communal apartment also refers to the stories of Soviet dissidents, as this art-residence is continually

***The sweetness can be tasted in the pastilles (traditional Russian fruit confectionery), which have long been produced in Kolomna.***



**You can buy jewellery in the Sergiyev-Posad market.**





The Dmitry Donskoi Monument, Kolomna.



The Kolomna Kremlin Chapel.

The magical measures of “The Nutcracker” waltz are also remembered on the territory of the exhibition complex “Klinskoe Podvorye”. Here, at the “Christmas Tree” factory, which produces Christmas decorations, is the Museum of the Christmas Tree.

The museum shows the whole history of Russian Christmas and New Year traditions: you can watch craftsmen creating toys, and an entire room is dedicated to the topic of “The Nutcracker”. The central square of the city is decorated with a very picturesque shopping arcade of red brick, next to which is the baroque Church of the Resurrection of Christ, and nearby you can visit the most ancient church of the city, the Assumption Cathedral.

## Russian Holy Land

Istra became a town more than two centuries ago – before that it was the village of “Resurrection” (from 1781-1929 it was called Voskresensk, before being renamed Istra in 1930). The settlement owes its glory to the patriarch Nikon, who led the Russian Church in the middle of the 17th century. Nikon was an active builder of monasteries, and in this village near Moscow he planned to create a topographic and architectural copy of the Holy Land, the centre of which was to become a monastery, called New Jerusalem. The River Istra was renamed the Jordan, the surrounding hills also borrowed names from the Holy Land, and the Resurrection Cathedral of the monastery was built on the model of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. How similar the architecture of the Resurrection Cathedral of the New Jerusalem Monastery is to the original, is for those who have been to Israel to judge. On the opposite bank of the Istra (Jordan) there is the modern building of the museum-exhibition complex “New Jerusalem”. One of the largest and oldest regional museums, it holds widely popular collections of historical, ethnographic and artistic artefacts. In the park area, located outside the walls of the New Jerusalem Monastery, there is an Exhibition Hall with thematic exhibitions, and the Department of Wooden Architecture. The farmstead with a house, a chapel and a mill represent the past historical appearance of life in the Moscow region. A visit to this complex is a good opportunity to summarize your impressions of trips to the outskirts of the capital.

Visitors who want to visit these interesting cities and learn more about them can relax in very comfortable accommodation options. **TLR**

To organize your trip, go to: [welcome.mosreg.ru](http://welcome.mosreg.ru)

## The Moscow Region includes:

**1594** Orthodox churches and ancient monasteries

**381** military monuments

**320** historical mansions and estates of different styles

**164** modern equestrian sports clubs

**154** beaches for swimming and relaxing

**130** fascinating and diverse museums

**82** magnificent parks for walks and relaxation

**32** ski resorts with different routes

**23** folk arts and crafts

**7** aeroclubs for amateurs and professionals



# A Gateway to Russia's Illustrious Past

SITUATED IN THE CENTRE OF ST. PETERSBURG, THE ICONIC BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE IS A SHORT WALK FROM THE CITY'S MOST FAMOUS SIGHTS. THE HOTEL'S HISTORICAL HERITAGE, MODERN COMFORT OF ROOMS, AND EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE MAKES IT A PERFECT PLACE TO STAY WHILE VISITING THE CITY.

TEXT: VLADIMIR SERGACHEV

**G**rand Hotel Europe was designed in conjunction with Italian architect Rossi, and opened in 1875. It is famous not only for being the first Russian five-star hotel, but also for hosting members of royal dynasties and famous people, such as the famous Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Bernard Shaw. This distinguished hotel constantly honours the traditions of the past, making it the destination of choice for luxury travellers.

For those seeking privacy and comfort, the hotel offers 10 magnificent luxury apartments that overlook the Arts Square. It was a true challenge for Michele Jouannet, a French designer, to restore each room to its former glory. But the results speak for themselves. The apartments reflect the distinctive historic character of the building, and each room, given its own unique name, features elements of a certain historical era. Materials used in decoration vary from Italian marble to Karelian birch. Every detail is infused with the essence of elegance and comfort. Guests not only feel welcomed, but also develop a holistic appreciation of the connection between their suite's name, décor and grand epochs of the city's history.

At the "top" of the historic wing of Belmond Grand Hotel Europe is a 350 sq.m Presidential suite that overlooks Nevsky Prospect. The largest and most spacious suite boasts the sparkling luxury of Chinoiserie decorative elements, a music room featuring an antique Carl Schröder grand piano, a private study, library, fitness center, sauna and a separate room for staff. These elements are seamlessly melded together, making the Presidential suite a highly desirable option for the most discerning of clients.

In 2014, the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe surprised its guests by moving away from the Art Nouveau heritage for the first time in its 140-year history, redecorating an entire wing in

the Russian avant-garde style. Under the supervision of Adam Tihany, 19 rooms of the Historic floor were turned into six luxury suites equipped with a smart home intelligent control system. Each of the avant-garde suites is one of a kind: The Malevich suite features angular shapes and straight lines. The Archipenko suite distinguishes itself through warm tones and rounded lines. The largest of the Grand Hotel Europe avant-garde suites (170 sq.m), named after Wassily Kandinsky, amazes with its range of colours and interaction between lines and shapes.

It goes without saying that the hotel's culinary symphony has always been just as delightful as everything else. If restaurants, cafés and bars can be compared to a great orchestra, then Europa restaurant is its star soloist. It can be



The signature "Egg in Egg" dish has been served in the «Caviar Bar» for 20 years.



Tchaikovsky Nights with ballet performances take place every Friday.



Caviar masterclasses are conducted weekly.



Terrace rooms overlook the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood.



Historic Krysha ballroom is perfect for gala dinner dances.



The Kandinsky suite is the most spacious of all the avant-garde suites.

## HOTELS St. Petersburg

compared to the exclusive grand piano Steinway & Sons, and is impeccable in both style and quality. Everywhere you look, you see genuine artworks, which lends a certain prestige to the restaurant. It is not just a place to quell hunger, but to satisfy the soul, feel the music of notes, interiors and cuisine...

Named after one of Russia's most famous products, the "Caviar Bar" stands out among other restaurants with its splendid interiors, where one can have a royal meal with iced vodka and pancakes with caviar. The wine menu includes 50 kinds of vodka, but what makes this bar truly different is its signature dish "Egg in Egg" – truffle-infused scrambled egg, topped with sturgeon caviar enclosed in a shell, and served with a shot glass elegantly filled with sea salt.

Can you feel your mouth watering? It's no wonder that those who have tried this delicacy ask to have it served in an ostrich egg...

After extensive renovation, the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe opened its iconic Krysha ballroom. It was first designed by Fyodor Lidval in 1909 and renovated by Robert Angell Design International, the London-based design studio, with a great regard to the historical legacy of the hotel. As if soaring over St. Petersburg, the Ballroom remains a site of pilgrimage for high society. **TLR**

*For those seeking privacy and comfort, the hotel offers 10 magnificent luxury apartments that overlook the Arts Square. It was a true challenge for Michele Jouannet, a French designer, to restore each room to its former glory. But the results speak for themselves.*



The golden-domed music room of the Presidential suite.



The historic Romanov suite features antique furniture from the hotel's collection.

[belmond.com/grandhoteleurope](http://belmond.com/grandhoteleurope)





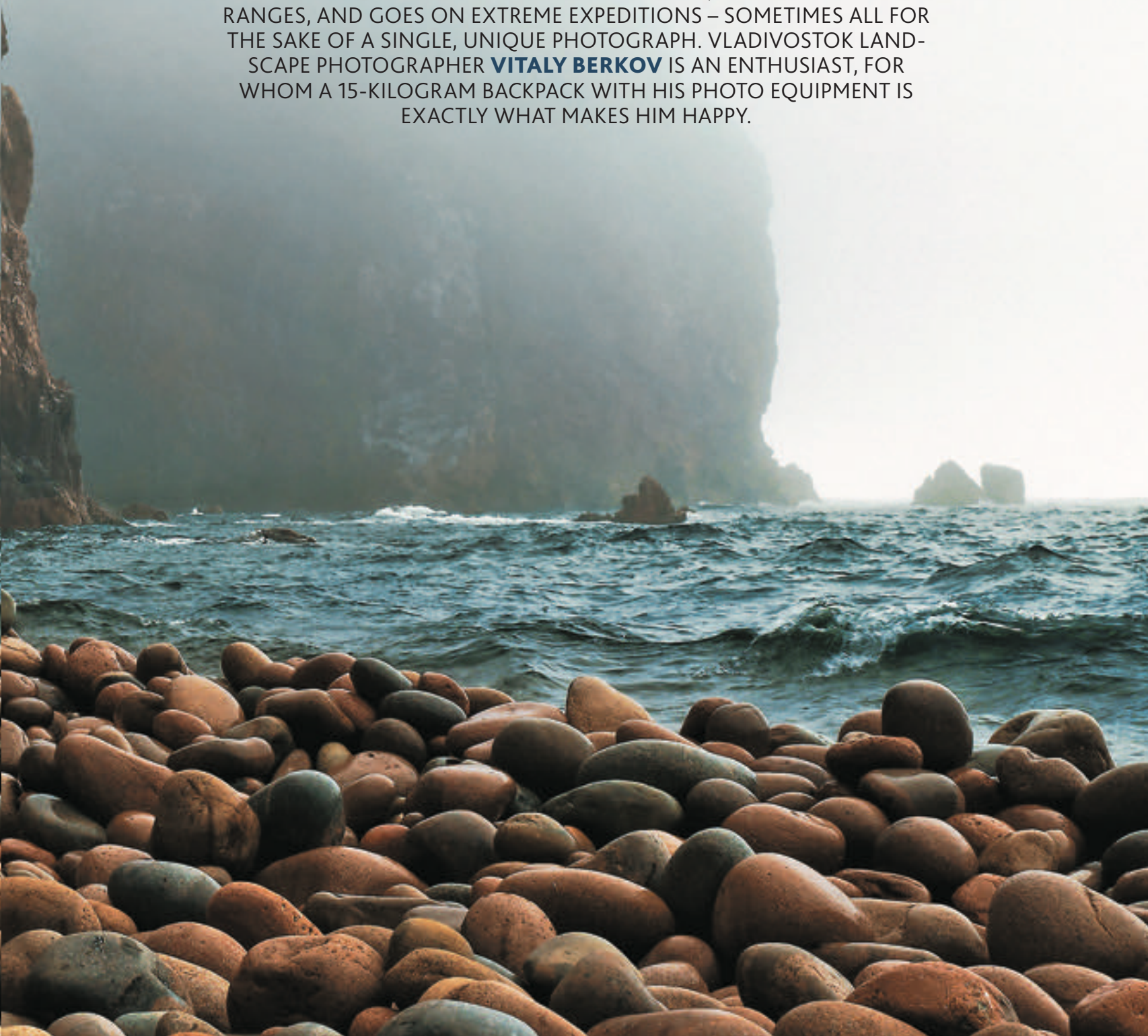
The bay of red pebbles on Russky Island is a quiet refuge for the city romantics of Primorye.



# THE BAY

## of Red Pebbles

**HE CLIMBS THE HIGHEST PEAKS** IN PRIMORYE, CROSSES MOUNTAIN RANGES, AND GOES ON EXTREME EXPEDITIONS – SOMETIMES ALL FOR THE SAKE OF A SINGLE, UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPH. VLADIVOSTOK LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER **VITALY BERKOV** IS AN ENTHUSIAST, FOR WHOM A 15-KILOGRAM BACKPACK WITH HIS PHOTO EQUIPMENT IS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES HIM HAPPY.





Berkov climbs the highest peaks in Primorye, crosses mountain ranges, and goes on extreme expeditions – sometimes all for the sake of a single, unique photograph.



## VITALY BERKOV

is a photographer and traveller who catches the beauty of Primorsky Territory in his works. He was born and raised in Vladivostok, and has taken part in and been a finalist in exhibitions such as “The Most Beautiful Country”, “Primordial Russia”, “Wild Nature of Russia”, and was the winner of the “Look at Vladivostok” project, and photo competitions like BBC Wildlife Photographer, “Travel at Home”, “Epson Colour Planet”, “Far Eastern Heritage”, Lucida Art and many others.

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The Elamovsky  
waterfalls are not  
easy to reach, but  
nothing stops the  
most determined  
photographer  
of Primorsky  
Territory.













# Incredible Adventures

Photo by Geizer (iStock) The Far East amazes with its vast territory, riches of nature, endless forests and deep rivers. You can see the Northern Lights and active volcanoes; you can climb mountains, swim in the ocean, and photograph whales.

Eruption of  
Tolbachik  
Volcano on  
Kamchatka.  
An observer  
photo-  
graphs the  
lava lake in  
the volcano  
crater.



# THE BRIGHT COLOURS OF PRIMORYE

TEXT: **SERGEI GRAMMATIKOV**

THE WARM SEA, HIGH MOUNTAINS, UNIQUE SITES OF NATURE, MODERN HEALTH RESORTS, NATURE RESERVES AND NATIONAL PARKS ALL COME TOGETHER IN THE FAR EAST REGION. THERE IS SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM!

**S**portsmen, eco-tourists, professional photographers and hunters all come to visit the Primorsky Territory. "Tourism & Leisure in Russia" discovers some of the best reasons to make the journey.

## 10 Reasons to Visit the Primorsky Territory

**Visit the amazing lighthouse on Cape Gamow** – lighthouse "number one" in Russia! Situated on the southernmost part of the region, the Gamow Lighthouse continues to function as a navigational reference point and guide for passing ships.

**Take a boat ride in the Far Eastern Marine Nature Reserve** – with its uninhabited islands and seal breeding-ground. The boat trip takes visitors to picturesque islands and bays, with the chance of a sighting of a variety of whales, including small minke whales and killer whales, as well as dolphins.

**Fly by helicopter over the mystical Pidán Mountain** – or climb it on foot!

Many legends surround the mountain, supported by the presence of indisputable evidence that ancient civilizations with a rich culture once lived there.

**Conquer the snowy peaks of the ski resorts of Primorye and ski down their slopes.** The natural relief of the geography of Primorsky Territory has given rise to many mountains and hills, some with ski slopes.

**Learn about graceful wild cats** by visiting the national parks "Land of the Leopard" and "Call of the Tiger" and the nearby Safari Park.

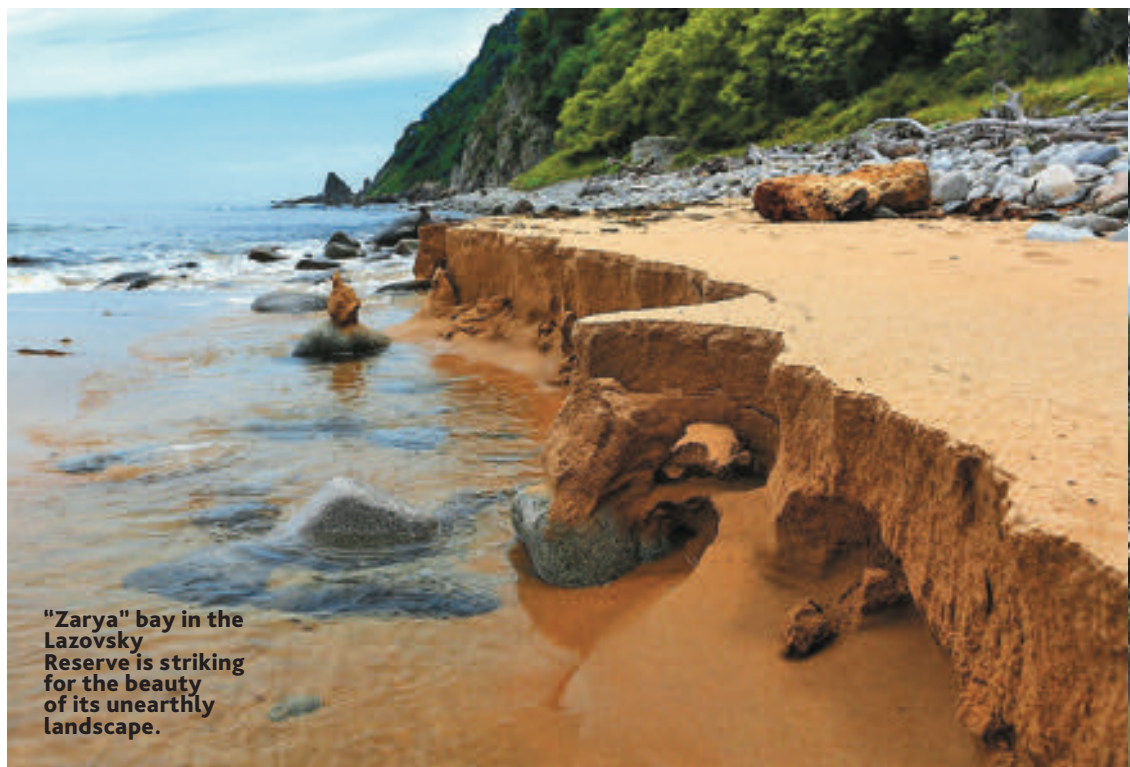
The Amur tiger is a wild cat that lives in the taiga of Primorsky Territory, where the tiger is considered a sacred beast. Visitors to Vladivostok can take part in a "tiger quest" and "capture" all the sculptures of cats in the city on their cameras.

**Visit Petrov Island** and see the only island yew grove in the world!

This island is located in a small and protected area of the Sea of Japan.



The white-tailed eagle is one of the rare species of birds that live in Primorye.



"Zarya" bay in the Lazovsky Reserve is striking for the beauty of its unearthly landscape.



If dragons exist, they can be found here, in the Dragon Park of the Lazovsky Reserve.

*Many legends surround the mountain, supported by the presence of indisputable evidence that ancient civilizations with a rich culture once lived there.*

Those who have had a privilege of visiting the island leave with a lifetime of memories of this paradise.

**“Plunge into history” at the Paleovillage**, which features dwellings dating back to the Stone Age and the Middle Ages.

The original open-air museum showcases the archaeological, historical and cultural heritage of Primorye.

**Visit the largest Oceanarium in the Far East!** At Primorsky Oceanarium, visitors encounter impressive visual displays which capture the birth of the universe, the evolution of life in the Ocean, and the present-day variety of

wildlife in the fresh and marine waters of our planet.

**Drink medicinal water from the “Sikhote-Alin” mountain ridge spring**, which is featured on the list of protected UNESCO sites.

The protected areas of Sikhote-Alin attract tourists who want to experience the greatness of nature. Some peaks of the mountain range rise to more than 2,000 meters, and one of Russia’s largest rivers, Amur, flows through them.

**Take a gastronomic tour and try specialties of Far Eastern cuisine.**

This Pacific region has produced a variety of taiga and sea species of flora and fauna that have an unusually →

Whales, killer whales and dolphins swim in the waters of the Far Eastern Marine Nature Reserve.



high concentration of biologically active substances. Crab, sea cucumber, scallop, red fish, fern and lemongrass are just some of the culinary options to try while visiting Primorye.

## Interesting events in Vladivostok

### **Festival V-ROX (Vladivostok Rocks)**

A major music festival and international music industry and cultural management conference has been held in Vladivostok every August since 2013.

### **D1 Asia Pacific PRIMRING Grand Prix**

This international competition in drifting (a motoring discipline) featuring the best Russian and Asian drivers is traditionally held at the end of September in the popular tourist and recreational area of “Primorskoye Koltso”, a suburb of Vladivostok.

### **Tiger Day**

This holiday has taken place in Vladivostok annually in September for the past 18 years and has become a



The «Sikhote Alin» mountain ridge is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

*On the route known as “The Fire Tiger” tourists first visit the “owner” of the Ussuri taiga, the Amur tiger, then they experience all the power of fire on the Kamchatka peninsula with its exceptional wildlife attractions.*

tradition where residents and visitors dress in tiger “suits” for one day and participate in a festival parade.

