
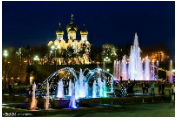



The Russian Golden Ring highlights


1. **Sergiyev Posad** encompasses the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, which is the functioning Russian Orthodox monastery and the spiritual center. The remarkable monastery was founded in 1337 and looks like a fairy town nowadays. Also, you can visit Gefsimansky Chernigovsky Skete (convent), the Museum Complex “Konny Dvor” and Toy Museum. Horseback riding and carriage tours are available in the town as well.


2. **Pereyaslavl-Zalessky** is famous for the birthplace of Alexander Nevsky, the victor of European invaders while paying a tribute to the Golden Horde. Peter the Great built his training flotilla on the nearby lake Pleshcheyevo. His famous boat is still preserved in the local museum.


3. **Rostov** has the notable Russian architecture of old. The Spaso-Yakovlevsky Monastery and Rostov Kremlin, both have picturesque views across the nearby lake Nero. You can craft your own souvenirs in the local workshop Emaliya.
4. **Yaroslavl** is the largest town of the Golden Ring. The major attractions are the Savior's Transfiguration Monastery, Church of Elijah the Prophet, Tolga Convent, Church of St. John Chrysostom, St. John the Baptist Church which is featured on the 1000-ruble banknote, Museum of History of Yaroslavl, Private Museum of Music and Time. You will have the opportunity to make a short cruise along the Volga River, enjoy food and interior of the restaurant “The Residence of Her Majesty the Queen of Maslenitsa”, relax at the SPA-Salon Kilikiya, make horseback riding and horse-drawn carriage tours.


5. **Kostroma** is the outermost town of the Golden Ring located 344 km away from Moscow. Kostroma is a cradle of the Romanov's Emperor dynasty and is famous for the Monastery of St. Ipaty, Museum of Wooden Architecture, The Resurrection Church, Epiphany-Anastasiin nunnery, Nature Museum of the Kostroma Region, Amethyst Jewelry Museum, Gypsy Culture and Life Museum, Dolls and Toys Museum (for visitors with young girls) and Museum of Flax and Bark. The interesting fact is that in Soviet times, foreign tourists were not allowed to disembark in Kostroma because of intercontinental ballistic missiles deployed in the region including the railway-car-based ones.

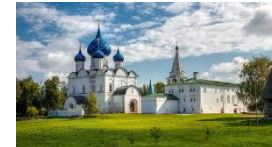

6. **Plyos** is a charming town located in beautiful landscape – the residence and a favourite work place of famous Russian Artist Isaac Levitan. Many of his paintings can be seen at the Tretyakovskaya Art Gallery in Moscow. There is a nice local Provincial Art Gallery in Plyos itself. You may visit the Memorial House Museum of artist Levitan. A funny attraction of Plyos is The Tree of Love, that's two pine trees with accrete common branch.



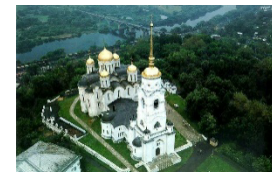
7. **Ivanovo** was known for its textile manufacturing industry. We recommend you to visit Ivanovsky Printed Cotton Museum. Other notable sights include Svyato-Vvedensky monastery, State Museum of History and Local Lore of D.G. Burylin and Museum of Soviet Car Industry.



8. **Suzdal** is one of the oldest Russian towns first chronicled in 1024. Being the capital of the principality since the 12th century, it had Moscow as its subordinate settlement. Suzdal is the smallest town of the Golden Ring and preserves its ancient appearance. Kremlin of Suzdal is a predecessor of the one of Moscow. Other attractions are the Cathedral of the Nativity, Transfiguration Cathedral, Assumption Church, Monastery of Saint Euthymius, Museum Of Wooden Architecture and Peasant Life and Wax Museum (Kremlyovskaya 3). After excursions, you may relax in Russian bath house "Svetlaya Banya".



9. **Vladimir** is the former capital of mediaeval Russia. The magnificent Dormition Cathedral (Mariä-Entschlafens-Kathedrale), a Russian mother church, The Cathedral of Saint Demetrius and Golden Gate survived the great devastation made by Mongol hordes in the 13th century. You will learn more about Vladimir while visiting the History Museum. To extend your travel experience of Vladimir, we recommend you to visit The Chambers, Vladimir Art gallery, the Museum of Crystal, Lacquer Miniatures and Embroidery, Spoon Museum and Borodins' Blacksmith Shop. Then take an opportunity to wash your tiredness away in Krasnoselskiye Bani (bathhouses).



10. The stand alone **Church of the Intercession on the Nerl** River has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1992. The church is situated in Bogolyubovo, Suzdalsky District, 13 km northeast of Vladimir. During spring floods, the church appeared as if floating on water.

The following towns are not a part of the Golden Ring but frequently included in an extended tour.

11. **Uglich** is famous for the assassination of Dmitry Ivanovich in 1591, who was the youngest son of tsar Ivan the Terrible. The Polish–Lithuanian invaders took an advantage of the followed political crisis of the ancient Rurik tsar dynasty and occupied Russia. The Poles besieged the Alexeievsky and Uleima monasteries and burned them down, killing all the populace who had sought refuge inside. Uglich was burned several times by Lithuanians, Tatars, and the grand prince of Tver. The Church of Prince Dmitry the Martyr was built in 1690 on the spot where Dmitry had been murdered. Other samples of old Russian architecture are the Transfiguration Cathedral in the Uglich Kremlin and the Resurrection Monastery. For more sites to see, you may visit Uglich Hydropower Engineering Museum, Bicycle Museum, Prison Art Museum, Dolls Museum and Vodka History Museum with degustation opportunities.



12. **Myshkin** features a number of museums, such as the Petr Smirnov Museum that is consecrated to the Russian producer of vodka Smirnoff, Museum of Flax, Folk Museum, Museum of Miniature Levsha, Museum-Gallery of Dolls of Olga Pavylycheva, etc.



13. **Rybinsk** was first recorded by chroniclers in 1071 as Ust-Sheksna. The settlement developed due to the Volga River trade. The citizens became rich enough to build several stone churches. You will see the Transfiguration Cathedral and the small St. Nicholas Chapel. You will have a unique opportunity to get to the Soviet Era while visiting the Exhibition Complex on Goncharova street, 3.

