

Group cycle tour

«Ancient towns of central Russia»

from Staritsa to Sergiev Posad



This tour is operated by a partner tour operator in Russia

About the route

Our bicycle route will begin next to the Upper Volga in an ancient town called Staritsa where the river is not so deep and full-flowing. Surrounding views will change and will be filled with more significant sites while approaching the Moscow region. The bike tour will open an amazing distinctiveness and picturesqueness of Russian province that is not always possible to feel while travelling through big cities of Russia.

Our bike route will have its logical conclusion in an important place of Russian Orthodoxy – in the town of Sergiev Posad, a «pearl» of the Golden Ring. The tour program will be full of activities – we will ride past many authentic villages, visit various ancient monasteries and churches that are still active or half-destroyed. We will attend some museums and manor houses, make stops in beautiful ancient Russian towns, have some masterclasses and stay and rest on the Volga River bank for a while.

A great part of the route we will cycle along rural roads and dirt-tracks in pristine areas of Tver and Moscow regions. Only two times we will cycle down asphalt motor roads escorted by our cars. We will spend the first night of the trip in a hotel in a historical centre of Moscow where all group members will gather. At the end of the tour we will come to Moscow from Sergiev Posad. Those who wish to continue to familiarize themselves with the Russian capital may proceed. We can organize an interesting program on request.



PRINT VERSION

<p>Day 1, Saturday</p>	<p>Transfer to the first hotel of the tour situated in the very centre of Moscow. You may also arrive there by yourself.</p> <p>After Welcome dinner you will have a walking tour around evening Moscow: great Cathedral, Kremlin and Red Square. You will come back to the hotel via Moscow Metro admiring its famous stations «Mayakovskaya», «Ploshchad Revolyutsii» and «Arbatskaya» known as real architectural treasures.</p>
<p>Day 2, Sunday</p>	<p>Moscow – Staritsa, transfer, about 260 km.</p> <p>You are leaving Moscow by bus at about 11:00 in the morning. And in the afternoon you will arrive to the ancient Russian town of Staritsa (is one of the oldest towns of Russia). This town is also known as the main and most favorite residence of Tsar Ivan the Terrible (Ivan IV).</p> <p>After lunch in the hotel you will go on an excursion to one of the oldest Russian monasteries founded by the monks of Kiev Pechersk Lavra in 1110. In the evening you will have the master class of cooking Russian pelmeni! The chief cook of the restaurant will unravel up a mystery of this popular dish.</p>
<p>Day 3, Monday</p>	<p>Staritsa – village Krasnoije – village Volga</p> <p>Bicycle route: Krasnoije – Golshino or Voevodino, ~ 45 / 55 km., + transfer 35 / 25 km.</p> <p>After breakfast you will leave Staritsa for village Krasnoije by bus. This village used to be a country estate of State Counsellor who was a friend of Pushkin. You may still find there an old unique pseudo gothic church built in 1790. There are only three such exceptional churches in Russia.</p> <p>Then, you will have our first cycling tour through Tver Governorate. You will pass by some deserted villages, fields, meadows and small rivers. Then you will move along the Volga River. It is a very quiet route so you will meet only few fishermen.</p> <p>The evening you will spend in a beautiful country hotel «Usadba» situated on the bank of the Volga River.</p>
<p>Day 4, Tuesday</p>	<p>Village Volga – city Tver</p> <p>Bicycle route: village Volga – village Bolschie Borki, ~35 km., + transfer 25 km.</p> <p>The nature of Tver region is amazing and pristine. And today you will discover the capital of this area, the ancient Russian city of Tver.</p> <p>On your way you will admire small villages and the beauty of sand dunes covered with colorful moss and spreading pines. Then you will have a rest on the bank of the Volga River in village Bolschie Borki, have a light meal and even have a swim in the river. And after you will go to Tver to get acquainted with its history and sights.</p> <p>Later in the evening after the dinner the walking tour around Tver will be awaiting for you.</p>
<p>Day 5, Wednesday</p>	<p>Tver – village Yurievskoe</p> <p>Bicycle route: Tver – Orschinski Kloster – Savvat`evo, 35 or 45 km. + transfer 15 km.</p> <p>After breakfast you will cross Volga river over the «Starovolzhsky» bridge, which was built in the late XIX century. This bridge reminds the inquisitive traveler the bridge in the Bavarian town Laufen an der Salzach and the bridge in Budapest.</p> <p>Then the road will lead you along the Volga River amaze you with old pine forest. You will have to cycle down dirt and sand roads to reach a real architectural pearl – Orshin Ascension Monastery favoured place of Tsar Ivan the Terrible. There you will make a stop to have a picnic.</p> <p>Later, you will come back to the Volga River by bus to have some rest at the Park hotel.</p>

