GUIDE BOOK

Tver Region

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УСЛОВНЫЕ ОБОЗНАЧЕНИЯ

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The numbers on the borders of the pages designate the numerical number of described routes.
For readers 12 years and older.

Условные обозначения

Open Hours
Phone
Fax
Shopping
Advice
Tips for Travelers

Map Symbols:

Monument
Fountain
Scenic viewpoint
Rampart, Site of Ancient Settlement
Port, Yacht Club
Natural Monument
Hotel
Cafe
Railway Station
Bus Station
Gas Station

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The Eight Tourist Routes of the TVER REGION

1. Tver’s three towns
2. Moscow Sea
3. Big (Greater) Volga
4. Seliger
5. Tver Venice
6. Karelian Trail
7. Bezhetsk Top
8. Baltic Arrow
Here the Volga is Born

The Tver region is one of the largest regions in the European part of Russia and the largest in the Central Federal District. It is an ancient and interesting area, which is becoming more accessible to visitors arriving from Moscow and St. Petersburg. Despite its closeness to the overwhelming centripetal force of these two mega-cities, Tver manages to keep its historic identity. In 2000, it developed and released a new feature in the development of local tourism by organizing places of interest into eight territorial zones. Each zone has a specific name that reflects its historical, cultural and natural features.

Geographical Characteristics
The Tver region measures 260 km from north to south and 450 km from west to east. It occupies a prime location in the center of the Eastern European Plain. To the north it is bordered by Vologda and Novgorod, to the west it borders by Pskov, to the east it borders by Yaroslavl, and to the south it is bordered by the Moscow and Smolensk regions.

The most important domestic and international highways are located within its territory including the October and Riga Railways, Highway M10 (Moscow – St. Petersburg) and Highway M9 (Moscow – Riga). Located on the slopes of the Valdai Hills, the Tver region is known for its extensive and varied landscape features. There are approximately 1700 lakes, and close to 800 rivers in the area. Nearly seventy percent of the region is comprised of dense forests. In The Tale of By-gone Years, written at the beginning of the XII century, chronicler Nestor referred to the area as “Okovskij Forest”. Translated into English it means “forest of rivers”.

On any geographic map of Russia the Great Divide is shown at the top of the highest point of the Valdai Summit, located in the Tver region. Here, at 346.5 meters above sea level, spring the headwaters of three powerful rivers – the Dnieper River (which flows into the Black Sea) the Western Dvina, (which flows into the Baltic Sea) and the great Volga River, known as the symbol of Russia. The Volga begins its 3530-kilometer journey as a tiny pristine brook here in Tver and ends its journey as a mighty river flowing into the Caspian Sea.

Since ancient times the Tver region has been rightfully known as the “Land of Source” and has always held a place of great geopolitical importance. In fact, some historians believe that during the “Golden Age” and up until the cosmic catastrophe, this region was indeed the location of the legendary Hyperborea, “The Land of Happiness”.

The Magic of the Big Water
Undoubtedly, the many waterways are the main wealth of the region and its most important natural resource. Because of its extensiveness, examination of the Tver water system may prove daunting. There are 760 rivers with a combined length of over 10 km. Each. Twenty-one of these rivers are longer than 100 km. The T’ma, Medveditsa, Tvertsa, Mologa, and Shosha are the names of a few of them. Many rivers fill vast reservoirs: Ivankovo, Rybinsk, and Uglich on the Volga, Vazusskii, Vazua, and Vyshnevolutskaya on the Tsna.

More than two thirds of Tver’s lands are located in the Volga River Basin. The first 685 kilometers of the Volga run through this magnificent area. While flowing through the region the Volga is fed by over 150 tributaries. There are 1760 lakes in the region with a total water area of more than 1 hectare each. The largest and most famous of them is Lake Seliger. It is known as the “Pearl of Central Russia”. The Upper Lakes region is also famous for its pristine landscapes. Difficult environmental conditions have contributed to the fact that Tver (which is located only 4 to 5 hours from the metropolises of Moscow and St. Petersburg) has remained relatively untouched and able to showcase nature in its purest form. Environmentalists have acknowledged that here can be found some of the most untouched places in Central Russia. This phenomenon continues to attract thousands of tourists who come to enjoy pure sparkling snow in winter, and vast pine forests in summer. Tranquility and silence surround any time of year. All of this combined with comfortable country hotels will enhance your enjoyment of our many recreational centers. Our foreign guests appreciate these vast expanses of nature. Our huge area of water space has become a real magnet for sailors, surfers, water-skiers, and kayakers. Many Russian citizens who reside in the big cities wait with bated breath for the ice breakup on the rivers and the start of the cruise season.

The Regional Government has set a course for turning the Tver region into a center for river tourism in Russia. The coastal infrastructure is actively being developed. Today there are ten officially registered yacht clubs in the territory and another six are under construction. Five yacht marinas are now open and ready to welcome visitors. To date, 4 landings and three gas stations have been built, thus addressing some of the most challenging issues in handling the logistics of water-motor tourism.

Extract 1

- Size of the Area: 84.1 square km
- Administrative Division: 21 cities and 36 districts
- Total length of roads: approx. 16 thousand km (the largest in Central Russia)
- Population: more than 1,300,000 people
- Number of cities on the roster of the communities which are designated “historical” status: 14 – including Tver, Bezheetsk, Beley, Vesegonsk, Vishny Volochyok, Zubtsov, Kalyazin, Kashin, Krasny Holm, Ostashkov, Rzhev, Staritsa, Torzhok, and Toropets
- Number of protected cultural objects: more than 5,000 archaeological monuments, approximatel 2,000 historical monuments, and approximately 3,000 architectural landmarks
- Number of theater: 5
- Number of state museums: 39
Every year, since 2013, an international forum of river tourism (TIFIT – www.tifit-forum.ru) has taken place at the Business Park and Resort known as “Zavidovo Tver”. This facility was built on the bank of the reservoir Ivankaovskoye. Topics discussed each year at the round tables forum include: shipbuilding for tourism, yachting, tour operator activity, navigation of foreign vessels in Russian domestic waters, training programs for tourism professionals, and coordination of tourism activities between regions. Participants of the interregional project, called, “The Great Volga”, work together on the development of yacht and cruise tourism along the Volga River to Astrakhan may embark on a fascinating journey along the Volga channel. In addition, tourists a long night in the locks of the Mosend their trip here in order to avoid many cruise lovers prefer to start or “upper port” of the Volga. In fact, planning is the fact that Tver is the protect them.

During your visit you will observe the diverse and rich local fauna. There are 66 species of mammals and 236 species of birds. The forest areas are composed of a mixture of both deciduous and coniferous trees. Within its borders lay large areas of the southern taiga sub-zone and vast stands of oak trees. In addition, the Red Data Book of the Tver Region lists 101 species of vertebrates, 100 species of invertebrates, 218 species of higher plants, 34 species of lichens and 18 species of mushrooms.

Significant mineral deposits of brown coal and peat are present in many areas. The regional waters are rich in minerals of different types. Some are used in drinking water therapy and balneotherapy. At the bottom of many lakes there are almost unlimited reserves of sapropel – a valuable organic raw materials used as agricultural fertilizer. Other minerals are effectively being used in the making of various medicines.

One note of interest to future planning is the fact that Tver is the “upper port” of the Volga. In fact, many cruise lovers prefer to start or end their trip here in order to avoid a long night in the locks of the Moscow channel. In addition, tourists may embark on a fascinating journey along the Volga River to Astrakhan from this upper port.

### Climate and Natural Resources

With its temperate continental climate, a growing economy, numerous recreational opportunities, and favorable lifestyle, the future of tourism in the Tver region looks bright. Travelers to the region can be assured of their comfort and safety. Natural disasters are extremely rare.

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### Historical Overview

**VI–XIII centuries**: The Slavs settle along the Great Divide.

**X – 1st half of XIII centuries**: Tver lands are included in the ancient Russian principalities.

**1209**: First mention of Tver in chronicles.

**1247–1485**: Tver becomes a principality of its own (from 1340’s – the Grand Duchy of Tver)

**1271**: The Tver Diocese is formed

**1271–1318**: Prince Mikhail Yaroslavovich of Tver, heavenly patron saint of the Tver land (Canonized in 1549)

**1285–1290**: The construction of Spa-Preobrazhensky (Savior Transfiguration) Cathedral in Tver is completed and becomes the main sanctuary of the Tver land.

**August 15, 1327**: Anti-Mongolian horde uprising in Tver.

**1340**: The construction of the Cathedral of St. Macarius is founded.

**1350s – 1607**: St. Job (a native of Sta-ritsa) lives and becomes the first Russian patriarch (1589-1605)

**August, 18, 1609**: The Polish army is defeated by the Russian forces, lead by Skopin-Shuisky on the river Zabna in Kalyazin.

**1669–1739**: Tver becomes a part of Moscow and western region.

**1703**: The first Russian artificial water system is constructed with its center in Vyshni Volochyok.

**1719–1775**: Tver Province.

**1775–1796**: Tver Governorship.

**1796–1929**: Tver Province.

**1860**: The Tver Public Library opens, with the assistance of Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin, the vice-governor.

**1884**: The House of Creativity of Artists called “Academic Dacha” opens (Vyshnevogolotsky District)

**August 1901**: The first tram begins to operate in Tver.

**October 28, 1917**: Proclamation of Soviet power in Tver.

**1929–1935**: The former Tver Province becomes a part of Moscow and western region.

**1931**: Tver is renamed Kalinin.

**1935**: The Kalinin region is founded.

**December 16, 1941**: Liberation from Nazi invaders.

**1990**: Kalinin is renamed back to Tver, thus restoring the historical name of the city.
Transportation

National highways and local roads are now being actively developed or improved. In the future the region will become more accessible after the construction of the high-speed highway from Moscow to St. Petersburg. In 2014, the first section of the bypass M-11 highway was constructed allowing travel around Vyshny Volochek rather than through its center. What decreased the traffic intensity on the M-10 national highway.

High-speed trains called "Sapsan" significantly make Tver closer to Moscow and St. Petersburg i.e. travel time by those trains from Moscow to Tver is 1 hour 5 minutes and from St. Petersburg to Tver – 3 hours. At the same time Rail service inside the region could be better.

Phone Numbers and Web Sites to Assist You With Your Travel Plans

- Free Railways reference service: 8 800 775 0000
- Tver Railway Station: (4822) 41-33-38
- Tver Bus Station: (4822) 65-51-51
  [www.tverautotrans.ru](http://www.tverautotrans.ru)
- Calculation of distances between cities for drivers: [www.autotransinfo.ru](http://www.autotransinfo.ru)

The Culture – Yesterday and Today

The huge variety of monuments in the Tver Province represent many facets of Russian national culture. In all, there are more than 10,000 historical sites now being preserved and protected. These monuments stand today as a visible testimony of Russia's vast and rich culture. History of the region can be studied not only in the halls of our museums, but also along the roadways and waterways within the Tver region. Despite human neglect and ignorance and the ravishes of wars, ancient pre-Slavic and Slavic mounds, and sacred stone structures, known as "sledoviki" which were worshiped by our ancestors for millennia, still dot the landscape. Magnificent manors remind us of the grandeur of yesteryear. Ancient churches and monasteries (many of which are still in operation) link the past to the present and help us understand our ancestor's deep spiritual connection to the Russian lands and everything the earth has to offer.

This great variety of monuments features all facets of Russian national culture.

Two excellent example of our Orthodox heritage are the Novotorzhsky (Boris and Gleb Monastery) located in Torzhok and the Assumption Monastery in Staritsa. It is worth a visit to this region just to see these magnificent examples of Russia's unique architecture. Novotorzhsky was founded at the beginning of the XI century. It is the oldest Orthodox monastery in Russia. The Staritsa Assumption Monastery recently celebrated its 900th anniversary. The roots of Russian spiritual values and way of life were formed in the Russian "outback". It is here in the country, or provinces, where you can begin to understand the rich folk traditions and beliefs of the Russian people and it is no accident that throughout Tver region and far beyond saints such as Mikhail of Tver, Anna of Kashin, Neil Stolobensky, and Macarius Kalyazinsky are still revered.

Art Historians emphasize the special role of the Tver icon painting school. The only remaining architectural monument of the Grand Principality of Tver is the Church of the Nativity. It was constructed at the end of the XIV century in the village of Gorodnia, (in the Konakovo District). Six churches of the XVI century have also survived: The Cathedral "White Trinity" (Tver) the Ascension Cathedral in the Orshin Monastery (near Tver), the Tent-shaped Church of Smolensk Mother of God (Kushalino village, Rameshkovsky District), the Cathedral of the Assumption in the Ivanishski Monastery (near Staritsa), the Assumption Cathedral and the Ascension tent-shaped church at the Dormition Monastery (Staritsa).

Expect to see good examples of Classicism and Baroque architecture constructed during later periods. They
include the special Toropetz Baroque style. Textbooks of architecture feature singular urban developments of the XVIII century from Tver and Torzhok. They were built using the method of "three-fold symmetry". Particular favorites are the merchants’ communities which are veritable open air architectural ensembles such as Torzhok, Staritsa, Kashin, Toropetz, Bezhetsk which preserved the unity of their historic appearance thus maintaining the very spirit of provincial Russia. You will certainly have a desire to visit them again and again.

The Tver region is also famous for a number of impressive manor ensembles. There are some two hundred still standing in the region. The most famous is the Raek-Znamenskoye Manor (Torzhok district). "Tver Palladio" was created by the innovative architect and researcher Nikolai Lvov (1753–1803) He was one of the most vibrant and diverse representatives of the Russian Enlightenment, and an honorary member of the Russian Academy of Arts. The post office building, the Neva Gates of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg, and Priory Palace in Gatchina are a just few of his best known architectural projects. In his native Novotorzhsky county the self-taught architect erected the estates of Mitino, Vasilevo, Arpachevo, Pryamuhino, and Gornitsy for his friends and acquaintances. He also built Nikolskoe – Cherenchitsy for himself. In many places along the Upper Volga you can discern features of the famous Lvov "boulder style" of architecture.

Surviving ancient wooden architecture can still be seen here. The skillfully made Tikhvin Church in Torzhok and the Savior on Sozi in the Museum of Wooden Architecture in Vasilevo Village are excellent examples. You can still admire the original design of the multi-tiered wooden Church of St. John the Baptist in the Shirkov churchyard (Vselug Lake, Penovsky District), with its steeple rising 45 meters and crowned with an orthodox cross, it is the highest wooden church in Russia. Don’t miss the unique fancy carved wooden houses in Bezhezersk (end of the XIX – beginning of the XX centuries). Fabulous carved teremok-style cottages can be viewed in the Teterovo recreational complex near Kashin (XX c.). Here, a particular style of architecture recognized as "Kimry Art Nouveau", is prominent in wooden mansions of wealthy masters from the "shoe capital" of Russia.

Not surprisingly, writers, artists and poets have been inspired over the years by the wonders of Tver. Many visited or lived and worked in the region. Among them were: A. Pushkin, A.A. Akhmatova, N.S. Gumilyov, A.N. екю Ostrovsky, M.E. Saltykov-Shchedrin, I.I. Lazhechnikov, I.A. Krylov, A.P. Chekhov, A.I. Kuprin, and I.S. Sokolov-Mikit. The Upper Volga region was an important cradle of Russian civilization. Visiting here is like stepping back in ancient time and well worth the simple journey it takes to get here. It is only a 200 kilometers journey from Moscow. While you explore this multi-faceted area you will start to understand how inexhaustible the sites of interest truly are in the place where the Volga begins.

Hunting and Fishing

A large number of hunting facilities have been established across the region. Foreigners and residents of central Russia (from areas with a high intensity of agriculture) come to hunt for trophies that city dweller see only in the movies and in pictures. Wild boar, elk, bear, and wolves are just a few of the animals that thrive in the Tver forests.

Many species of fish are abundant in the numerous lakes in the region. Valdai Lake, Seliger Lake and the Upper Volga, Vyshnevolotskaya, Ivankovo, Uglish and the Rybinsk reservoirs, are among the ones fishermen prefer. The many small rivers and streams are famous throughout Russia. They contain 40 species of fish, including delicious pikeperch, whitefish, and chub. Volzhsky is known for whitefish. Most places have craw-fish. Trout are plentiful in the Toropetsky area, and even eel can be caught in the Seliger. Fishing for most species of fish is permitted throughout the year, except during spawning period. Ice fishing is an extremely popular activity. Sometimes there are up to 10,000 fishermen on the ice of the Ivankovo Reservoir (Moscow Sea).
Cuisine

Here, in any city of the region, you will find traditional delicious dishes of European and Asian cuisine. A special attraction of the Kalinin district is the agricultural "Solar Farms" of the Italian cheese maker Pietro Mazza. However, tourists enjoy going to the Tver backwoods first and foremost to sample traditionally prepared Russian meals stewed in large Russian ovens. Visitors can also enjoy a variety of fresh fish prepared in eateries located near or on the water. Deliciously flavored drinks, made from local berries, are also served.

Restaurant in Torzhok compete to win the hearts of guests by preparing the famous meatball recipe by Darya Pozharsky. Also popular are a number of ethnic gastronomic delights. In Karelian villages located in the northeast you will be treated to real rye kalitki (open face burritos with fillings). Among Tatar family restaurants near Tver you can feast on delicious chak-chak and qistibi that rival those prepared in Tatarstan.

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Tver Troegradie (three towns)

The Millennial core of Tver consists of three major cities: Tver, Staritsa and Torzhok. Staritsa is located south-west of Tver and Torzhok is west of the regional capital. Staritsa is situated on the Volga, Torzhok is on the Tverts, and Tver is located at the confluence of the Tverts and the Volga. Because of its proximity to so many waterways, forests, monuments and landmarks, tourism is an economic priority in the area. It is the most visited tourist zone in the region and includes: Kalinin, Staritsa, Torzhok, Kuvshinovsky and the surrounding districts.

Trailheads to numerous hiking trails beginning in Tver. Troegradie has become a key springboard destination from which to begin dozens of excursions. Within this zone you will find the Oktyabrskaya Railway and Highway M10 (Moscow - St. Petersburg). Since it is the upper-most port on the Volga for multi-decked cruise ships, it is from Tver that many tourists and yachtsmen prefer to begin their journeys down the Great Russian River. Although the three major cities have experienced times of rivalry as well as kinship throughout different stages of their history Tver, Torzhok, and Staritsa have established a special relationship in order to take full advantage of the combined enormity of ancient artifacts that saturate historical, cultural and spiritual sites.

The results of millennia of inter-penetration of cultures from different nations, there is a unique crystallization of national traditions passed down from one generation to the next. Russian history is enhanced to its fullest here in the cradle of the Upper Volga.

Tver

FROM MOSCOW – 167 KM
FROM ST. PETERSBURG – 533 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 411,000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 4822
DAY OF THE CITY: LAST WEEKEND OF JUNE
WWW.TVERPLANET.RU

Milestones in the History and Appearance of Tver

Just as Rome and Paris were inspired by Neptune, the original site where Tver now stands was built on a trident. The shape of the three-prong weapon of the “God of the Sea” was used in the planning of the northern capital, and later repeated in Tver. When fire destroyed Tver in 1763, it was reconstructed in the style of classicism. “The fire helped redecorate”, roughly translated, this famous Gribyedov quote applies to Tver. After the fire (May 12, 1763) the medieval wooden city no longer existed. Starting with a “blank sheet” Empress Catherine II built a new Tver entirely made of stone. A huge sum was allocated from the royal treasury to do this and well-known architects P.R. Nikitin and M.F. Kazakov were sent to the city. The grand provincial capital became known as the “Tiny Petersburg on the Volga”.

