

## MOSCOW + GOLDEN RING I from Saturday to Sunday

**Moscow – Rostov – Yaroslavl – Kostroma – Ples – Suzdal – Bogolubovo – Vladimir – Kalyazin – Uglich – Mishkin - Pereslavl Zalesskiy – Serghiev Posad - Moscow**

### **1 day**

Arrival in Moscow, transfer to the hotel , accommodation. Free time for exploring the city.

### **2 day**

Breakfast in the hotel.

08:00 - Departure to Rostov the Great (200 km) Travel information.

The first mention of **Rostov** refers to the 862year, in the «story of bygone years». In 988, in Rostov the ruler was Prince Yaroslav the Wise. In 10-12 centuries, the city was one of the centers of Rostov-Suzdal land. From 1207 - the capital of the Rostov Principality. In the 15th century Rostov became a part of the Moscow Principality and in the 16th century Ivan IV took the city in the «oprichnina». In 1589-1788 years Rostov was the residence of Rostov metropolitans. In the late 17th century under Metropolitan Jonah Sisoevich was built Metropolitan residence, which since the 19th century became the well known - Rostov Kremlin. In the second half of the 18th century in Rostov appears an art -finifty .

11:00 - Tour program in Rostov Veliky: excursion to Rostov Kremlin (architecture of the Rostov Kremlin- exterior). Ensembles of the Bishop's court, the Cathedral square and the Metropolitan's garden, the exhibition «Rostov Finifty».

13:00 - Departure to Yaroslavl (64 km).

**Yaroslavl** is the oldest of the existing cities on the Volga river. The city was founded by Prince Yaroslav the Wise in the period of the Rostov Principality (988-1010) nearby pagan settlement Bear Corner. The first mention of the city of Yaroslavl caused by hunger in Rostov land was in 1071 year. The name of the city is traditionally associated with the name of its founder.

14:00 - Lunch in the city restaurant. Excursion program in Yaroslavl: city tour with a visit of the monastery Spaso-Preobrazhensky .

17:30 - Departure to Kostroma (84 km).

19:00 - Arrival in Kostroma, accommodation in the hotel.

### **3 day**

08:00 - Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

**Kostroma** - we present to your attention a wonderful province of the Russian Empire, which was called the Empress Kostroma ,and was famous for its hospitality ! Its noble and ancient shape, the Royal history, connecting the Kostroma and Romanov family, the guests waiting in elegant look ,won the hearts of many travelers of all ages and social classes. You'll be surprised of ancient architecture and how well they are preserved forming urban landscapes. Each sight and city has their own legend and mystery.

09:00 - Sightseeing tour in the Kostroma - the merchant city, the center which preserved the

architectural ensemble of Shopping malls (18-19 centuries). Fire tower of the 19th century. Famous Ipatiev monastery - the cradle of the Romanov dynasty (from here were called Romanov, Mikhail to the Kingdom ). The monastery of Bogoyavlensko -Anastasyin where is kept the miraculous icon of God mother Fedorovskaya (13th century), other temples and monuments. Visiting the Museum of Flax and bark.

13:00 - Lunch in the restaurant of the hotel.

14:00 - Departure to Ples (72 km).

**Ples** for the first time is mentioned in «the chronicle of Novgorod» about 1141 year. The exact date of Foundation of the first castle in Ples is not known. Was destroyed in February 1238, during the invasion of Batu Khan. After the loss of the fortress city continued its existence. Officially the story of ples dates from 1410 year, when the Moscow Prince Vasily I the son of Dmitry Donskoy, escaping the Tatar Khan ordered to build a fortified customs guard . After the destruction of the fortress by Polish in 1609, Ples develops as a large trade center on the Volga. He becomes a transit point from the grassroots provinces. In 1888-90' in Ples came Russian landscape painter I.I. Levitan. With his works he attracted attention to the city and its landscape, and since that time it becomes a place of summer rest for Muscovites and St. Petersburgers.

15:00 - Excursion program in Ples: city tour, Museum-house of I. Levitan.

Next, transfer to hotel, accommodation and rest.

#### **4 day**

08:00 Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

09:00 - Departure to Suzdal

**Suzdal** city is situated on the picturesque shore of the Kamenka river. By the way, exactly on this river in ancient times was a trade route. During the reign of Yuri Dolgoruky city Suzdal was given the status of capital of the Rostov-Suzdal, and after the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality. To protect the capital ,in that time were built cities to the South from Suzdal, by the way, it was then that Moscow was founded. Earlier, Moscow was a fortress, intended for defense of the Principality. For almost two centuries Suzdal was the capital of these principalities. In the beginning of the 14 century Suzdal refers to the Suzdal-Novgorod Principality. After, Suzdal joined the Moscow Principality.

12:30 - Arrival in Suzdal. Lunch in the city restaurant.

14:00 - Excursion program in Suzdal: sightseeing tour, the Suzdal Kremlin, the cross chamber, the Spaso-Efimiev monastery, Museum of wooden architecture.

19:00 - Accommodation in the hotel, free time.

#### **5 day**

08:00 Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

09:00 - Departure to Bogolyubovo (40 km).