### **“Bridges of Vladivostok” Marathon**

This impressive race brings runners from all over the world together with thousands of Primorye residents who take to the streets of the city and turn the route into what can best be described as a “living corridor”.

### **Far Eastern Festival “Mariinsky”**

This International Music Festival has expanded annually, and in 2017 concerts were given not only on the main stage, the Primorye Stage of the Maritime Theatre, but also in other cities of the region. Festival-goers can enjoy masterpieces of classical and modern music.

## Shared routes

“The Eastern Ring of Russia” is a single brand that demonstrates the diverse tourist potential of Far East regions and Transbaikalia. It was first presented at the second Pacific Tourist Forum in Vladivostok in 2016. The regions united into this ring can stimulate the development of domestic and international tourism in the Far East and the Baikal region of Russia.

Of particular interest to tourists are UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Lake Baikal, Kamchatka volcanoes, Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve, Lena Pillars Nature Park, and Wrangel Island. The starting point for a tour of the “Eastern Ring” is the city of Vladivostok. That is where your journey through this vast territory begins – there are many discoveries to be made that will leave visitors with unforgettable memories.

A variety of inter-regional routes have also been created for tourists. A joint project has been developed between Primorye and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) called the “Tiger Diamond”. Visitors are able to experience a variety of locations in both regions over tours of 9-12 days. In Primorsky Territory, there are natural attractions related to the Amur tiger and the hotel complex “Tigre de Crystal”. Yakutia offers an exhibition of diamonds and “Lena Pillars” for visitors to experience. This tour is well-established and very popular with foreign tourists.

Another inter-regional route, “Legends of the Pacific”, unites Primorsky Territory and

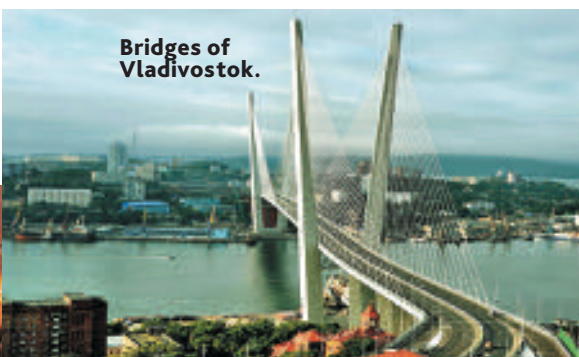


The basis for much Far Eastern cuisine is seafood.





Tourists can follow the path of the Far Eastern leopard.



Bridges of Vladivostok.



The international competition drifting.



Festival V-ROX.



Vladivostok Free Port.



Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Tourists are able to see the “seaside home” of the Far Eastern leopard, visit the casino, spend an evening in the Mariinsky, and become acquainted with one of the most beautiful places in Sakhalin, located on the south coast of the island.

The Primorsky Territory and Kamchatka have joined together for the inter-regional route known as “The Fire Tiger”. Usually tourists first visit the “owner” of Ussuri taiga, Amur tiger, then they experience all the power of fire on Kamchatka peninsula with its exceptional wildlife attractions.

### Vladivostok Free Port

Free-port regime extends to Vladivostok and 15 municipalities within the Primorsky Territory. Free Port of Vladivostok includes all the key ports of southern Far East, from Zarubino to Nakhodka and the Knevichi airport. In 2016, an edict of Russian President Vladimir Putin extended the free-port regime to the key harbours of Far East: Khabarovsk Territory, Sakhalin Region, Kamchatka Territory, Chukotka Autonomous District, and Primorsky Territory.

The application process for those wishing to visit the Vladivostok Free Port is extremely simple: apply for an electronic visa at least four days prior to your planned visit. For more information, please visit [evisa.kdmid.ru](http://evisa.kdmid.ru).

This new policy is important not only for Primorsky Territory, but for the whole country. Primorsky Territory is the first to accept foreigners in this manner, and Chinese and Japanese visitors are especially attracted there. In addition to these two countries, Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei, India, Iran, Qatar, DPRK, Kuwait, Morocco, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tunisia and Turkey are included in the list of countries whose citizens can apply for an electronic visa.

At the moment, according to this new procedure, visitors are able to enter Russia via two points in Primorye: seaport entry point in Vladivostok and one located at Knevichi airport. **TLR**

[tour.primorsky.ru/en](http://tour.primorsky.ru/en)  
Facebook @clubprimtravel  
Instagram @visit.primorye  
#visitprimorye

### PRIMORSKY TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The information centre provides consultations and information about objects of cultural legacy, nature sightseeing, tourist routes, transport services, accommodations, cultural and sport events in Vladivostok and Primorsky Territory. The Tourist information centre managers provide information to foreign tourists in English and Chinese languages. As well as providing information, the centre has the goal of promoting the Primorsky Territory on inbound and outbound tourists markets. It includes different kinds of events: organizing forums, round tables, seminars, expos, presentations; providing help in preparing projects for inbound tourism popularization; forming positive look and acknowledgment of Primorsky territory.

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Tel. +7 (423) 240-71-21

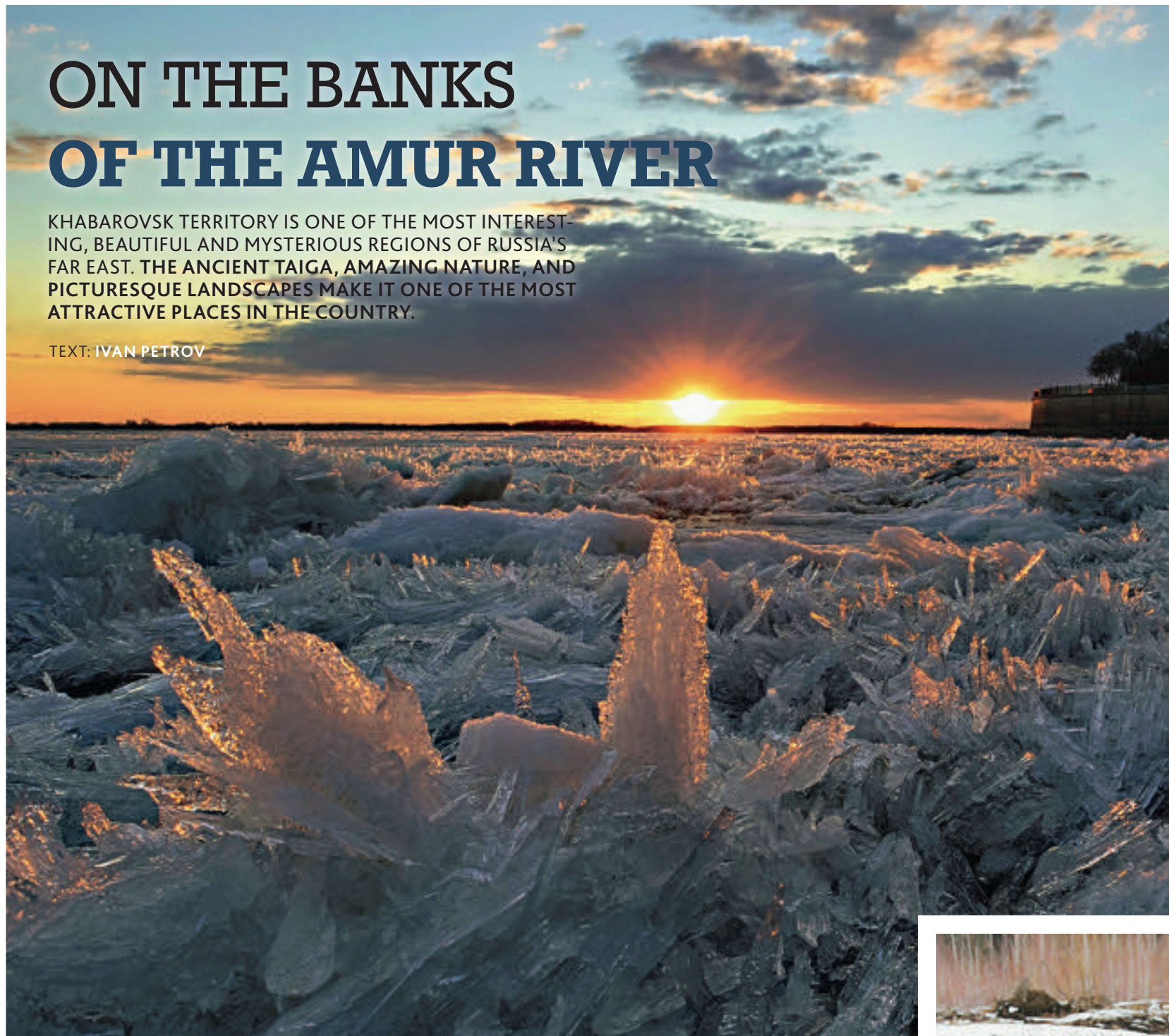
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# ON THE BANKS OF THE AMUR RIVER

KHABAROVSK TERRITORY IS ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING, BEAUTIFUL AND MYSTERIOUS REGIONS OF RUSSIA'S FAR EAST. THE ANCIENT TAIGA, AMAZING NATURE, AND PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES MAKE IT ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE PLACES IN THE COUNTRY.

TEXT: IVAN PETROV



**K**habarovsk Territory is one of the largest regions of Russia – three times the size, for comparison, of Great Britain. For neighbouring countries of Northeast Asia, such as the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, the region is considered “Near Europe”, interesting for its nature, cultural heritage, architecture, traditions and local cuisine.

The Amur River, one of the world's ten longest rivers and the main channel of Russia's Far East, flows through the Khabarovsk Territory. The Amur River fish fauna is second to none, with about 130 different species of fish. By taking a boat, you can see the unique Far Eastern landscapes, and become acquainted with the history, culture and traditions of the indigenous peoples which inhabit the river's

banks. You can take a short trip for a few hours or a full cruise for up to 10 days visiting the largest cities, Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-on-Amur and Nikolayevsk-on-Amur.

Lovers of antiquity are sure to be interested in Neolithic settlements in the area of the villages of Voznesenskoye and Mariinskoye, medieval settlements near the villages of Achan and Troitskoye, and the famous Tyrsky cliff where in the 15th century the Manchurian temple and stone pillars were located.

Seventy km from the city of Khabarovsk, along the right bank of the Amur River, near the villages of Sikachi-Alyan and Malyshevo, there is a unique archaeological monument, “Petroglyphs of Sikachi-Alyan”. Images of masks, animals, birds, snakes, boats, dimples and concentric circles are carved on basalt rocks. The images date from the Mesolithic and





## HOLIDAYS **Khabarovsk Territory**

**One of the world's great rivers, the Amur, runs through Khabarovsk Territory.**

**In the region's rivers and lakes fish are plentiful - so fishing will be unforgettable.**

**The indigenous peoples of the Amur Region have preserved their distinctive culture and local cuisine.**

Neolithic eras, the early Iron Age and early Middle Ages and date back to the 12th millennium BC-the first half of the 1st millennium AD. Currently, about 435 images on 120 decorated rocks and rocky outcrops are preserved.

The indigenous peoples of the Amur Region such as the Nanais, Ulchi, Udege, Negidal, Nivkhi, Orochi, Evenkis and Evens who have preserved their distinctive culture and peculiarities of local cuisine are guides to this world of ancient traditions and customs. In the villages of Sikachi-Alyan and Nizhnyaya Manoma, guests are invited to participate in fishing, and then in cooking the Far East fish starter *tala*, ukha fish soup and grilled fish according to traditional recipes.

In addition, tourists are offered a variety of gastronomic programmes such as tasting tea from a



***The Amur River marine fauna is second to none, with about 130 different species of fish. By taking a boat trip, you can see unique Far Eastern landscapes.***

samovar, and trying homemade cookies, rolls with various fillings, classic Russian pies and home-made pickles. Visitors are also treated to home-brew with aromatic appetizers, juicy meat steaks and Bavarian sausages, as well as salmon and halibut steaks baked with herbs and olive oil. Guests are especially delighted by master classes on making pelmeni and vareniki in which everyone can cook and taste these traditional dishes of Russian cuisine.

The major part of Khabarovsk Territory is occupied by plateaus and mountain ranges. Lovers of adventure, fishing and outdoor activities will enjoy rafting the many mountain rivers. The rivers and lakes are rich in fish including the Amur sturgeon, the largest freshwater fish that can reach a weight of 1,000 kilograms. On fishing trips on the River Uda flowing into →





the Sea of Okhotsk, every year travellers get to catch trophy taimen of giant sizes – from 40 to 90 kilograms, lenok, grayling, char, white-spotted char, masu salmon and coho salmon fishing is also popular.

Also, tourists are offered combined tours with a visit to the Dusse-Alin mountain range. This area is amazingly beautiful and has many interesting natural sites. Since the area is quite hard to reach, the tour has been named “The Lost World”. All those who visit this kingdom of rocks, lakes and waterfalls will leave with great memories for many years to come.

Another wonderful place is the Shantar Islands. Everything is fascinating and unusual there: a variety of capes and kekur rock formations, quaint rocks and mysterious caves, the crystal clear water of streams and rivers, waterfalls, tides, and great hunting grounds for lovers of fishing, berrying and picking mushrooms. On the islands, brown bears roam along the coast, you can hear the chorus of many different breeds of birds, and predatory killer whales chase seals. The pristine nature of the islands has been preserved due to their inaccessibility. Their coastal waters are clear of ice only for two or three months a year. In summer, bright greenery and a huge number of flowers of different colours blossom along the shore. In this part of the Sea of Okhotsk, bowhead whales feel at ease. In the bay

*Near the villages of Sikachi-Alyan and Malyshevo, there is a unique archaeological monument “Petroglyphs of Sikachi-Alyan” with images of animals, birds, snakes and boats.*



**The difficulty of reaching the Shantar Islands has meant that their pristine nature has been preserved.**

**The “Petroglyphs of Sikachi-Alyan” date from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, early Iron Age and early Middle Ages.**





**In the bay of Ongachan, whales can be seen only a few meters from the shore.**

**Try fresh Far Eastern caviar in the Khabarovsk Territory – it's in great demand.**

of Ongachan you can observe them just a few meters from the shore.

Khabarovsk, the capital of the area, is the main transport hub of the region. The main air, rail, water routes and highways connecting the region with Russian cities as well as many foreign countries intersect here. There are daily scheduled flights from Moscow, the flight taking about 8 hours. Flights from Novosibirsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Vladivostok to Khabarovsk also operate.

Regular air communication links Khabarovsk with Beijing, Harbin, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Niigata, Seoul, Yagnian. Charter flights to Bangkok, Nha Trang and other destinations also operate.

Two main railway lines pass through the territory of the region: the Trans-Siberian and Baikal-Amur. You

can take an unforgettable seven-day trip across Russia going from Moscow to Khabarovsk along the Trans-Siberian Railway, the main railway link of the country.

You can also admire the majestic panorama of the capital of the region by taking a fascinating boat trip along the Amur River. Khabarovsk has the leading museums of the Far East, their collections containing unique exhibits from the fields of ethnography, fine arts, archaeology, history, literature, culture and other spheres. The largest and oldest theatres of the region – the Regional Music Theater turned 90 in 2016 – perform here, and there are exhibitions where you can learn about the history and culture of the region. We also strongly recommend you to walk along the river embankment, climb a cliff and admire the open landscapes of the mighty and majestic river.

An hour's drive from the regional capital is one of the largest tourist complexes, "Zaimka", which serves as a link in the network of river routes in the territory of the region.

The second largest city of the region, the "city of Youth" Komsomolsk-on-Amur was founded in 1932. Until 1993, this large industrial centre was closed to foreigners. Today, tours are offered there with a visit to the Sukhoi Aircraft Plant where the Su-35 multipurpose fighter, the fifth-generation fighter of the T-50, and the regional passenger plane "Sukhoi Superjet 100" are produced.

In this region, winter is high tourist season. During this period, you can take a ski trip and climb to the summits of Sikhote-Alin, as well as the extremely picturesque spurs of Miao-Chan. Lovers of active entertainment are invited to the ski resorts "Kholdomi" and "Amut Snow Lake" where all conditions for winter recreation and skiing on natural snow from November to May inclusive are created.

Travelling around Khabarovsk Territory will leave you with many great impressions. **TLR**

*Information and photos provided by the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Culture of Khabarovsk Territory*





Traditionally Yakut jewellery is made of silver.

**D**espite its severe climate Yakutia has always been a hospitable land with unique traditions. Here we describe the main festival events of the Republic of Sakha, and visit the major sights that represent the main “brand” of Yakutia.

### Treasury of Yakutia

Yakutia is famous for its buried riches: it's the only region in the world where almost all the elements of the periodic table are mined. Just the deposits that have been explored are estimated at a value of around US \$5 trillion. These are enormous, almost unimaginable riches. But if you want to try to imagine them, visit the Treasury of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). In its halls there are hundreds of precious stones, gold bars, gold dust, and priceless handmade jewellery. Nuggets sparkle like crystal balls, gold and platinum seem unreal, and diamonds the size of walnut are blinding.



Tasty Yakut cuisine and dishes.

## Marvels of Yakutia

IMMERSE IN THE BRIGHT AND UNUSUAL WORLD OF **ONE OF THE MOST MYSTERIOUS REGIONS OF RUSSIA – THE REPUBLIC OF SAKHA (YAKUTIA)**. TAKE PART IN THE ETHNIC RITES OF THE SAKHA PEOPLE, ENJOY THE TASTE OF THEIR NATIONAL CUISINE, EXPERIENCE THE THIN LINE BETWEEN SEVERE FROSTS AND A HOT YAKUTIAN SUMMER, TRAVEL A MILLION YEARS BACK IN TIME AND FEEL YOURSELF A PART OF THE UNIVERSE.



**Chromodiopside – Yakut Emerald.** A beautiful green precious stone only mined in Yakutia.





Lena Pillars  
Nature Park.  
UNESCO  
World Heritage  
Centre, miracle  
of Yakutia.

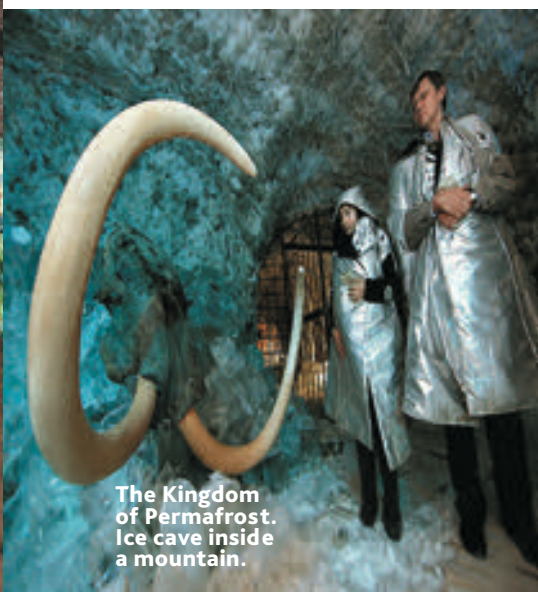
## Kingdom of Permafrost

The secret of all the riches of Yakutia is the permafrost, its space a depository of different natural resources. Permafrost is the main peculiarity characteristic of the nature of the North, and you can discover this natural phenomenon in the “Kingdom of Permafrost” complex, a giant glacier in the heart of a mountain. There are numerous ice sculptures, remains of ancient animals, an ice slide, and an Ice bar at the far end of the Kingdom, where you can taste slices of *stroganina*, slices of frozen fish or meat served cold, which is known as the best delicacy of Yakutia.