Excerpt

Today Tver is a modern city but its longevity can be traced to chronicles dating back to 1209. In fact, the city on the confluence of the Tmaka and the Volga was founded much earlier. A Kremlin with log walls and towers surrounded the original city. Today the location of the citadel can only be identified by a small hollow (the remnants of the Kremlin moat) in the city park, and on the place where a powerful fortress once stood we can see the Traveling Palace, the City Garden and the Khimik stadium. The name of the city remains a mystery, although a good guess would be that it derived from the Finno-Ugric word – tverd (solid).

In 1247 the independent Principality of Tver became separate from the Pereyaslavl Principality and started playing a huge role in the history of Russia. It is the Grand Duke Mikhail Yaroslavich of Tver (1271–1318) was the first to lead the fight for the unification of the fragmented and ravished lands (disparate and ruined by...
The Hordes) into a single state. It is here that in 1290, the “Transfiguration Cathedral” was erected. Made entirely of stone, it was the first church to be built in the area after years of devastation. The tradition of writing chronicles was also re-established during his reign.

In 1485, Tver and the surrounding principalities were incorporated into the larger Moscow Russian State. Since that time the centralized state, created by Moscow's Grand Duke Ivan III, has played a critical role in the development of the Russian economy. Since 1709 trade ships have carried grain and other commodities through Tver to St. Petersburg by way of the Vyshny Volochek water navigation system. Up to this day the original granite outer facing of the overflow pipe of the coastal tow path and bridges over the tributaries have survived to this day.

In 1775 Tver became the center of the Tver governorship and from 1796 to 1929 it was the capital of the Tver Province. Always the center of the region, it was renamed Kalinin in 1930. In 1990, it took back its ancient historic pre-Soviet name.

A fire on May 12, 1763 completely destroyed the medieval wooden city of Tver. Empress Catherine II wanted to build a new Tver from a “blank sheet”. A huge sum was allocated from the royal treasury to complete the re-building quickly and well-known architects P.R. Nikitin and the Hordes) into a single state. It is here that in 1290, the “Transfiguration Cathedral” was erected. Made entirely of stone, it was the first church to be built in the area after years of devastation. The tradition of writing chronicles was also re-established during his reign.

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Tver

The Historical Center

1. The Old Volga Bridge
2. The New Volga Bridge
3. The Imperial Traveling Palace
4. The Regional Art Gallery
5. Secondary School -The Tver State United Museum
6. The Central City Park. Monument to shkin
7. The Worship Cross dedicated to Prince Mikhail of Tver
8. Memory Island. The Victory Obelisk and The Eternal Flame. The Church of St. Mikhail of Tver
9. The Noble Assembly Building
10. The Governor General's Residence
11. The Drama Theater and the Regional Philharmonic
12. Bust of Alexander Pushkin
13. Bust of S.J. Lemeshev
14. The Ascension Cathedral
15. Monument to Prince Michael Tversky
16. Monument to M.E. Saltykov-Shchedrin
17. The Museum of M.E. Saltykov-Shchedrin
18. Monument to I.A. Krylov
19. The Mosque and Catholic Church
20. The Golovinskaya Column
21. The Church of the Intercession
22. The Circus
23. Monument to Afanasy Nikitin
24. The Church of the Resurrection (of the Three Confessors)
25. The Assumption Cathedral
26. The River Port
27. The urban homestead of the merchant Aref'eva. The Museum of Tver Lifestyle
28. The St. Catherine Nunnery
29. The Trinity church beyond the river
30. The White Trinity church
31. The Nativity Nunnery and the Resurrection Cathedral
32. The Exhibition Center
33. The Galleon Hotel
34. The Marina for Pleasure Boats
35. The Botanical Garden
36. The Tsvertsa Yacht Club
37. The Puppet Theater
38. The A.M. Gorky Library
39. The Cinema – “Star”
40. The Theater for Young People
41. The Monument to Marshall Georgy Zhukov
42. The Alexander Nevsky Cathedral
43. The “All Who Sorrow” Church
44. The Church of the Nativity in Rybaki
45. Monument to Michael Krug
46. Monument to Denis Davydov
47. The Dementiev House of Poetry
48. The Armenian Church
49. The Chapel of St. John of Kronstadt
ROUTE 1

M.F. Kazakov were sent to the city. Stone buildings were constructed and the new Tver quickly took shape. As in the famous quote by Gribeyedov “...the fire helped to redecorate...” the Tver fire turned out to be a blessing and the newly rebuilt city proved even more beautiful.

Today Tver is a popular destination featuring varied cultural and educational as well as pilgrimage itineraries. Over recently Tver has also been increasingly becoming a recognized center of business events and travel conveniently located between the two Russian capitals.

In 1767 the new Tver appeared before the eyes of Empress Catherine who had made it her duty to rebuild the city. Stretching out along both banks of the Volga River, the new city is well laid out and easy to navigate. On the “Moscow” side of the city opened with the broad Cathedral Prospect (Avenue) now called Sovietskaya street. The Cathedral avenue served as an axis for three squares positioned like expensive jewels around the middle: Semicircular (Soviet), Octagonal (Lenin) and Cathedral Squares. Even though after suffering major losses they still constitute one of the best architectural ensembles of Russia. From the Semicircular square the streets of Volnogo Novgoroda and Novotorzhskaya branch off like rays from the famous triaxial design. In total there are six streets that radiate out from the square.

The Transfiguration Cathedral has always served as the the dominant feature of the architectural ensemble of the center. The Cathedral street ended up exactly at its belfry. The loss of this church in 1935 is truly unfortunate. In the future it will certainly be recreated.

From the center, the streets are laid out on an axis, with three squares positioned like expensive jewels around the middle: Semicircular (Soviet), Octagonal (Lenin) and Cathedral Squares. Even though part of the original ensemble has been lost, some of the best architecture of Russia can still be viewed here. From Semicircular square the streets – Volnogo, Novgoroda and Novotorzhskaya branch off like rays from the famous triaxial design. In total there are six streets that radiate out from the center.

On a slope near the bank of the Volga, near Cathedral Square, sits the magnificent Grand Imperial Traveling Palace. Designed by architect – P.R. Nikitin, it is the pride of Tver. This magnificent building appears much as it did at the beginning of the XIX century when it was rebuilt for Prince of Oldenburg, who was the new Governor General of Tver, Novgorod and Yaroslavl provinces. The palace was built by famous architect Carlo Rossi. Today the palace complex is occupied by the Regional Art Gallery 3 (Sovetskaya str. 3, (4822) 34-25-61, www.gallery.tver.ru). It is in this very Palace in the grand ceremonial hall where N.M. Karamzin once read excerpts from his “History of the State of Russia” to the Emperor Alexander I. Currently the items from various Tver estates are now on dis-

The “White Trinity” Church (XV century), the oldest building in Tver

The Grand Imperial Traveling Palace, architect P.R. Nikitin
play, for example, from the Zubtsov Stepanovski-Volosovo Manor of Prince Kurakin. They include furniture, candelabra, chandeliers and other items of historical importance.

Of special interest to visitors is the collection of paintings from artists, whose lives were connected with Tver. Among the paintings on display are those by A.G. Venetsianov and his disciples G.V. Soroka and Tyryanov, painters from "The Seagull" dacha such as V.K. Byalyntisky-Birulya and S.Y. Zhukovsky. There is also a rare portrait painted by the famous landscape painter I.I. Levitan. It depicts N.P. Panafidin, the owner of the Tver estate Kurovo-Pokrovskoye.

Currently, the palace is closed for renovation (a joint project of the Governor of the Tver region and World Estate Kurovo-Pokrovskoye. N.P. Panafidin, the owner of the Tver landscape painter I.I. Levitan. It depicts

rebuilt of Tver. Now it is called the "City Garden", it is a favorite vacation spot for citizens of Tver and tourists. A monument to Pushkin stands on the waterfront. It was erected in 1974 by O.K. Komov, People's Artist of the USSR. It is considered to be one of his finest sculptures.

It is known that Pushkin traveled through Tver at least thirty times and vacationed here several more. In a letter to one of his friends, the poet offered some humorous advice, "At Galani Kolo restaurant, make sure to order Tver spaghetti with Parmesan and boiled eggs..." Hotel Galani, has survived and has been fully renovated.

Currently there are thirty-two regional museums in the Tver region. The Tver State United Museum (TGOM) is housed in the Secondary School Building, situated between the City Garden and the Traveling Palace (Sovetskaya str. 5, Wed–Sun 10.00–18.00, (4822) 34-51-27, www.tvermuseum.ru). The Tver Museum of Antiquities opened in 1866, it is one of the oldest provincial museums in Russia. Here, you can see beautifully designed interactive exhibitions.

Of particular interest are "sledoviki" or "the stones with footprints" which are to be found in abundance in Tver province. The stones feature ancient religious symbols which are in effect natural dents which are shaped like a human footprint. There is the huge Sterzhensky Cross carrying a memorial inscription, it was installed in 1133 in the location where Volga empties into the Sterzh lake. There are also items made of rzhevsky-staritsky silicon which was the only raw material of the stone age. Proudly displayed here is a ceremonial gown worn by Catherine II. It was decorated by Torzhok gold embroiderers. It is said that the Empress loved the miraculous dress so much she wore it on more than one occasion, thus breaking all fashion "regulations" of the day. During the summer, to enjoy the beauty of the Volga shores you can go on a boat ride which depart from the river front near the City Garden. One of the first pedestrian streets in Russia, Trekhsvyatskaya, stretches from the embankment of Stepan Razin to the south. Lined with antique lanterns, a variety of cafes, and souvenir shops, it is a good place to stroll any time of the year. Artists and souvenir vendors set up shop along the quaint walking street. You can peruse their wares until late in the evening.

The cozy shop, "Tveria", is situated here under the sign "Information Center of the Tver Region". Visitors can find the best selection of local souvenirs and books about Tver here.

A remarkable monument of Afanasy Nikitin (1955, sculptors – S. Orlov and A.P. Zavalov), stands on the opposite bank of the Volga between Starovolzhski and the Novi(new) bridge. He was a well-known explorer and perhaps the most famous native of Tver. A pedestal with an impressive sculpture stands on high ground.

Rounded walls of hewn stone accompany a sculpture of the bow of an old Russian boat facing the river. The boat is decorated with horse's heads.

On the waterfront of the Afanasy Nikitin Embankment you can enjoy a spectacular view of the Volga Embankment (today Stepan Razin Embankment) on which you can see a striking example of a "continuous facade, made fashionable during the reign of Catherine.

After the liberation of Kalinin, in 1941, little remained of the historic old city. The new Tver was rebuilt in accordance with the masterplan in the style of Soviet Classicism. Throughout the re-building project, Urban developers frequently worked with Academician of Architecture – I.V. Zholtovskiy. What resulted from this tactful collaboration were spectacular buildings. Examples include: the Regional Library named after Alexei Gorky, the Drama Theater, the Government Building of the Tver Region, and the Gagarin Square complex. Today, initiated tourists can hardly distinguish between the buildings from XVIII and XX centuries.

Chief Functioning Tver Churches

The Trinity Church ("White Trinity") located beyond the river Tmaka is the most ancient structure of Tver (1564). Unusual design features include seven domes and hiding places over the altar. The church remained open throughout Soviet times.

The Cathedral of Dormition was built in the baroque style in 1722 and is the only surviving structure of the XIII century Assumption Otrocha Monastery. It is located at the confluence of the Tvertsa River and the Volga. During the reign of Ivan the Terrible the monastery also served as a prison. Its two most famous prisoners were: St. Philip (Kolychev), Metropolitan of Moscow, who condemned the rampage of Oprichchina (and was strangled here by Malyuta Skuratov), and St. Maximus the Greek – a theologian, writer, phi-
The First Tver explorer and his "Journey Beyond Three Seas"

The Tver merchant Afanasy Nikitin made his voyage to India in 1468–1474. Nikitin was an avid explorer, a talented writer and an adventurer. We would never have learned the details of his epoch-making enterprise, if he had not kept a detailed travel diary. The first Tver explorer was ‘discovered’ for us by N.M. Karamzin.

The expedition was planned very thoroughly with political and trade interests complementing each other. Nikitin traveled with the Moscow Ambassador – Vladimir Panin, who went to the governor of the Turkmen tribes (who were fighting at that time against the Ottoman Empire). Although their journey was well-thought-out, the trip became a travel nightmare – a blockbuster story about a repeatedly robbed lone adventurer, that could not have been invented by any scriptwriter. From his miraculously surviving diary, we can learn not only the staggering facts about the people living in the Asian and African countries, but also about the nuances of perception of our compatriots. Thus, 25 years before the voyage of Vasco da Gama the first Europeans from Tver reached the shores of India. Afanasy was unable to return to his native Tver, he died on his way home near Smolensk under mysterious circumstances.

Carlo Rossi) is a striking monument of the Empire style. On the 500th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty building began on the Resurrection Cathedral. It was designed in neo-Russian style and incorporated ancient Novgorod architectural features, but without internal pilons. The Grand Duchess Elizabeth Fyodorovna (Great Martyr in the future) attended its consecration in 1916.

The majestic Ascension Cathedral with a 1760 belfry is located at the intersection of Tverskoy (Catherine) Avenue (leading to the new bridge) and Soviet Street. It was built to the design of provincial architect I.F. Lvov in the late classicism style. Today the cathedral, which is the Bishop's compound, keeps a copy of the Tikhvin Mother of God icon, Particularly revered in Tver are the Mother of God icon – "The Clouded Mount" and the relics of the Holy Martyr Archbishop Thaddeus (of Tver) who was shot on the 31st of Dec. in 1937.

The Nativity of Christ Church (1743), in Rybaki, was built in the style of 'Naryshkin Baroque'. Located in the city center, it was named for the large Fisherman's village of the old Tver.

The Church of the Intercession (Pokrovsky) (1774), built in the style of 'Naryshkin Baroque', stands on the bank of a steep bend in the Tmaka River in the city center. The Church is in good condition, but the lost bell tower has not been restored. Today it is a Bishop's homestead and services are performed daily.

The Church of St. Mikhail of Tver was built in 2002 with private donations on Memory Island. Situated at the confluence of the Tmaka River and the Volga, it was designed by the Tver architects – V.V. Kurochkin and A.Y. Barkovsky in the architecture style of the Vladimir-Suzdal Principality.

Tver Museums

The Museum of Tver Lifestyle (Gorkogo str. 19/4, ☎ Wed, Fri–Sun 11.00–17.00, Thu 13.00–21.00, (4822) 52-84-04, 52-18-81, http://tvermuseum.ru/affiliates/mtb) is located in the two old mansions near the Afanasy Nikitin Embankment. The interesting exhibition presents a rich collection of the decorative arts and designs of the embroidery and fabric of the Tver region. Of particular interest are highly artistic jewelry items owned by wealthy local merchants, silverware from the Transfiguration Cathedral (ravaged and demolished during Soviet times), the famous Kalyazin Lace made of gold threads, and Tver women's festive costumes from different provinces.

The vaulted halls of the city estate of the merchant Aref'ev's house (XVIII c.) have miraculously survived. They are decorated with opulent stucco, while the huge double-headed eagle in the ceremonial hall is reminiscent of visits of Peter I to the owners. In one of the rooms stands an old oven. If you look closely at the tiles, you will find the features of the Tzar.
The "Experimentorium" Museum of Amusing Science (Zheliabova str. 28, "Univer" Mall, 8 (4822) 69-16-66, http://experimentorium.ru) is a science and entertainment center where everyone can learn ABOUT the laws of science and VARIOUS phenomena of the world around us. We offer individual visits, a planetarium, group excursions, demonstrations of chemistry experiments, giant children’s soap bubble games and birthday events.

The doors of the State Drama Theater and the Puppet Theatre are open.

in the expressive image of a lion with a mustache.

There are two exhibitions in the adjacent museum building: "A visit with the Tver merchant" and "Traditions of Russian Tea-Drinking". Here you can admire samovars crafted in many different styles. You can also participate in a colorful Russian tea ceremony. An especially lively and interesting time here is during the festivals: Christmas gatherings, the Shrovetide, and the Pentecost.

The Museum of Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin (Rybatskaya str. 11, Wed, Fri–Sun 11.00–17.00, Thu 13.00–21.00, (4822) 34-34-96, http://tvermuzeum.ru/affiliates/MCS) was inaugurated in 1976 on the 150th anniversary of the writer’s birthday. Not far from the Volga embankment, he lived in this house from 1860 to 1862, during his tenure as vice-governor of Tver. The museum exhibits memorable artifacts from the family of the great satirist and numerous illustrations of his works. Interesting temporary exhibitions and seminars dedicated to the Tver lands are often organized here.

The House of Poetry of Andrei Dementyev

Of late, the "House of Poetry" has become the venue for gatherings of book lovers. The poet Andrei Dementyev is the Artistic Director. It was his idea to create a place for the "unity of creative souls, romance and beauty". The House is a creative laboratory and at the same time an open platform for presentations, concerts and literary evenings. You are welcome to join excursions, literary and musical evenings, and organized walking tours to the poetic places of Tver (Volodarsky and Academician Kargin str. 18/20, Mon–Fri 10.00–19.00, Sat 10.00–18.00, (4822) 77-78-38, 77-78-39, www.dompoezii-tver.ru).
Yury Nikulin, Russia’s famous circus artist used to perform in the Bolshoi Circus Arena. He started his career in a traveling circus show and ended it here as a clown.

The best Tver, Russian, and foreign musical groups give regular concerts on the stage of the Tver Regional Academic Philharmonic. The festival – “Musical Autumn in Tver” has been taking place within the walls of the Philharmonic in October for more than 25 years.

Following the installation of the top quality three thousand pipe organ (made in the Czech Republic in the 1990s) the Philharmonic became the venue for the traditional Bach international festival.

Pro-Active Recreational Activities

- The Off-Road Club “Lebedushka” was founded in 2000. The Club specializes in organizing and staging competitions for off-road vehicles, organizes tours into the Russian heartland, and offers vehicle performance tuning. One of the annual events of the club is held in December. It is called the "Tank Break-through" trophy-raid (featuring an expedition through the battlefields of military glory and mass graves in the Tver region) in honor of the liberation from the Nazi invasion.
- Tsanov Blvd. 6, SC “V pohod” (.single service), (4822) 71-07-10, (920) 691-07-10
- Mon–Fri 10.00–19.00, Sat–Sun 11.00–17.00, www.tver4x4.ru

Transportation

- Bus Station: Cominterna str. 10 (4822) 34-35-90, 65-51-51
- Railway Station (October Railroad) Cominterna str. 18 (4822) 41-33-38
- Taxi: Komsomolsky Prospect 12 (single service), (4822) 52-13-21

Useful phone numbers

- Police: Yerofeyeva str. 5A; (4822) 34-20-84
- Ambulance: (4822) 53-20-97

Kalinin District

This fast-growing area with major potential around Tver – with a population of about 50 thousand people and an area of more than 4,000 square km, was established in 1929. It has a well-developed infrastructure and a good environment. Its proximity to the district center and (in the future, after the construction of the highway between Moscow and St. Petersburg) its access to the big cities, will no doubt, boost the number of local people. In the foreseeable future, the territory will become an independent tourist area for Tver residents and visitors. For more information visit www.kalinin-adm.ru

Pilgrimage Tourism

Six kilometers to the east of Tver in a pine forest on the banks of the river Orsha is the location of the Savvatievo Monastic Retreat. Here, at the end of the XIV century, a newcomer from Jerusalem, reverend Savvaty also known of the Hermit of Tver founded the monastery in 1434. He is also known as the Orshinsky abbot and miracle-worker. The cave in the forest where Savvatii took a solitary prayer feat for 44 years in a forest cave which is extant. He received many spiritual gifts from God during his holy seclusion, including the gift of healing.