**Bogolyubovo** - the ex residence of Prince Andrey Bogolyubsky. The city was founded in 1158 by order of Prince Andrey. The basis of Bogolyubovo was associated with the legend about the apparition of Mother of God to Prince Andrey: when Prince Andrey crossing the Vladimir to Rostov, he carried the icon and in 10 km to Vladimir horses stopped in place. On this place they spent the night . That night and was the appearance phenomenon of Mother of God, and in this place was founded the monastery.

09:30 - Excursion program in Bogolyubovo: excursion to Bogolyubovo monastery and the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl. Departure to Vladimir.

**Vladimir** - named in honor of the founder Prince Vladimir Monomakh and built in 1108 by, the fortress is situated on the steep banks of the Klyazma river on the edge of large forest. And in 1157 g Yuri Dolgoruky was created a new princely Palace and had built a Church in honor of his patron Saint George (1157) who strengthened him as a strong point of protection of the Rostov-Suzdal Principality. Prince Andrew Bogoliubsky in 1157, moved here the capital of the Principality. His successor - Vsevolod the Big Nest was one of the most powerful Russian prince, and he got title «the great». Vladimir was attacked in 1238 by the Mongol-Tatar invasion. Later the town was repeatedly subjected to Tatar raids, the most serious of which were the destruction of Diuneva Rati in 1293. Nevertheless, the Vladimir princes were recognized in the Horde oldest in the whole Russia, thanks to which Vladimir became the nominal capital of Russian lands. This status is an even more strengthened in 1299, when the city became the residence of the Russian metropolitans. With the growth of the Moscow government, Vladimir became an ordinary provincial city. Although in the titles of the Russian princes and tsars he still was on the first place, ahead of Moscow.

11:00 - Excursion program in Vladimir: city tour, sightseeing tour of monuments and architecture of XII century, the Golden gates, Dmitrievsky Cathedral, Uspensky Cathedral, the Museum «Crystal, lacquered miniature and embroidery» (or exposition «Old Vladimir»).

14:00 - Lunch in the city restaurant.

15:00 - Departure to Sergiev Posad (182 km)

18:00 - Arrival in Sergiev Posad. Accommodation in the hotel.

## **6 day**

08:00 Breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

09:00 - Departure in Kalyazin (181km), travel information.

**Kalyazin** - In the end of XII century at the confluence of the Volga an river Jabni has appeared a small settlement and and monastery, named in honor of Nicholas Mirlikisky, the patron of sailors and fishermen. In 1134 Prince Yuri Dolgoruky founded in this place the town-fortress Konstantin. But not for long time. In 1238 here came the Tatar-Mongols, a hundred years later came back again, leaving only ruin. In 1434 on the left shore of the Volga, the monk Makarii was founded Trinity monastery. In 1466 monastery was visited by Tver merchant Athanasius Nikitin and blessed by Macarius and Holy brothers on a trip to India. Before the Holy relics of the monk Makarii not once bowed royal persons - Ivan the terrible, Boris Godunov, Mikhail Fedorovich, Alexey Mikhailovich, young Peter 1. Here even have been Catherine II and Alexander II.

11:00 - stop in **Kalyazin**, if it possible will visit «floating» bell tower of Nikolsky Cathedral (the first tier is partially hidden below the water level under a layer put ground, the Cathedral was demolished before flooding).

11:30 - Departure to Uglich.

**Uglich** - a small town in the Yaroslavl region, located on the shore of Volga river, in the place where it makes a sharp bend, which was called «Uglich». Perhaps, this is why, city has this name. According to another version before in this country burned coal. In the chronicles was mentioned the Uglich town from 937 year. In the 13th century it became the capital of a small Principality. Later Principality of Uglich became a part of Moscow. In the 15th century, there were minted coins, led Chronicles and wrote books. The city became the political, economic and cultural centre of the Russian state. This tragic page in the history of 16th century - the murder of the son of Ivan the terrible, Tsarevich Dmitry. This event was preceded by «troubled time» -

bloody era of civil wars, impostors, intervention and destroying the country. In the 19th century the city turned into a provincial town.

12:30 Arrival to Uglich. Lunch in the city restaurant. Excursion program in Uglich: city tour, the architectural ensemble of the Uglich Kremlin, the interior of the Spaso-Preobrajensky Cathedral and the only remaining building of the XV century - the «princes Chamber of Uglich», the interior of the Church «of Dmitry on the blood» place of death in 1591 Tsarevich Dmitry, son of Ivan the terrible.

16:00- Departure, in Myshkin (36 km).

**Myshkin** - high hill, on the Bank of the Volga river was perfect for ancient Russian city.

Archaeological research indicates the existence of this place town in XI-XIII centuries.

Unfortunately, the town stood short because he suffered a war between Novgorod and Suzdal princes in the middle of XII century, and in 1238 was completely destroyed by the Tatars. Later, Myshkin was built as a village. The town since 1777 year. In XIX century became an important centre of trade with oil, eggs, fabrics and bread with St. Petersburg.