## Lena Pillars

The Lena Pillars Nature Park is the main beauty of the Lena river, a unique creation of nature that is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre miracle, which you can visit at any time of the year. The closer you get to the Pillars, the stranger they seem against the massive stone wall. Some of the formations recall ancient Gothic castles, while others look like rows of stone soldiers or elongated human faces. When the sun goes down, the shadows lengthen and start to move, creating an illusion of rock pillars in motion. There are plenty of legends about this place and one of them... is about love. This place is a memorial of love, faithfulness and courage: the Lena Pillars are nothing more nor less than a loving couple, and a dragon's castle under its spell. The evil beast wanted to marry the young man's beloved, but he took revenge and defeated the evil beast in a deadly fight. →

*Yakutia is famous for its buried riches: it's the only region in the world where almost all the elements of the periodic table are mined. Just the deposits that have been explored are estimated at a value of around US \$5 trillion.*



The Kingdom  
of Permafrost.  
Ice cave inside  
a mountain.

## Mammoth Museum

This is the world's only specialized scientific and cultural centre for research into mammoth fauna and habitat in the ice age. Remains of mammoths are unique prehistoric relics and part of the heritage of Yakutia. The permafrost layer has preserved thousands of unique specimens, so mammoth remains are often found there. At the museum you can learn how living cells of mammoth are found, and about their cloning which may make a new mammoth birth possible, even if the breed became extinct over 10,000 years ago.



Mammoth  
museum.  
The only  
Mammoth  
scientific  
centre in the  
world.



## REGION **Yakutia**



**Yakut traditional dishes.**

of the Sakha people. It showcases national colour and folklore: dancing and music, rituals and ceremonies, traditional costume and cuisine, special festival items, handicrafts and architecture, as well as the national philosophy. The “Yhyakh” National Holiday gives you a sense of unity with nature and harmony: everyone who enters the circle is filled with great energy for the whole year. Finally when you meet the sunrise, the soul is purified.

**Date:** June 23-24, 2018.

### **“Diamond Week of Yakutia” event tour**

A truly exciting journey that allows you to see and even participate in every stage of diamond processing, from mining to cutting. At the end you hold original Yakutia diamonds in your hands, and can buy them at a great price, since during the Diamond Week of



**Sinsky Pillars by the Sinyaya river.**

### **“Winter Starts from Yakutia” and “Taste of Yakutia” Festivals**

Winter frosts come first to Yakutia, the most northern part of Russia. As a symbol of the arrival of the “first winter” the First Russian New Year Tree is illuminated. The festival is shrouded in magic, which you can feel when visiting the “Kingdom of Permafrost”, meeting Chyskhaan the Lord of the Cold, or reindeer sledding, visiting the Yakut Laika kennel and its mushing school. Gourmet food at the Taste of Yakutia festival adds to the magical atmosphere. In addition to tasting the best dishes of the national cuisine, you can also take lessons in cooking Yakutia delicacies.

**Date:** December 1-4, 2017.

### **“Travel to the Pole of Cold” Festival**

The brightest and the most authentic winter festival includes the holiday of reindeer breeders, the ceremony of returning the Symbol of Cold to the Ice residence of Chyskhaan, the Lord of Cold, with exhibitions of work by national craftsmen, tasting national dishes, reindeer sledding tours, and fishing on the legendary Lake Labynkyr. The route from Yakutsk to Oymyakon, the Pole of Cold, runs through six regions of the Sakha Republic, thousands of kilometers along the Kolyma Highway. Take the chance to set a record by visiting the coldest place on earth, and even have a swim in the Indigirka river that never freezes.

**Date:** March 22-25, 2018.

### **“Yhyakh” National Holiday**

The “Yhyakh” National Holiday presents the unique spiritual riches of the Sakha people, symbolizing the celebration of the life and nature of Olonkho land. The long-awaited holiday reflects the traditional worldview

*The brightest and the most authentic winter festival includes the holiday of reindeer breeders, the ceremony of returning the Symbol of Cold to the Ice residence of Chyskhaan, the Lord of Cold.*



**Beautiful Northern Lights: You can admire their beauty mostly in spring and autumn.**





Treasury  
of Yakutia  
exhibition.

Yakutia there are 70% discounts in all the jewellery shops in Yakutsk, as well as an auction of the largest diamonds and exclusive diamond pieces of jewellery, the Diamond Ball and demonstrations of masterpieces of jewellery.

**Date:** September 3-9, 2018. **TLR**


*'Yakutia' National Tourist Information Centre*  
*visit-yakutia.com, ntic.yakutia@mail.ru,*  
*+7 (924) 765-11-25*



**Yhyakh Summer  
Festival.**







TEXT: OLGA POPLAVSKAYA  
PHOTOGRAPHS: PYOTR NIKITIN

# THE LAND OF BEARS

**PYOTR NIKITIN IS A PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER WHO HAS WORKED IN VARIOUS NATURE RESERVES. FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE, HE HAS BEEN TRAVELLING THROUGH THE MOST INTERESTING CORNERS OF THE PLANET. PYOTR RECENTLY WENT TO THE KRONOTSKY RESERVE AS A VOLUNTEER AND IS NOW TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE VOLCANOES OF KAMCHATKA, THE KURILE LAKE, GEYSERS AND BROWN BEARS, AND THE FOXES THAT COME RIGHT UP TO HIS HOUSE.**

**Y**ou can find volunteer jobs on the official websites of almost all the nature reserves in Russia. Volunteers are especially in demand during the holiday high seasons, from May to October. But to tell the truth, you won't earn a lot of money: the salary of a volunteer is very small. In some places, volunteers generally work for free board and lodging, and for the chance to take pictures of the local landscapes and animals. In return you spend time in a real natural paradise.

It turns out that it's those who are over 18, mainly men, who are admitted to this paradise. This "gender bias" can be explained quite simply: most of all you need strong arms to shovel away snow from the hiking trails, chop firewood, and even build helipads.

Every year more than 100 people, including foreigners, take part in the volunteer programme of the Kronotsky Reserve in Kamchatka. Many people return there from year to year, and some of them become permanent members of the crew. For example, three former volunteers are now working in the reserve guard service.

## What is the right way to catch fish?

Pyotr Nikitin has lived and worked on the Kurile Lake, in the South Kamchatka Wildlife Refuge, which is part of the Kronotsky Reserve, and also in the Valley of Geysers. Now he is in the reserve at "Volcanoes of Kamchatka".

"We flew to the Valley of Geysers by helicopter on April 1, it was still winter, snow lay everywhere," Pyotr says. "So, at first the main job was to clear the snow from everywhere and prepare the ground trails for the arrival of tourists. In addition, we had some home tasks to do: we stoked the stove, carried firewood, and brought water from the stream. Tourists begin to arrive in May. We unload their luggage, pump water for the guest houses, and fill the kerosene tank for heating. Simply put, nothing heroic."

Most of all, Nikitin fell in love with watching the bears in the nature reserves of Kamchatka. And the curious bears, especially the young, like to watch people. Sometimes they even come to the tourist cottages, climb up onto the porch, look in the windows as if to say: "What are you doing there, then?" →

**Pyotr Nikitin took his unique photos in the Kronotsky Reserve, where he still works as a volunteer.**

**After a hearty lunch, the bears fall into contemplation, even philosophical thoughts.**

**This fox made friends with Pyotr, and came to have lunch with him every day.**

**Bears feel at ease in the protected area of volcanoes.**













## BEARS ARE VERY FOND OF SLIDING OFF THE SNOW SLOPES ON THEIR BACKSIDES. IT LOOKS LIKE PEOPLE LEARNED TO DO THIS FROM THEM.

“Everything bears do is very interesting: the way they sleep, the way they catch fish – they can look out for fish for hours,” Pyotr goes on. “And when they run, they look so funny when they throw up their hind legs. Bears are very beautiful and intelligent animals.”

The bear Masha and her cubs Samson and Sonya were born last year and have become favourites of travellers. The she-bear has a rare colour – she is blond! Masha has taught the cubs how to fish the proper way. When they start to fight or steal the fish from one another, the mother gently cuffs them with her paw.

“It’s interesting to watch her giving a fish to her cubs just after she has caught it,” Nikitin recalls. “A bear usually has one or two cubs, or sometimes she has triplets. But last year I saw a bear with four cubs: three of them were following her, the fourth riding on his mother’s back. In the Valley of Geysers it was interesting to watch bears walking on very steep slopes, or making their way easily through the deep snow. Incidentally, bears are very fond of sliding off the snow slopes on their bushy backsides. It looks like people learned to do this from them.”

### Lunch for the Fox

Bears are not the only animals which roam the reserve. For example, Pyotr made friends with a fox. “At first we flew to the Uzon cordon, then from there

we drove to the Valley of Geysers on a snowmobile,” he recalls. “We lived in Uzon for several days. And every evening one fox came to us, begging for food. This year, a lot of snow had fallen, and it was difficult for her to catch mice from under the snow. That was why we fed her.

The snow melts first in the Valley of Geysers: the heat of the volcanoes warms the earth from within. Straightaway the grass begins to grow in the valley. That is why, when bears wake up after their hibernation, their first meal is grass.

“In spring, until June and July, until the first fish appear, there are lots of bears,” Pyotr says. “You go down to the valley, and bears are grazing there just like ordinary cows in the meadow. But the bears don’t let us come close to them: they are not yet sufficiently stress-resistant after hibernation. Something to remember: if you see that a bear is uneasy, you must slowly move away. Besides, you are only allowed to explore the territory of the reserve in the company of an armed inspector. And we always wear flares there. At sea, they are used for giving distress signals. On land, when it’s triggered, the flare turns into a big fireball, which is enough to repel any danger.

But generally, people are not what bears like to eat! In spring bears need grass: they need to cleanse their intestines after hibernation. Then they go down to →

**Every one of the volcanoes of Kamchatka is unique, and has its special charm.**

**The blond she-bear Masha with her rare “blondish” cubs: Samson and Sonya.**

**Bears always like to play, especially the young ones.**

**Growing bears may provoke the bear cubs by taking away their fish. But the mother-bear always comes to the rescue of her cub.**

**In the famous Valley the geysers are not “turned off” even in the winter. That is why there is always unfrozen water here.**





IN THE SPRING, BEARS ARE GRAZING JUST LIKE ORDINARY COWS IN THE MEADOW, BUT THE BEARS DON'T LET US COME CLOSE TO THEM.





the river and put on weight as they eat fish. And by autumn they go after dwarf pines and berries. Cedar cones contain a lot of oil, and thanks to that the bears store fat before hibernation...

On the Kurile Lake, there is a large metal cage from which you can watch them safely." Once Pyotr was in this cage with some tourists, when one of the biggest bears came up...

"He had caught his fish and eaten them, and now decided to have a sleep, choosing a place just near the gate of our cage," Pyotr says. "Before going to sleep he dug a hole in the ground, lay down in it and fell asleep. He didn't just fall asleep, he even started to snore! And you have to remember that bears usually sleep for five or six hours after they have eaten. We needed to get out of the cage, and the bear was just a meter away from us! We did everything: we shouted, whistled, and thundered with the iron door, and even tickled the bear's heels with a rod! But he couldn't care less, he didn't react at all! He was just sleeping and snoring. But only when the second inspector arrived with a gun could we cautiously leave the cage, one by one, under his protection. That snoring bear, tickling his heels certainly cheered us up." **TLR**

**Fishing is bears' main "job" in the reserves.**

**Deep snow prevents the fox from catching mice, so she comes to people for help.**

**The heat of volcanoes means that the springs in the Valley of Geysers never freeze over, even in the harshest frosts.**

**In summer, bears put on weight after they eat fish. And by autumn they go after dwarf pines and berries to store up fat before hibernation.**

**What we consider a delicacy is an ordinary breakfast for a bear.**





Mexican fans in Sochi before the start of the 2017 Confederations Cup football match between Mexico and New Zealand.



# Football for Everyone!

**IN THE SUMMER OF 2018**, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE MOST POPULAR SPORT ON THE PLANET, THE FIFA WORLD CUP WILL TAKE PLACE IN RUSSIA. FROM JUNE 14 TO JULY 15, A HUGE FOOTBALL CAR-NIVAL WILL ROLL ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM THE BALTIC TO THE URALS. "TOURISM & LEISURE IN RUSSIA" HAS PREPARED A GUIDEBOOK TO THE 11 CITIES THAT WILL BE HOSTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES.

**Text:** Boris Titov



# To Russia without a visa

## Tickets

If you plan to attend World Cup games, buying tickets for matches is recommended only on the official FIFA website – [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com). The first stage of sales will start on December 1, 2017.

However, those who have VISA bank cards will be able to purchase tickets from November 8-17.

According to the Organizational Committee of Russia-2018, 500,000 applications for tickets were submitted in one day, 25% of them were by overseas fans.

In total, up to three million tickets for all matches are expected to be sold. For fans from outside Russia there are three price categories. Tickets for the opening match will be available for \$550 (Category 1), \$390 (Category 2) and \$220 (Category 3). Tickets for the group stage will be sold for \$210, \$165 and \$105, for the respective categories. Tickets for the 1/8 finals are \$245, \$185 and \$115, and for the semifinals \$750, \$480 and \$285. Tickets for the final are priced at \$1,100, \$710 and \$455.

Some of the tickets will go on sale through the official FIFA ticket centres.

## Visa-free entry for fans

In preparation for the World Cup, the Russian government has approved visa-free entry to Russia for fans.

During the period of the sporting events, they can enter Russia as spectators of sports competitions without visas. In order to obtain such visa-free entry, it is necessary to apply for and receive a FAN ID. In addition to the FAN ID, travellers will need to provide an identity document recognized by Russia, and an entrance ticket to a match or a document entitling you to receive one.

To apply for a FAN ID, please visit [fan-id.ru](http://fan-id.ru). The addresses of centres issuing FAN ID and ticket sales will be announced later.

## How to get there

Dozens of airlines fly from all over the world to the host cities. Airports are usually quite far from the cities, but buses, taxis and sometimes suburban trains

connect them with the town centres. If you plan to travel from the airport to the hotel by taxi, it's better to book a car at the airport or use mobile applications.

Do not use the services offered by private drivers at the airport, since they may name a greatly inflated price for the trip. With a ticket, fans can get free travel to the city where the match will take place by train, as happened with the Confederations Cup-2017. Russian Railways has allocated 500 trains for such purposes, which will run between the cities concerned. **TLR**







# Volgograd



## The city

One of the main cities of the south of Russia, Volgograd stretches for 80 km along the right bank of the Volga river. It was here, in the winter of 1942-1943, that the Battle of Stalingrad took place, which marked a dramatic change in the Second World War. Today, the city is home to over one million people.

The journey from Moscow to Volgograd by road is 969 kilometers.



## Schedule of matches

Volgograd will host four world championship matches: four group games – with the participation of teams from groups A, D, G and H. They will be held on June 18, 22, 25 and 28.



## The stadium

Games will be held at the new “Volgograd Arena” football stadium, which is being built on the banks of the Volga especially for the World Cup. It will accommodate 45,000 spectators. The handover of the arena will be in December 2017, and one of the test events, according to the organizers, will be the “Match of the World”, a friendly game between Russia, the host of the 2018 World Cup, and the 2014 world champion Germany. Address: Lenin Avenue, 76.

**Exhibition of USSR-produced retro cars during City Day.**

**“Volgograd Arena”, the first stadium in Russia with a roof of cable-stayed structures for 45,000 seats, will be completed by the end of this year.**



## How to get to the stadium

“Volgograd Arena” is located within walking distance of the city centre. It can be reached on foot along the embankment of the 62nd Army or through the Central Park of Culture and Leisure. There are also public transport routes near the stadium, and the nearest stop is Mamayev Kurgan. There will be free shuttles for fans with tickets from the airport, from the railway and river stations to the stadium. For this purpose 200 low-floor buses, which can accommodate people in wheelchairs, have been purchased. →







### Fan zones

The main fan zone will be organized on the central embankment, a few kilometers from the stadium. It will accommodate about 35,000 fans. An additional fan zone will be organized next to the stadium to stage a festival of fans.



### Where to stay

Specialized sites for hotel reservations offer more than 300 accommodation options in Volgograd and its suburbs. Accommodation options range from a bed in a modest hostel with prices around \$10 to rooms in hotels belonging to large international chains.

11 large hotels have been built specially for the



**Frogs on the "Dancing Children" fountain in Station Square in Volgograd (the work of sculptor Alexander Burganov).**

**A flashmob marks 1,000 days before the 2018 World Cup in Russia.**

**The Lenin Volga-Don Shipping Canal.**

**Change of military guard at the Hall of Military Glory in the Mamayev Kurgan Memorial Complex.**

**Interactive "upside-down-house".**



World Cup in Volgograd, which has almost doubled the number of rooms in the city.

There will also be floating hotel-boats on the river.



### Where to eat

Volgograd has a wide variety of cafés, bars and restaurants offering a choice of Russian, European, Chinese, Japanese and other world cuisines. For something more familiar, there are many fast food establishments. Experts recommend the elite restaurant "Knyagininsky Dvor", "Grand Café", a café on the Alley of Heroes, and the pizzeria "Fresco Peperone".

The average bill for lunch in 2017 was \$7-12 per person.



### What to see

The main sights of the city are dedicated to the Battle of Stalingrad. These include the legendary complex Mamayev Kurgan and the sculpture of the Motherland, Pavlov's House, and the memorial







PHOTO: ISTOCK / V1.RU / VISUALIRIAN / OLGA POPLAVSKAYA

**VOLGOGRAD HAS A WIDE VARIETY OF CAFES, BARS AND RESTAURANTS OFFERING A CHOICE OF RUSSIAN, EUROPEAN, CHINESE, JAPANESE AND OTHER WORLD CUISINES.**

complex with a panorama museum and an exhibition of military equipment. At the river station tourists can take excursions along the Volga. By suburban train or bus, you can reach the remote Krasnoarmeysky district, where the world's largest monument to Lenin and the first lock of the Volga-Don shipping canal are located. You can also visit the largest dam in Europe at the Volga hydro-electric power plant. On the opposite bank of the river, in the city of Volzhsky, the park of hydro-builders can be visited. **TLR**







Yekaterinburg  
by night looks  
majestic and  
modern.



# Yekaterinburg



## The city

Known as the capital of the Urals, Yekaterinburg is located in the central part of the Eurasian continent, on the eastern slopes of the Ural Mountains. It is the fourth city in Russia by population: according to official figures, about 1.4 million people live there. The distance by road from Moscow to Yekaterinburg is 1797 km.



## Schedule of matches

Yekaterinburg will host four world championship matches: four group games – with the participation of teams from groups A, B, E and G. They will be held on June 15, 21, 24 and 27.



## The stadium

Matches will be held at the “Yekaterinburg Arena” football stadium, which before the World Cup has undergone a major reconstruction. With stands designed for 35,000 spectators, it is located on the northern bank of the Upper Iset reservoir at Repina Street, 5.



## How to get to the stadium

The arena is within walking distance of the city centre. Fans can also reach it by car or by public transport to the stop “Tsentrallyy Stadion”. Walking from





the metro stations “Ploshchad 1905” and “Geologicheskaya” to the arena takes 12-15 minutes. Shuttle buses will also operate around the city for fans with tickets – along a dedicated lane. For this service and other routes, more than 100 new buses have been purchased.



#### Fan zones

The main fan zone, designed for 17,000 people, will be located in the Mayakovsky Central Park of Culture and Leisure.



#### Where to stay

More than one million tourists are expected to visit the city during the World Cup. There are more than 500 hotels, hostels and boarding houses for every taste and budget in Yekaterinburg and its suburbs. For example, the “Atrium Palace” and “Onegin” hotels offer comfortable rooms at an average price of \$85 per night, while in the mini-hotel “Crystal” rooms start at only \$9.



#### Where to eat

For budget tourists there are student cafeterias at the universities and colleges, while gourmets have a choice of fine dining opportunities.

### FOR TOURISTS WITH CHILDREN, THE PARK OF LIVING BUTTERFLIES, THE “GALILEO” PARK OF WONDERS, THE “LIMPOPO” WATER PARK AND THE ZOO ARE ESSENTIAL PLACES TO VISIT.