Pilgrims who come to this holy place still testify to the healing of a variety of diseases.

In 2003, on the territory of a former monastery, a small church was restored – the “Signs of the Blessed Virgin Mary”. This is one of the best examples of modern church architecture in the Tver region. There are regular services on Sundays and public holidays. The church is open daily from 9.00 to 20.00. In 2009, archaeologists found (on the site of the old church of white stone) a sarcophagus with the remains of an old man, presumably Savvatii.

The Ascension Orshin Nunnery is located 22 km from Tver, near the village of Orshino, on the banks of the quiet Orsha River (a tributary of the Volga). It is one of the oldest convents of the Tver land, restoration of which was started in 1992. The Ascension Cathedral (1567) is well preserved, the abbess’ quarters and the wall with an angled tent tower (XIX century) remain intact. Services were first held in the little wooden church, named after Venerable Savvatii Orshinskij. The baptismal font is located on the river behind the monastery of St. Nicholas. The monastery contains houses and supports a shelter for orphaned girls.

The Nicholas Malitsky Monastery (to the north of Tver) was almost completely destroyed in Soviet times. Today the main church with a bell tower has been rebuilt according to the old photographs.

Cultural and Museum Tourism

In one of the cultural centers of Tver – the homestead of Domotkanovo XIX–XX centuries – the great Russian painter Valentin Serov (1865–1911) visited his relatives and close friend von Derviz for many years.

Here he created his famous paintings such as “The Girl in the Sunlight” and numerous landscapes. The building of the manor is a branch of the Tver picture gallery and the only Russian Memorial and Museum dedicated to the Art of Valentin Serov (village of Krasnaya Nov, © Wed–Fri, Sun 10.00–18.00, Sat 14.00–21.00, © (903) 034-33-11, http://gallery.tver.ru/gallery/branches/domotkanovo/). The exhibition reflects the ancient history of the estate and the fate of the home plus a background of the Von Derviz’s big and happy family. In the restored old park with cascading ponds, among the majestic ancient oaks, you can participate in fun Russian festivities on Christmas and Shrovetide (p. 38).

In the village of Staroe Knyazevo (50 km from Tver) the famous Russian tenor – S.Y. Lemeshev (1902–1977) was born and raised. Tourists can vis-
it a museum here now (✆ Wed–Sun 11.00–17.00, ☎ (910) 930-45-34).

In the village of Emmaus, in 1980, a memorial art museum of Vladimir Serov, was opened. Serov was a famous Soviet painter (1910–1968) People’s Artist of the USSR and President of the USSR Academy of Arts (✆ Wed–Fri, Sun 10.00–18.00, Sat 14.00–21.00, ☎ (4822) 37-84-32).

A well-known Russian poet Andrei Dementyev often visits the village of Stary Pogost, the birthplace of his father. He has loved these places since his childhood. Dementiev now heads the Tver fraternity in Moscow and directs the cultural center “House of Poetry” in Tver.

The old coachman’s village of Mednoe (200 km from Moscow, 30 km from Tver) in past times outnumbered the population of many towns. At one time the “Tsar’s Road” ran through Mednoe and there was an important marina on the Tvertsa River. Several churches, a traveling palace for royal persons, and a large inn were built in the village. In his “Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow”, written by Alexander Radischchev, an entire chapter is devoted to Mednoe. Today it is a quiet village on the marvelous Tvertsa River, where the Baroque Church of Kazan (1764) is still in operation.

In the vicinity of the village of Mednoe, you will find a Memorial to the victims of totalitarian repression. It is a branch of the Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, headquartered in Moscow (✆ (4822) 38-90-01, 38-90-00). Not far from Mednoe, near the village of Yamok, is the scene of mass graves which contain the bodies of thousands of Polish soldiers and our Russian fellow-countrymen shot here in 1939–1940. The complex consists of two areas – the Polish section and the Soviet section. On the Polish side is set a Wailing Wall with a bell. The names of the dead are inscribed on cast iron plates. Metal crosses also mark the 25 mass graves that were discovered here. On the Russian side, a blood-red granite cross has been installed. Pine trees now grow over the graves like living obelisks standing tall in remembrance of those who died here. The employees of the small museum will show you personal effects belonging to those who were killed. They try to share, as much as they can, personal stories of some of those who perished on these grounds.

During the Great Patriotic War, the territory of the Kalinin district was the scene of fierce fighting. Defensive lines of the Kalinin front were set up to the west and to the east of Tver, on the banks of the Volga and the Tma Rivers. However, by October 12, 1941, three-quarters of the area was occupied. In almost every village there is a mass grave where soldiers of the Red Army and local residents were buried.

Beginning on December 5, 1941, in the vicinity of the village of Emmaus (15 km from Tver) the Soviet forces launched a counter-offensive which brought about a turnaround in a difficult situation outside Moscow. By December 30, 1941 the Kalininsky district was completely liberated from the invaders. For the courage and bravery shown in combat with the enemy, sixteen natives of the area were awarded the title of “Hero of the Soviet Union”. The main milestones of the hostilities can be seen in the Museum of the Kalinin Front (Emmaus, ☎ Wed–Sun 10.00–17.00, ☎ (4822) 37-86-76, 37-86-77, http://www.tvermuseum.ru/filial11.php). Created in 2002, with the support of the Moscow Government and the heads of the Tver and Moscow regions, the exhibition is a diorama of the “Battle for the Tveretsky Bridge”. Small arms and mortar weapons are exhibited in the hall and in the museum courtyard there is an exhibition of military hardware used in fighting at the front. The museum also organizes interesting interactive tours.

Agro-tourism
Just 20 minutes to the north-west of Tver, there is a rural tourism farm in “Ivanovka” (village Davydovo, ☎ Daily 10.00–19.00, ☎ (910) 034-2 15-4, http://ferma-ivanovka.ru). Here you can observe the farm animals, such as sheep, rabbits, pigs, ducks, and guinea fowl including the favorite Tveritian goat named Yasha. During your stay, you may shoot a bow, climb on the climbing wall, go bungee jumping, or on a fishing excursion. There are also programs called “Russian Shirt”, and “Stories About Animals for Young People”. You can also visit the “House of the Goat”. The farm produces environmentally friendly products – including goat’s milk, fresh eggs, and pickled vegetables.

Tourists are also welcome to visit the fur farm, “Savvatievo” (6 km to the east of Tver, ☎ (4822) 38-26-31, http://savvatievo.ru). It has a long tradition in the breeding of valuable fur-bearing animals, specifically the Bristol fox and mink. Fourteen different colors of pelts are produced. During the tour you will see the animals, learn about their maintenance and the manufacturing of fur products. Staff will explain the differences between the
minks of many colors. Inside the plant there is a studio named, "Fur-Savvatievo". At plant "Tver-Silk", @ Mon–Fri 10.00–18.00, Sat 10.00–15.00, (910) 844-85-61) you can order any fur product produced here.

An unusual place for tourists has been created in Mednoe by a descendant of an Italian cheese-maker, Pietro Mazza, and his Russian wife Jeanne. It is an agricultural "Solar Farm" (village Mednoe, Krucha str. 16, (920) 150-00-56, (905) 125-74-07, http://italianskoiferma.ru). During your visit you can taste dozens of soft and hard cheeses made from natural cow’s or goat’s milk. All products are prepared using traditional Italian recipes without preservatives or dyes. The farm has a large Italian restaurant and utilizes local natural products (set menu). The hotel offers fifteen comfortable rooms. There is also a pottery, a domestic kitchen. A comfortable hotel is large enough to host corporate events. The Big Village Grishkino (4822) 79-79-50, www.grishkino.ru).

Tourism of the XXI Century

The Tver region today is the largest industrial investment platform opened to partners and there is an opportunity for tourists to visit the most high-tech factories. The leader in this still innovative field is certainly the Kalinin district. For example, during the tour of the Finnish "Paulig" factory (in a cloud of coffee aroma) visitors can learn the nuances of all the grindings and coffees produced here. You can also marvel at the sterile cleanliness in the manufacturing department of the excavator plant, "Hitachi" and even admire a "dance" by the Japanese orange giants in the demonstration showroom. On a tour of the printing press – "Pare-to-Print", you will witness the birth of colorful books from cyclopean paper rolls. It will be especially interesting for travelers to learn that it is here, at this very facility, that more than 85% of all Russian guidebooks are printed.

Leisure and Business Tourism

■ Park "Grishkino" active holiday park (skiing and year round activities)
Just 8 km south of Tver, on the Turginovskoe Highway, the activity park, Grishkino is located. In winter it is a popular area for cross-country skiing. Experienced instructors will help beginners. The kids can also enjoy ice skating and sledding. Equipment can be rented or purchased in the area. There is a nicely finished bike trail, a cross country track for quad biking (used in winter by snow mobiles), a rope toe with trails of various difficulty levels, a huge climbing wall and a cozy café with a domestic kitchen. A comfortable hotel is large enough to host corporate events. The Big Village Grishkino (4822) 79-79-50, www.grishkino.ru).

Remember: Reservations must be made in advance before visiting the above Agro farms.

Staritsa and Surroundings

FROM TVER – 72 KM
FROM MOSCOW – 240 KM
THROUGH VOLOKOLAMSK / LOTOSHINO OR 230 KM
THROUGH TVER
POPULATION: ABOUT 8300 PEOPLE
PHONE CODE: 48263
CITY DAY: 1ST SAT. OF AUGUST
HTTP://СТАРИЦКИЙ-РАЙОН.РФ
WWW.STARITSA-PILGRIM.RU

One of the most ancient cities in the Tver region, Staritsa, has a long and interesting history, not to mention a unique appearance. Its wonderfully picturesque location in the hills and terraces along both banks of the Volga is breath-taking. Staritsa is a city of spectacular views. The river makes a smooth bend through the town. Above and below the bend, the Volga flows within the tight space of the high white limestone cliffs. Of course, local limestone was utilized in almost all the buildings. Therefore, the architecture of the city and its surroundings echo a vivid theme of glowing white stone.

Milestones in the History and Appearance of the City

Staritsa's documented history dates back to 1297, when Mikhail Yaroslavich of Tver built a log town on the Volga known as “Zubtsov” at Staritsa. The fortress built to protect the western border of the Tver principality was set on a steep, long, narrow cape which had been shaped by the Upper Staritsa – (Starchonka) River which flows into the Volga here. Most likely the city got its unusual name from the river. The origin of the river's name dates back to the geographical term "staritsa" meaning – "the old river bed". Indeed there are several staristas in the flood-plain of the river, cut off by the river drifts from the present river bed. The Fortress Staritsa and the ancient Monastery of the Assumption located on the opposite bank have been of major strategic value throughout history. Their location served to help control all shipping and crossings of the Volga.

In the XVIII–XIX centuries the county town of Staritsa was developed according to the "royally approved" master plan. Unfortunately, the white stone buildings of the fortress and princely palace were ruthlessly dismantled and the materials re-used during the construction of the first floors of the new houses with singular arched stone gates. Old 1 and New 2 Settlements.

The new settlement is located in the heart of Staritsa near the bridge that crosses the Volga. This area is almost void of buildings, thus a circular walk around the ancient ramparts gives a vivid impression of the past grandeur of the medieval city. Here is the Boris and Gleb Cathedral 2 (1816) built by local craftsmen to the design of the architect Luigi Rusca, in the style of late classicism. The dominant feature of the
left bank is the slender bell tower of the "Vernickle" (1827) with a winter church of Borisoglebskii Parish located in the lower tier. The architect of the project was the outstanding M.A. Chernyatin, a native of Staritsa. (1771–1846). He modeled it after the Boris and Gleb Monastery in Torzhok, erected by the famous N.A. Lvov.

The buildings of the Borisoglebskii Cathedral are in perfect harmony with the Nativity (Pyatnitskaya) Church located under the Kremlin's steep slope. In the beginning of the XIX century M.A. Chernyatin was commissioned to expand the volume of the former baroque church and encircle it with a fence. The talented architect attached two rotunda-shaped side-altars to the original old church, while inserting two chapels within the confines of the fence. The result is an amazingly beautiful and harmonious architectural ensemble of white stone.

Miraculously preserved, at the foot of the hill, you can feast your eyes on excellent examples of industrial archi-

Ceramic Icon of the XVI century from the facade of the Boris and Gleb Cathedral

Staritsa

1. The old fort
2. The new settlement, Boris and Gleb Cathedral, bell tower of the church of the Vernicle
3. Semi-rotunda
4. The Old Forge (blacksmith shop)
5. The Nativity (Pyatnitskaya) Church
6. The St.Nicholas (Transfiguration) Church
7. The obelisk in memory of the warrior-liberators
8. Bust of Marshal M.V. Zakharov
9. The memorial sign "Staritsa with a staff"
10. The House of merchant Filippov.
11. The Center of Culture and Tourism
12. The Holy Assumption Monastery
13. The Regional History Museum
14. The Elias Church
15. The Church of the Ascension
16. The Resurrection Church
The Princely City of Staritsa

After joining the Moscow State at the end of the XV century, the city played an important role in the defense of the entire area. At the beginning of the XVI century it became the capital of an apagan principality. It was ruled by Prince Andrei Staritskiy (1490–1537) Staritskiy became prince in 1519. He was the youngest son of the Grand Duke of Moscow – Ivan III. During his reign, Staritsa developed rapidly and was rebuilt in white stone, there was no shortage of it, because the city stands on limestone mountains. It was also the time of revival of the Assumption (Uspensky) Monastery. Within its walls they built the spectacular principal five-domed cathedral, a remarkable example of Russian white stone architecture. Disagreements with Glinski who ruled the Russian state at that time led to a situation when Prince Andrei attracted those unhappy with Glinski's policies. However, the attempt by the Prince and his squad to capture Novgorod ended in failure: the prince agreed to surrender and was imprisoned with his family, where he died. This attempt to challenge the central authorities reflects the fate of the princely families. Tsar Ivan the Terrible got rid of his cousin Vladimir Andreyevich (1533–1559), the son of Prince Andrei, by poisoning him. His mother, Princess Euphrosyne and most of the family did not escape martyr's deaths. Both Staritsky Princes – the father and the son were ceremoniously buried in the Archangel Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin. After the massacre of the Staritskie family (according to legend) Glinski fell in love with Staritsa even more, calling it 'My beloved city', and during the last years of the Livonian War, even moved his headquarters here. During that time Staritsa saw a lot of foreign ambassadors, including the papal nuncio. And in subsequent years the city became richer and prettier. In the 'Journey of the Duke of Holstein', (beginning of the XVII c) is noted: "... the city called Staritsa, is ... three-four cities in one".

Another attraction on the left bank is the beautiful mansion of the merchant Filippov. It stands out, like a crowning jewel, among the other merchants' mansions on Lenin Street. According to local legend – in the winter of 1829–1830, Alexander Pushkin enthusiastically danced in the ballroom with the young Katya Velyasheva. It is said, he wrote about her "cunning laugh" and "blue eyes", in his famous Madrigal. Today the Staritskiy Center of Culture and Tourism is located here (Lenin str. 18, (48263) 2-32-08). The Center organizes exhibitions and tours of the city and its surroundings, and book signings. They also arrange re-enactment events in the style of the popular county balls of Pushkin's era, with special training focused on ballroom etiquette and ballroom dancing available for tourists.

From the high bridges that cross the Volga River you can look at the miraculous views of both the left and right banks of Staritsa in all her historic splendor.

On the right-bank, the magnificent "Holy Dormition Monastery" is the main attraction for connoisseurs of antiquity as well as pilgrims. Its history can be traced back more than 10 centuries. According to legend the monastery was founded in 1110 by two monks from Kiev-Pechersk Lavra by the names of - Trifon and Nikander. Five churches have been preserved, including the masterpiece of ancient Russian architecture – the white stone Cathedral of the Assumption (1530).

One of the two surviving churches, in the tent style, in the Tver region, is the Vvedensky church(1570). It incorporates a spacious single pilon refectory. The Holy Gates of the monastery are adorned with the elegant designs of the Gate Church of St. John the Baptist (1694).

In 1819, next to the Assumption, an impressive "Trinity Cathedral" was erected. Inside are the family tombs of the Tutolmini noble family, natives of Staritsa, known for their charity. The design of the Cathedral recalls the famous Les Invalides in Paris, where Napoleon was buried. The monastery complex also includes a bell-clocktower (1686). The bell tower's sub-structure serves as a burial place for St. Job, the first Patriarch of Moscow (1589–1605) and native of Staritsa. (1525–1607).

After years of neglect the monastery was revived, archaeological excavations were conducted, and the churches were restored. During the project they also unearthed a circular wall topped by towers. Today, there is a hotel and dining hall for pilgrims and the parish Sunday school opens its doors to the faithful. The tourism and pilgrimage center of the monastery organizes guided tours to the monastery and the city (48263) 2-36-35.

The Staritsa History Museum (Volodarsky str. 38, Wed–Sun 11.00–17.00, (48263) 2-43-27) In 2008 the museum was relocated from the Dormition Monastery to a specially constructed building equipped with the latest museum technologies. Among the museum's exhibits are fragments from the old facade of the ancient five-domed "Borisoglebkij Cathedral" which was lost to history back in the beginning of the XIX cen-
tury. What was left are the surviving fragments of the tiled chromium 900-letter inscription which girdled the Cathedral. There were also two huge ceramic icons (mid XVI c.) kept now in the Moscow History Museum.

The elegant "Elias Church" (end of the XVIII – beg. of the XIX c.) on Volodarsky Street finishes a brief overview of the Staritsa church sights. The five-domed building has an expressive baroque style. It is the only city church that was able to save its opulent interior decor. Elias Church has remained open since its construction, not even closing during Soviet times.

Souvenirs are sold in the church shop at the Cathedral of the Assumption (ceramics, wood carvings, handicrafts made of birch bark). In the local history museum you can buy books on the history of the region. A special culinary delight of Staritsa, "Staritsa Puffs", are made of thin pastry stuffed with baked apples and gentle cream.

Staritsa Surroundings
The chapel and the memorial cross on Bortenevskoe field near the village of Stepurino (26 km from Staritsa) are some of the most important historical monuments depicting the struggle for national independence. Historians believe that during the Mongolian domination it was here that the battle of 1317 took place, in which Prince Mikhail Yaroslavich of Tver (by joining forces with the Moscow prince) won his first battle over the Tatars. Every year, on the anniversary of the battle on December 22, historical clubs re-enact the battle on the field.

In the village of Krasnoe (20 km from Staritsa) is a well preserved Church of the Transfiguration (1790). It is the only building in the Tver area, constructed in the pseudo-Gothic style so fashionable during the reign of Catherine II. It was erected on the estate of Poltoratsky, using the same design as the famous Chesma church in St. Petersburg, by the architect – Yury Felten. This unconventional building is unusual for the Russian heartland made of white stone with filigree ornamentation. It looks beautiful any time of the year.

In 1971 the Museum of Alexander Pushkin was opened (© Wed–Fri 11.00–17.00, ☎ (48263) 4-41-35). It is located on the grounds of the estate of the noble Wulf family, in the village of Bernovo (50 km from Staritsa). It is known that the poet stayed and worked here several times. The manor house is impressively large, and surrounded by a traditional French park of unconventional layout with 8 radial paths. There is also a Parnassus hill with a spiraling path leading to the top by-way of an ancient pond. Above the “Tma River” stands the baroque “Church of the Assumption” (middle of the XVI–II c.) richly decorated with white-stone carvings. The museum features the memorabilia of several generations of the Wulf family, who owned the estate for two centuries. Anna Poltoratskaya (Kern) – the woman to whom Pushkin so ardently addressed in the beloved poem, “I remember a wonderful moment...” spent her childhood here. The traditional Pushkin holiday of poetry is organized here every year on the first Sunday of June.