16:30 - Arrival in Myshkin. Excursion program in Myshkin: city tour, visit the Museum of valenki ,felt boots with the exposition «Sisters and brothers of boots», «The mice on the old mill», «Mice chamber» - we invite you admire the atmosphere of Royal life - welcoming the king and the Queen will tell how heavy is the crown and teach how to protect yourself from cat misfortunes, and in the darkness of the Tsar's menagerie You will see exotic real mice.

19:00 - Accommodation in the hotel.

## **7 day**

07:00 - Breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

08:00 - Departure to Martinovo (39 km).

**Martinovo** - it is believed that the village was founded by a Martyn, who proposed that here will live rich katsky people. The village always was famous for it hardworking people. In the Museum of katskary in Martinovo village that is 40 km from Myshkin, you can see linen katsky bridle , woven from spruce roots colander , made from bull bubble of rattle and many other original things. Museum of katskary is a Christian house of XX century with the typical local design. Guests can look into the porch, vestibule, the kitchen, under the front, in the upper room, on the the yard - everywhere ancient life. In the Museum of katskary can find out about some original myths. You can see a White Cow giving happiness, and a flying snake Paluchato, brings wealth, and the evil spirit Chugrey which steals people. Here you can enjoy piping-hot potatoes, in Zabel (sour cream) and baked milk ,that is is a real lunch of cristians katskary . Adult visitors can watch a folk theatre «Baba Many».

09:00 - Excursion program in Martinovo: visit Museum of katskary (Christian house of the end of XIX century) will make you feel the life of Christians from XIX-XX centuries.

11:00 - departure to Pereslavl-Zalessky

13.00 lunch break. A real Russian Lunch from hot oven (cabbage, potatoes with sour cream, pies, baked milk, pickles).

14.30-17.00 Excursion program: the red square, Spaso-Preobrazhenskiy Cathedral, a visit to the St. Nicholas monastery, the "Blue stone" on Pleshchevo lake.

Accommodation in the hotel, free time.

## **8 day**

07:00 - Breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

08:00 - Departure to Sergiev Posad (74 km)

**Sergiev Posad** is a region with a rich history. Began the existence in the 40-ies of the XIV century in the deep forest and then connect together Sloboda and settlements, becoming in 1782 under the Decree of Catherine II the **Sergiev Posad** city . He began to play an important role in the political life of the Moscow state and gained fame as the spiritual centre of Rus. Monastery of St. Sergius of Radonezh remembers Dmitry Donskoy, monks Peresvet and Osl'yabliu that entered forever in history of Russia. The walls of Lavra remember Tsar Ivan the terrible and Vasily the Dark. Lavra was impregnable stronghold in the time of the Polish-Lithuanian intervention, defending Moscow. And in the village Deulini, near today Sergiev Posad, was signed the known world. The walls of Lavra gave the last refuge to Godunovs family and hid from the archers of the young Peter.

09.00 -11 .00 guided Tour in Lavra of the Trinity Sergius

11.00 Departure to Moscow ( 75 km).

13.00- Arrival in Moscow, accommodation in the hotel.

Bus sightseeing tour in Moscow. Red square (with a walk in the square), the view of the Kremlin from Sophia embankment, Christ the Saviour Cathedral (external examination), the monument to Peter I, a viewing platform on the Sparrow hills (with visits to the historical objects from the height of bird flight),the triumphal arch, Moscow-city, Arbat, Tverskaya street, Pushkin square, Manezhnaya square, Okhotny Ryad, building of the State Duma, Bolshoi theatre and others. Return to the hotel, free time

## **9 day**

08:00 - Breakfast in hotel.

09.00 Check out, leaving the hotel.

10.00-13.00 Excursion in the Kremlin with a visit to one of the cathedrals. The Moscow Kremlin - a symbol of Russian statehood, one of the largest architectural ensembles in the world.

Uspensky , Archangel's and Blagoveshensk cathedrals, the Church of the deposition of the robe, the Patriarch's chambers with the Church of the Twelve Apostles, the ensemble of a bell tower of Ivan the Great, the Tsar bell, Tsar gun.

Transfer to the airport for departure.

### **cost tour for 1 person:**

<b>Tour/accommodation</b>	<b>½ DBL</b>	<b>SGL</b>
Standard package	<b>890 USD</b>	<b>1135 USD</b>

### tour cost includes :

- Accommodation in hotels 3 plus \* -4 \*: Cosmos 4 \* (Moscow), Shelestoff 4 \* (Kostroma), Hotel Complex Goryachie Klyuchi 4 \* (Suzdal), Posadskiy 3 \* (Serghiev Posad), Koshkin Dom 4 \* (Mishkin). May be replaced by equivalent hotels.

- Nutrition Program

- Excursions according to the program with professional guides .

- Tickets to the museum.
- Transport services along the entire route

tour cost does not includes :

- International flight
- Optional excursions are not included in the main program
- additional food (dinner)

***Note:***

When the number of tourists in the group is less than 15 people for transportation services may be provided minibus (Mercedes Sprinter / analog)

Departure and arrival in Moscow is an estimate and cannot be considered an indispensable item of the program.

Time and procedure of tourist services, sightseeing objects declared in the program are subject to change while maintaining the volume and quality sightseeing tour programs, depending on the objective circumstances.