**The “Stroganov Grill” restaurant offers European cuisine.**

**In the centre of the city there are many historical buildings and places to relax.**

**The Ganina Yama monastery was built on the site where the remains of the Imperial family, shot by the Bolsheviks, were buried.**

**The “Kalininets” stadium will be a training base for teams participating in the World Cup.**

For fans without tickets to the stadium, there are sports bars with large screens. The Top 10 restaurants and cafés, according to visitors of popular tourist internet resources, are: “Pâté”, “My Friend Olivier”, “Khmeli Suneli”, “Nigora”, “Stroganov Grill”, “Monk”, “Osteria Bar Sorizo”, “Zhadina Beef”, “Pan Smetana” and “Panorama A.S.P.” The average lunch bill for two is less than \$20.



#### What to see

The “Red Line” was created in 2011 and connects the most popular and most interesting places in the centre of Yekaterinburg. It is a 6.5 kilometer pedestrian route drawn directly on the asphalt, which passes the 35 best architectural and artistic locations of the city. The route begins at the monument to Lenin in 1905 Square, and returns there at its conclusion. Near the red line, painted in yellow are paths for bicyclists, skaters and skateboarders, from the “Shar” fountain to the “Cosmos” cinema on the opposite bank of the Iset. The pedestrian Vainer Street has monuments to Michael Jackson, a hot summer (in the form of a giant fan), Berlin bears, and other historical and fictional characters.

For those interested in world history, there is a route to the area of Ganina Yama near the city, where in 1918 the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II and members of the Romanov family were secretly buried, after their execution by the Bolsheviks in a cellar in the town. There are seven Orthodox churches there now and a monastery in honour of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers.

Fans of nightlife will enjoy the many, diverse clubs of Yekaterinburg. For tourists with children, the park of living butterflies, the “Galileo” park of wonders, the “Limpopo” water park and the zoo are essential places to visit. **TLR**







# Kazan



## The city

The capital of the Republic of Tatarstan and a major river port on the left bank of the Volga, at its confluence with the Kazanka River, Kazan is located 820 km east of Moscow. Kazan has a history of more than a thousand years, and the population today is more than 1.2 million. There are two railway stations, river ports and bus stations in the city. An express train runs from the airport to the city centre.



## Schedule of matches

Kazan will host six world championship matches: four group games – with the participation of teams from groups B, C, F and H, and an 1/8 and a 1/4 final. They will be held on June 16, 20, 24, 27, 30 June, and 6 July at the “Kazan Arena” stadium, which hosted the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2017.



## The stadium

Games will be held at the “Kazan Arena”, the home ground of the local football club “Rubin”. It holds 45,000 fans, and there is plenty of parking for cars and buses nearby. Address: Yamasheva Avenue, 115a.



## How to get to the stadium

To get to “Kazan Arena” on your own from the city centre, the easiest way is to go along Chis-topolskaya Street, crossing the Millennium Bridge or the Lenin Dam. The metro line to the stadium has not yet been laid. But there are also ground transportation routes (stop “Kazan Arena”). Taxis are also relatively inexpensive, at about \$6 from the centre. In addition,

for fans with tickets there will be free shuttle buses from the centre of Kazan, from the railway and river stations, from the airport and from some official hotels.



## Fan zones

The fan zone for 30,000 fans will be near the central palace of marriages “Kazan” on the right bank of the river Kazanka. A pedestrian zone will be laid from the fan zone to the football arena.



## Where to stay

Kazan has already hosted major competitions such as the FIFA Confederations Cup-2017, the World Student Games-2013, the World Aquatics Championship-2015, and the European Judo

**With its history dating back 1,012 years, Kazan is known as the third capital of Russia.**

**The gate of Syuyumbike Tower, Kazan Kremlin.**

**The Kazan Kremlin is a UNESCO World Heritage site.**

**“Kazan Arena” stadium.**

**Kites are especially popular with children.**







**YOU CAN RENT A ROWING BOAT ON THE BOLSHOI KABAN, WALK IN THE PARKS, OR BOOK A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR AROUND THE CITY WITH A VISIT TO THE KAZAN KREMLIN.**

Championships-2016, so a large influx of visitors is not a problem for the city. There are hostels with prices from \$10, and 4-5 star hotels from \$80-100 per night, like the modern Korston and Kazan hotels in the city centre, and the “Riviera”, which is within walking distance of the football stadium. Also during the World Cup, student dormitories which are usually empty in the summer will be used.



### Where to eat

Just walk along the Bauman and St. Petersburg pedestrian streets and through other central streets to find a wide choice of cafés, restaurants, canteens and fast food establishments in Kazan. We recommend “Chak-Chak” café, “Jazz Crossroad” restaurant (in the house in which the writer Vasily Aksyonov was born), “Art Coffee” and “The Good Dining-room”. For something cheaper, the food court in the shopping centre “Koltso” on Tukaya Square offers lunch or dinner at about \$6 per person.



### What to see

You can rent a rowing boat on the Bolshoi Kaban Lake (\$5 per hour), take a walk in the parks, or book a sightseeing tour around the city with a visit to the Kazan Kremlin, which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Foundation (from \$10 per person). You can also stroll through the historic centre of Kazan, the Tatar Sloboda, to enjoy the colour of the ancient city and buy original souvenirs. A trip along the river Kazanka or along the Volga is unforgettable. Prices are from \$10-15 per person. **TLR**





# Kaliningrad



## The city

This western enclave of Russia, which until 1945 belonged to Germany, is often called the "Amber Region" or the "Pearl of the Baltic". Kaliningrad (formerly Königsberg) was the birthplace of the great philosopher Immanuel Kant, the Prussian romantic author of fantasy Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann and other historical figures. Today, the city's population is almost 500,000, while about a million people live in the Kaliningrad Region itself. The journey from Moscow to Kaliningrad by road is 1,281 km, passing through Belarus and Lithuania. Therefore, some fans may need a Schengen or Belarus visa to travel by that land route.



## Schedule of matches

Kaliningrad will host four world championship matches: four group games – with the participation of teams from groups C, D, F and H. They will be held on June 16, 22, 25 and 28 at the new "Kaliningrad Arena" stadium, which has been specially built for the World Cup.



## The stadium

The "Kaliningrad Arena" football stadium (also called "Arena Baltika") is being built on the October Island near the city centre. Its stands will be able to accommodate 35,000 spectators.



## How to get to the stadium

While the exact routes for approaching the stadium have not been finalized, it has been announced that near the arena there will be two parking lots, capable of accommodating 7,200 cars. Buses number 40, 46 and 47 travel to the stop "Veterans' Quay". In addition free shuttles will be organized for fans with tickets.



## Fan zones

The fan zone will be located at the House of the Soviets, on the site of the former Old Tower complex, and also partly on the territory of the Historical and Art Museum. The fan zone will be able to accommodate 35,000 visitors, with concert stages and playgrounds, a food court, sponsorship pavilions, local artisans' shops, and an official FIFA shop.



## Where to stay

Visitors to the Kaliningrad Region can easily find suitable accommodation options by using specialized tourist sites. For example, the tour operator



**KALININGRAD (FORMERLY KÖNIGSBERG) WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE GREAT PHILOSOPHER IMMANUEL KANT, THE PRUSSIAN ROMANTIC AUTHOR OF FANTASY E.T.A. HOFFMANN AND OTHER HISTORICAL FIGURES.**

"Baltic Coast" offers dozens of hotels, hostels, spas, holiday homes, guest houses and tourist centres located in Kaliningrad itself, and in neighbouring Svetlogorsk, Pioneer, Zelenogradsk, Baltiysk, Amber and other cities. Prices range from \$10 to \$200 or more per night.



## Where to eat

Kaliningrad and its suburbs has many establishments offering Russian, German, Eastern European, Mediterranean and Japanese food. The Top 10, in the opinion of locals, are the cafés and restaurants "Britannica", "Borsch and Salo", "Zotler Bier", "Madame Bushe", "Hop", "Parmesan", "Tabasco", "Ashman Park" "Aunt Fisher", and the tavern "At Hasek's". The average price of lunch in summer 2017 was \$5-10 per person.



## What to see

Visiting the island of Kant, with its Cathedral, Brandenburg and Zakheim Gates, Königsberg Castle, sculpture park, zoo, amber museums, Ocean World, and the Fishing Village in highly recommended. If you have free time, take a day trip to the resort of Zelenogradsk and the picturesque Curonian Spit. **TLR**

**The "Kaliningrad Arena" stadium will be able to accommodate 35,000 spectators.**

**The "Fishing Village" is an ethnographic, trade and craft centre.**

**The bird of happiness with a golden egg on the observation deck of the lighthouse in the "Fishing Village".**

**An observation gazebo on Willgaiten pond, a picturesque and quiet spot 20 km from Kaliningrad.**

**The 98-km-long Curonian Spit is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**







# Moscow



## The city

The capital of the Russian Federation and the largest metropolis in the country, Moscow marks the 870th anniversary of its foundation in 2017. According to official data, about 12.4 million people live in Moscow, making the city among the top 10 in the world in terms of population. It is the most important transport hub of Russia, served by five airports, nine railway stations, three river ports, 13 metro lines, and the Moscow Central Circle (MCC), an additional rail network that opened in autumn 2016. You can reach Moscow by air, land and water from almost all countries in the world.



## Schedule of matches

Moscow will host 12 world championship matches, including the opening ceremony of the tournament and the final. Group games will be held at two stadiums in Moscow on 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26 and 27 June. 1/8 play-off matches will be held on July 1 and 3. The semi-final is on July 11 at the "Luzhniki" stadium, and the final game and the closing ceremony of the World Cup is on July 15 at the "Luzhniki" Olympic stadium.



## The stadiums

*"Arena Luzhniki"*. This sports complex was commissioned in 1956 for the first Spartakiad of the peoples of the USSR (a kind of Soviet Olympics). Over the years, the main stadium of Russia has hosted many competitions, including the 1980 Summer Olympics. In 2013, a large-scale reconstruction began, as a result of which this grand sports arena became a dedicated football stadium with the capacity to seat 81,000 people. Address: Luzhniki Street, 24.

*"Arena Spartak"*. This is the second Moscow stadium, which was built in 2014 for the football club "Spartak" on the Tushino airfield in Moscow. It has a capacity of 45,000 people (the average attendance of FC "Spartak" is 30,000 people). In the summer of 2017, the stadium hosted four matches in the FIFA Confederations Cup, and cultural events are also held there. Address: Volokolamsk Highway, site 67.





### How to get to the stadiums

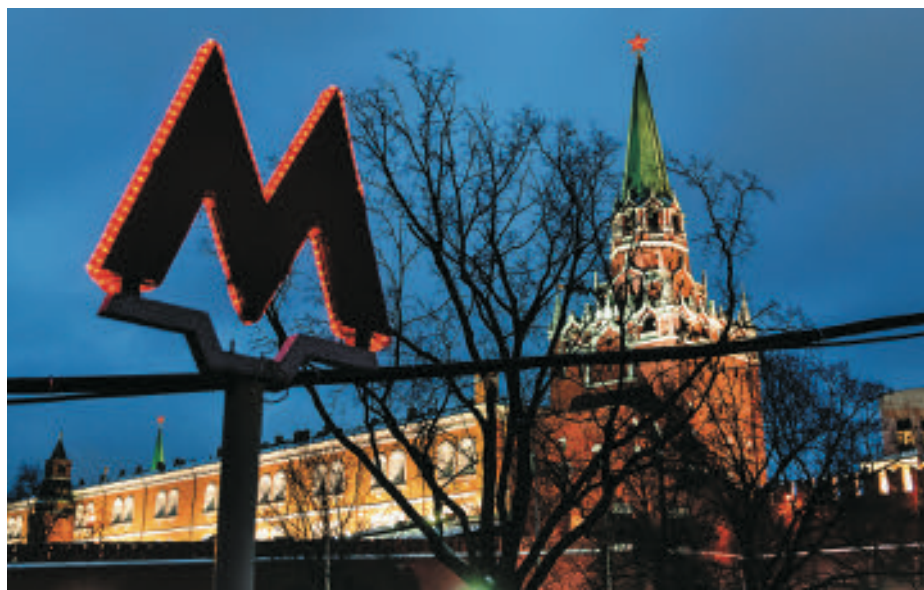
**"Arena Luzhniki".** There are several large car parks at the sports complex, but it has not yet been announced whether it will be possible to enter them with match tickets for free, or for a fee. However, thanks to the Moscow public transport network it is easy to reach Luzhniki from anywhere in Moscow or the Moscow Region. Near the stadium are the metro stations "Sportivnaya" and "Vorobyovy Gory", the MCC station "Luzhniki", and trolleybus and bus stops. Before the start of the World Cup a cable car from the opposite bank of the Moscow river will open. **"Arena Spartak".** You can come by car from the centre of Moscow, but a pass is required for the car park, which means it is more convenient to reach the arena by metro. Next to the stadium are the metro stations "Spartak" and "Tushinskaya", which are on the "purple" line of the Moscow metro. A suburban train and other public transport routes run nearby. For match ticket holders, travel is free. →

**4.5 million foreign tourists visited the Russian capital last year.**

**The Bolshoi Theatre is a must for all fans of opera and ballet who visit Moscow.**

**Matches of the Confederations Cup were held this year.**

**The Metro and Red Square are two sites that no visitor should miss.**





## EVENTS **World Cup**

**ALMOST ALL THOSE WHO VISIT MOSCOW GO TO RED SQUARE, THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND THE ALEXANDER GARDEN. IN MOSCOW AND THE MOSCOW REGION, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THEATRES, MUSEUMS, PARKS AND ARISTOCRATIC ESTATES TO SUIT EVERY TASTE. IF YOU PREFER UNHURRIED CONTEMPLATION, TAKE A BOAT TRIP ALONG THE MOSCOW RIVER.**



### **Fan zones**

The main fan zones will be located in Moscow at VDNKh and Vorobyovy Gory. The square in front of Moscow State University at Vorobyovy Gory will accommodate 45-50,000 fans, and the VDNKh zone up to one million people. FIFA souvenirs will also be on sale at the Vasilievsky Slope near the Kremlin walls. However, Red Square will not be equipped with screens for viewing matches.



### **Where to stay**

Moscow has a huge range of hotels with different levels of service, and more than 100,000 rooms in total. Prices in international chain hotels and mini-hotels range from \$60 for a standard room to \$8,000-10,000 for elite apartments. Fans can rent an apartment or room with Muscovites, with many such offers on the Internet.



### **Where to eat**

Budget tourists can try "Canteen №57" in GUM, the Russian café "Brusnik" in Kitai Gorod, the network of Georgian eateries

"VeiMe", or the famous "Cheburechnaya" in the VDNKh area, where the average bill is around \$5-7 per person. Foreign guests might prefer familiar brands like "McDonalds", "Starbucks" or "Pizza Express". For more extravagant visitors there is a wide selection of restaurants and cafés, both in the centre of Moscow and in the stadiums, which have large restaurant areas.



### **What to see**

Almost all those who visit Moscow go to Red Square, the Historical Museum and the Alexander Garden. In Moscow and the Moscow region, there are hundreds of theatres, museums, parks and aristocratic estates to suit every taste. There is an extensive network of bike rentals around the city. For excitement try a choice of quests that will take you to abandoned metro stations and other iconic structures. If you prefer unhurried contemplation, take a boat trip along the Moscow River: tickets for 2017 were \$7. A dinner trip on a comfortable boat costs about \$50. **TLR**

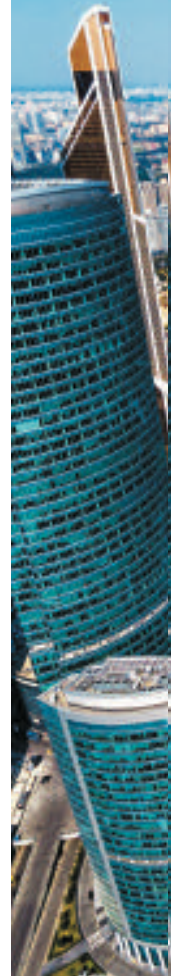
**The Moscow Kremlin includes the official residence of the President of Russia.**

**The towers of the "Moscow-City" business centre make a striking skyline.**

**The Robusto Cigar club in the The St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya hotel.**

**A Belgian fan at the Confederations Cup-2017.**

**Approach Red Square through the Resurrection Gate.**











# Nizhny Novgorod



## The city

Founded in 1221 by Vladimir Prince Yury Vsevolodovich, the city of Nizhny Novgorod was known as Gorky from 1932 to 1990. It is located in central Russia at the meeting of the Oka and the Volga rivers, and is the administrative centre of the Volga Federal District and the Nizhny Novgorod Region. In the Soviet era, up until the beginning of the 1990s, the city was closed to foreigners. The population today is 1.27 million. The journey from Moscow to Nizhny Novgorod by road is 421 km.



## Schedule of matches

Nizhny Novgorod will host six world championship matches: four group games – with the participation of teams from groups D, E, F and G. They will be held on June 18, 21, 24 and 27. An 1/8 and a 1/4 final will be held on July 1, 6.



## The stadium

The “Nizhny Novgorod” football arena is being built specifically for the World Championships on an area of land known as Strelka (Arrow), near the meeting of two great Russian rivers – the Oka and the Volga. The stadium will open in December 2017 and will accommodate 45,000 spectators. It is close to the historic centre, and can be reached from there on foot.



## How to get to the stadium

A new station, “Strelka” on the Sormovsko-Meshcherskaya line of the Nizhny Novgorod metro, will open in 2018 near the arena. Rides will be free for match ticket holders. In addition, for fans with tickets, there will be special buses from the airport, from the river and railway stations, from the centre and from other areas of the city.



## Fan zones

The main fan zone in Nizhny Novgorod will be on Minin and Pozharsky Square. It is designed to accommodate 15-21,000 people, with a large stage with a screen showing World Cup matches. There will also be sponsor pavilions, cafés, souvenir stalls, and even parking for fans who have come by bicycle.



## Where to stay

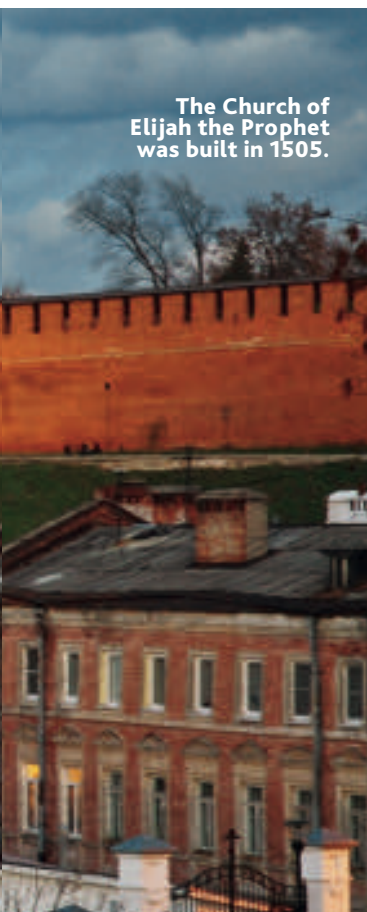
Nizhny Novgorod and its suburbs have many different kinds of accommodation, with specialized tourist sites offering more than 800 addresses. These include world-famous hotel chains such as Hilton, Kempinski, Korston, Marriott, ParkInn, as well as Russian hotel chains, mini-hotels, hostels and apartments. Prices start from \$10 per night.

The pub-restaurant “English Embassy” serves traditional British food.





The Church of Elijah the Prophet was built in 1505.



The "Alfa Future People" festival of electronic music and technology.

View of the football stadium

from the Kremlin wall.

The Central Bank building is an architectural monument.