Amongst the places where Pushkin hung out while spending time in Staritsa are two more sites of note – the Malinniki and Pavlovsk Manors. The poet frequently stayed in one of these manors and it is said that his creativity was at its fullest.

Saint Job
The future Patriarch took monastic vows in the Assumption Monastery and later was its abbot for 6 years. In 1571–1581 he was the abbot of the ancient monasteries in Moscow. In 1587, Job was elevated to the rank of Metropolitan of Moscow. In 1589 (with the participation of the Patriarch of Constantinople) a ceremony was held to commemorate Job – the first Patriarch of Moscow. During "the Times of Trouble" that followed, Job was the first to speak out against the Polish-Lithuanian invaders, sending letters to the cities with an appeal not to obey the foreign enslavers. Job refused to recognize False Dmitry I and pronounced an anathema (act of excommunication) against him, for which he was subjected to harassments, defrocked and exiled to Staritsa where he later died. The relics of the Saint were re-buried with military honors in the Kremlin. The base-ment of the bell tower is still revered as the place of his first burial and there is a carved white tombstone with the inscription – "a rare monument of Russian paleography".

www.russiangid.ru
Nine naval admirals have hailed from Staritsa lands. In the village of Ryasna (52 km from Staritsa, V.A. Kornilov, (1806–1854) an outstanding Russian naval commander, was born and raised. He later became a hero of the defense of Sevastopol. The Kornilov’s family estate – Ivano, is located here. V.A. Kornilov, (1806–1854) an outstanding Russian naval commander, was born and raised. He later became a hero of the defense of Sevastopol. The Kornilov’s family estate – Ivano, is located here. He later became a hero of the defense of Sevastopol. The Kornilov’s family estate – Ivano, is located here.

Recently, the village has opened an enlightening museum of the history of the Kornilov noble family (903) 034-06-25. A number of family members are buried nearby. The museum director – A.J. Volnukhin, personally conducts very interesting excursions. In February in Ryasna, a traditional Kornikov conference is held as well as an annual event by the International Naval Conference titled, “The Role of the Russian Navy in the Defense of the Fatherland”.

The Chukavino Manor (6 km from Staritsa) is well known to architecture and literature lovers. Pushkin’s acquaintance – I.E. Vielkoplaskij lived here, as did the outstanding physician and first Russian therapist-hygienist M.J. Mudrov (1776–1831) who treated Pushkin and his family. The baroque complex consists of a manor house with outbuildings and a richly decorated Church of St. Vladimir (1746) is preserved in the ancient park with terraces descending to the Volga. On the edge of the estate is the Iver region’s dog sledding center, “Chu” or “Chukavin”.

“Echo-Land” (230 km from Moscow, 60 km from Tver, (961) 015-22-22, www.chukavino.ru). Exotic breeds of dogs: Siberian, Alaskan and Samoyed huskies, and malamutes, as well as horses and reindeer live on the spacious grounds. The Dog Center is a great place for a family holiday because of many exciting children’s programs: “School of the Young Musher”, “Apache Gold”, and “Survival in the Woods”. There is a comfortable guest house called “Masha and Bears” with a restaurant. In winter as in summer you can ride on a dog sled or enjoy a walk or bike ride through the woods. You can also learn your skills in a buggy or a quad bike or have a barbecue on the banks of the Volga.

The Konoplino Estate 7 km from Staritsa belonged to I.I. Lazhechnikov (1792–1869), who pioneered a new genre of contemporary literature, the Russian historical novel, he was hugely admired by Pushkin. The life of I.I. Lazhechnikov is strongly associated with the Tver land, where he spent 10 years as a vice-governor. Now the main manor house with a portico on the front facade has been renovated. There is a new office and ancillary buildings, the ponds are clean, and the chapel has been renovated.

Ivanishi village on the Staritsa road (20 km from Staritsa) is associated with the name of the boyar- Ivan Shigony-Podzhogin, a diplomat and one of the main confidants of the Grand Prince of Moscow – Vasili III (ruled 1505–1533). Podgozhin was part of the plan to force Vasilii III’s wife Solomonia Saburova to take the veil. The prince founded a monastery on his ancestral land of Ivanishi, on which its only surviving structure is the majestic and austere Cathedral of the Assumption (1542, rebuilt in the XVIII–XIX centuries) topped with a three domed structure – one of the best examples of monuments of ancient Russian architecture in the Tver region. The Ivanishensky – Silver Spring is revered in the village. Not far from the church, in an open meadow, a solitary pine stands where it has grown for many years. Its amazing umbrel-la-shaped crown beckons visitors to sit a spell under its shade. Indeed, this tree is one of the remarkable monuments of nature in the Staritsa lands.

The Natural Monuments of the Staritsa Land

The Staritsa surroundings which are devoid of major manufacturing facilities boast forty-eight natural monuments. Among them are the “Staritsa Switzerland”, where the Volga flows for 30 km squeezed into a narrow canyon with walls over 40 meters high. The “Staritsa Switzerland” is a rocky sloping complex in the area of the confluence of the Lower Staritsa and Volga Rivers. Here is also the “Red Key” – a ferriferous underground spring with fonts near the village of Maslovo. These are just a few of the many Natural Monuments just waiting to be discovered by those who have not been here before.

Transportation

■ Bus Station: Volodarskogo str. 48 (48263) 2-15-63.
■ Staritsa Railway Station: 12 km from the city center, a branch of the Lihoslavl-Rzhev Railroad. Long-distance trains from St. Petersburg and Smolensk stop here apart from local trains.

www.russiangid.ru
The Staritsa quarries and caves

The banks of the Volga in Staritsa and its surroundings are cut by a number of galleries and passageways. The white stone has been extracted here since the XIV century. The famous “Staritsa marble” is widely used in the region and far beyond. Archaeologists have proven that the town of Torzhok arose on the site of an ancient village in the tenth century, when a well-fortified settlement of Slavs appeared here by way of a convenient river route from the northern lands to the Volga. A small secluded settlement appeared near the town in 1038. According to legend, it was founded by boyar Ephraim – a servant of the Rostov Prince – Boris. Ephraim retreated to the deep forest following the perfidious murder by Sviatopolk the Accursed of his two brothers Boris and Gleb in 1015. The martyred brothers were later canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church. Since that time, the Boris and Gleb Monastery has stood here, and its founder – the Rev. Ephraim Novotorzhsky, is revered as the patron saint of this land.

In the X–XI centuries, Torzhok was a distant outpost of the Great Novgorod. At that time it was called Novy Torg and was located at the confluence of Zdorovtsev Creek in Tvertsa, as evidenced by the vast cultural layer. Discovered during the excavations in the Lower Fort was a wooden pavement of the time. Today it is the location of the Novgorod Embankment. In the XII century, just south of the moraine ridge, emerged the Upper Fort. Set atop green cliffs you will see a moat and ramparts towering over Tvertsa. To the present day it remains one of the most inviting places in Torzhok. From its original name, “Novy Torg” came the name of the natives – “Novotory”, which has survived in the local chronicles only refers to the year 1139, due to the devastation by the troops.

For about 1000 years Torzhok has stood on the steep hills above the bend of the fast Tvertsa River (a tributary of the Volga.) This small town, in terms of surviving historical monuments, is a unique phenomenon and boasts great history, poetically by Pushkin, it is a singular integral architectural and landscape ensemble of the era of Russian classicism. The indisputably convenient location near the highway from Moscow to St. Petersburg made Torzhok a tourist center, accessible for one day trips from the capital. But the charm of the ancient town and the saturation of historical and cultural monuments are so great that you should definitely spend the night here, and then maybe stay for a few days. Visits here are pleasant and interesting at different times of the year and each time you will discover something new.

**Torzhok and the Region***

**FROM TVER – 60 KM**
**FROM MOSCOW – 227 KM (ALONG THE HIGHWAY M10)**
**POPULATION: ABOUT 47000 PEOPLE**
**PHONE AREA CODE: 48251**
**CITY DAY: 1ST SAT. OF JUNE**
**HTTP://TORZHOK.INFO**

**Useful phone numbers**
- **Police:** Lenina str. 73, (48263) 2-18-05
- **District Hospital:** Communisticheskaya str. 41, (48263) 2-13-90

**Accommodation**
- **Country Hotel – “Barskaya Usadba”**
  A modern hotel complex on the banks of the Volga River in Volga Village is about halfway between Tver and Staritsa (approx. 60 km from both cities). It offers comfortable accommodation in hotels and in cottages. For tourists there is a water park, spa, and a Russian sauna. Activities include: bowling, karaoke, and horseback riding at the riding club. Excursions include a visit to the mini-farm of the same name, an interactive museum of fairy tales, a zoo, and a children’s club – “Cartoons” office in Tver: Athanasy Nikitin embankment 33, (4822) 51-00-00, reception: (920) 188-61-08, (920) 188-88-10, [www.bar-us.ru](http://www.bar-us.ru)

**Leisure**
- **Sports-entertainment Center – “Atlantis”**
  Offers: bowling, billiard, checkers, chess and backgammon. A café is also open here. Communisticheskaya str. 27, (48263) 2-38-94.

**Food**
- **Cafe “Berezka”, Chernozerskogo str. 14, (48263) 2-14-08.**

**Milestones in the history and appearance of the city***

Archaeologists have proven that the town of Torzhok arose on the site of an ancient village in the tenth century, when a well-fortified settlement of Slavs appeared here by way of a convenient river route from the northern lands to the Volga. A small secluded settlement appeared near the town in 1038. According to legend, it was founded by boyar Ephraim – a servant of the Rostov Prince – Boris. Ephraim retreated to the deep forest following the perfidious murder by Sviatopolk the Accursed of his two brothers Boris and Gleb in 1015. The martyred...
of Yuri Dolgoruky. In the next century Torzhok, which was the gateway to the Great Novgorod and an important harbor on the navigable Tvertsa was repeatedly ravaged, by either Tver or Moscow, and finally the Tatars. However, each time it was able to, “rise from the ashes”, and became a large city with a well-fortified Kremlin again. After the defeat of the Novgorod Republic (1478) Torzhok joined the Moscow State.

The Golden Age of Novotorzhsky merchants started at the end of the XVII – early XVIII centuries. By then, the city was built up with stone buildings. During the reign of Catherine II, it received (along with the provincial capital of Tver) a new “royally approved” master plan and funds for its implementation. The layout of the main shopping area had a fan-shaped pattern (rare for that time). Several streets converge as rays on the city hall and the mall on the Market Square (now Square of January 9). In the Zatveretskaya neighborhood (the location of the Tsar’s road and a new administrative center) an attempt was made to create an ensemble of three major avenues reminiscent of three rays, much like in Tver, designed by the same architect – Peter Nikitin. It started with Yamskaya (now Dzerzhinskaya Street) shaped like the “trident’s handle”, to end on the Ilyinskaya Square. There the area is divided into three beams; Central – Palace Street (Razina) as well as two side streets – Yamskaya (Dzerzhinskaya) Street and Krasnaya Gora Street. This layout is perfectly visible on any schematic drawn of the city, but in reality, Krasnaya Gora runs from the upper river terrace to the pedestrian bridge over Tvertsa. Therefore, the triaxial structure is not seen so clearly as in Tver. The new city center then incorporated the Imperial Traveling Palace (now Dzerzhinskaya Street) shaped like the “trident’s handle”, to end on the Ilyinskaya Square. There the area is divided into three beams; Central – Palace Street (Razina) as well as two side streets – Yamskaya (Dzerzhinskaya) Street and Krasnaya Gora Street. This layout is perfectly visible on any schematic drawn of the city, but in reality, Krasnaya Gora runs from the upper river terrace to the pedestrian bridge over Tvertsa. Therefore, the triaxial structure is not seen so clearly as in Tver. The new city center then incorporated the Imperial Traveling Palace (now Dzerzhinskaya Street) shaped like the “trident’s handle”, to end on the Ilyinskaya Square. There the area is divided into three beams; Central – Palace Street (Razina) as well as two side streets – Yamskaya (Dzerzhinskaya) Street and Krasnaya Gora Street. This layout is perfectly visible on any schematic drawn of the city, but in reality, Krasnaya Gora runs from the upper river terrace to the pedestrian bridge over Tvertsa. Therefore, the triaxial structure is not seen so clearly as in Tver. The new city center then incorporated the Imperial Traveling Palace (now Dzerzhinskaya Street) shaped like the “trident’s handle”, to end on the Ilyinskaya Square. There the area is divided into three beams; Central – Palace Street (Razina) as well as two side streets – Yamskaya (Dzerzhinskaya) Street and Krasnaya Gora Street.
The stairs nearby lead up to the old city boulevard – a popular place for walks and meetings for residents of the town. It offers a picturesque view of the trading area beyond the river and the old ("Kremlin") part of the city.

With the re-structuring of the city, new services and utilities were increasingly added. At the end of the XVIII century a water supply system and fountains were installed. One of the water supply pavilions remains at the Market Square (Square of the 9th of January). An elegant rotunda was erected here designed by N.A. Lvov; According to another legend it was the Chapel of the Exaltation of the Cross (founded before the XIV century) which includes the Resurrection Cathedral (1800) and St. John the For-Runner Church (1840). It is a very rare combination of rotunda and bell tower. This complex (built in the style of mature classicism) is also in harmony with the buildings of the Borisoglebskij (Boris and Gleb) Monastery. It offers a spectacular view of the "Kremlin" part of the town. It was the nuns of the Resurrection Convent who pioneered the technique of embroidery in gold and later in gilded threads, known as the famous Torzhok golden craft.

At the beginning of the XIX century, on the territory of the Lower Fort (Settlement), a new cathedral complex was erected. On the spot where an ancient Cathedral once stood (before the Mongol invasion). The majestic and opulent Savior Transfiguration Cathedral was built to the design of the prominent architect – Carlo Rossi (1823). Twenty years later, next door to the cathedral, the talented local architect – Lvov erected the entry into the Jerusalem Church (summer church). Today, unfortunately, the cathedral square does not reflect the original concept of the master plan and has become a part of the city's main road.

Beyond the Upper Settlement towers, the five-domed Church of Angel Michael (1865) is situated on a steep hill surrounded by streams. It was built in the late Russian-Byzantine style. For years, the church was the only functioning church in Torzhok. Inside, the rich interior decorations have been preserved.

The Exaltation of the Cross Church (XVI century, now closed) is associated with St. Trifon of Pechenga (a native of Torzhok) who is particularly revered in the Russian North. He is considered "the apostle of the north", and the educator of Laplanders. According to legend, he was the son of a priest of the church. Pilgrims from the Murmansk Diocese often travel here to pay homage to him.

The oldest Boris and Gleb Monastery (http://новоторжский-борисоглебский-монастырь.рф) is an impressive complex of buildings of the XVII–XIX centuries. It stands on the right bank of the Tvertsa River, behind the ramparts of the ancient Kremlin. It is a complex of buildings surrounded by walls and towers and includes the Vvedenskaya Church, “Entry into Jerusalem” 1673). It is the oldest building in Torzhok. The highlight of the Monastery is the Boris and Gleb Cathedral (1796) erected upon the orders of Catherine the Great. During the ground breaking ceremony the Empress personally tapped on the first stone in the foundation with a silver hammer. She commissioned the architect Lvov to design and build the cathedral to match the style and ambition of the time. It was built on the site of the previously dilapidated XIII century church adorned with frescoes. About 37 icons for the iconostasis of the new church were painted by the great Russian portraitist V.L. Borovikovsky. Sadly, only one icon has survived to this today, and it is now in the Art Gallery of Tver.

The Gate Church-bell tower (1811, probably design by N.A. Lvov) is considered to be a masterpiece of Russian Classicism. It stands as a symbol of Torzhok. Above the entry arch of the Holy Gate is the Church of the Vernicle, then the belfry, and over it – a gracefully curved rotunda topped by a spire. The total height of the structure is 55 meters.

There is an observation deck in the belfry.

The monastery is gradually being revived and the churches are being restored. Divine services are held two times a day. A comfortable hotel for pilgrims is now open. Excursions can be booked at (910) 646-94-42.
The Museums of Torzhok

The Russian Historical and Ethnographic Museum (VIEM) (www.viemusei.ru) was established twenty five years ago as a nationwide research and educational institution. Spear-headed by the academian Dmitry Likhachev, it is housed in several historic buildings in different parts of the city.

The permanent exhibitions "History Under Your Feet", and "Walking Along the Ancient Torzhok" and "Torzhok on the Frontline", are in the Exhibition Hall of the former Trading Rows (9th of January Square 2, Tue–Sun 9.30–18.00, 8 (48251) 9-12-52). Of particular interest to visitors is a collection of original birch bark letters from the XII–XIV centuries. Nineteen of the items displayed were found in Torzhok. With the help of an interactive display you can even become an archaeologist and "dig" into the "cultural layers" for ancient artifacts.

In the former Homeless Shelter (Starytska str. 7, Tue–Sun 9.30–18.00, 8 (48251) 5-29-69) on the grounds of the Borisoglebsky Monastery, are a number of exhibitions entitled: "The Genius of Taste – the Life and Work of N.A. Lvov". Included are: the icon, "Window to a Heavenly World", a display of Torzhok – in vintage photographs and postcards, and the "History of the Boris and Gleb Monastery". Here you can see what Tver's first stone Boris and Gleb Cathedral looked like which has not survived. Also on display is a very rare exhibit piece – a tile (ating back to the XII century with a layout sketch of the Cathedral on it.

The Ethnographic Center of the "Istok Painting Studio", is located in an urban estate building (Lunacharskogo str. 21, Tue–Sun 9.30–18.00, 8 (48251) 9-40-18, 9-29-42). It features exhibitions such as "Russia is Alive and Legendary", "Not for Drinking Sake Only...", and "The Link to the Times". The museum also organizes guided tours to the Novotorzhsky (New Torzhok) Kremlin. Participants can dress in medieval armor and try their hand at throwing a medieval spear. You can also attend theatrical performances such as: "The Appointment with N.A. Lvov, by the Rotunda", and "Visiting with Prince Novotorzhsk" (New Torzhok) and "Russia – Alive and Legendary".

Those who are interested can also order a lunch called the "Princely Feast". It is served in the old gazebo.

Very popular among residents and visitors of Tver are the ethnographic festivities (accompanied by the "Let-stitsa" folk show group) as well as interactive programs such as "Rustic Fun", "Traditions of Russian Tea Drinking", and "Traditions of Russian Festive Meals". The Russian History and Ethnography Museum recently opened a permanent exhibition named "The Home of Russia". (Lunacharskogo str. 3, Tue–Sun 9.30–18.00, 8 (48251) 9-81-14). In fact, it is the center of an inter-regional cooperative project. In the future it will be the center of an innovative museum that will include the twelve regions in central Russia.

In 1972, a very interesting museum of Alexander Pushkin opened. (Dzerzhinskogo str. 71, Wed–Fri 9.00–17.30, Sat, Sun 11.00–17.00, 8 (48251) 9-20-60). It is housed in the wooden mansion of Lvov – Balavin-skie (beg. XIX century). Here, you will see an exhibition devoted to Pushkin's journeys through Torzhok while on the way from St. Petersburg to Moscow, his travel impressions and his follow-up reflections and how they impacted his creativity. The exhibit features maps of local postal roads, images of postal stations, travel accessories of the time, and portraits of Pushkin and his Tver friends. The interior and layout of the city's aristocratic mansion of the XIX century have now been fully restored.

