



Rus-venture

Edited by Pei Yin Chen

Russia is a massive country where you see historical towns right next to a highly prosperous city – Moscow. From northeast to Moscow, eight of the oldest cities in Russia formed what we call The Golden Ring (俄羅斯金環古城). The Golden Ring cities are national treasures to Russian Federation. There's so many you can explore in these places, Russian wooden architectures, traditional Eastern Orthodox Churches, some of the oldest kremlins... just to name a few. Without further ado, let's follow me to start this exciting journey of RUSSIAN ADVANTURE!



Москва (Moscow)

Being the capital of Russia, Moscow is home to more than 10 million people. It's the most populated city in Russia and one of the busiest cities globally. It's also the political and financial centre of Russia.

I've never felt bored in this city, from Red Square to Moscow Kremlin, from St. Basil's Cathedral to The State Tretyakov Gallery. Wandering around the city, you'll notice that this city is full of people from different parts of the world.



Boat tour in Moscow >>

Among all the attractions, I enjoyed Tretyakov Gallery the most. Hours are spent inside the gallery. I am very excited to say at least in observing the artworks with my own eyes which I could only see from books. Especially the paintings by Vasnetsov, as it were the main theme of my term paper! Surrounded by different paintings, I fully immersed myself inside the landscape and experienced the world from the point of view of the painter. Solo travelling in Moscow welcomed me to the Wonderland of Alice.



Ярославль (Yaroslavl)

Yaroslavl is known as the unofficial capital of the Golden Ring and considered as a World Heritage Site by The United Nations. It's founded by Prince Yaroslavl in the beginning of the second millennium.

It's around the Victory Day when I was in Yaroslavl, I was lucky to witness girl scouts marching to the Eternal Flame of Yaroslavl, which signifies the glorious day during the Soviet time. Besides, I really enjoy the atmosphere of there and I would love to visit again! >>Traditional Cathedral in Yaroslavl (東正教堂)





Кострома (Kostroma)

Kostroma is one of the cities along the Volga River. Two and a half hours from Yaroslavl by train.

I went to Ipatievsky Monastery during my 1-day visit. It's a distinctively traditional monastery in Russia. It's required to put on classic Russian folk costume, head kerchief and dress, before going inside.

This city (or I should say this town ^^) is very empty, a huge contrast comparing to Moscow. This is the best feature of the town in my opinion. Wandering around the vegetation and riverside is my favourite part of the visit.



Казань (Kazan)

Kazan is where East meets West, Muslim meets Christianity. It is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan which is mostly populated by Tatar. In Kazan, people of various ethnical backgrounds live in a harmony. Unlike Moscow and Saint Petersburg, mosques are more common than cathedrals in the city. I visited Kazan in Mid-June. This is the absolute best time to visit the city.

From Saint Petersburg to Kazan, I've spent more than 45 hours on trains back and fro (almost 2 whole days!). Nevertheless, I really enjoyed the ride as I've had an unforgettable time with my companion.

During my 2-day stay in Kazan, I went on a “bicycle boat” trip on the Kaban Lakes. It’s quite scaring at the beginning but when time came by, I started to like it as I can appreciate the wonderful scenery on the way ;).



>> Kazan Kremlin



Великий Новгород (Novgorod the Great)

Novgorod plays a vital role in Russian history. It was where the Rurik dynasty is founded in the year 812. In 1812, a monument, Millennium of Russia, is erected inside the Novgorod Kremlin to commemorate the creation of the first dynasty of Russian Empire.



Novgorod very close to Saint Petersburg, you can get there on a comfortable train within 3 hours. It’s nice to do a day trip to Novgorod if you are staying in Saint Petersburg. There’s a small beach where you can spend a laid-back afternoon.

Credit to co-editor Mr. Zhuang Tsz Kit! ☺