PHOTO: EDM-NEWS / ISTOCK / VISUALIRIAN



### Where to eat

Most cafés, restaurants and snack bars are located on the central Bolshaya Pokrovskaya Street and around the Kremlin. For lovers of British cuisine, there is the pub-restaurant "English Embassy" and the Union Jack Grand Music Pub. "Home Italy" is an Italian restaurant, and large groups are welcome at the restaurant "Sehr Gut" or the club-restaurant "Onegin". You can try Caucasian cuisine and immerse yourself in the Soviet past in the restaurant "Weeping Willow" on the Lower Volga River embankment.



### What to see

The best way to discover Nizhny Novgorod is a walking tour of the pedestrian Bolshaya

Pokrovskaya Street. It is full of historical houses, souvenir shops, luxury boutiques, and interesting sculptures, and leads towards the Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin, which has a stunning view of the Volga river and Strelka, where the Oka meets the Volga. Not far from the Kremlin, the 500 steps of the Chkalovskaya staircase connects Minin and Pozharsky Square with the Volga embankment. At the foot of the stairs there is the "Hero" monument-boat, with a monument to the legendary Soviet pilot Valery Chkalov on its upper platform. We also recommend a visit to the Pechersky Ascension Monastery, whose bell tower is as tilted as the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The city also has an excellent zoo, numerous museums, theatres and art galleries. **TLR**



# Rostov-on-Don



## The city

With a population of more than one million people, Rostov-on-Don is the largest city in the south of Russia, and the administrative centre of the Southern Federal District and the Rostov Region. It is located on the banks of the Don river, 46 km from its confluence with the Azov Sea. The distance from Moscow to Rostov-on-Don along the Don highway is 1,073 km. A completely new, modern international airport “Yuzhny” is being built specially for the World Championships. You can also reach the city by train and boat.



## Schedule of matches

Rostov-on-Don will host five world championship matches: four group games – with the participation of teams from groups A, D, E and F, and an 1/8 final. They will be held on June 17, 20, 23, 26, and July 2 at the new “Rostov Arena” stadium, which is being built specially for the World Cup on the left bank of the Don.



## The stadium

“Rostov Arena” will be able to accommodate 45,000 spectators. As locals note, the arena will become an important part of the city since at the end of the World Cup the stadium will become the home ground for the local team “Rostov”, one of the leaders in the top Russian division. Address: Kirov District, Left Bank of the Don (near the Rowing Canal).



## How to get to the stadium

There are plans to organize parking for 7,000 cars near “Rostov Arena”. During the World Cup there will be 10 routes running 200 free shuttle buses for fans with tickets between the stadium and districts of the city. 40 regular public transport routes also serve the arena.



## Fan zones

The fan zones will be in the centre of the city: the main one on Teatralnaya Square, and an additional one on Fontannaya Square, both designed for 25,000 people. As in other cities, fans can listen to music, watch football matches on the big screen, buy souvenirs, and take part in sports competitions. A separate programme is being developed for children.



## Where to stay

Rostov-on-Don has more than 150 hotels, guest houses, mini-hotels and hostels. The five best economy-class hotels, according to tripadvisor.ru, are “AiDi Hostel” (\$15), “Maxi House Hostel” (from \$14), “Baba Valya Hostel” (from \$25), the loft hotel “Nabokov” (from \$10 per bed) and the guest house “9” (from \$35). Among five-star hotels, are “Petrovsky Pier Luxury Hotel & Spa” (from \$150 per night), to Marins Park Hotel Rostov – “(from \$40) and “Mercure Rostov-on-Don Centre” (from \$90). The total number of rooms in all categories will rise to 8,000 by the start of

the World Cup. There are also accommodation options in the neighbouring towns of Shakhty, Azov and Volgodonsk, which can be reached in 90 minutes.



## Where to eat

Rostov-on-Don offers a variety of restaurants with Russian, Ukrainian, Tatar, Caucasian, Mediterranean and other cuisines, from fine dining establishments and cafés to fast-food establishments. You can try local specialties at the “Stanitsa” Cossack restaurant, while the “Valery Chkalov” bar-restaurant will take you back to the atmosphere of the Soviet era. The café “Pirogi Kuchkov” offers a tasty and inexpensive choice of dumplings, served quickly. Italian cuisine can be found at the “Donna Anna” café and “Sicily” restaurant, while “Sakura” offers Japanese cooking.

**ROSTOV-ON-DON OFFERS A VARIETY OF RESTAURANTS WITH RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN, TATAR, CAUCASIAN, MEDITERRANEAN AND OTHER CUISINES.**

**Participants of Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colours, in Rostov-on-Don.**

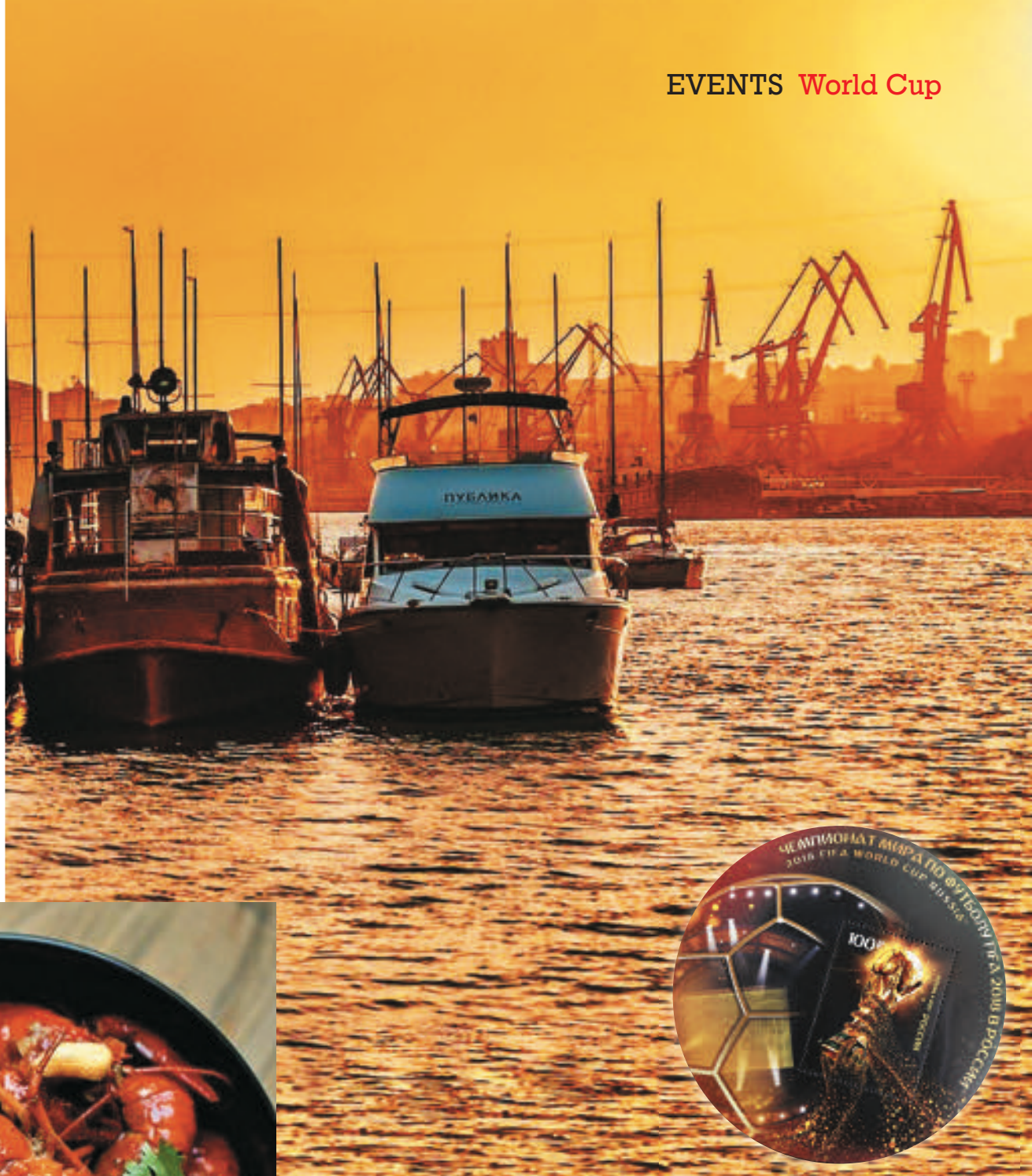
**Rostov is the only Russian city where, in the Congress Hotel Don-Plaza, the actual FIFA World Cup is on display.**

**View of the port of Rostov.**

**The most famous local dish, Don crayfish.**







### What to see

Get to know the city with a walk along Bolshaya Sadovaya – the central and the longest street of Rostov-on-Don, discovering the Chernivi Apartment House, the Musical Theatre, the Town Hall and other local attractions. This multinational city has Orthodox churches, a Catholic church, a mosque, and a synagogue. On Baghramyan Street stands the 18th century church of the Armenian monastery of Surb Khach, with its walls housing a museum of Russian-Armenian friendship. The botanic garden with its mineral spring, and the Voroshilovsky bridge connecting the banks of the Don are also worth seeing. The bridge crosses the geographical boundary between Asia and Europe. If you have the time, visit Taganrog, the home of the great Russian writer Anton Chekhov, and explore the ancient city of Azov on the way. **TLR**

**The ceremony of franking stamps for the FIFA philatelic programme celebrating 1,000 days before the World Cup 2018 in Russia.**





# Samara



## The city

One of the largest industrial, cultural and scientific centres of Russia, Samara stretches some 50 kilometers along the left bank of the Volga river, at its meeting place with the Samara river. The city has the largest railway station in Russia, and there is a river port and airport, as well as a metro that opened in 1987. During the Second World War, Samara, which used to be called Kuibyshev, became the second capital of the USSR. The Soviet government, foreign embassies and representative offices, and major industrial enterprises were evacuated here. Like Nizhny Novgorod before the beginning of the 1990s, Samara was closed to foreigners. It is 1,098 km by road to the east of Moscow.



## Schedule of matches

Samara will host six world championship matches: four group games – with the participation of teams from groups A, C, E, and H, and an 1/8 and a 1/4 final. They will be held on June 17, 21, 25 and 28, and on July 2, 7 at the new “Samara Arena” stadium, which is being built specially for the World Cup.



## The stadium

“Samara Arena”, with its natural grass surface, artificial heating and automatic irrigation systems, is being built near the highest point of the city – the Radio Centre village. The stands are designed for 45,000 spectators, and its architectural features include space motifs. At the end of the World Championship the stadium will be passed to the “Soviet Wings” football club and renamed “Space Arena”.

**The Church of the Smolensk “Tenderness” Icon of the Mother of God, built in the tradition of wooden architecture, is a jewel of the city.**



## How to get to the stadium

New interchanges and access roads are being built near the arena, and there will be plenty of parking. A new tram line will connect the stadium with the railway station. Bus routes for fans with tickets will connect the stadium with the key points of Samara.



## Fan zones

In Samara, fans who cannot make it to the stadium will be able to follow live broadcasts of matches in Kuibyshev Square. According to local media, in terms of capacity the Samara fan zone (35,000 people) will be second only to the site on Vorobyovy Gory in Moscow.



## Where to stay

The Samara region has more than 270 hotels, mini-hotels and hostels designed for both budget tourists and those seeking greater comfort. Visitors can stay in countryside boarding houses and campsites, rent a room or an apartment, with prices ranging from \$6 to upwards of \$200 per night.

**Cruises along the Volga are especially popular with European tourists. The river cruise passenger ship “Yulaev”, moored on the Volga river.**

**Part of Lenin-gradskaya Street, located between Galaktionovskaya and Kuibyshev Streets in the city centre, is pedestrian. It has many beautiful historical buildings, cafés and shops.**





**VISITORS TO SAMARA ARE RECOMMENDED TO VISIT STALIN'S BUNKER, AS WELL AS LOCAL MUSEUMS COVERING THE HISTORY OF AVIATION AND SPACE, MILITARY HISTORY, ART, LITERATURE, AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE VOLGA REGION.**



### Where to eat

Samara has restaurants, cafés and canteens for every taste and budget. Visitors can try Russian, Tatar, Caucasian, Japanese, European and other cuisines, while the restaurant “Old Apartment”, located in the basement of a late 19th century mansion, offers Samara specialities. At “U Wakano”, the house restaurant of the Zhiguli brewery, you can try all the different types of beer produced there. Another popular institution in the city is Anticafé, where visitors pay for the length of their stay, not for specific dishes. The Top 10 establishments, according to Trip-Advisor, include the “Puri”, “Perchini Grill & Wine”, “Frau Muller”, “Churchill Bar”, “At Bottom”, “Cozy Café Benjamin”, “Shamrock”, “Olivier” restaurants and cafés, as well as “CoffeeBean” and the “Shannon” Irish pub.



### What to see

Visitors to Samara are recommended to visit Stalin's bunker (only by tour, organized for groups of 20-25 people), as well as local museums charting the history of aviation and space, military history, art, literature, and the archaeology of the Volga region. The Samara Art Museum has a rich collection of paintings by Repin, Surikov, Kramskoi, Polenov, Makovsky, and works by Malevich, Konchalovsky, Lentulov and Burliuk. The cave of the Greve brothers, where in labyrinths of the karst landscape one can see traces of a Bronze Age site, is close to Samara in the Sokolii mountains, where you will find the bones of a cave bear and a woolly rhinoceros. Tourists with children are recommended to visit the largest aquapark in Europe. A good way to explore the area is on a trip along the Volga by motor boat or yacht. **TLR**

The sand sculpture competition “Wonders of the World” was held on the city beach.

The “Samara” fountain on the embankment was built to mark the 400th anniversary of the city. The “Sail” composition is made of steel and weighs 16 tons.

The Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was built in Samara in 1906 and is a neo-Gothic pseudo-basilica.







# St. Petersburg



## The city

St. Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia, with a population of about 5.3 million people, and the administrative centre of the North-West Federal District and the Leningrad Region. Tsar Peter I founded St. Petersburg in 1703 in the delta of the Neva River, and from 1712 to 1918 the city was the capital of Russia. One of the most beautiful cities in the world, it has many historical monuments and attractions, and it was the cauldron of three revolutions: in 1905-1907, then in February and October 1917. The unofficial names of the city are Russia's "Cultural Capital" and "The Northern Capital". During the Second World War, residents and defenders of Leningrad withstood a historical blockade by Nazi troops, which lasted 872 days, during which according to various estimates between 650,000 and two million people died. The restoration of some monuments destroyed by the war continues to this day. The historical centre of St. Petersburg and its associated sites are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. St. Petersburg is connected with many other regions of Russia and a number of countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America, by air, water and railway routes: it has the modern international "Pulkovo" airport, as well as five railway stations, and sea and river passenger ports. The distance from Moscow to St. Petersburg along the federal highway is 707 km.



## Schedule of matches

St. Petersburg will host seven world championship matches: four group games – with first stage matches with the participation of teams from groups A, B, D and E, an 1/8, a semi-final and a semi-final. The group games will be held on 15, 19, 22 and 26 June. The 1/8 play-off is on July 3, the semi-final on July 10, with the play-off for third place on 14 July. The teams will play at the new "St. Petersburg" stadium, which was specially built for the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 and the 2018 World Cup.



## The stadium

The new "St. Petersburg" football stadium is located on the site of the former Kirov stadium. The only stadium in Russia with a roll-out field, the project was designed by the Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa. The most expensive arena of the 2018 World Cup, its construction took a total of 10 years. It can accommodate from 69,000 fans for football matches and up to 80,000 people for concerts. In 2017, four matches of the FIFA Confederations Cup were held at the stadium, and at the end of the World Cup it will be transferred to the "Zenith" football club. In 2020, matches of the European Football Championship will be played there. Address: Krestovsky Island, South Road, 25.



## How to get to the stadium

There are several ways to reach the arena, including by metro to the "Krestovsky Island" station, from where temporary buses will be →

A tourist boat on the Winter Canal near the Hermitage.





View of ancient stucco statues and the dome of St. Isaac's Cathedral.



Group games and the final of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 were held in St. Petersburg.

organized. During the competition, shuttles will also directly link the stadium to Pulkovo airport and railway stations. By the start of the 2018 World Cup, the government of St. Petersburg will have opened the new "Novokrestovskaya" metro station near the stadium. Fans with match tickets can travel free. A new foot bridge will also link the stadium with Vasilievsky Island.



#### Fan zone

The fan zone will be located on Konushennaya Square, which proved a success during the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017. 15,000 fans can be accommodated there.



#### Where to stay

The centre of St. Petersburg has many hostels with room prices starting from \$15 (including breakfast). There are small budget hotels like "Academic" (next to the Hermitage), "Rus" (near the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral), and many others. For international hotel chains, prices start from \$70 for a standard room (with breakfast). A

**DURING WHITE NIGHTS DON'T MISS A BOAT TRIP ALONG THE NEVA AND THROUGH THE CANALS UNDER THE DRAWBRIDGES: IN 2017, AN ADULT TICKETS COST AROUND \$13.**





spacious elite apartment on Nevsky Prospekt or Krestovsky Island will cost around \$8,000. There are also good options for accommodation in hotels and resorts, such as that on the northern shore of the Gulf of Finland, 25-50 kilometers from the stadium and the city centre. Especially for the World Cup St. Petersburg will have as many as 10 floating hotels, expected to be three-star with 40 rooms and a restaurant. The hotels will be moored on the Sinop-skaya and Vyborgskaya Embankments and around the Krestovsky Island.



### Where to eat

Budget tourists will enjoy the “Kopeika” or “Tarelka” chains of cafeterias that are scattered around the city, as well as a Finnish canteen on Bolshaya Konyushennaya Street, with an average bill of \$3-5. In the city there are many international franchise fast food restaurants. Fans of the Soviet past can visit the legendary “Pyshechnaya” on Bolshaya Konyushennaya or the “Sovetskaya Kafe Kvartira” on Nevsky Prospekt to try pastries with powdered sugar and coffee with milk from an

aluminium kettle, or buckwheat porridge with meat and dried fruit compote. Gourmets are advised to try “Trattoria Little Italy”, a small restaurant on Millionnaya Street, the café “Beautiful Green” on Mokhovaya, or a Belgian waffle from “Gofre” on Ligovsky Prospekt.



### What to see

During White Nights don't miss a boat trip along the Neva and through the canals under the drawbridges: in 2017, an adult tickets cost around \$13. A water excursion to Peterhof on the “Meteor” with a walk in the lower park, a visit to palaces and fountains will cost from \$17. Some of the most famous museums and historical buildings include the Hermitage, the Kunstkamera, the “Aurora” cruiser, the Peter and Paul Fortress, the Vorontsovsky and Mariinsky palaces, and the St. Isaac's and Kazan cathedrals. We recommend a walk through the shady Summer and Tauride Gardens, and a visit to the Water Museum. But to walk the roofs of old Petersburg, you need a special guide: volunteers can be contacted through social networks. **TLR**

**The city has no less than 93 rivers, canals and channels, with a total length of about 300 km - no surprise that it is sometimes known as the “Venice of the North”.**

**The Fountain Festival at the “Peterhof” Museum-Reserve.**

**The city's bridges are one of its main attractions - there are about 800 of them, of which 13 are drawbridges.**

**The 69-foot schooner “Lady L” at the historical shipyard in the village of Lakhta in St. Petersburg.**





# Saransk



## The city

Saransk was founded in 1641 as a fortress on the south-eastern outskirts of the kingdom of Moscow, and received its city status in 1780. It is named after the Saranki River, on the banks of which it was built. It is the capital of Mordovia, one of the republics of the Russian Federation. It is located 642 km southeast of Moscow, with a population of about 315,000 people. It is a small, cozy and green regional centre, which in recent years thanks to sports in general, and football in particular, has developed quickly and become more beautiful. In 2004-2012 Saransk was in the TOP-3 most comfortable urban settlements in Russia on five occasions.