Situated next to the Pushkin Museum is an exhibition hall known as "The House of the Belt". (Dzerzhinskystr. 73, Mon–Fri 10.00–18.00, Sat 10.00–17.00, Sun 10.00–15.00, 8 (48251) 9-66-10, http://dom-pojesa.ru) The museum features only one unique exhibit. Placed in a circle around the hall is the largest belt ever made with a length of 25 m and width of 25 cm. The belt of blue velvet was embroidered by Torzhok seamstresses. It took more than one and a half years to complete. Approx. 53 kilometers of gold and silver threads have been woven into the fabric, along with thousands of Swarovski jewels. Sewn into the belt are the miraculous words from Psalm 90, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place". Known as the "Belt of Russia", it was consecrated in the ancient Church of the Nativity (XIV c.). In the village of Gorodnya. The inner side of the belt is divided into 12 sections. Each section contains words of protection. To experience the full force of the protective belt, you must walk around the inner circle, going clockwise, and read the safety blessings written on each section. Then you must go around the outside counterclockwise 3 times, reading the embroidered prayer.

This is not just a thread – it is made of gold

The tradition of embroidered gold and silver threads has been known since ancient times and came to Russia from Byzantium which in turn came to Byzantium – from the Arab Middle East. It is in Torzhok that archaeologists discovered the fragments of a XII century leather monastic headband decorated with gold threads. The craft began to thrive in Torzhok in the XVII century and was known all over Russia. Merchants and travelers, passing through Torzhok, purchased the prestigious embroidery sewn by local seamstresses in spite of the high cost. In fact, Pushkin was a loyal customer. Fortunately, this rare form of art has been preserved in Torzhok until now and has rightly become one of the signature brands of the city and the Upper Volga.

Today, the seamstresses of the art workshop – "Istok" are involved not only in the traditional golden embroidery, but also in the designing of ideas for making jewelry and accessories using conventional methods but with completely unexpected materials. Visitors are welcome to sit at a loom and sew, weave or splice a souvenir.
In the park behind the exhibition hall is an observation deck and inside the building is a gift shop – “Torzhok Zolotoshvei (Torzhok of gold embroiderers)”. You may purchase products in the exhibition hall or in the shop at the factory (Kalinin Highway 12, ☎ (48251) 5-49-32).

The Museum of Gold Embroidery of the Torzhok Art College (Lermontov str. 6; tours by appointment; ☎ 8 (48251) 9-20-75, 9-13-40). Here you can see an exhibition of the best examples of golden embroidery. The museum also organizes fashion shows – featuring designer collections of clothing created with this ancient technique. Visitors can try their hand at embroidery and learn the first difficult stitches.

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You can visit the Army Aviation Museum – the Museum of Helicopters. (Engels str., send detailed requests for a visit by phone ☎ (48251) 5-58-26) It is open on business days (except local holidays) by appointment only, as it is situated on the territory of the military unit. There is an excellent collection of most models of helicopters produced in the USSR, including the MI-10 (“flying crane”).

Gift shops are located in almost every city museum. Torzhok branded souvenirs come in a wide variety of goods: wallets, purses, bookmarks, panels, brooches, cushions, and gloves, all adorned with the famous gold embroidery. Of course, machine embroidery is less expensive than the hand-made items.

Torzhok Surroundings

Seven km from Torzhok is Vasiliev Village It is worth the trip to explore the Architectural and Ethnographic Open-Air Museum (Wed–Fri 9.00–18.00, ☎ 8 (48251) 9-18-63, 910 930-10-79). It is located on the territory of the Lvov’s estate (XVIII c) above the Tvertsa River. The beautiful grounds are adorned with a lovely park, cascading ponds, a greenhouse-wing, and the famous three-arch 100-meter high boulder "Devil’s Bridge" by N.A. Lvov. One of the main episodes in the movie ‘Night Watch’ was filmed here.

Thirteen wooden structures from all over the area have been collected, re-assembled and restored here: churches, chapels, a Karelian house, barns, a fire station, and the boulders with crosses from XI century. Every year in June the museum holds a folklore and crafts festival – "Trinity Celebrations".

On the Mitino Estate (6 km from Torzhok) owned by the relatives of N.A. Lvov, there is a well preserved manor house from the middle of the XIX century. There is also a winery and an unusual three-tiered wine cellar, made in the ‘Lvov boulder style’. The estate is occupied now with a modern multi-specialty sanatorium – “Mitino” (8 (48251) 6-44-77, (495) 644-03-21, 644-03-70, www.sanatory-mitino.ru). The facility can accommodate about 650 people for treatment, rehabilitation and recreation. Acute cardiovascular disease patients also come here for rehabilitation. The sanatorium operates a year-round children’s health camp called “Forest Fairy Tale”.

The Churchyard Prutnya (6 km from Torzhok, 1.5 km from Mitino) is an integral component of the Pushkin route in the Tver region. Visitors bring flowers here to the grave of A.P. Markova-Vinogradskaya who was that very Anna Kern, for whom the enamored poet addressed the immortal line “I remember a wonderful moment…”

In the old cemetery there is a pretty Church of the Resurrection (1777) with a low bell tower, a spired St. Nicholas Chapel (2nd half of XVIII century), a fence with a gate (middle of XIX century) and the ancestral burial places of the Lvov’s noblemen. Nearby on the Tvertsa River where there was once a lock on the Vyshnevolotskaya water system, every year on the first weekend of June along the river and past the graveyard, the participants of the sports tourism festival “Green Basin” set off for a rafting expedition.

In the village of Gruzini (14 km from Torzhok) you will see the Manor of Poltorskii family. There is a well preserved three-story main house (XVIII century) and a rebuilt wing. The “boulder bridge” by N.A. Lvov crosses the Zhalenka River here, and farmhouses are scattered along the road.

Twenty-five km from Torzhok stands the family estate of Nikol’skoye-Cherenitsy. It belonged to Nikolai Lvov (1753–1805), an outstanding researcher and cultural figure who brought fame to the land of Torzhok. He was born here, lived here for many years and was buried here. Nearby is the tomb of his beloved wife who bore him five children. Surviving among the numerous facilities on the estate are: the ruins of the main house and outbuilding, a smithy in the side of a hill with arched-niches made of multi-colored boulders, a three-tiered pyramid cell with paintings inside and the Church of the Resurrection in the shape of a rotunda. The Lvov family burial vault is located underground.

In the village of Arpachevo (3 km from the village of Nikolskoe), owned by the uncle of Nikolai Lvov, the only surviving structure of the estate is the Kazan Church (1791) with a pillar-like leaning bell tower, its design is based according to scholars, on the ancient beacons. The critics are unanimous in their opinion that the Arpachevskaya bell tower is one of the best examples of such manor structures of the late XVIII century in Russia.

In the village of Pyatnitsa-Plot (12 km from Torzhok) you can see the surviving Smolensk Church (1st third of the XIX century) and the tomb of N.V. Maievsky (1823–1892) – a prominent Russian expert on artillery mechanics and also one of the founders of external ballistics. His estate was on the river Osug.
In the church you can still see frescoes created in 1874. Worthy of note is the monument in the Maievsky’s grave—a tall, black granite obelisk with an inscription listing the achievements of the deceased. Four artillery shells stand at each of the four corners of the fence.

In the village of Vasilyeva Gora (2 km from Rajok) is a chapel in the name of St. Daniel the Stylist, also built by N.A. Lvov (1798). It was made in the architect’s favorite style of rotunda. This time flanked by columns in the shape of a circle. Paintings above the entrance to the chapel and in the interior are still well preserved.

**Rayok-Znamenskoye Estate.** Twenty km from Torzhok you will find one of the best estates, not only of the Tver region, but throughout Russia. It is the famous Rayok-Znamenskoye Estate of senator and General-in-Chief—F.I. Glebov (1734–1799). When he married his second wife, E.P. Streshneva (a whimsical beauty from St. Petersburg) he commissioned N.A. Lvov to build a luxury estate complex. The project took seventeen years (1781–1798) to complete.

Turning off the St. Petersburg path, Glebov’s guests drove approximately 3 km on the wide alley incorporating boulder bridges to the front gates of the estate, reminiscent of the Arc de Triomphe. Visitors found themselves in a vast oval courtyard with an antique fountain in the center. The yard was framed with an airy Doric colonnade, in which two outbuildings were inserted. The stately manor house with a portico and a suite of rooms impresses the visitor with a well-thought-out design including attention to minor details and luxury. For example; the front dining room was decorated with twenty-four sculpted medallions containing the portraits of representatives of the Russian ruling dynasties. According to an inventory conducted in 1813, there were about 1,000 paintings, marble fireplaces, inlaid parquet floors, tiled stoves, a huge number of excellent dining utensils, furniture of mahogany, and mirrors. The ballroom floor was specially made so that when people danced it swayed lightly, creating the effect of a gentle wave.

Behind the house, is an English park (22 hectares) with a path to the River Logovez. Closer to the river ponds were dug, complete with small islands and cascading waterfalls. The park was also decorated with a number of caves, gazebos, rotunda, sculptures, pavilions, and boulder bridges.

From the memoirs of contemporaries we have learned about the unusual gazebo at the top of a hill in the park. From the kitchen, an underpass was designed to deliver meals. The floor of the gazebo parted and a pre-laid table rose to the surface using a special mechanism.

In the second half of the XIX century the estate began to deteriorate. Unfortunately, most of the buildings were not preserved. From its former magnificence, all that remains today are the manor house (under restoration) and the colonnade and the wings.

The Italian painter—Antonio Dzanardi lived in the area for several years and from time to time organized exhibitions of his works in the manor house.

**Transportation**
- **Bus Station:** Vokzalnaya str. 28 (48251) 5-10-31
- **Railway Station** (Oktyabrskaya Railway): Railway Station Square, (48251) 5-05-20, 3-41-72. The station is situated on the Lihoslavl – Vyazma Railway. In addition to commuter trains, long-distance trains from St. Petersburg, Smolensk and Moscow-Ostashkov also stop here.

**Useful phone numbers**
- **Police:** 9 January Sq. 3 (48251) 9-17-47, 9-15-90
- **District Hospital:** Bolnichnaya str. 30, (48251) 9-13-33, 9-27-27

In 1799 Count V.P. Musin-Pushkin founded a paper mill in the village of Kamennoe at the confluence of the Negoch River to Osuga. In 1869, it was purchased by the Moscow merchant—M.G. Kuvshinov, known for his educational and charitable activities. In 1912, Kuvshinova, the owner of the mill at the time, laid a railway to the mill from Torzhok. The station and the village were named Kuvshinovo. In 1938, the two villages merged and the village was elevated to the status of a town named Kuvshinovo. Today, Kuvshinovo is an important center of the wood processing, pulp, and paper industries. The core operation is the Kamenskaya Cardboard and Paper Mill. Created by a dam on the Negoch River, the Nizhnenegechansk reservoir 56 occupies part of the city’s area.

An interesting museum of local history (Oktyabrskaya str. 5, 8 (48257) 4-52-46) is housed in the “People’s House”, built by J.M. Kuvshinova, in 1913. This Art Nouveau building is now known as “The House of Culture”. In 2012, the grateful residents erected a monument dedicated to Kuvshinova on the city squares. On Krasnogvardyeyskaya St., near the town center, stands the house where the famous Russian lexicographer—S.I. Ozhegov, author of the classic, “Dictionary of Russian Language”, was born and raised (1900–1964). In 1897–1898, M. Gorky also lived and worked here. The museum displays two memorial plaques in honor of these great figures of culture.
Famous “House of Gentlefolks” of Russia

The Family nest of the famous Bakunins, now a historical and natural preserve in Pryamuhino (28 km from Kuvshinov) on the river Osu, is visited annually by thousands of Russian and foreign tourists. The estate was founded in the XVIII century by nobleman Shishkovi and later purchased by M.V. Bakunin.

In 1797, a diplomat and writer – A.M. Bakunin, retired to his estate and fell in love with these places to the point of self-oblivion. He decided to create on the land of Novotorzhskaya an Arboretum in memory of people he was close to. Former colleagues brought him seedlings of rare trees from around the world and the owner planted them in the landscape park in honor of his friends. Today, a walk through the park is like a journey through the pages of Russian culture. Bakunin built a Trinity Church (1836) in an unconventional architectural style. Improvements to the park continued, including a cascade of ponds. At various times the guests of Bakunin in Pryamuhino were: V.G. Belinsky, N.V. Stankevich, T.N. Granovsky, L.N. Tolstoy, and Maxim Gorky. The guests played music, painted pictures, and wrote poems. The most famous among the family members was M.A. Bakunin (1814–1876), a philosopher, a revolutionary, and an ideologist of anarchism.

Today it is interesting to take a walk in the park and experience its unusual layout – a kind of botanical garden on Tver land. Visitors can climb the unusual Boulder ramp that leads to the newly-opened church. The Bakunin family cemetery is located near the wall. You can also visit the **Museum of the noble family of Bakunin** (915) 718-34-99, (906) 656-09-09.

On the last weekend of May the descendants of the Bakunin family, along with historians and ethnographers, come to Pryamuhino from all corners of Russia and foreign countries to participate in the annual event of reading of Bakunin’s works. In 2013, the readings were dedicated to the prominent Russian commander – Mikhail Kutuzov, a relative of Bakunin. Near the crypt of the Trinity Church there is a memorial complex and, on the Kutuzov Hill, there is also a monument to the great military leader. In 2014, Pryamuhino celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of M.A. Bakunin. Also celebrated was the 120th anniversary of the death of the famous E.M. Bakunina, a nurse and the heroine of the Crimean and Russo-Turkish wars (1877–1878). A monument to the Bakunin family stands in front of the bell tower of Trinity Church.

In honor of these anniversaries a monument to the whole Bakunin family has been inaugurated by the grateful descendants. It is located opposite the belfry of the Trinity Church.
The Moscow Sea

The Moscow Sea is a very popular recreational area and includes the Konakovsky district and part of the territory of the Kalinin district, adjacent to the waters of the Ivankovskoye reservoir. It has an advantageous transit location in the southeast of the Tver region: a busy railway (Moscow-St Petersburg), waterway (Volga) and auto (Moscow-Saint-Petersburg) highway.

This area is an important component of Upper Volga tourism and recreational cluster. Over the last several years, it has undergone extensive changes designed to improve the infrastructure for tourism. Ripe with resources and steeped in history, Tver is a natural for the development of water tourism. Currently, in the area of the "Moscow Sea", two interrelated projects are on the drawing board: “Tver Marina” (Kalinin district) and “Zavidovo” (Konakovo district).

When completed, the facilities will be able to accommodate yachts and cruise ships of all sizes. The regional government also has plans in the works to develop a special economic tourist zone.

The vast expanses of water provide excellent conditions for the development of year round tourism and recreation, both aquatic and land based, the area is perfect for summer activities and winters provide lots of snow and ice covered space required for winter sports. Currently, there are more than 40 resorts situated along the pine coasts with sandy beaches. The waters offer boaters and yachts a number of comfortable inlets. Ivankovskoe Reservoir is accessible from Moscow by land or by water through the Moscow Canal. Transport accessibility and proximity to the capital (approx. 100 km) and to the regional center (37 km) has become the key to the growing popularity of the region. Today the Moscow Sea area draws not only those who love aquatic leisure but also businessmen. The facilities for business events include the internationally recognized “Zavidovo” resort that operates under the auspices of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the "Konakovo River Club" (opened in 2013) and also the five-star "Radisson Zavidovo” Hotel.

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The tourist zone also partially includes the "Zavidovo" State Complex of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, which embraces a National Park and the “Rus" country residence of the Russian President. The National Park has an extensive program aimed at reproducing different species of fauna and fish.

The “Zavidovo” recreation complex is one of the most prestigious places in the greater Moscow Sea area. It is located at the confluence of two rivers – the Volga and the Shosha. It includes a huge territory and enjoys an outstanding reputation for hosting high level delegations. It offers 43 hotel rooms, 95 cottages, and 4 restaurants. Some of many services offered are: rental of water and motor vehicles, and sports equipment, baths, saunas, and fishing in the ponds and rivers. (171270, Tver region., Konakovo district Vahoninskoe rural settlement, village Shosha, ☏ 8 (495) 982-52-70, 8-800-200-18-01.)

Ivankovskoe Reservoir

Ivankovskoe Reservoir (1937) is located on the Volga hydroelectric dam in the village of Yvankovo, near Dubna. The largest of Moscow's reservoirs, it is 327 km in length and 127 km wide. The upper part covers the valley of the Volga River and its tributary Shosha. The reservoir which has a long and well established reputation as the Moscow Sea, is divided into four sections: the Upper Volga (4,400 hectares – from Tver to the estuary of Shoshinsky Reach) the Middle Volga (2950 hectares – from the confluence of Shoshinsky and the Upper reaches to the estuary of Soz’) the Lower Volga (14,100 hectares – from the estuary to the dam of Soz’) and the Shoshinsky (11,250 hectares – flooded lowland of the floodplain of Shosha). The reservoir provides 60% of the drinking water for Moscow.

It also ensures the extensive navigation via Moscow canal and becomes

The “Radisson Zavidovo” Hotel
a part of the unified system of waterways of Russia. From here it is possible to reach the Baltic Sea, the White Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Azov and the Black Sea.

**Milestones**
Mesolithic era tracings provide evidence that this area has been inhabited dating back to VIII-V centuries BC. Tracings include: neolithic sites (IV–II centuries BC), settlement of the Bronze Age (II century BC) and Iron Age (VII cent. BC – VIII cent. BC). On the river banks you can still see the ramparts of Finno-Ugric settlements of the early Iron Age referred to as Dyakovo culture, as well as settlements of the Slavs – who arrived here in the VIII – XII centuries and gradually assimilated with the local Balts and Finno – Ugric tribes.

The oldest written mention of a village, located in the region refers to Vertyazin or Gorodok (1312 – present day Gorodnia).

In 1781, as a result of the administrative reform of Catherine II, the modern territory of Konakovsky district became a part of the newly formed Korchevsky County of the Tver Province. This lasted until 1929. The Center of the County was the ancient city of Korcheva, located on the right bank of the Volga slightly downstream from the modern Konakovo. The city was flooded by waters from the Moscow Sea and its residents were relocated to Konakovo.

**Leisure**
In addition to water sports and leisure activities, you can also enjoy horseback riding at the equestrian club – “Al – Fares” Village in Gorodnya – The Festival of Historic Re-enactment Clubs.

**Festivals and Forums**
- **January**: Festival of the “Moscow Sea” Extreme Winter Sports.
of flooded forests, while near Korcheva – even the foundations of houses and chimneys). A collision with these underwater obstacles is especially dangerous when moving at high speed.

Since 2014, The “Moscow Sea” Winter Festival of Extreme Sports has returned to the area. Colorful action takes place on the grounds of the holiday complex – “Konakovo River Club”. Each year kite riders, hang gliders and motor-paragliders test their skills on the ice and in the air.

The only 18-hole golf course in Russia is located on the territory of the business project “Zavidovo Golf Club” PGA National, Russia (☎ 8 (985) 920-55-58). The world’s oldest Professional Golfers Association of Great Britain and Ireland licensed the golf course. Such licenses are issued for only one golf course per a single country.

The “Champion Course”, a Par-72, was designed by the famous “European Golf Design” architectural firm. A 9-hole training course Par-36 is currently under construction.
Konakovo and Surroundings

The history of the district center Konakovo is slightly unusual. At the beginning of the XIX century the factory that made porcelain and highly glazed pottery gave rise to three small settlements which eventually united into the village of Kuznetsovo.