<p>Day 6, Thursday</p>	<p>Village Yurievskoe – town Konakovo Bicycle route: Yurievskoe – Vidogoshi – Edimonovo, 35 or 45 km. + transfer 25 / 30 km. Today you will have a journey through the old pine forest passing by ancient small villages. You will cycle down smooth dirt and sand roads. You will enjoy the splendid view of the Volga near village Edimonovo. You will experience the beauty of the islands, riverbanks, pinery and calm water creating. There you will follow the river turning to the North-East to form Ivankovo Reservoir. After a break and a swim you will take a ferry to reach the town of Konakovo. If where will be enough time you will visit the local faience factory built in 1809. Later you will have a lovely evening at the hotel on the riverbank famous for its own sand beach.</p>
<p>Day 7, Friday</p>	<p>Town Konakovo – the Moscow Canal –Rogachevo – town Dmitrov Bicycle route: the Moscow Canal – Rogachevo, 45 km. + 40 km. transfer. In the morning you will go by bus to the famous point of interest – the Moscow Canal. This unique and massive canal was built in 1930s by hundreds of thousands Gulag political prisoners. Many of them died working there... You will make a walk along the canal to embrace the history of this place. After that you will continue the trip and will reach trading Rogachevo. You may still see stone country buildings indicating the bygone age of wealth and prosperity there. In the evening you will arrive in the ancient town of Dmitrov, have dinner and walk around the center of the old town, visit the Kremlin and take a stroll down Kropotkinskaya street famous for its monuments to «citizens».</p>
<p>Day 8, Saturday</p>	<p>Town Dmitrov – Town Sergiev Posad Bicycle route: Budenovez – Svyatogorovo – Vasil’evskoe, 25 or 40 km. + transfer 40 km. After breakfast you will visit museum of Dmitrov and find out a lot of fascinating information about local history and culture there. Leaving former country estate of the Golitsyn family you will cycle to the highest part of Klinsko-Dmitrovskaja chain of hills crossed by the rapid and twisty Velja River. This place is often called «Moscow taiga» and even «Russian Switzerland» because of its high green hills. You will cycle down the sealed, dirt and even very rocky roads to reach village Svyatogorovo. There you will admire the architecture of wooden Russian palaces. After you will have a nice lunch consisted of traditional russian dishes. In the evening you will finally reach amazing city Sergiev Posad. This city is rightfully considered one of the most magnificent sights of Russia included on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Later the master class on Matreshka painting will await you!</p>
<p>Day 9, Sunday</p>	<p>Sergiev Posad – country estate Abramtsevo – Sergiev Posad, circular tour Bicycle route: Abramtsevo – town Khotkovo – Sergiev Posad, 18 or 36 km. Today you will have the most eventful day. First you will visit the estate Abramtsevo where lived and worked many Russian artist such were Repin, Polenov, Vrubel, Surikov, Levitan, the brothers Vasnetsov... Then you will get by nice country town Khotkovo wondering at the local monastery and afterwards take the road to Sergiev Posad enjoying brilliant views of Russian nature. Our next destination point is Lavra located 500 meters from our hotel in Sergiev Posad. You will visit this place of interest before dinner.</p>
<p>Day 10, Monday</p>	<p>Sergiev Posad – Moscow, transfer about 80 km. After breakfast at the hotel you will go to Moscow. Your cycling tour is over. But the willing ones can continue their familiarity with the capital of Russia. And we recommend to stay in the same hotel of the first night «Bagration» which is located in the very center of Moscow.</p>