## Schedule of matches

Saransk will host four world championship matches: four group games – with teams from groups B, C, G and H. They will be held on June 16, 19, 25 and 28 at the new “Mordovia Arena”, which has been specially built for the 2018 World Cup.



## The stadium

The new “Mordovia Arena” football stadium is being built on the floodplain of the River Insar, between Volgograd and Communist Streets. The appearance of the arena will resemble a red sun ball, symbolizing Mordovia, with capacity in the stands for 45,000 people. After the 2018 World Cup, the stadium will become the home of the FC “Mordovia” and the main sporting centre of the city.



## How to get to the stadium

The Arena is almost in walking distance from the railway station (about 2.4 kilometers), the airport and the bus station of Saransk (about 4.8







## SARANSK'S ATTRACTIONS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE CITY CENTRE, LED BY THE REPUBLICAN MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS WITH ITS RICH COLLECTION OF WORKS BY THE SCULPTOR STEPAN ERZI.

kilometers). However, there will be shuttle bus transport links for fans to the matches. The stadium is also near the "Posol" suburban railway station.



### Fan zones

The fan zone in Saransk will be located on Sovetskaya Square, and will accommodate 25,000 people. There will be a stage with a large screen, canopied stands, divided into super-comfort, superior comfort and economy class, as well as souvenir stalls, cafés and a recreation area.



### Where to stay

Saransk does not have that many hotels, so fans need to hurry to find suitable accommodation options in the city itself. Specialized tourist sites offer 49 accommodation addresses, including 3-star hotels and guest houses. The hotels "Saransk", "Admiral" and "Olympia" have the highest ratings, with prices ranging from \$15 per bed in a hostel to \$220 for the presidential suite in the "Admiral". A new residential complex being built next to the stadium will increase the number of rooms, and 1,700 new apartments will be used as hotels during the World Cup.



### Where to eat

Saransk has more than 100 places to eat, starting with budget cafeterias with an average lunch bill of \$3-5 per person, and cheap cafés (\$8-10). Good restaurants, in the price range \$15-20, include this dozen, as recommended by TripAdvisor: the restaurants "Mordovsky Podvorye" (Russian cuisine), "Big Pig" (European cuisine), "Malina" (Italian, Russian and Japanese cuisine), "Kaban & Bryukva" (European cuisine), "Eighth Wonder of the World" (vegetarian cuisine), "Baron Munchausen" (European cuisine) and "Admiral" (Mediterranean and European cuisine), and the cafés "Coffee Like", "Excellent Pelmeni" (Russian and European cuisine), and "Rosemary" (European cuisine).



### What to see

Saransk's attractions are concentrated in the city centre, led by the Republican Museum of Fine Arts with its rich collection of works by the sculptor Stepan Erzi, the Museum of War and Labour which shows popular history, as well as the Trinity Church, the St. John the Theologian Church, and the majestic cathedral of Fyodor Ushakov, devoted to the legendary Russian admiral who is revered as a saint. The Pushkin Central Park of Culture and Recreation spreads over 40 hectares, including a live calendar and a panel on which the silhouette of the great Russian poet is planted with flowers. There is a small zoo, a floating fountain, and a variety of children's attractions. The light and music fountain "Star of Mordovia" – the largest in Russia – operates on Theatre Square. Lovers of outdoor activities can go on horseback excursions, try the paintball and laser tag club "Energy". **TLR**

**Sergei Vdovin, ambassador of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Volunteer Programme, speaks at the launching of buses branded with the championship symbols at the "Mordovia Arena" stadium.**

**Located in the heart of the city, the Big Pig grill-bar with its open kitchen serves meat and fish dishes.**

**The Cathedral of the holy righteous warrior Fyodor Ushakov can hold 3,000 people.**

**The "Mordovian Compound" ethnographic complex recreates the peasant houses of the 19th century.**

**The "Lenin Apartment" hotel with apartment-studios has received very good guest reviews.**



# Sochi



## The city

Sochi is Russia's main year-round resort, located on the northeast coast of the Black Sea in the Krasnodar Territory, a distance of 1,700 km from Moscow. With a population of 400,000, Sochi is an important transport hub, and a major economic and cultural centre of the south of Russia. The city and the surrounding mountain slopes of the North Caucasus became internationally famous thanks to the Winter Olympic Games that took place there in 2014. The tourist infrastructure in Sochi and its surrounding resort complexes is well-developed, with several aquaparks, aquariums, zoos, museums, sports and entertainment centres, and amusement parks.



## Schedule of matches

Sochi will host six World Championship matches. Games involving teams from groups B, C, F and G and H will be held on June 15, 18, 23 and 26. In addition, there will be a 1/8 final on June 30, and a 1/4 final on July 7.



## The stadium

Teams will play at the "Fisht" stadium, which in February 2014 hosted the opening and closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympic Games. Before the World Championship, the arena underwent large-scale reconstruction and has already hosted several important football matches featuring the Russian national team and clubs of the Russian top division, and matches of the Confederations Cup of FIFA were held there in summer 2017. The stands hold 45,000 spectators. Address: Olympic Park, Nizhneimeretinskaya Street.



## How to get to the stadium

The easiest way to reach the stadium is by the "Lastochka" (Swallow) train, which makes two stops near the Olympic Park on its way from the centre of Sochi to Krasnaya Polyana and back. The organizing committee will also organize fan transportation to the stadium by shuttle buses from different places in Greater Sochi. For match ticket holders, travel is free.



## Fan zones

The fan zone in Sochi, designed for 10,000 people, will be located on the seafront. It will include territory from the South Mall of the Sochi Sea Port to the "Festival" concert hall.



## Where to stay

Following the Winter Olympic Games 2014, the Greater Sochi region now offers a huge choice of accommodation. In the Olympic Park itself you can stay in the "Azimut", "Radisson" and "Bogaty" hotels, located within walking distance of the stadium, where rooms cost from \$45 for a standard room up to \$1,500 for an apartment. There is also



THE CITY AND THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAIN SLOPES OF THE NORTH CAUCASUS BECAME INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS THANKS TO THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES THAT TOOK PLACE THERE IN 2014.

The port of Sochi has a premium marina with 209 berths.

The popular ski resort "Rosa Khutor" was built for the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The electric train "Lastochka" (Swallow) runs between central Sochi and the resort of Krasnaya Polyana.

The Black Sea and the resort of Sochi are two of the main Russian tourist brands.







PHOTO: FLICKR / ISTOCK / LENA GOLD

a large selection of rooms in the hotel complexes in the mountain villages of Krasnaya Polyana and Rosa Khutor. Budget tourists can rent a room, an apartment or a cottage from locals from \$16 per day. You can arrange that on your arrival in Sochi.



### Where to eat

The Adler district of Sochi, where the World Cup matches will be held, has a wide choice of places to eat such as an Irish pub and other cafés next to the stadium, where an average dinner bill is \$12-16, and in Adler itself you can eat a full meal in cafeterias for \$5-7 per person. The top five restaurants and cafés of the city, according to tourists, are “Khmeli & Suneli” (Russian and Caucasian cuisine, seafood), “La Luna” (Mediterranean, Russian and European cuisine), “Seli-Poeli” (vegetarian dishes), “Nippon House” (Japanese and European cuisine) and “Khinkalnaya” (Caucasian and Eastern European cuisine).



### What to see

The simplest way to explore is to walk around the Olympic Park, looking over its unique sports facilities and the grandstands of the track which stages the Formula 1 World Championship. Nature lovers can visit the famous Arboretum (from \$5 for adults) or ride a mountain bike on the hill slopes. Fans with children may be interested in the attractions of Sochi Park. An adult ticket there costs about \$30, a child ticket \$25. From the observation tower on Mount Ahun you can enjoy a stunning view of the sea and the city. Those interested in history will certainly want to visit Stalin’s dacha, which has been turned into a museum, while nature-lovers should not miss Sochi’s ancient yew-boxwood grove and the Agur waterfalls. Sochi’s beaches, of course, offer many types of water sports and activities. **TLR**





# Ulyanovsk – Centre of Hospitality

THE CITY OF ULYANOVSK WILL BE A CONNECTING LINK BETWEEN THE HOST CITIES OF THE WORLD CUP. IN THE CITY AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 100 HOTELS AND TOURIST BASES, **WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO 5,000 FANS AND CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPANTS.**

**U**lyanovsk was founded in 1648 as the fortress of Simbirsk to protect the eastern borders of the Russian Empire from raids by nomadic tribes. In 1780 the city became known Simbirsk. In 1924, Simbirsk as the native city of Vladimir Ulyanov (Lenin) was renamed Ulyanovsk. The current population of the city is approximately 630,000. Neighbouring cities in the Volga region, including Samara, Saransk, Kazan and Nizhny Novgorod, have been chosen to host World Cup matches. Ulyanovsk will serve as a key transportation link and lodging hub between Saransk (the distance between the cities is 230 km), Samara (240 km) and Kazan (210 km).



## Where to stay

FIFA has an approved list of 60 bases for teams participating in the World Cup, including the Hilton Garden Inn Ulyanovsk. This is the first Hilton hotel in the city. Its thoughtful design, innovative restaurant concepts, genuine hospitality and dedication to meeting guests' needs, helped to secure the hotel's place on the FIFA list.

Hilton Garden Inn Ulyanovsk offers 176 spacious modern rooms, ranging from standard to deluxe categories. Specially equipped rooms are available for the disabled.

The hotel restaurant serves a buffet breakfast. In the summer courtyard of the hotel, fans can enjoy watching matches with delicious food and refreshing drinks.

Evening meals and drinks are available via room-service. A free fitness centre equipped with modern facilities, a 24-hour business centre, onsite convenience store, laundry and dry cleaning services, and underground parking, are all amenities available for the comfort of hotel guests.

For fans accompanying World Cup teams, the Hilton Honors promotion programme is in place. Through

the programme, guests of the Hilton Garden Inn Ulyanovsk hotel are recognized as guests of Hilton International. The Hilton Honors promotion programme allows guests to accumulate bonus points that can be spent on accommodation at any hotel in the Hilton network, the purchase of flights, or ordering gifts from Hilton in special stores.

*Hilton Garden Inn Ulyanovsk: 25 Goncharova Street, Ulyanovsk, Russia 432071  
Tel: +78422250055 Fax: +78422466200  
E-mail: ulygs-salesadm@hilton.com  
www.ulyanovsk.hgi.com*







The Volga embankment in Ulyanovsk.



### What to see

Ulyanovsk can rightly be called a “city-museum”. There are more than 40 museums here, all organically intertwined in the culture and architecture of the city. Ulyanovsk attracts tourists for its ancient buildings connected in one way or another with the life and work of those great Russians Goncharov, Lenin, Karamzin and Pushkin. The main tourist attraction of the city is the Lenin memorial – a striking complex of buildings and structures created to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin.



### The Stadium

In 2017, in preparation for the World Cup, a massive reconstruction of the Central City Stadium

“Trud” began. Field heating, natural grass, a complex automatic watering system, drainage, maintenance equipment, gates, and corner flags – everything to make it a world-class FIFA-standard stadium. New pavilions will be two-storey, and each building section will be approximately 250 sq. meters. Changing rooms will occupy 100-120 sq. meters, and each pavilion will have 11 shower rooms, bathrooms, and warm-up areas for athletes. Four lighting masts have already been installed, and video surveillance and speaker systems have been completely replaced. Today, the illumination of the stadium is 1600 lux, which allows video broadcasts in any format.

The stadium is located in the heart of the city, within walking distance from

## FIFA HAS AN APPROVED LIST OF 60 BASES FOR TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE WORLD CUP, INCLUDING THE HILTON GARDEN INN ULYANOVSK.



the main host hotel – Hilton Garden Inn Ulyanovsk. It is approximately 8 km from the railway station to the stadium.



### Where to eat

The best restaurants in the city are located near the stadium and hotel Hilton Garden Inn Ulyanovsk. These include MATRĚSHKI, which specializes in modern Russian cuisine, Records Music Pub, Gonzo Bar and the Georgian restaurant “Antresol”. The Russian restaurant “Oblomov” is also an interesting choice. Guests at “Oblomov” can dine in the surroundings of traditional interior décor, based on the novel by Ivan Goncharov of the same name. **TLR**

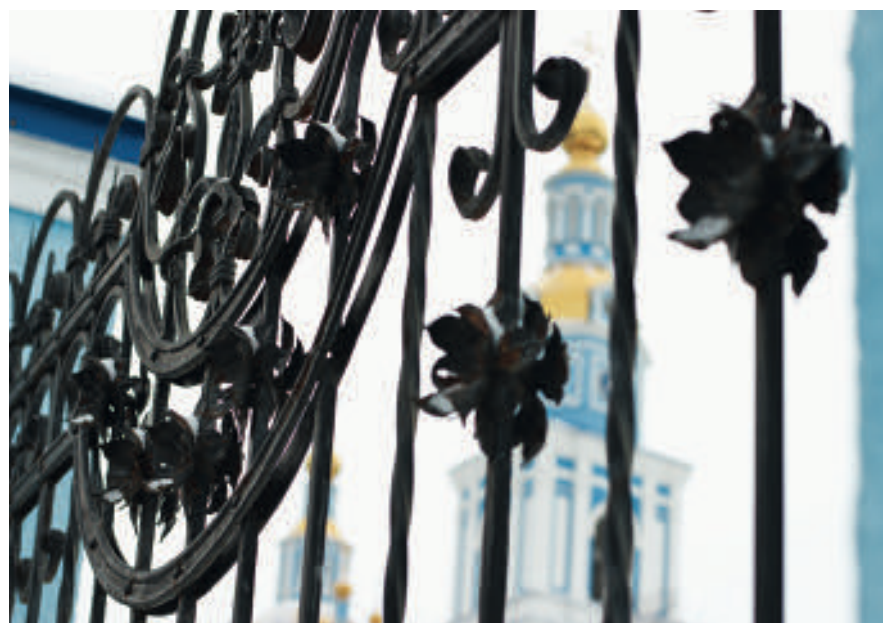


The “Trud” central city stadium will be a training base for World Cup teams.

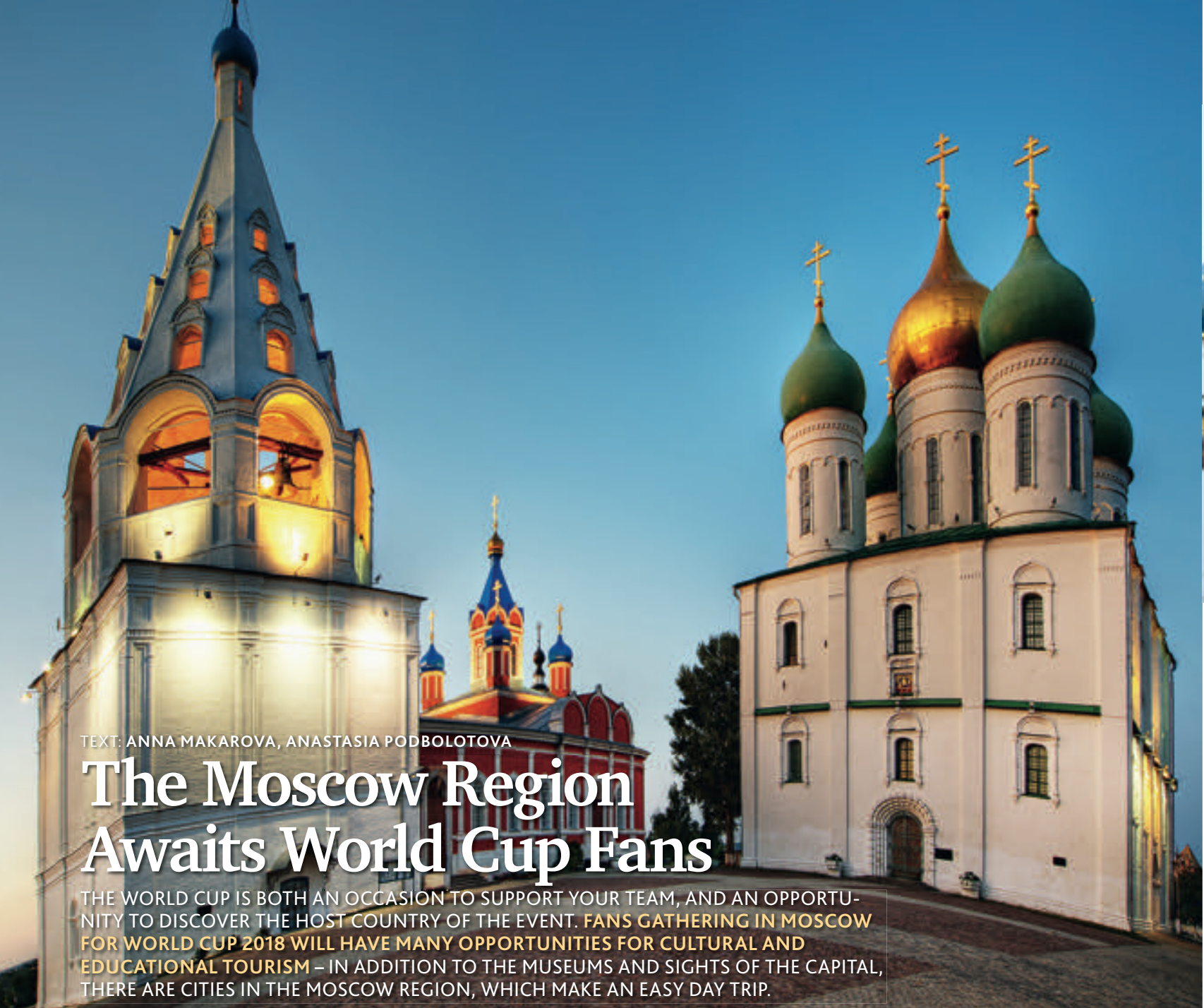
The modern 4-star hotel Hilton Garden Inn is located in the heart of the city.

The hotel has 176 spacious modern rooms, from standard to luxury.

The majestic Holy Ascension Cathedral was built in 2014.







TEXT: ANNA MAKAROVA, ANASTASIA PODBOLOTOVA

# The Moscow Region Awaits World Cup Fans

THE WORLD CUP IS BOTH AN OCCASION TO SUPPORT YOUR TEAM, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER THE HOST COUNTRY OF THE EVENT. **FANS GATHERING IN MOSCOW FOR WORLD CUP 2018 WILL HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL TOURISM** – IN ADDITION TO THE MUSEUMS AND SIGHTS OF THE CAPITAL, THERE ARE CITIES IN THE MOSCOW REGION, WHICH MAKE AN EASY DAY TRIP.

**G**uests of the championship can see different facets of Russian culture – the historical heritage of Dmitrov, the colourful life of old Kolomna, the Orthodox shrines of Istra and Sergiyev Posad, and the magnificent museums of Klin. The five most popular tourist cities in the Moscow Region have developed special routes for fans. During the tournament all sorts of special events will also take place in these cities.

## Local trains with audio guides

The advantages of sports tourism are already clear at the Moscow railway stations, where the journey to the chosen city of the Moscow region

**The Uspensky Cathedral on Cathedral Square in the Kolomna Kremlin.**

**Special branded trains equipped with comfortable seats, audio guides in various languages, areas for children, and information panels are being launched for fans.**







begins: fans board special 2018 World Cup-branded wagons, equipped with comfortable seats, audio guides in foreign languages, areas for children and information panels.

On arrival, travellers will be able to rent a bicycle and check out new bicycle paths, or walk specially designed excursion routes, complete with information stands. There are not only picturesque views and interesting museums on the way, but also areas to relax and Wi-Fi access points. Incidentally, you don't even need to check which days museums are open or their ticket prices before your trip – during the World Cup they will be open every

day and with a Fan Passport entrance is free. Routes and facilities have been adapted for persons with disabilities.