In 1929, in memory of the revolutionary porcelain painter – P.P. Konakov, (who worked at the Kuznetsovo factory in the village of Kuznetsovo) was renamed. The workmen’s settlement of Konakov and the entire area were included. In 1937, the settlement was transformed into the town of Konakovo, which became the new regional center instead of the flooded Korcheva. Today Konakovo is an industrial city with a developed infrastructure, the center of which is now the Konakovo hydro-power station (commissioned in 1969).

One of the main local attractions is a scenic natural monument – Konakovo Forest. Situated on the banks of the reservoir, it is a favorite vacation spot of the townspeople and the center of all the city’s events. Nearby is the city marina where the summer tourist boats are moored. Situated in front of the Konakovo Forest you will find the History Museum (Lenina ave. 23, ☞ Wed, Fri–Sun 11.00–17.00, Thu 13.00–21.00, ☎ 8 (48242) 4-14-49). A large part of the exhibition is devoted to Korcheva. The museum also exhibited samples of the Konakovo highly glazed pottery from different time periods.

Konakovo Highly Glazed Pottery

In August of 1809, a pharmacist by the name of F.H. Brynner, founded a tiny earthenware factory in Korcheva county. However, the factory was not successful and after a year the company was sold to A.Y. Auerbach, also a pharmacist. Under his management the factory became one of the most

Konakovo area

1. The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, Gordon Village
2. The Memorable sign to M.V. Skopin-Shuisky
3. The Travel Palace-Post Office
4. The Kazan Chapel, Igumenka Village
5. The Church of St. John the Baptist, Kozlovo Village
6. The House-Museum of the poet – S.D. Drozhzhin
7. The church complex in Zavidovo:
   The Assumption Church, The Holy Trinity Church and Bell Tower
8. The Church of the Exaltation of the Cross, Sverdlovo Village
9. The House-Museum of I.S. Sokolov-Mikitov
10. The Church of St. George, Yurevo-Deviche Village
11. The Konakovo Museum of Local History
12. The Manor of Princes Gagarin in Karacharovo
13. The Private Museum of Konakovo Highly Glazed Pottery
14. The ancient settlement in the village of Ustie
15. Konakovo Forest
The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin (XIV century) in Gorodnya

prosperous in Russia. In 1829, the production facility moved to the village of Kuznetsovo, on the site of today’s Konakovo. The unique pottery was painted with cobalt or glazed with multicolored decor. The quality of the Korcheva dish-ware was so high that in the late 1810’s they began to receive orders from members of the imperial family. Tver, Pavlovsk and Palace dinner sets were produced at the Auerbach factory.

After the founder’s death his heirs modernized the plant but in the end got into financial trouble. In 1870, the company was purchased by a successful businessman, M.S. Kuznetsov, and soon porcelain, highly glazed pottery and majolica, produced by Kuznetsov, became well known throughout Russia. The majolica fireplaces, tableware, vases, and a variety of intricate sculptures or “chimney ladies” became very popular. Especially famous were the highly glazed pottery iconostasis. Only two series that were placed here after the consecration of the church.

A wide variety of examples of products produced in the factory can be viewed at the Museum of Konakovo Highly Glazed Pottery (Gorky str. 3, Tue–Sat 10.00–18.00, 8 (48242) 4-44-20, 4-24-40) located in the halls of the Konakovo Central Library. The majority of pieces displayed are from the personal collection of the local businesswoman and philanthropist O. Yartseva, who has set a goal to preserve for posterity the 200-year history of the factory and the names of the artists who lived and worked there.

Konakovo Surroundings
Travelers are welcome to visit Gorodya Village (one of the most amazing places in the Tver region). It is 30 km from Tver from both the Volga River and the M10 freeway. Here, on a Surviving section of the old Tzar’s road, all travelers are advised to make at least a brief stop to pay homage to the only surviving monument of the architecture of the Tver principality, the most ancient church of the Tver land.

The Church Complex in Zavidovo

The miniature white stone church of the Virgin stands like a birch of Valaam on a steep cliff on the right bank of the Volga. The church was built during the most difficult period of Russian history, between 1380 and 1390, before stone building in Russia had yet to be revived following horrific devastation inflicted by the Horde. According to legend, the church was erected in memory of all who died during the Battle of Kulikovo. Later it was re-modeled several times and in the XVII century a tent-shaped bell tower was attached to the refectory.

If you’re lucky – and the church is open – go inside. You will not see such ancient samples of architecture anywhere else in the Tver lands. The ancient door of the church is forged, with locking bolts and the ancient inscriptions are well preserved. From the walls we are watched by the faces of the icons from the Blessed Virgin series that were placed here after the consecration of the church.

But the village of Gorodnya is even older than the church itself. On a steep green slope, surrounded on all sides by a deep ravine, there used to be an important border town named Yertyazin. In the succeeding centuries, Gorodnya became a major village first along the path leading to Novgorod and later on the road between the two capitals. In 1789, by decree of Catherine II, a stone Traveling Palace was erected. It was later rebuilt into the postal station of the coachman village and can still be seen today. On the wall of the building a memorial plaque hangs reminding us of what A. Radishchev wrote in his, “Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow”, about Gorodnya. In 2009, a memorial sign was placed next to it – in honor of the anniversary of the victory of M. Skopin-Shuisky over the Poles.

The amazing landscape recognizable from all angles featuring the most valuable monument to history and culture has made Gorodnya a gem, not just of the Tver region, but of the whole of Russia. Each summer Gorodnya organize a festival of historical re-enactment clubs.

However, it is not only this very church that has been preserved and operates in the villages along the banks of the Moscow Sea. Those who travel on the the M10 highway from Moscow will first meet the Tver
1970’s two sources of mineral water were discovered. One is used for gastrointestinal therapies and the other for taking baths and local procedures. This made it possible to organize a multidisciplinary medical center for 800 patients. (75 km from Tver, 120 km from Moscow, 8 (48242) 6-87-76, (495) 761-54-21).

The famous Soviet writer I.S. Sokolov-Mikitov, lived and worked in Karacharovo for many years. His memorial house 9, where he created many of his works, is now a small museum.

In the village of Novozavidovsky, you can visit the house-museum of S.D. Drozhzhin 6, (1848–1930) a famous peasant poet, and lyricist of many songs. (Sovetskaya str. 5, 8 (48242) 6-87-76, (495) 761-54-21). The famous Soviet writer I.S. Sokolov-Mikitov, lived and worked in Karacharovo for many years. His memorial house 9, where he created many of his works, is now a small museum.

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Transportation
- Bus Station: Chelyuskintsev str. 100 (48242) 4-42-29
- Railway Stations (trains from Moscow and Tver): Konakovo (Privokzalnaya sq. 1, 8 (48242) 4-34-20); Redkino (village Redkino, 8 (48242) 5-04-39); Zavidovo (village Novozavidovsky, 8 (48242) 2-16-87)
- River Transport: The marina on the Ivankovskoe Reservoir, (48242) 4-73-50), offers regular trips to the mouth of the Soz’ River

Useful phone numbers
- Police: Vassilkovskogo str. 15 (48242) 4-29-38
- District Hospital: Energetikov str. 32 (48242) 4-22-14

www.russiangid.ru
The Big Volga

All three districts: Kalyazin, Kashin and Kimry, included in this area lie on the banks of the beautiful Volga River. The navigable Moscow Canal connects the district to the capital and opens the way for tourists to discover the beauty of the Russian North and the lower Volga up to Astrakhan. The proximity to the capital has made the area very popular among Moscovites. On weekends and holidays, ancient history buffs and fans of water recreation flock here where the Volga is wide and deep and during the entire period of navigation multi-deck cruise ships and cargo barges ply the waters of the Uglich reservoir, floating past picturesque small towns. The historical heritage of the area is as stunning as the nearby cities of the Golden Ring. For this reason, tourists on their way to Uglich and Myshkin often make a stop in Kalyazin.

The wide open spaces, meadows and fields – interspersed with thick forests, attract many tourist. The tributaries of the Volga: Hotchya, Medveditsa, Kashinka, and Nerl are recognized as exceptional recreational areas with superb scenery. Within the surroundings of Kimry you will find the magnificent forests: Myltsesvsky, Abramovskiy, Belogrodskaya, Kletinsky, and Toporok. Locals and tourists like to relax on the picturesque lakes of Pokrovskoye and Chentsovo.

Like a vision, Kalyazin, (the “Tver Atlantis”), rises from the waves for those sailing across the Uglich Reservoir. If you stroll down the cobbledstone street, past the old mansions of a time gone by, you will even...
When the monk – Macarius Kash in (future spiritual patron known as St. Macarius of Kalyazin) founded the Trinity Monastery on the left bank of the Volga. Kalyazin became famous, as it is one of the three first-class monasteries in Russia. Afanasy Nikitin, who was a pious man, came here for a blessing in 1468, before starting his “hozhdenie (journey) to India”. In 1609 the monastery became the center of the liberation movement of the Russian State against the Polish-Lithuanian invaders. Here, the leader of the Russian army – Mikhail Skopin-Shuisky established his camp. On the 29th of August he won the battle at the mouth of the river Zhabno, near the monastery. The authentic cannons from the XVII century have survived to the present. They stand as menacing guards at the entrance to the museum in Svistuha. (Nogina str. 1, © Tue–Sun 10.00–17.00,  8 (48249) 2-02-02)

The monastery-fortress constructed by the famous Russian architect Grigory Borisov consisted of five churches, the frescoes dated back to the XVI century. Sadly, they were completely destroyed along with mighty walls, towers and houses, during the construction of the Volga cascade hydro-power plants. Today only the chapel-tower of the monastery wall remains growing out of the foliage on an island in the mainstream of the Volga. It stands as a memorial to remind us of the monastery that was lost. Nearby, in 2010, a Worship Cross was inaugurated. (sculptor E.A. Antonov, Honored Artist of Russia from Tver)

The authentic cannons from the XVII century have survived to the present. They stand as menacing guards at the entrance to the museum in Svistuha. (Nogina str. 1, © Tue–Sun 10.00–17.00, 8 (48249) 2-02-02)

Located just beyond the river part of the city, the museum is housed in the five-domed Church of the Epiphany (1781). Its most recognizable feature – the bell tower, is enhanced with a tall steeple. The exhibition began in 1920, through the efforts of a local ethnographer I.F. Nikolsky, who heroically saved hundreds of the priceless artifacts, including individual samples of ancient frescoes. In 2002 the museum was named after that true enthusiast and historian.

Every year, on the anniversary of the Battle on Constantine Field, participants from history re-enactment clubs from all over Russia come together to re-enact the colorful battle.

Today, in the city there are two preserved and functioning churches: the Ascension (Tikhvin, 1783) and the Vvedensky (Presentation of the Virgin into the Temple) (1882, in Zarechie). On the 14th of June 2012, the relics of the Kalyazin land’s patron saint, Macarius, were transferred to the Church of the Ascension from Tver. This date is particularly revered by Kalyazin citizens and festive services are held in the churches. There is also a city-wide procession of Carrying of the Cross.

In 2009, near the Ascension Church, a monument to M.V. Skopin-Shuisky (sculptor E.A. Antonov) was inaugurated. Unfairly forgotten, he was an outstanding Russian military commander. The composition of the monument consists of two huge boulders with an embossed bas-relief profile of the commander and is decorated with a proud mighty eagle trampling enemy banners.

Kalyazin was known for laces making. Linen, silk, and especially gold threads were woven using a special weaving-on-bobbins technique. The town is also famous for making shoes. For many years, the Kalyazin manufacturers have specialized in the making of felt boots. Today, these boots are one of the most sought after souvenirs of the area. A variety of comfortable, and practical shoes (some with embroidery or appliqué) can be purchased at the Exhibition Hall of the District “House of Crafts” (Comintern str. 81, 8 (48249) 2-33-31). Visitors are invited to try their hand at weaving a lace bobbin themselves. A fun place to shop for a large variety of souvenirs is the Fair of N. Bardina (Karl Marx str. 11/13, 8 (910) 537-59-24, www.livemaster.ru/bardina).
Accommodation
- **Mini-hotel "FAMP"**
  Zavodskaya str. 7
  (48249) 2-55-91, 2-55-95.
- **Mini-hotel "FroOtel Nerl"**
  Village Nerl (25 km to the south from Kalyazin)
  (904) 021-27-63, (910) 848-31-15
  [www.frohotel.ru](http://www.frohotel.ru)
- **Park Hotel "Paluba"**
  Village Mishino (2 km to the south from Kalyazin), Uglich trail (P104)
  (930) 180-30-90
- **Recreational OKB MEI**
  Village Tolstouhova
  (48249) 2-00-14

Food
In addition to the restaurants and cafes in the hotels you can also taste good food at:
- **Cafe-bar "Na naberezhnoj"**
  Lenina str. 20
  (980) 635-76-36, (952) 064-03-55
- **Cafe "Malina"**
  S. Puchalskogo str. 55a
  (952) 060-98-45
  [http://cafemalina.com](http://cafemalina.com)

Kalyazin Surroundings
Near the village of Nikitskoe on the Volga, not far from Kalyazin, stood the Manor of V.F. Ushakov, who commissioned the construction of the famous Kalyazin bell tower. E.N. Ushakova, also visited here. She was an object of Pushkin's passion. Perhaps Pushkin was in Nikitskoe himself, when he dedicated inspirational lyrics to the lady of his heart. The bust of the poet, is set in the village and is clearly visible from the Volga.

Kalyazin plays host to the annual festival of Pushkin Poetry. In 2003, thanks to the enthusiasm of – A.A. Kolosov, a native of Kalyazin, the Kazan Chapel was built and consecrated here.

Transportation
- **Bus Station**: Shorina str. 38
  (48249) 2-30-15
- **Railway Station**: Shorina str. 38
  (48249) 2-30-59. Long-distance trains from Moscow to Rybinsk

Useful phone numbers
- **The police, traffic police**: Krasnoarmeyskaya str. 28
  (48249) 2-37-97, 2-34-47
- **District Hospital**: Turgenev str. 32
  (48249) 2-92-06, 2-94-52

Felt boots from Kalyazin will warm and decorate
In Kalyazin the ancient craft – weaving with bobbins has been revived

The bell tower of the St. Nicholas Cathedral in the old Kalyazin
Kashin is an ancient and distinctive city. You can come here at any time of the year and each time – the town opens in a new way. The first thing that steals your heart is its location on the banks of the narrow Kashinka – left tributary of the Volga. The river forms a whimsical loops, so that the land-mass is almost an island, connected to the main land by a narrow isthmus which also serves as a road. If you walk along the road you will notice that on your right the river runs in one direction, and on the left – just the opposite. The unique layout of Kashin is clearly visible on the map. As the river skirts the city center, it forms a loop shape like a romantic heart. Hence its popular nickname – ‘The City of the Russian Heart’.

The city was founded on an island, where a Kremlin was built of thick oak walls. The compound had 15 towers. Documented history goes back to 1238. At that time, Kashin was utterly devastated by the Tartars. In XIV-XV centuries, Kashin was the capital of the independent principality, but most of the time throughout history it was a part of Tver and then the Moscow principality. In 1775, Kashin became the center of the county and has successfully developed as a merchant city. The ramparts of the ancient Kremlın, the cozy and neat merchant’s mansions, the merchant’s yard (1822, architect N.N. Legrand jr.) and the five buildings of the shopping arcade are open and operating.

The steep banks of Kashinka were crowned with many churches and the approaches to the city were protected with a three monastery-fortress. Some buildings have survived to the present and look extremely picturesque. At the highest point of Kashin – the Duhovaya Gora is perched in a city garden. From this point a wonderful view of the surroundings opens up. In ancient times another fortress stood nearby to defend the isthmus and the Kremlın with the cathedral and the residence of the prince.

The Unidentified "Dish"

The ‘floating’ bell tower, is not the only mystery in the Tver region. Seven km from Kashin, in the village of Tolstouhovo, – another recognizable symbol of Kalyazin became visible in 1992. On the bank of the river Zabno, a huge dish was located. Over the years its existence has caused a number of myths and legends to be rumored. In fact, this mysterious object is one of the world’s largest radio telescopes, RT-64 of Kalyazin Observatory based on the antenna THA-1500. It was designed by the Special Design Bureau of the Moscow Power Engineering Institute (MEI OKB). These devices are a key element of all domestic and some foreign systems designed to study planets and other objects in our Galaxy. There are only two such radio telescopes in Russia.
Kashin Resurrection Cathedral 1 (Cathedral Sq. 1, 6 everyday 9.00–17.00) The main church of the city, inside the Kremlin, is also the largest in the Diocese of Tver, with its 70-meter high bell tower. In 1804, the cathedral was built on the site of even more ancient churches. It was financed by Kashin merchants and the charitable contributions from Catherine II. At the time, it could accommodate about 7 thousand people. Brought from Leipzig, (in 1872) the chimes on the bell tower still sound out the time. There is also an observation deck here.

Near the old Uglich road the city was protected by the Nicholas Klobukov Monastery 2 (Smichka str. 6). The would be canonized Macarius lived here as a monk for a few years. The carved icon of the Virgin Hodegetria (XV century) came from the Klobukov Monastery and is now in the Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Now there is a rapidly growing convent here.

You should definitely visit the local history museum. (Basseinaya str. 5, 6 Wed, Fri–Sun 11.00–17.00, Thu 13.00–21.00, 8 (48234) 2-08-76)

in the building of the Vhodoierusalimskaya (Entry into Jerusalem) church 3 (1777). The exhibition includes photographs of the old Kashin, portraits of local merchants and an impressive collection of objects from the surrounding estates, such as the unique items displayed in the "Napoleon Room", – a furniture set from 1820-1840's and an exquisite set of Sevre’s porcelain with portraits of Napoleon, his relatives and military commanders (brought from Paris for the Ustinovo Manor by G.V. Likhachev, the Colonel of the Life Guards Horse Regiment)

Two highlights of the collection include, a French Empire style watch without the usual rotary dial, and the carved wooden crowns of the XVIII century from the church of the Kozhino village, where St. Macarius of Kalyazin was born and raised. The museum gift shop sells books and souvenirs. Kashin printed gingerbread is an excellent and delicious gift.

The graceful silhouettes of the Krestoznamenskaya (Holy Sign) 8 (1784) and the Ilyinskaya (Elijah)

Kashin

1. The Resurrection Cathedral
2. The Ramparts
3. The Shopping Arcade. Merchants Yard (Gostiny Dvor)
4. The Sanatorium “Kashin” with a public well-room
5. The Demetrius Monastery
6. The Ilyinso-Transfiguration Church
7. The Nativity Church on the Hill
8. The Krestoznamenskaya (Holy Sign) Church
9. The City Garden on the Duhovaya Gora
10. The Ascension Cathedral (relics of St. Blessed Anna of Kashin)
11. The Vhodoierusalimskaya (Entry into Jerusalem) Church. The National History Museum
12. The Nicholas Klobukov Monastery
13. The Church of Saints Peter and Paul
14. The Monument of St. Princess Anna of Kashin
Transfiguration (1778) churches have always attracted artists. While the five-domed Cathedral of the Ascension (1870) attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over Russia who come each year to venerate the relics of St. Blessed Anna of Kashin.

Many people from central Russia are aware of the Kashin healing mineral waters and mud. The facilities was opened by the pilgrims that went across the country to venerate the relics of Princess Anne. According to legend, where the tears of the long-suffering princess fell, came the spring of the bitter-salty water. The healing waters are said to cure a variety of ailments.