2017 TOUR DATES*

G6P-1. 20.05 - 29.05.2017

G6P-2. 17.06 - 26.06.2017

G6P-3. 01.07 - 10.07.2017

G6P-4. 29.07 - 07.08.2017

G6P-5. 12.08 - 21.08.2017

G6P-6. 26.08 - 04.09.2017

G6P-7. 19.09 - 28.09.2017

departure any date (May-September) possible on request with min. 10 people per group*TOUR PRICE per person**

Double/Twin room € 1599

Single room € 1828

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- 9 nights stay in hotels (rooms with WC/shower)
- Breakfast on days 2-9 (complex or buffet)
- Full board (lunches and dinners) on Day 2-9: picnic or lunch packages; on Day 2 and Day 9 - hotel's restaurant; 1 lunch in rural farm; 1 dinner in the USSR canteen;
- Welcome dinners at the hotel's restaurant
- Lunch package on Day 10
- Mineral water at your disposal on cycling days
- Bike rental with a back pannier (MTB with 21-speed), helmet on request
- Services of support team, including sport leader, technician and tour coordinator
- Transfers as per itinerary by air-conditioned coach /minibus
- Luggage transport from hotel to hotel (max 20 kg. per person)
- Ferry tickets across the Volga River
- Entrance to museums in Dmitrov, Abramtsevo, Lavra in Sergiev Posad
- 3x master class on the route of the tour
- Visa support – invitation to the Russian Embassy in your country
- Individual information package (one per room)
- Local taxes

ACCOMMODATION

- 3-4* hotels typical to the region, 1 night in a family hotel, and 1 night in "Recreation Park" on the Volga River

- Rooms with shower/WC or bath/WC

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

- Pre/post-tour accommodation in Moscow 4*
(price per room per night with breakfast during weekdays May 1-June 28 / June 28-September 30)
Double/twin room - € 99 / € 87
Single room - € 84 / € 73

NOTES

- Discounts for extra bed in double/twin room for people from 5 yrs. old – 10 %
- Minimum group size – **8 people**
- Maximum group size – **22 people**

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE:

- Picking up from the / to airport (price upon request);
- Flight to/from Moscow;
- Visit museums which are not included in the program;
- All beverage during the dinners, including alcoholic drinks are paid by tourists on a spot;
- Access to SPA, Russian banya, sauna in hotels;
- Laundry service;
- Visa expenses;
- Medical insurance;
- Almost every hotel has a Sauna complex (Russian banya, sauna, SPA) – Clients can pay locally for these services.

Why Moscow, Moscow and Tver Regions?

Moscow, Tver and other cities of their regions are ancient Russian towns founded as protective fortresses, princely residences, trade, craft and cultural centers of the Eastern Slavs. All of these cities play an important role in the country life.

Why is the tour precisely escorted by a sports leader?

Firstly, the bicycle tourism in Russia is still in its pupillage. Secondly, the majority of local residents do not know foreign languages very well. For us these two things are the driving factors to consolidate a group with Guide, not a self-guided tour. Since most of our cycling route passes down quiet country roads, and sometimes through small motor roads – an accompaniment by a group of our sports leaders and car escort will guarantee success and maximum safety of our bike tour.

Why is in-tour food included in the tour price?

Knowing the location, specifics and price policies of public catering in Moscow and Tver regions allows us to confidently say that «All inclusive» system is the best and the easiest solution to this question. Breakfasts and dinners are provided in the hotel restaurants. Lunches pauses will be often organized as picnics in romantic locations outside.

Welcome to Russia!