If you prefer travelling by car, finding your way around Moscow region will be easy: there are over 1,000 traffic signs in three foreign languages.

### Comfortable outdoor recreation

Regardless of how the battles on the football fields turn out, fans can stay on after the championship, combining tourism and recreation. Choosing a place to relax close to Moscow, but far removed from the capital's hustle and bustle, is easy. There are about 600

**FANS BOARD SPECIAL 2018 WORLD CUP-BRANDED TRAIN WAGONS, EQUIPPED WITH COMFORTABLE SEATS, AUDIO GUIDES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES, AREAS FOR CHILDREN, AND INFORMATION PANELS.**



hotels in the region, ready to accommodate 84,000 tourists. These include hotel chains, whose brands are well known: Radisson, Ibis, Heliopark, Ramada, Korston.

International standards of service ensure a reliably comfortable chance to relax, complemented by spa centres, saunas and sports facilities, restaurants and bars, and business zones – in short, everything the traveller might need.

### Inspiration for travel

This year the new tourist portal "Guide to the Moscow Region" – welcome. [mosreg.ru](http://mosreg.ru) – went live. This is the most complete catalogue of cultural and historical sites, museums, estates, churches and monasteries, theatres, tourist and leisure centres, sports complexes, and centres of folk arts. The guide lists forthcoming cultural and sporting events and the mobile app "Pulse of the Moscow Region" will soon be available. This will give visitors and local residents information about events in each municipality. The portal holds weekly competitions for free tickets to museums and exhibitions, and special gifts from the Ministry of Culture of the Moscow Region. There are some amazing opportunities – you can win a balloon flight or go sledding with huskies.

To organize your weekend go to [welcome.mosreg.ru](http://welcome.mosreg.ru). **TLR**

*The Ministry of Culture of the Moscow Region  
Tel. +7-498-602-84-88. E-mail:  
84986028488@mosreg.ru, mincult@mosreg.ru*

**Entrance to the museums of the Moscow Region during the World Cup will be free for fans.**

**The Kolomna Kremlin was built in the 16th century and was one of the largest fortresses of the time.**

**The Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra in Sergiyev Posad is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**








# FOLK SHOW “GOLDEN RING”


IN THE BLUE LIGHT OF THE STARS, THE IDOLS EMERGE FROM THE DARKNESS – THE PAGAN DEITIES OF THE ANCIENT SLAVS. THEY MOVE SLOWLY IN SOME MYSTICAL RITE...

TEXT: MARINA KRUGLYAKOVA



The “Golden Ring” National Theatre of Folk Music and Song presents its unique show, titled just that – “Golden Ring”. On its stage, without leaving Moscow, the audience can see the diversity of Russian traditions and cultures from the ancient pagan times onwards. It’s not just a performance, it’s an exciting, fantastical journey through time and space, exploring the vast reaches of an immense country and its history. The idea of creating such a show belongs to Nadezhda Kadyshcheva, National Artist of Russia, and Alexander Kostyuk, Honoured Artist of Russia.

“We have been preparing this show for 35 years,” says Alexander Kostyuk. “Ever since we were students, we have been going on expeditions to the most remote villages and settlements; we have been looking for old musical instruments, for rituals, traditions, costumes, local folklore.”



The powerful, sad sound of a hurdy-gurdy, that magnificent, ancient and absolutely cosmic musical instrument, as if it is spinning the wheel of history takes us to the heart of Orthodox Russia. The wistful ring of a bell goes deep into the soul, the rhythmic thud of the shepherd’s drum grips our heart. Saratov accordions with bells, flutes, ocarinas, *gusli*, ratchets, tambourines, chopping and washing boards, scythes and other ancient folk musical instruments have been made specially for this show by master craftsmen. All these instruments, like precious pearls strung on the thread of the life of a great country, immerse the viewer in a special and unique world that evokes bright and diverse feelings and emotions.



“Kalinka-Malinka” and “Podmoskovnye Vechera” have long become images of Russia, an embodiment of the unique spirit of its people.

Paganini played on the balalaika always brings a burst of applause and enthusiastic cries of “Bravo!”

The Russian “round dance” is like life itself, a symbol of beauty and universal harmony, as girls, dressed in white and gold sarafans and *kokoshnik* headdresses, gracefully float across the stage.

The amazing, bright and colourful costumes created with the help of Nadezhda Kadysheva are sure to impress, with some 350 made especially for the show, each one a real work of art. Along with the magnificent decorations and live musical score, the bright video on huge screens and immersive 3D light effects make the show unique and unforgettable.

Against the background of restrained Northern costumes, the Pavlov-Posad shawls “burn bright”. As if by magic one flashes after another, in a whirl of red, yellow, blue and green. There are Dymkovo toys and gzhel, some of the most famous Russian crafts, and you will see that famous ornamental teapot and its decorated cups start a fiery dance. The Kuban Cossacks and folklore are inseparable, their sword dance one the most complex and dangerous performances possible with weapons. Shashka sabres cut through the air, crossing and clanging, as the young dancers’ boldness spreads to the audience and captivates it.

As a hurdy-gurdy plays, the wheel of history spins. Bridges between long-forgotten eras and our own time appear one after another, connecting the amusement chamber of Ivan the Terrible with a boisterous fair with lively quadrilles, life-size puppets, *skomorokh* harlequins, bears and trampoline artists. Transfixed, the audience catches its breath, awed by the courage



**THE AMAZING, BRIGHT AND COLOURFUL COSTUMES CREATED WITH THE HELP OF NADEZHDA KADYSHEVA ARE SURE TO IMPRESS, WITH SOME 350 MADE ESPECIALLY FOR THE SHOW, EACH ONE A REAL WORK OF ART.**

of the artists and their remarkable skill. An incredible energy fills the air, making hearts beat faster. Now the festive “round dance” starts! Dancers move between the rows, drawing in the audience, streaming back towards the stage...

“Golden Ring” is a synthesis of folklore, vocals, dance, instrumental music, circus and high art. It is unique for the fact that artists from dance and music schools from all over the country have come together. In every sense, it is a calling-card for Russia herself. **TLR**



**“Golden Ring” National Theatre of Folk Music and Song**  
Moscow, Timiryazevskaya Street, 17  
Tickets: +7 (495) 662-9030  
Booking and purchase of tickets on the theatre's website:  
[www.goldenringshow.ru](http://www.goldenringshow.ru)



# *The Sanduny “Palace of Bathing”*

Public baths in Russia are an amazing, deeply national and cultural phenomenon – as much of a symbol of Russia as samovars and balalaikas, vodka and caviar.

**T**he Sanduny Bath House is a specialist in its field, with significant experience that goes back more than two centuries.

In the luxurious authentic interiors of the Sanduny, you see satisfied, sweaty pink-cheeked people. The Russian soul reveals itself here – in slow and friendly conversations, and the sound of fragrant sauna whisks. There's no place for argument or disagreement in the bath house – it's a place with an atmosphere of pure bliss and pleasure.

Built in 1808, the Sanduny Bath House became an alternative to Moscow's famous "English club". The founder of the baths, Sila Nikolaevich Sandunov, was certain that 19th century Moscow society needed public baths – and he was right. The brightest representatives of the city's upper crust and intellectuals would gather here and enjoy a glass of Moët champagne.

The later history of the Sanduny was not so magnificent, and as time went by the wooden bath house became dilapidated and went into decline. Alexei Gonetsky, who reconstructed the baths completely in 1896, became a worthy successor to Sila Sandunov. His determination to make the Sanduny Bath House the best and most luxurious remained. With the help of the best architects and engineers and the most expensive materials, the new Sanduny became a real "Palace of Bathing". Today, the interior of the gem in the Sanduny collection – the first class section for

gentlemen – remains unchanged. Current amenities include 3 classes for men, with separate lounge zones, spacious steam rooms and swimming pools. For ladies, there are 2 such classes. Private bath rooms can be booked for parties. There are 8 separate bath rooms, decorated in different styles and with different capacities. The "Sanduny" restaurant, famous for its ancient recipes of Russian cuisine, is part of the complex. There are also beauty salons for gentlemen and ladies, as well as the famous "Sanduny Orient" SPA-centre. The illustrious history and "museum" interiors, as well as the variety and the highest level of service, make the Sanduny Bath House a unique monument of purity and hospitality, the gold standard of the Russian baths! **TLR**



Address: Moscow, 14  
Neglinnaya St., bld. 3-7  
Tel.: +7 (495) 782-18-08  
[sanduny.ru](http://sanduny.ru) | [pr@sanduny.ru](mailto:pr@sanduny.ru)







### *Come to the Sanduny for your health!*

Immerse yourself in an atmosphere of purity, luxury and hospitality!

The Sanduny Bath House is a unique bathing complex in the very centre of the capital.

3 male and 2 female public classes, private bath rooms for family recreation and a restaurant of Russian national cuisine are at your disposal.

*Come to the "Sanduny" for health!*

[www.sanduny.ru](http://www.sanduny.ru) ||  @sanduny





PHOTO: **ANTON AGARKOV**

# Baikal Lake

WHO DOESN'T DREAM OF VISITING THE DEEPEST LAKE ON THE PLANET, LAKE BAIKAL, AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFE? PHOTOGRAPHER AND TRAVELER **ANTON AGARKOV** SHARED HIS IMPRESSIONS WITH US.



This old tree is on Sosnovka Bay on the eastern shore of Lake Baikal. On the lake there are 27 islands, the largest of which is Olkhon. The best time to visit is from mid-June to mid-August.





Located in Eastern Siberia, the lake is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Due to its size and unpredictable character the locals call it a sea. In Davshe Bay in the north of Baikal in October, there are often real storms.













Baikal is located on the border of the Irkutsk Region and the Republic of Buryatia. The water in the lake is so transparent that stones and objects can be seen at a depth of up to 40 meters. There are many different types of fish here including Baikal omul, grayling, whitefish, Baikal sturgeon, burbot, taimen and pike.









Baikal remains unfrozen until January. At this time, water vapour hovers over the surface, completely enveloping the lake in a haze, which makes it impossible to see the shore. Closer to March, many tourists choose to go on the lake for ski treks, ice fishing and skating.







Alexei Slashchev (second from right) with his international fellow-travelers on a mountain pass.



# AN UNCONQUERED MOUNTAIN PASS

HOW TWO RUSSIANS **RESCUED THREE FOREIGN MOTORCYCLISTS** WHO GOT STUCK IN THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS THIS SUMMER.

TEXT: ANTON SEMENOV

**A**lexei Slashchev is the head of a travel agency, and has worked as an automotive journalist for 15 years. Alexei has taken part in several “Discovering Russia” expeditions, travelling through 70 regions of the country. He told “Tourism and Leisure in Russia” about one of his recent journeys.

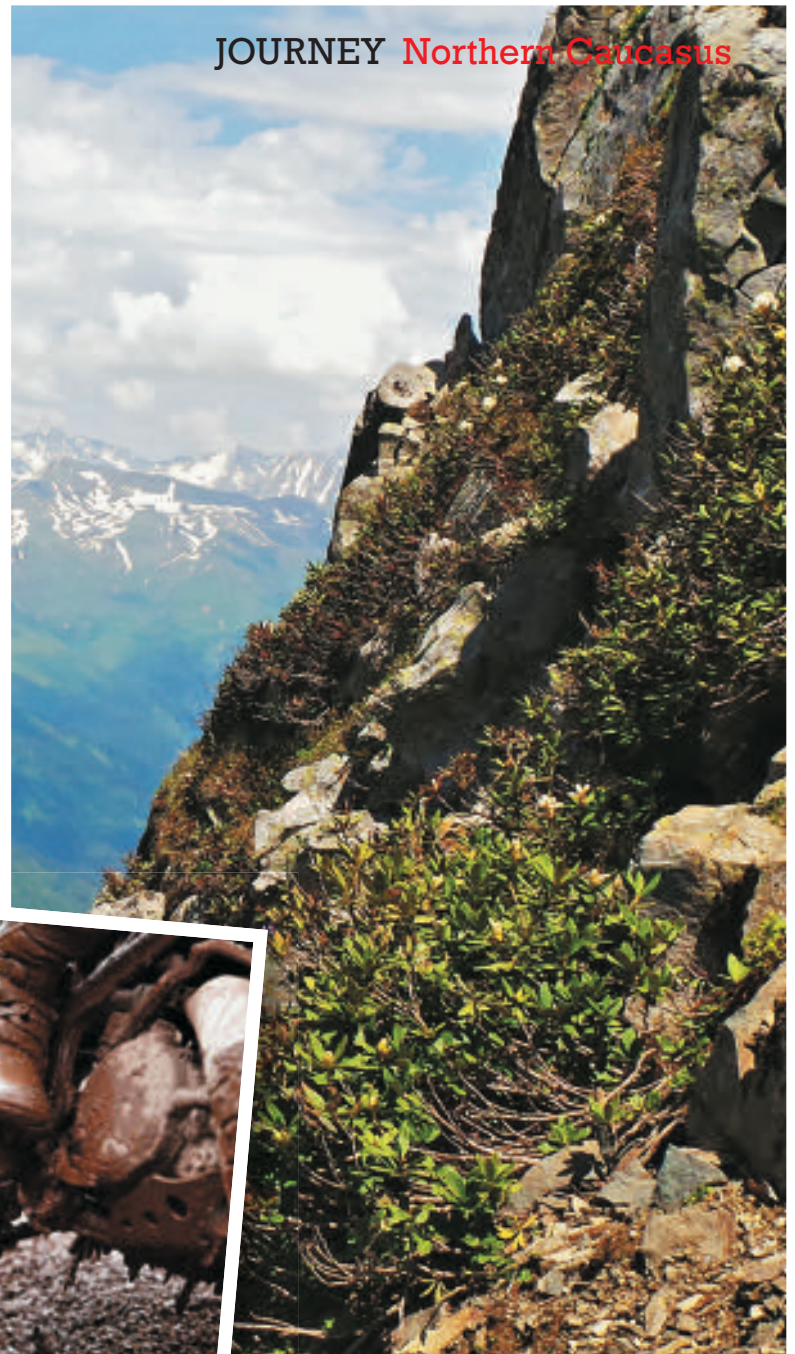
## In the Caucasian Nature Reserve

In early July our “Among Our Own” expedition started in Moscow. With a companion driver, I was driving south, towards the Caucasus, in two off-roaders, an UAZ Patriot and an UAZ Pickup. The route we took was:

Moscow, Tula, Vyoshenskaya village in the Rostov Region, Volgograd, Elista, Makhachkala, Grozny, Pyatigorsk, Maykop, Tuapse, Sochi, Novorossiysk and Rostov-on-Don. The purpose of the trip was to find new and interesting routes for our tours and expeditions in the Caucasus.

Over three weeks we visited 15 Russian regions and plunged into three seas – the Caspian, the Black and the Azov. In total, we drove 20,000 kilometers. The Vyoshenskaya Cossack village was one of the most interesting points on the journey. I advise everyone to visit, at least once in their lives, the birthplace of the great Russian writer Mikhail Sholokhov, the author of the novel “And Quiet Flows the Don”. His estate-house is now a





museum where the writer's belongings are exhibited. It also contains a stable.

If you are going by car to the Black Sea, it is best to bypass Rostov-on-Don: it is a very congested highway, since road repairs will continue until mid-2018. Passing through Vyoshenskaya allows you to drive to the Volgograd Region bypassing Rostov. Then there is a road to Maykop, followed by the Shaumyan Pass and the road to Tuapse. In that way, you can reach the Black Sea along relatively free roads, through picturesque mountain areas.

Another goal of our trip was to visit the Caucasian Biosphere Reserve, a very rich open-air museum of nature. We did not prepare our vehicles for an off-road expedition on purpose – to →



**Every season, the Caucasus mountains attract thousands of tourists from all over the world.**



**The mountain top, where the air is clear and heady, offers a wonderful view.**



need to go through the Grachevsky Pass. We looked at the map – and indeed there was a road. So we went up into the mountains without knowing what we would find there.

## On the Mountain Serpentine Road

The guide had warned that on the way we would come across small mountain rivers which we would have to ford. But it turned out that there were more than 50 such water crossings, their depths reaching half a meter!

On the way we passed an amazing chestnut forest, the chestnut trees very tall, their trunk thickness three or four spans of the arm. They looked like the sequoia forests of North America.

When we had already climbed quite high into the mountains, the road

suddenly ended and a track began. It was a half a meter in depth, while the ground clearance of the UAZ is 210 mm. If we had fallen into the track, we could never have got out of there. This meant that already we could not reverse down the mountain serpentine.

Having driven about 35 kilometers along this road, at one of its turns we came upon three motorcyclists with foreign license plates. We were shocked by what we saw: they were trying hard to get up a broken track that was deep in mud, with huge stones as well.

We discovered later that one of the bikers was from Germany, the second from the Czech Republic, and the third from Scotland. They told us about the problems they had encountered on their journeys. Aged 37, 40 and 45, they had reached the Caucasus through Ukraine, then to Rostov-on-Don, aiming to go on from there to Volgograd. Their satnav had taken them up into the mountains, and they had accidentally started along this road. All day long they crossed the rivers and climbed the mountain. When it became dark, they had decided to spend the night near the river, although this was forbidden, since all the inhabitants of the nature reserve come there for water. That night a bear had approached them

check that this attractive place can be reached by ordinary motorists.

The nature reserve is located on the territory of the Republic of Adygea. The village of Guzeripl is the last settlement before the reserve, and is now a developing tourist centre, with several hotels, with room rates from \$50. Driving through Guzeripl we entered the plateau of Lago-Naki where a beautiful health resort is located. Here the room rate is higher, starting at \$140, and in the summer the hotel is crowded. Adygea most of all offers active holidays. You can ride horses at an altitude of 2,000 meters above sea level, or climb Mount Zhitnaya, which the locals call “Alpika” because of the alpine meadows situated there, where herds of cows and wild horses graze. There are five more mountain peaks. The panorama that opens from there is unforgettable!

Incidentally, if you drive all day long, take a break of 15-20 minutes for every three hours of the journey. Then your back won't get tired, and you will feel better in every way: so we made regular stops, including breaking for snacks.

One of the guides told us about an interesting auto-route going through the Caucasus Nature Reserve. It turned out that from Maykop you can drive to the Black Sea through the settlement of Otdalenny, which is located in Krasnodar Territory: to do this you



**Little Fisht Glacier on the Lago-Naki plateau is the lowest-lying glacier in the Caucasus and Europe.**





The Caucasian Biosphere Reserve is a very rich open-air natural museum.



1,450 plant species have been recorded in the nature reserve.

*We camped in a chestnut forest, and had a feeling that someone was out there, close to us. We were not wrong: we were surrounded by 20 pairs of red eyes all through the night.*



The UAZ vehicles performed very well in the mountains.

– after that none of them could sleep again before morning.

The German had injured his leg falling on a rock, after losing his footing wading the river, and he could hardly step on it. Given that there was no mobile signal in the reserve, their two days in the mountains had made them panic.

Their Suzuki motorbikes are very heavy road bikes, weighing some 270

kg each: although they had taken part in the “Dakar” rally, they were not suited for riding in the mountains. We loaded their things into our vehicles, putting the injured German in as well, while the Czech rode the two bikes in turns. First he drove one bike up the mountain and left it there, then walked back, got on the second bike and rode it up there too. Since the track was interrupted by timber trucks, we could neither turn around nor tow the bikes. It was a really exhausting assault on the Grachevsky Pass!

One of the bikes had burnt out its clutch, and the air filter was clogged, while the brakes of the second one were clogged with clay. According to our calculations, there were about 15 kilometers to go to reach the pass. After another turn we saw that the track was completely swamped in liquid clay. Only one car could drive up the mountain. We managed to get the bikes up with a rope. But then the pick-up

truck had a puncture. After consulting among ourselves, we decided to stay the night there: no one had the strength to pull the car out of the pit.