By the 1st half of the XIX century, Kashin already attracted those who came specifically for the healing treatments. “Keep Kashino mineral water from deterioration and exhaustion”, was the imperial decree of Emperor Alexander III – so was organized one of the first spa resorts in Russia. Since 1884, patients have flocked to Kashin on a regular basis. Currently sulphate sodium-magnesium-calcium water

St. Anna of Kashin

Princess Anna Dmitrievna (1280-1368), widow of Mikhail Yaroslavich, the Grand Prince of Tver (who was treacherously murdered by the the Horde) buried, one by one, her three sons and a grandson. She took the veil and became an abbess of one of the monasteries of Tver. A year before her death she moved to Kashin. In 1649 Anna was officially canonized. The church reforms of Patriarch Nikon resulted in great discord in the church. One of the main arguments against the new church rules was the praying ritual of crossing oneself should be done using three fingers. Conservatives, led by the fact that the fingers of the right hand of recently canonized Anna of Kashin stacked with only two fingers. As a result in 1677–78, Anna of Kashin was de-canonized and all of the icons depicting her were destroyed. However, over the following centuries, people continued to revere her intercessor. Numerous documented cases of healing were registered when people asked her for help in prayer. In 1909, Princess Anne was canonized for the second time – this was unprecedented in the history of the Orthodox Church.

On the 25th of June 2009, on the feast day of the saint and the 100th anniversary of her second glorification, the Resurrection Cathedral was returned to the Russian Orthodox Church. At the same time near its walls a monument was installed in honor of the spiritual patron of the city (sculptor A.N. Kovalchuk, the People’s Artist of Russia). The transfer of the Resurrection Cathedral to the Church became possible because of the active support from the provincial government. With additional support, Kashin was also able to construct a new building for the District House of Culture which was previously located in the Cathedral.

The cultural heritage is the spiritual, cultural, economic and social capital of the irreplaceable value. The heritage is the main reason for the national self-respect and recognition by the world community. The preservation of the cultural values is the basis for the development of the society and the whole civilization.

The Tver region located in the Central Russia between the two historical capitals occupies one of leading places in the Russian Federation for the number of immovable historical and cultural monuments. The wide historical and cultural heritage of the Tver region is included in different social processes and becomes a kind of special economic resource of the region. The high aesthetic quality of the cultural heritage of the Tver region and the preservation level of the historical environment of the upper Volga region provide the special investment and tourist attractiveness of the Tver region.

The issues of protection of cultural heritage in the Tver region are entrusted to the Main Department of State Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Tver region, which operates in the following areas:

- the state control over observance of legislation in the field of protection of cultural heritage;
- the state registration of objects with the attributes of an object of cultural heritage, keeping the register;
- the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage;
- the state protection of cultural heritage.

170000, Tver, Novotorzhskaya str., 10
The head of the Department: Smirnov Mikhail Yurievich
📞 (4822) 34 5064, 35 7192
is bottled and sold under the brand name “Kashinskaya”.

On the grounds of the old resort – a new year-round sanatorium has been created named “Kashin” (Sovetskaya str. 6, (48234) 2-01-17, 2-10-15, http://sanatory-kashin.ru). It can accommodate 300 people. It is a small town inside Kashin. There are 8 deep wells on the property supplying water to the beautifully decorated pump rooms. The concentrated water – brine and healing mud is successfully used for general and local baths and applications for nervous disorders, musculoskeletal pathologies, illnesses of the gastrointestinal tract and gynecological diseases. Tourists can also stay here if there are available rooms.

Located on the former Market Square (now Proletarskaya) a two-story Merchant Yard and a shopping arcade built in the “brick style” have been preserved. They were built in 1895 by the engineer F.N. Malinowski, at the expense of the Kashin merchants. The historic buildings are now used as intended and business is booming here.

In the mansion of the merchants Zapeniny, (early XIX century) an unusual museum was opened, in 2014. The “Museum of Porridge in Kashin Traditions” (The Russian word for porridge – kasha, and Kashin sound similar). (Proletarskaya sq. 7/1, © Wed–Sun 11.00–17.00, © 8 (915) 706-71-05).

On the grounds of the museum a Culinary Festival is held annually — “Cooking Porridge(kasha) in Kashin” (last Sat in June).

Popular souvenirs or gifts from Kashin are the products of Kashin distillery “Veresk”. Here they sell a variety of liquors and liqueurs, including balsam – “Old Kashin”, a very high quality brand of strong tincture called “Tver Bitter”. Many “spirits” are sold in a gift box. Also good are the Kashin printed gingerbreads with different fillings. They can be purchased at the gift shop in the Museum of Local History and in the factory stores of the “Era” mineral water bottling plant The confectionery department of the factory also produces a delicious marshmallow. There is also a souvenir shop in the mall (© everyday 10.00–17.00).

Kashin Surroundings

The House Museum of Mikhail Kalinin
(village of Verkhnya Troitsa; Central str. 10, © Wed–Sun 11.00–17.00, © 8 (48234) 2-54-64, (910) 841-64-25) is situated in his homeland, where he spent his childhood. In the future he would become an “all-union elder”. The museum was opened in 1940. They preserved structures covered with shingled. On display are furniture and the personal belongings of the prominent figures of the Soviet era. The exhibition also displays the objects of peasant life from the end of the XIX – beginning of XX centuries.

Not far from the village of Verkhnya Troitsa, (30 km from Kashin) in the forest on the banks of the quiet river Medveditsa, is a modern recreation complex of “Tetkovo” (© 8 (48234) 2-51-31, 2-53-14, www.tetkovo.com) that belongs to the Office of the President of the Russian Federation. Formerly, it was a family estate with the same name. Now it is a landscaped area in an ecologically friendly environment. Vacationers can stay either in a block of building with a restaurant, or in the reconstructed comfortable wooden cottages built in the 1930-1950s or you can stay in cottage number 5, the residence of Mikhail Kalinin – “All-Union Elder”, and the first “President” of Soviet Russia.

Since 2008, in the village of Voznoneksi, on the road from Kashin to Tver – the Ethnographic Museum of Kashin Antiquity has been opened. (by appointment only: © 8 (915) 706-71-05). Unlike most museums, here you can touch the exhibits with your hands. The museum staff will tell you about the life of the Kashin peasants, show the entire process of flax or bread making, play folk games with guests, hold master classes in traditional crafts, and serve dishes of Russian cuisine.

Transportation

■ Bus Station: Station Kashin str. (48234) 2-03-20
■ Railway Station: Station Kashin str., (48234) 2-10-35
■ Long-distance trains from Moscow to Rybinsk

Useful phone numbers

■ Police: Karl Marx str. 17/15
(48234) 2-11-31 (part of the duty)

Accommodation

■ Hotel “Rus”
K. Marx str. 16A
(48234) 2-10-49, 2-12-88
■ Mini hotel
next to Mrdvedica river village Seme-novskoe, Kashinskij district of Tver
8 925 805 43 11
info@medvedica2013.ru

Sport Centres

■ Ski storage
Lenina str. 50/9, (48234) 2-06-37

Food

■ Restaurant “Rus”
Karl Marx str. 16A, (48234) 2-15-32
■ Cafe “Stary Kashin”
Karl Marx str. 9, (48234) 2-07-73
■ Cafe “Sputnik”
Karl Marx str. 3, (48234) 2-14-54

Kimry and the Kimry District

From Moscow – 153 km
From Tver – 101 km
Population: About 47,000 people
Phone Code: 48236
City Day: Last Sat of June
www.kimrytver.ru

Kimry is situated on both banks of the Volga, and is connected by a road bridge, the biggest in the Tver region, 1978. The city is located at the confluence of the Volga and Kimra rivers, hence the unusual name of the city (in the past – Kimra).

From letters written during Ivan the Terrible’s time we know that by 1549, Kimry was a major trading village at the crossroads of the important land and water ways. As in many villages of the Volga, the locals specialized in shipbuilding and barge-hauling work. But the shoe craft brought Kimry real fame. From the time of Peter, almost the entire population of the area, both young and old, were engaged in shoe manufacturing. For several centuries Kimry shoemakers made shoes for most of the Russian Army. In 1846, the inhabitants of the village were able to buy freedom for themselves and their families. Such a long tradition allows considering Kimry a Russian footwear capital. There are still several factories in the city that produce various kinds of shoes, including sports shoes.

Among the ancient churches in Kimry, only two have been preserved – the impressive five-tented Spaso-Preobrazhensky (Savior Transfiguration) Cathedral (1813) Kalyaevsky lane, 2 in the neighborhood of Zarechnaya Sloboda. A very interesting excursion is to wander through the streets and...
see the varied architecture in different parts of the city; wooden houses of the Kimry citizen’s, beautiful art nouveau buildings, and eclectic styles are represented here. The most valuable monuments of Russian architecture from the turn of the XIX–XX centuries are the elegantly decorated merchants’ terem-style homes. Their turrets and sculpted windows give Kimry a unique charm.

There is a wonderful local history museum in Kimry (Uritskogo str. 8, Wen–Sun 11.00–17.00, 8 (48236) 3-12-67, 3-27-43, http://kimrymuseum.ru) with Russia’s largest collection of shoe samples from the XVIII–XX centuries. Also gorgeous is a collection of carved wooden sculpture by a self-taught carver from Kimry – I.M. Abalyaev (1901–1941). His expressive multi-figured compositions illustrate genre scenes depicting the life of artisans and peasants in Kimry. Abalyaev’s name was included in the "World Encyclopedia of Naive Art", published in Yugoslavia in 1984.

Souvenirs
A wide range of crafts made by local artists are represented in the gift shop at the Museum of Local History and in the Kimry Museum of Local History, souvenir and book shops.

Kimry
1. The Transfiguration Cathedral
2. The Church of the Ascension
3. The Kimry Museum of Local History, souvenir and book shops
4. The Drama and Comedy Theatre
5. An Obelisk to the soldiers killed in the Great Patriotic War
6. Monument to Lenin
7. Monument to aircraft designer A.N. Tupolev
8. The former Gostiny Dvor (Merchant Yard)
9. The House of Crafts and Folklore
10. Port “Kimry”
11. Yacht Club – “Two Captains”

Part of the exhibition at the local history museum is devoted to the famous aircraft designer – A.N. Tupolev (1888–1972) a native of the Kimry region. Here are exhibited his personal belongings, models of the airplanes he designed, and interesting pictures. In 1979, a monument to A.N. Tupolev was installed at the Mayskaya Square near the destroyed shopping arcades (sculptor H.B. Gevorgyan). Near the monument are the Museum and Exhibition Complex and the Art Gallery, which hosts interesting exhibitions (Uritskogo str. 10, 8 (48236) 3-17-77).

On the bank of the Volga in a conspicuous building with turrets the Kimry Drama and Comedy Theatre is located (Theatre Square 2, 8 (48236) 3-15-85, 3-26-92; http://www.teatr-kimry.ru) It is known for its original productions. Many Moscow directors love to stage performances here.

The streets with numerous monuments of wooden, stone and Art-Nouveau style buildings (Kirov, Volodarsky, Uritsky, Ordzhonikidze, Moscovskaya) are highlighted.
The village of Privolzhsky, situated on the left Bank of the Hatcha (23 km from Kimri) has recently become popular among tourists as the home of Zmey Gorinich, a fairy-tale character (a dragon). At the Craft House, there is a fun Museum and leisure center called the “Museum of Vermins”. Tours must be booked in advance (☎️ 8 (906) 656-52-96) Here you can attend a feast hosted by a charming character by the name of Gaduka (“viper”, in Russian) Vasilevna, to take from her hands her signature drink called “Mukhomorovka” (Death Cup) and toast to “Gaduchia radost” (Gaduka’s joy) You may also dance with the merry Zmey Gorinich, the dragon. But first, you will listen carefully to the fascinating stories of tribal life and the utilization of all kinds of snakes. Then, taking up the sword-kladenets, you will free the beautiful princes from the evil Kikimora. The museum actually stands on the site of the former Gadovo village. A major distillery operated here in Soviet times.

Kimri Surroundings
In 1366, the cape at the confluence of the Hatcha and the Volga was protected by the frontier fortress of Belgorodok (built by Prince Mikhail Aleksandrovich of Tver). Today it is the village of Bely Gorodok with an important ship-repair plant. The cape is graced by the elegant silhouette of the Entry into Jerusalem Church, complete with a belfry with a high spire (1812). Long distance trains from Moscow to Rybinsk stop here.

The aircraft designer A.N. Tupolev, was born in the village of Postomazovo. A memorial sign has been placed here in his honor. It is interesting to visit the unusual farm – “Panax” (village Creva), which specializes in the cultivation of ginseng. When you tour the plantation, they will tell you about the peculiarities of cultivating the taiga root in a moderate climate. You can buy fresh leaves, roots, flowers and processed products of ginseng.

Tourism Association of the Tver region
A voluntary Association of the tourist and recreational cluster professionals of the region
- the tourism sector
- the sector of accommodation facilities
- the sector of food industry
- the education sector
- the sector of demonstration and attraction
- the business partners sector

170042, Tver, Zhoresa str. 24
tel/fax (4822) 39-00-97 (98), 8-903-631-14-18
e-mail: info@tourism-tver.ru    www.tourism-tver.ru
Seligeria

The“Seliger” route combines the territories of Ostashkovsky, Penovsky, Selizharovsky and the Firovsky Districts. Here nature has created a land of forests, lakes and rivers on the slopes of the Valdai Hills. The “Seliger” brand is a country by itself including not only Lake Seliger, but the entire system of Upper Volga Lakes. These sites are located relatively close to the Cultural Centers of Russia (Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Tver). Night trains go to Ostashkov from both capitals, auto tourists arrive in 4-5 hours. The roads are good.

The accommodations for tourist are diverse. Here you can find everything from the inexpensive democratic camp sites, to luxurious country hotels. Unfortunately, there are still not enough vacancies to stay in the summer. In recent years the Seliger area has become popular for business events and for winter recreation.

The geographical location

The “Seliger Resort”, with a total area of 4 thousand square km was established in 2002, by a decree of the regional government. The decree read that “Seliger Lake and the Upper Volga Lakes are certified as a resort of local importance in the Tver region.”

In the Valdai Lakeland Province a group of Upper Volga lakes encompasses: Sterzh (17.9 km²) Vselug (30.4 km²) Peno (16.7 km²) Volgo (61 km²) and the Seliger group, for a total of approximately 200 lakes within the area. The lakes range in size from 0.1 to 212 km². About 100 rivers run into the Seliger. Only one flows out – the Selizhharovka, which flows into the Volga near the village of Selizhharovo. Volga flows through the Upper Volga lakes but originally it emerges as a small stream in an unnamed swamp 10 km from Lake Sterzh, near the watershed basins of the Caspian and Baltic Seas. The origins of the Volga is a special landscape, historic and environmental zone. Only 40 km away, near the village of Scherevovo (in the Penovsky district), at the edge of the swamp of Pyanishnik, there is the source of another great river called Zapadnaya Dvina.

The resort’s natural healing properties are the mineral waters, which can be drunk for balneological purposes, mud (also used for medicinal purposes) and the mild climate of central Russia. These specially protected areas, preserves and monuments of nature occupy about 15% of the area of the resort. Any kind of construction, impromptu campgrounds, or vending is prohibited.

Lake Seliger (with an area of 260 km²) is the largest in the Valdai Hills and is one of the largest lakes in Europe. Its length from north to south is approx. 100 km, and from east to west approx. 40 km. In fact, it is part of an extensive lake system interconnected by channels and straits. With numerous reaches, bays, and islands, it is a veritable water maze with summer camps and recreation centers that are ready to welcome you. The beaches, pine forests, fresh air and unique Seliger sunrises and sunsets will beckon you back time and again. Some islands have “un-discovered” internal lakes. Officially there are 14 reaches on Seliger, but the locals count more than 40. The largest of them (length from north to south – 11 km, from west to east – 7 km) is Ostashkovsky.

Leisure

The water route “Upper Volga Journey” is an old and “well-loved” favorite of kayakers. It stretches along the chain of Upper Volga lakes and Seliger. Also interesting is a scenic rafting trip down the Shlina, Granichnaya and Tsna rivers – via the Vyshnevolotskaya water system. Yachting fans prefer the wide stretches of Lake Seliger, while the windsurfers have established a camp on the Volgo lake many years ago. Year-round helicopter tours are offered at the campsite of RC Ozerchnaya. From the air you can see to local attractions such as; the Source of the Volga, the Nilov mastric retreat, and the Shirkov churchyard.

The History

Archaeologists have found evidences of people living in this area from ancient times. One of the most famous settlements was the excavated village of Sterzhenskoe. Here in the first century BC the Finno-Ugric tribes (Dyakovo culture) lived. Those who float on Lake Sterzh will enjoy a dramatic view of the elevation on
1133 Ivanko Pavlovich, Novgorod-appointed envoy, worked here on the deepening of the riverbed.

One of the mysteries of the ancient history of the region is the question – where did the Ignach Cross stand? The very cross that turned away the hordes of Mongol-Tatars (who came with a campaign against Novgorod). When they reached this point, they suddenly turned around and went back (April of 1238). In memory of those events, in the village of Ignashovka (in the Ostashkov district) a cross was inaugurated in 2004. Each year, on June 12th, people gather at the site to pay tribute, with solemn memorial prayers, for all those who died for the Russian land.

Evidence of a number of bloody battles that took place during World War II can still be seen throughout the Seliger Lake area and the Upper Volga. The Great Patriotic War left multiple testaments to bloody battles in the entire area of Seliger. Numerous pillboxes along defense lines were found in the Ostashkov and Selizharovsky districts. In Selizharovo alone, there are four surviving pillboxes built in 1941.

The Seliger and the Upper Volga Lakes

1. Nilov Pustyn (Monastic Retreat), Monastery
2. The Shirkov churchyard
3. The Pyramid of Famine
4. The Upper Volga Damn
5. The village of Vseluki, the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin on Lake Vselug
6. The City of Selizharovo, the Peter and Paul Church
7. The village of Verhnie Kotitsy, the Kazan Church
8. The village of Rogozhi, the Transfiguration Church, the Museum of Nature of the Seliger Region
9. The village of Kravotyn, the Vvedenskaya (Presentation into the Temple) Church
10. The village of Nikolo-Rozhok, the Church of the Assumption
11. The Gethsemane Monastic Retreat

Natural Monuments

1. The Source of the Volga
2. The Source of Zapadnaya Dvina
3. The village of Okovtsy, the Okovetsky Spring
4. Lake Sobenskoe
5. Zhuravka Islands, Lower Zhuravka
6. Lake Kamennoe
7. Lake Sonic
8. Lake Kamennoe
9. Klichen Island
10. The Ramenskaya Moraine Ridge
11. The Nehniskaya Oak and Ash Grove
12. The Zehnovskaya Birch Grove
13. The Volga-Verkhovsky Olgin Monastery
14. The Novie Eltsi Estate
15. The Delta of the Volga
16. The Novgorod-Slavyansk Dam
17. The Village of Smolenskoe
18. The Source of Zapadnaya Dvina
19. The village of Okovtsy, the Okovetsky Spring
20. Lake Sobenskoe
21. The village of Protvino
22. The village of Verhnie Kotitsy, the Kazan Church
23. The village of Rogozhi, the Transfiguration Church
24. The village of Kravotyn, the Vvedenskaya (Presentation into the Temple) Church
25. The village of Nikolo-Rozhok, the Church of the Assumption
26. The Gethsemane Monastic Retreat

Ostashkov and Surroundings

FROM MOSCOW – 350 KM (THROUGH RZHEV AND SELIZHAROVO) OR 360 KM (THROUGH TVER AND TORZHOK)
FROM TVER – 190 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 17,000 PEOPLE
PHONE CODE: 48235
CITY DAY: LAST WEEKEND OF MAY
A settlement was founded here after the Lithuanians destroyed a settlement on the nearby Klichen Island. The city’s name is associated with the fishermen brothers who lived here; Eustathius and Timothy (Ostashkov). On a map of Ostashkov you can find the streets Evstafevskaya and Timofeyskaya but the city residents call themselves ‘Ostash.’ The city was famous for fishing craft and skilled craftsmen. The wealthy local merchants built their mansions with unusual rounded corners, many of which (from the XVII – XVIII centuries) have been preserved. That’s why Ostashkov can be regarded as an architectural preserve of Russian Classicism and Baroque architecture.