## A Night with Wolves

We camped in a chestnut forest, and had a feeling that someone was out there, close to us. We were not wrong: we were surrounded by 20 pairs of red eyes all through the night: they must have been wolves. One of us took turns to stay on duty all night, walking around the tents with a burning torch to scare away the intruders, while the rest of the crew slept. We could even hear their breathing. In the morning, a couple of bears, a male and a female, came to visit us, although in fact they never came that close.

You can spend the night in the nature reserve only in specially designated areas. We did not make a fire, ate only dry rations, and hid all the food in the car.

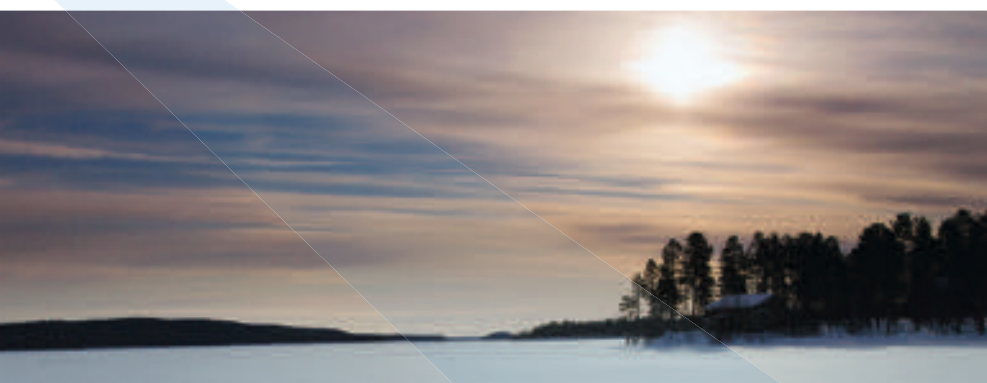
The youngest biker, the Scot, was the most panicked of the three: in the morning he wanted to leave bikes and everything else behind, and walk up the mountain. At that moment two people passed us on cross-country motorbikes and said that we would not be able to get up the mountain. We came up with a way to get the wet clay off the mountain, pulled out the car, and replaced the wheel on the pick-up truck. That took us five hours.

We turned around on the pass with great difficulty and went back. The oldest of the bikers, the Czech, a professional truck-driver, repaired the bikes, and they managed to get them to ride. But when fording the rivers, the bikes would slip on every large stone. It had rained in the mountains, so the rivers had become deeper. I think if we had not taken the foreigners' belongings into our vehicles, they would never have got through this part on their own. We made the return journey of 35 kilometers in 10 hours.

Then when we got out of the reserve, we were caught by rain. The foreigners treated us to dinner at a café in the village of Marino to thank us for our help, and we spent the night in Lazarevskoye. The bikers had no clean clothes left, so they happily settled in a private house where they could do some laundry.

After saying goodbye to our fellow travellers, we went on towards Krasnaya Polyana. But that's another story... **TLR**





**Guest House Victoria** The Victoria Guest House is set in picturesque woodland that is part of the Salma skiing, sports and tourist complex in North-Western Russia. Conveniently located for all forms of transport, it can comfortably accommodate six guests, with accommodation for up to an extra four possible. There is a baby cot, highchair and playpen. Onsite parking.

It is a warm and cozy cottage, equipped with everything necessary for an enjoyable and comfortable stay – including sauna, free Wi-Fi internet, large flat-screen TV, music-centre with karaoke, Sony game console with videogames, also cooking utensils, fridge, stove and microwave.

Free use of snowboard, mountain skis and inflatable sleigh (donut tube). There are BBQ facilities nearby and, in summer, use of bicycles is included.

The Guest House is conveniently located within a ski resort, with ski lifts 40-50 meters away and a cafe close by. The Ski trail elevation is 270 meters, its length 600-800 meters.

Victoria Guest House is in an ecologically clean area away from big cities. It's surrounded by untouched forests, lakes and paths. Water comes from an artesian well.

Stay at Victoria Guest House once – and you'll certainly want to come back!

#### Contacts

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You can find us via **Booking.com** —  
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[www.belomorie-hotel.ru](http://www.belomorie-hotel.ru)



Located in the very centre of Kandalaksha, the **Belomor'ye Hotel** is set right on the city's main square. Opened in 1976, it is one of the city's tallest buildings – visit the upper floors and enjoy sweeping views of the White Sea Bay and the beautiful woodland around the city!

The hotel has 78 rooms, from economy to deluxe suites, equipped with everything necessary for both business and recreation. Bordering Finland, Kandalaksha is the capital city of a large region on the White Sea Bay's shore at the south of the Kola Peninsula. Conveniently located at a highway, railway and waterway junction, this is the land of the midnight sun and the northern lights, a great place for sports activities and tourism. Endless forests, polar nights and amazing sunsets – unforgettable!

Belomor'ye Hotel offers: user-friendly booking system, 24-hour assistance of skilled personnel, registration, visa support, luggage storage, taxi reservation. Breakfast included. Convenient advance booking via online room reservation service [www.belomorie-hotel.ru](http://www.belomorie-hotel.ru)



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Ministry for Development  
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# HANDMADE MASTERPIECES

TOURISTS OFTEN WONDER ABOUT THE BEST PRESENTS TO TAKE HOME FROM RUSSIA FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. HERE IS OUR "TOP 10" LIST OF MOST POPULAR HANDICRAFT ITEMS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE TRADITIONS THAT DATE BACK CENTURIES.

TEXT: ARTYOM SVETLOV



**T**raditional handicrafts date back centuries, to the days when craftsmen created a range of items for daily use. Today, the handicraft industry produces high-quality goods that also often have an artistic value – offering aesthetic quality as well as practical use.

## Samovars from Tula

The Russian word “samovar” has entered almost all languages. The first samovar – or “a water-heating vessel with a pipe and inside oven”, as it was described in the old days – was made in Tula in 1778. With high popular demand for samovars, rich metal deposits, and highly qualified craftsmen in the region, Tula, the



Vologda lace is hand-woven on bobbins, and used to decorate clothes and shoes.





A decorative box with list of artists of the Lukutin factory "The Flying Three". Fedoskino. Mid-19th century.



Artistic design of a porcelain piece at the studio at the Gzhel porcelain factory.



The first samovars in Russia were made in Tula.

first and only Lace Museum, which displays a range of amazing exhibits.

### Gzhel Ceramics

The potters of Gzhel have been making ceramic ware since the seventh century. The region includes about 30 villages near Moscow that are known as the "Gzhel cluster", and is Russia's key pottery producer today. The renowned blue-and-white ceramic items are made with amazing artistry and creative design. But beware of counterfeits! Many fake Gzhel-like items find their way into the market. Before you buy, check the quality, design and material. The authentic article is extra-thin and shiny – porcelain cannot be heavy, and items that are heavy are earthenware, not porcelain.

*The Russian word samovar has entered almost all languages. The first samovar - or "a water-heating vessel with a pipe and inside oven", as it was described in the old days - was made in Tula.*



city of gunsmiths, immediately became world-famous as the samovar centre of Russia. The Tula Samovar museum opened in 1990, and is now a popular landmark in the city.

### Vologda Lace

Vologda lace is made of thick, seamless, even linen threads, the smooth twists of which form a distinct pattern. The visual effect of Vologda lace is often compared to window frost and snowflakes, and this Russian craft has become a true art form. Lace is used to make adornments, tablecloths, napkins, panels, clothing, and even footwear. Today, Vologda lace is made by Snezhinka, a firm which employs craft artists using traditional bobbins to produce hand-made lace. In 2010, Vologda opened Russia's

### Orenburg Shawls

Orenburg Shawls are a symbol of Russian comfort. They feel warm and thick but are light and delicate like a spider web. They are made of handspun goat fibre, the world's finest, which makes the shawls exceptionally tender and soft. A high-quality shawl can be pulled through a wedding ring. These shawls were first shown internationally at the 1857 Paris World Fair, which was just the beginning of their global fame. They became so popular that a British company even produced→



its own fibre shawls and called them “Orenburg shawl imitation”. Today, some of the world’s most elegant women, such as Montserrat Caballé and Catherine Deneuve, have Orenburg shawls in their wardrobes.

### Khokhloma Painting

Khokhloma is a decorative wood-painting style in black and red on a golden background. The technology, colour and pattern developed in the north of the Nizhny Novgorod region at the turn of the 17th and 18th century. The name originates from the merchant village of Khokhloma, where craftsmen would bring their handmade wooden spoons for sale. Such items are traditionally some of the best souvenirs to take home from Russia – they tell a unique story of Russian craftsmen who still keep the secrets of Old Russia.

### Bogorodskaya Toys

Bogorodskaya wooden toys appeared some 350 years ago, influenced by craftsmen from the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, a handicraft centre of Muscovy Russia. They are unpainted figures of people, animals, and birds carved from linden wood, with some featuring scenes of everyday peasant life. The toys can move – the best-known composition is “Blacksmiths”, which features a peasant and a bear taking turns to hit an anvil.



A studio at the Semyonov “Khokhlomskaya Rospis” factory.



At the Skopinsky art pottery factory.

That toy became a symbol of the craft and appears in the emblem of the Bogorodskoye settlement outside Moscow.

### Fedoskino Miniatures

This type of handicraft first appeared in Fedoskino, a village near Moscow, in 1795. Craftsmen follow traditional techniques of making lacquer boxes of papier-mâché, together with the classic technique of multi-layer oil painting as used by artists as varied as Leonardo da Vinci, Karl Brullov and Rubens. The brilliant use of transparent paints, which look brighter by contrast against a black lacquer background, have made the craftsmen of Fedoskino famous both in Russia

and around Europe. The Fedoskino factory manufactures boxes, cases, powder and needle boxes, tea cases, brooches and pendants in papier-mâché. Such miniatures can be found in private and public collections worldwide.

### Rostov Enamels

Rostov the Great (Rostov Veliky) boasts three “wonders” that are widely known both in Russia and abroad – the Rostov Kremlin, Rostov bells, and Rostov enamels. Enamels are the town’s traditional handicraft, one which originated as icon-painting in the second half of the 18th century. The French jeweller Jean Toutain invented special paints in 1632, with glass as their main element and added metal oxide: they are placed on a metal base (steel, copper, silver, or golden plate) and burned in a furnace. The “Rostov Enamel” factory manufactures jewellery, tableware, souvenirs, icons and other items, and has a museum where artists and jewellers demonstrate how they create their works.

### Dyatkovo Crystal

Dyatkovo crystal has a history of 200 years behind it, with the factory founded in 1790 by the Maltsov merchant family in the village of Dyatkovo, now a town in the Bryansk Region. In the 19th century, Dyatkovo craftsmen made 200-piece dinner sets for the Tsar’s residences, including the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg



In the Museum of Enamel at the Rostov Kremlin.

A Bogorodskaya toy: “How the mice buried the cat.”







Fedoskino began decorating snuff-boxes. In 1828, the factory employed about 100 people.



*The Fedoskino factory manufactures boxes, cases, powder and needle boxes, tea cases, brooches and pendants in papier mache. Such miniatures can be found in private and public collections worldwide.*

and the summer palaces in Tsarskoye Selo and Gatchina. Dyatkov crystal tableware is used in the Kremlin for important occasions, and it can be found in many prestigious private and public collections.

### Skopin Pottery

Skopin is the name of a town in the Ryazan region as well as its famous handicraft, and it derives from the fantastic ancient “fishing bird”, the skop. The craft originated in 1640 and Skopin craftsmen still make tableware with distinct imagery. In the 19th century, Skopin started to mass produce glazed figured

vessels and candlesticks shaped like birds and fish, decorated with rich patterns. Such fanciful figures were sold in marketplaces in Moscow, Ryazan, Lipetsk, Southern Russia and Ukraine, and they have also reached museum collections in Montreal, Paris and Berlin. **TLR**



Dyatkov crystal is famous all over the world.



### GENNADY DROZZHIN,

Chairman of the “Handicraft Association of Russia”, member of the Russian Academy of Arts:

In the past Russian handicrafts were famous around the world, and most factories produced goods for export, while foreign ambassadors were exited by their products. Russia has a huge and unique range – unmatched anywhere else in the world – of national handicrafts, some dating back 500 years. Tourism helps to boost the economies of these traditional handicraft centres. Among the best examples are “The Town of Craftsmen” in Gorodets, in the Nizhny Novgorod Region, or the recently established Handicraft Centre in Skopin, in the Ryazan Region. Arranging visits by tourists to such enterprises may not be easy, but existing options today include Khokhloma Painting and Gipur in the Nizhny Novgorod Region, and Dulevo Porcelain and Gzhel Association near Moscow. Many factories run museums and shops, and offer tours and masterclasses in their crafts.



Fedoskino lacquer miniature.





## LET'S GO TO RUSSIA!

### TOURIST VISA

To receive a tourist visa, the following documents are required: foreign passport, visa form (to be completed online on the website of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation: [visa.kdmid.ru](http://visa.kdmid.ru)), a photograph (3.5 × 4.5 cm), proof of insurance valid in Russia covering at least €30,000 of medical expenses, a voucher or a contract for tourist services, and confirmation of reception of a foreign tourist from a tour operator.

### PRIVATE VISA

If you have friends or relatives in Russia, you can apply for a private visa. To do so, you need the

same documents as for a tourist visa, but instead of the confirmation from the tour operator, you need to submit the original of an official invitation from a citizen of the Russian Federation.

### WHERE TO SUBMIT THE DOCUMENTS

Traditionally, you can apply for the visa by personally submitting the required documents at a Russian consulate. Documents are submitted at the visa centres of the Russian Federation if there is one in your country. A detailed list can be found on the website of the Consular service of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation: [kdmid.ru](http://kdmid.ru).

### VISA PROCESSING TIME

The standard time period for the issuing of a visa is from four to 20 working days. Fast-track processing is also possible, with processing taking between one and three days. In such cases visa fees are doubled.

### TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

When planning trips with children, it should be noted that if the child is included in the parent's passport then he/she will also be included in the visa. If the child has his/her own passport, then a separate application must be submitted with the full documentation.

### RULES FOR ENTRY WITH ANIMALS

Cats and dogs can be brought in to the country, limited to two in number. For such entry, an international veterinary passport is required.

Animals can be brought in through customs posts that have veterinary control offices capable of dealing with such passports. Such posts are in operation at the airports and ports in Sochi and St. Petersburg and at all Moscow's airports.

### BRINGING MEDICINE TO RUSSIA

Foreign citizens can bring medicine (even types that are not registered in Russia) for personal use with no limits as long as

it does not contain narcotic or psycho-active substances.

### BRINGING CURRENCY TO RUSSIA

Russian legislation allows bringing total funds not exceeding \$10,000 (or an equivalent amount in any other currency) to Russia, without filling in a customs declaration. Above that figure, a customs declaration must be completed.

This restriction applies only to cash: the amount of funds on bank cards is not restricted.

### CUSTOMS RULES WHEN LEAVING RUSSIA

If you are intending to take gifts and souvenirs out of Russia, you should

establish in advance that the items you have bought are permitted for export. Works of art, antiques, icons and old books are regarded as cultural treasures. Exporting the following items is prohibited: anything that is more than 100 years old, archaeological artefacts, any objects of scientific or artistic value, original military uniforms and accessories if more than 50 years old, medals and other awards. Other valuables can be taken out of the country if Rosokhrankultura, the federal service for the oversight of legislation in the sphere of cultural heritage, has given permission in advance.

According to the website [welcome2018.com](http://welcome2018.com)





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# JANUARY-AUGUST

A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERESTING EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN CITIES ACROSS RUSSIA: FESTIVALS, CELEBRATIONS, PARADES, CONCERTS AND RE-ENACTMENTS. SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, OTHERS ARE ALMOST BRAND NEW. WE HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT WILL BE HELD IN 2018.

**Khanty-Mansiysk**

**01-10** January

## New Year Capital

New Year's Eve is Russia's favourite celebration

This year the "New Year Capital" of Russia is the city of Khanty-Mansiysk. The "New Year Capital" has 20 entertainment spaces, three million illumination lights, thousands of different slides, the Yelka residence, and a food fair. "Freaky Street" can be found here: instead of houses it has yurts, instead of roads and sidewalks there are trails for dogs and reindeer sleds. Extreme competitions include winter mountain-biking, snow-mobile cross-country skiing, laser tag and a fire-show. You can experience the miraculous power of hot mineral water in an outdoor pool: the temperature in the street may reach -30 C, but in the water it is always +40 C.

**Yaroslavl**

**12-18** February

## Shrovetide week

The ancient Slavic holiday people still love to celebrate

Maslenitsa is connected with the passing of winter and the arrival of spring. Although the holiday has pagan origins it coincides with Shrovetide week – the last week before Lent in the Orthodox church – when you can still eat butter, dairy products and fish. The main elements of the celebration involve pancakes, sleigh rides, and burning an effigy of winter. Pancake week in Russia is loved and celebrated on a grand scale in both Moscow and small towns. Thousand-year-old Yaroslavl, the "capital of the Golden Ring", holds Russia's Main Maslenitsa Carnival, complete with the residence of the Empress of Maslenitsa which is especially popular with visitors.

**Moscow**

**15-21**

January

## Figure Skating Championships

Incredible performances from elite sportsmen and women from European countries.

The last time the European Figure Skating Championships took place in Russia was in 1990 in St. Petersburg. This time the venue will be the "Megasport" sports palace in Moscow, an arena well-known to Russian and foreign skaters after the 2011 World Figure Skating Championships was successfully held there. Russia has considerable experience in holding major world-class championships, and this championship should be no exception, giving its world-wide audience a huge range of lasting impressions.



Uglich

01-05

August

## Photo-Parade

The largest photo festival takes place deep in the Russian countryside

The ancient Russian city Uglich on the Volga hosts over five days more than 100 events for professional and beginner photographers. The programme includes four main fields: documentary photography, art photography, travel photography, and the "Olympus" programme. Through the course of the year, the festival is preceded by an online competition "Point on the Map", with single photographs submitted for the competition in the nominations "Travel", "Portrait", "Drone Photography", and "This Is the Caucasus".



Kolomenskoye

30-02

April-May

## St. George Knights' Tournament

A battle of real men at Kolomenskoye

More than 200 of the most famous knights of Russia and the world will meet at the fourth "St. George's Tournament" in the Kolomenskoye Museum-Reserve in Moscow. As in previous editions of the tournament, they will joust with wooden spears, fight team melees, as well as duels with two-handed weapons. The Knight's Tournament is above all a military competition, complete with risk, excitement and frenzied action – there is no staged fighting here. Participants will be served a 15th century menu fit for aristocrats, including baked pheasant, venison and boar and fritters with herbs, washed down with ancient ales and spiced wine.



## Scarlet Sails

A beautiful holiday for school leavers and visitors

At the end of June (the exact dates to be confirmed), another festival will be held for all school leavers – Scarlet Sails. The event, which is eagerly awaited by all 11th-graders, is also enjoyed by visitors to the city. It starts late in the evening with theatrical performances at 10pm or 11pm. Bright, colourful and noisy fireworks will be reflected in the waters of the Neva after midnight, at the darkest moment of St. Petersburg's White Nights. The main event comes when the ship Tre Kronor (Three Crowns) sets out to sea, resplendent in its scarlet sails.



Tver Region

02-05

August

## "Nashestvie" Festival

Russia's most important rock festival attracts thousands of fans

"Nashestvie" is traditionally held in the open air near the village of Bolshoi Zavidovo in the Tver Region. In 2017, despite heavy rains, about 200,000 spectators made their way there. As well as music, there are wrestling competitions, an exhibition of motorcycles and prestigious cars, and fireworks. The 2018 event will also offer the opportunity to officially register your marriage, take photos with celebrities, and participate in exciting competitions. Tickets for the festival cost from \$50 to \$100.

23-24

June

St. Petersburg







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