The most picturesque view of Ostashkov is from the lake. We see an ancient city with the heads of churches and bell towers, flanked on the right and the left by a convent and a monastery: Bogoroditsky (Mother of God) Jiten Convent, on the Jiten Peninsula and the Znamensky (Holy Sign) Monastery. Today the Bogoroditskaya Jiten Convent has been reborn after decades of neglect. Here are preserved the Smolensky Cathedral (1742), the Gate Church in the name of the Apostles St. John the Evangelist, and St. Andrew (1768), as well as walls and towers (1761). On the way to the convent you can stroll through the birch alley in a narrow causeway.

From among the buildings of the former Znamensky Monastery we can enjoy the surviving Ascension Cathedral (built in 1898, functioning) with a bell tower, fence with the Holy Gate (1862), and the refectory (1840’s). Earlier, the relics of St. Nil Stolobensky were placed here before the grand return to his original monastery. The cathedral has preserved an interesting carved wooden image of the saint (XVIII century).

An impressive Cathedral complex of two churches with bell towers surrounded by ancient buildings in the center of the city attracts attention. In the Holy Trinity Cathedral (end of the XVII c.) with two rows of corbel arches erected at the expense of the inhabitants of the settlement in the style of the slender Yaroslavl churches, the Ostashkovsky History Museum is situated (Volodarskogo str. 19, 32, Wen–Sun 11.00–18.00, 8 (48235) 51770). In the bell tower of the cathedral is the exhibition ‘The bell as a foundry art of Ostashkov’ and from the tier of the tower opens a wonderful view of the city and the Seliger. In the museum you can see the paintings by the artists of the Kolokol’nikov family, a renowned dynasty of local artists. The products of the famous local tanners look impressive, in particular the waterproof boots – ostashi – fishing shoes, drawn from a single piece of leather. These products are famous not only in Russia but also in Europe.

Nearby stands the Church of the Resurrection (1689) with a rare, slender belfry of the type called ‘Yaroslavl Candle’, where there is preserved a magnificent baroque stucco decoration and rich iconostasis – painted by Mina Kolokol’nikova. The church hosts concerts and each year, in June (since 1988) sponsors the festival – ‘Musical Evenings on Lake Seliger,’ organized on the personal initiative of the famous Russian opera singer Irina Arkhipova.

In the park on the site of the Market Square at the intersection of the main streets Evstafevskaya (Volodarskogo) and Srednaya stands the highest building of the city, one of the best architectural creations of the Seliger region, the bell tower of the Transfiguration Church (1789) built by a talented local craftsmen in the European Baroque tradition (but with a great deal of imagination). Unfortunately, the church itself has not been preserved. Not far from it, stands a graceful architectural mini-master-
Ostashkov

Surroundings

This monastery (www.monastyr-nilova-pustyn.ru) impresses from a distance. On the island, in the middle of the Seliger Reach, you can see the domes of the churches, bell towers and shady grove. The granite embankment and the staircase sloping to the water are reminiscent of St. Petersburg. Today, as centuries ago, thousands of pilgrims from all over Russia tend to get here.

The history of the monastic retreat "Lake Seliger" goes back to the beginning of the XVI century, when the monk Nil began to live on the desert island of Stolobny. Nil was born in Zhabny not far from the village Firovo. Here he dug a cave and built a chapel for prayer. For over 27 years, Nil performed the feat of prayer, never sitting or lying, even in his sleep. He predicted the emergence of the monastery on this site before he died.

The relics of the hermit were discovered at the end of the XVI century – a stone pillar Valsky (1785), resembling the bell tower in shape. It is an obelisk on the site of the main travel gate of the long-lost city fortress with ramparts. Nearby you can see the house with the museum's exhibition hall and the street decorations. The house, owned by the family of the Mitin artists (beginning of the XIX c.) houses the museum's exhibition hall and is the highlight of the street. It is a cozy two-storied house with a mezzanine (beginning of the XIX c.).

The oldest building in Ostashkov is the "House of the Commander", or the Town Hall (1720). Also noteworthy is the chapel (end of the XIX c.) on Evstafevskaya Street. It was built by the famous local architect – I.N. Suravkov (1861–1941), an architect on other churches, for example, the Ascension Church in the Znamensky Monastery and the civil buildings in Ostashkov and surroundings. In the beginning of the XXI century the chapel was returned to the Russian Orthodox Church and consecrated in memory of Xenia of Petersburg.

In 2006, on the shores of Lake Seliger an interactive Museum of Fish opened (Chaikin Bereg 18, 8 (48255) 5-37-11).

Ostashkov

1. The Jiten Nunnery
2. The former Znamensky (Holy Sign) Monastery
3. The Trinity Cathedral with bell tower
4. The Resurrection Church with bell tower
5. The Bell Tower of the Church of the Transfiguration
6. Valsky Pillar
7. The Mitin’s House of Painters
8. The Chapel of Xenia of Petersburg
9. The ‘House of the Commander,’ or Town Hall
10. The first fire station
11. The first Ostashkovsky theater
12. The Museum of Fish
13. The Stele to mathematician – L.F. Magnitsky
14. The Smolensk Chapel
and at the same time the monastic retreat was founded. The popularity of the great hermit, famous for numerous healings, was so great among the people that after his canonization he became the patron saint of the Seliger region.

During the middle and late half of the XVIII century the monastery saw the construction of splendid structures which were the work of masons and carvers both from the capital and from Ostashkov, as well as icon painters from the famous Ostashkov School. In June 1820 Emperor Alexander I visited Ostashkov and the Nil Monastic Retreat. He admired the convent in the midst of the water and following the royal visit (as the old Cathedral of the Epiphany couldn’t accommodate all the parishioners) a new one was built designed by the architect I.I. Charlemagne which complied with the requirements of the time. It is significant that the design was first developed for the St. Isaac’s Cathedral in St. Petersburg, but was finally implemented here in the capital of Lake Seliger.

Five stone churches and 25 stone buildings existed on the Nil Monastic Retreat at the beginning of the XX century. Numerous pilgrims from all over Russia (about 100 thousand people per year) visited the monastery. Two monastery ships brought pilgrims to the island, where they stayed in a large hotel. The degree of the veneration of St. Nil in Russia is demonstrated by the fact that after the ban on three dimensional sculpture by the Orthodox Church in the XVII century, only three holy figures continued to be manufactured by master carvers – among them was the image of Nil Stolobensky – an expressive hunched old man in a black hood. Tens of thousands of such figures have been carried home by pilgrims.

Today the functioning monastery has been vigorously revived. You can visit from 5.00 to 22.00. At the Cathedral of the Epiphany you can venerate the relics of the monk in the early morning. The 40-meter bell tower offers a magnificent view of the surroundings. There are several hotels of varying degrees of comfort, as well as the refectory. Organized guided tours are offered (8 (48235) 5-08-04), including an interesting tour to the museum of the monastery. The monastery is situated 25 km from Ostashkov on the eastern shore of Lake Seliger. Near the village of Svetlitsa you will find a footbridge. In the summer sightseeing boats operate from the Ostashkov marina (5 km).

In this wonderful place near the village of Volgoverkhovye (75 km from Ostashkov) over a spring and among the swamp, stands a tiny chapel. A little downstream is the first bridge over the newborn river and nearby on the hill you will see the cenobitic Volgoverkhovsky Olgin Convent. It first arose at the beginning of the XX century. Preserved today are the small wooden St. Nicholas Church (end of XIX – beg. of XX centuries) and a stone, five-domed Transfiguration Cathedral (beg. XX century; architect V.I. Nazarene). The abode did not come out of nowhere – in the XVII century, by decree of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich, the Savior Transfiguration Monastery was founded here. Every year, on the 29th of May, the Divine Liturgy takes place and the rites of water blessing are performed over the spring. For many years the Volga procession of carrying the cross begins here and then passes through the 8 districts of the Tver region.

**Outstanding Russian Mathematician**

An outstanding Russian mathematician and teacher of the School of Mathematical and Navigational Sciences in Moscow – L.F. Magnitsky (Telyashin) (1669–1739) was a native of Ostashkov. The Surname, “Magnitsky,” was granted to him by Peter I, who mentioned that “as a magnet attracts iron, so he (by his natural and self-educated abilities) drew attention to himself.” In 1703 Magnitsky wrote and published the first Russian textbook, “Arithmetic is to say numeral science”, which was used to teach many generations of students. The terms “a million” and “a trillion” and “rooting” and others are used, thanks to this man. In his later years he became the head of the Moscow Naval School. By order of the tsar, a house was built on the Sukharevka Square in Moscow, for his outstanding scientific contributions. He was also granted ownership of villages in Vladimir and Tambov provinces. A stele was placed in the square that bears his name, in memory of the famous Ostashkovo native. The remains of L.F. Magnitsky were transferred from Moscow and buried in Nil Stolobensky Monastic Retreat.

**The Source of the Volga**

The estate complex called Novie Eltsi is situated on the western shore of Lake Seliger. It is the largest estate in the region of 42 hectares in area. After extensive restoration it has been re-opened and is now the luxurious “Palace Hotel Seliger” (village Novie Eltsi, 8 (48235) 4-32-59, (495) 708-02-99, [http://seligerpalashotel.ru](http://seligerpalashotel.ru)).
ROUTE 4

In the main large 3-story house of the manor (end of XVIII century) are now 92 comfortable rooms, restaurants, bars and a ballroom. Restored are also the wings, services, stables and the monuments of the nature – the park and the pond. In the estate Y.N. Tolstoy was born and lived in the 1791-1812 years. He was a member of the Decembrist movement and Pushkin’s friend. Here was the first performance of the first theater on the Upper Volga. You can get to the estate by bus from Ostashkov.

In the old village of Kravotyn the Vvedenskaya (Presentation into the Temple) church with a belfry and turrets is undoubtedly of particular interest (1791) as well as the old village houses. Mina Kolokolnikova (1707–1775) was born here, she started the dynasty of Ostashkovo-based painters. In the village of Sosnitsa noteworthy is the ancient St. Nicholas church (late XVIII century) and the new tent-shaped churches of St. Herman and St. Nil Stolobensky.

The cape of Nikola-Rozhok on the Western shore of Seliger is crowned by the silhouette of the Assumption church (1767) recognizable from a distance. In the village of Verkhnie Kotitsy there is the functioning church of Our Lady of Kazan featuring an old iconostasis (late XVIII – early XIX century) which is beautifully reflected in the waters of Selizharovo reach. On the Sterzh lake close to Sterzhzen ancient settlement and the village of Novinki there is the surviving St. Vladimir (Peter and Paul) church (1822).

**Transportation**
- **Bus Station**: Privokzalnaya str. (48235) 5-05-41
- **Railway Station**: Privokzalnaya str. (48235) 2-17-05, 2-17-06.
- Long-distance trains: Moscow – Ostashkov (3 times a week)
- St. Petersburg-Ostashkov
- **Marina on Lake Seliger**: Chaykin Bereg, Yuznaya. Ships to Gorodomlya

**Useful phone numbers**
- **Police**: Volodarskogo str. 36 (48235) 5-15-02
- **District Hospital**: Leninsky Prospect 117 (48235) 5-17-39

**Peno and Surroundings**

**FROM MOSCOW – 416 KM**
**FROM TVER – 242 KM**

**POPULATION:**
**ABOUT 4000 PEOPLE**

**PHONE CODE:** 48230

**AREA DAY:** THE 26TH OF JULY

HTTP://СЕЛИГЕР-ИНФО.РФ
HTTP://ПЕНОВСКИЙ.РФ

The township of Peno is situated on the Volga River tributary of Zhukopa, and Peno Lake. Among more than 130 lakes in the area the largest are Peno, Vselug, Vitbino, Ohvat. There is an interesting museum in Peno called the "Museum of Lisa Chaikina", – the guerilla hero of WWII, who was awarded the title of the "Hero of the Soviet Union", the highest military decoration of the Soviet Union (1918–1941). She was executed here by the Nazis during World War II (Pavlova str. 2, ☑ Wed–Sun 9.00–18.00, ☏ 8 (48230) 2-23-32, 2-43-32).

**HTTP://ВОЛГОВЕРХОВСКИЙ ОЛЬГИН ЖЕНСКИЙ МОНАСТЫРЬ У ИСТОКА ВОЛГИ**

**TVER MARINA**

The «Tver Marina» project represents symbiosis of urban and suburban life style. The 500 000 sq.m. territory of this new mixed use life style complex is located on the Volga river bank in just a few kilometers from the Tver city border.

The central zone of the project is a territory for residence and recreation around marina for 120 berths. This will also include a 4+star hotel for 200 rooms, an advanced Country Club & Spa and more than a 2 km. length river promenade.

The project developer is Group of Companies «Status». This company specializes in real estate development and investments. With its more than a 20-year experience in the Russian real estate market «Status» is considered being a leader in the area of niche projects.

This Project is included into the «Verhnevolzhsky» tourist-recreational cluster plan summary in the part of engineering infrastructure construction plan. This plan has been approved by Russian Federal Agency for Tourism and is included into the Federal Special Purpose program « Development of domestic and inbound Tourism in the Russian Federation 2013–2018». 
Another place that should not be forgotten for the portrayal of Nazi atrocities is in the village Ksta, where on the 9th of January in 1942, the SS Division "Totenkopf" shot and burned 78 locals. Now on the highest hill on the banks of the Volga River you can see the only Russian mournful memorial on the site of the old burnt village: a woman with a baby under the walls of a burned house (sculptor I.D. Brodsky, architect I.A. Pokrovsky).

10 Among the select routes for the Tver Region is a trip to the famous Shirkov churchyard (50 km from Ostashkov) at the northern tip of Lake Vselug. The complex of two churches with a bell tower was erected on the site of ancient settlements and pagan temples. The five-domed brick church of St. John the Baptist built in the Russian style in 1913 by the architect Fyodorov preserved the frescoes of the interior. While the Church of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (1694), a masterpiece of Russian wooden architecture impresses the viewer with its dynamic tiered composition. It is exactly in this style that the churches used to be built along the Upper Volga. It is believed that this is the tallest building made of wood in Russia – the height of the three-tiered church with a cross is 45 meters.

Selizarovo and Surroundings
FROM MOSCOW – 329 KM
FROM TVER – 189 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 6500 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48269
DISTRICT DAY: LAST SAT. OF JULY

HTTP://СЕЛИГЕР-ИНФОРМ.РФ
WWW.SELIGAROVO.RU

The township is located at the confluence of the Volga and the Selizarovka River. The Selizarovka is the only river flowing out of the lake. On the cape their is an ancient settlement. On the site of of the ancient settlement part of the Selizarovo Trinity Monastery i.e. the Peter and Paul Church with the refectory and the remains of the monastery wall have survived. According to the ceramic corbel in the church’s decorum the date of its building is considered as the end of the XV century. Through the efforts of the villagers the badly damaged bell tower was completely restored and now, from the middle tier, the surroundings view can be admired.

The church has set up a studio of manual facial embroideries, embroidered icons, banners, and shrouds. Guided tours can be organized upon agreement with the priest.

There is also a small museum in Selizarovo on the main street (Lenina str. 16, ☏ Tue–Sat 9.00–13.00, 14.00–18.00, ☏ 8 (48269) 2-59-92).

One of the main attractions of the area and the whole region is the St. Nicholas Church (end of the XIX – beginning of the XX centuries) located in the Golenkova churchyard (18 km from Selizarovo). Here you can find two miraculously surviving high glazed pottery iconostases with icon-cases and candle holders, produced at the M.S.Kuznetsov factory. (p. 76) The church was never closed. From the bell tower opens a beautiful view of the surroundings.

Natural monuments that should be visited are: the Bensky Rapids, the largest on the Volga near the village of Eltsi, and the nearby Volga River Canyon named Eletskaya Krucha with a height of 60 meters.

Another thing that should not be forgotten for the portrayal of Nazi atrocities is the village Ksta, where on the 9th of January in 1942, the SS Division "Totenkopf" shot and burned 78 locals. Now on the highest hill on the banks of the Volga River you can see the only Russian mournful memorial on the site of the old burnt village: a woman with a baby under the walls of a burned house (sculptor I.D. Brodsky, architect I.A. Pokrovsky).

 usarful phone numbers
- The police, traffic police: L. Chaikinoy str. 99, ☏ 8 (48230) 2-47-02, 2-48-78
- District Hospital: 249th Infantry Division str. 27 ☏ 8 (48230) 2-41-03

Transportation
- Bus Station: 249th Infantry Division str.; ☏ (48230) 2-42-10
- Railway Station: Vokzalny lane, ☏ (48230) 2-34-94.
Line Bologoye-Polotsk

The crystal pure water of Okovetsky Spring (at a depth of 900 meters) has a constant temperature of 4 degrees Celcius and is revered as a healing water.
Firovo and Surroundings

FROM MOSCOW – 567 KM
FROM TVER – 200 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 2,000 PEOPLE
PHONE CODE: 48239
THE AREA DAY: JUNE 12

The village of Firovo is located near the river Granichnaya, a tributary of the river Shlina. The beauty of the Valdai wilderness has attracted tourists for many years and right here you can climb to the highest point of the Valdai which is 346.5 meters above sea level. It is marked on any map of the area.

Firovsky land is the birthplace of Saint Nil Stolobensky. 27 km from Firovo is the village of Zhabny where the parents of the famous Russian saint, whose image adorns the district's coat of arms, lived and were buried in the center of the village. Surrounded by the partially preserved boulder fence there are two stone churches – one in the name of Saint Nil

Every year in July the participants of the processional meet here and eventually end up at St. Nil Monastic Retreat. The procession begins in the village of Firovo, after the arrival of the Monk's relics. On foot, participants make their way through the area settlements, including: the ancient village of Rozhdestvo with its miraculous spring, the factory settlement of Velikooktyabrsky, the Pokrovskoye village, and Trestino.

In 1870, a chapel, equipped with a font, was built above the spring. During Soviet times the chapel and the granite facing of the spring were destroyed. It was only after the Nil-Stolobensky Monastic Retreat took over the territory in 1991, that the true revival began. Of the destroyed shrines, the chapel and the font have been restored. A town church was also established.

The water in the Okovetsky spring maintains a constant temperature of 4 °C and comes from a depth of 900 meters and it is very tasty. It is bottled at the local plant under the brand name “Okovetsky Source”.

Transportation

Bus Station: ☏ (48269) 2-26-23
Railway Station: ☏ (48269) 2-25-29

Useful phone numbers

The police, traffic police:
Lenina str. 28/9, ☏ (48269) 2-25-64
District Hospital:
Karl Marx str. 16, ☏ (48269) 2-23-44

努尔沙多夫”的图标

The Top of Valdai

Nineteen km to the west of the village of Esenovici, you can see the highest point of the Valdai upland called the “Crown of Valday”, 346.5 meters above sea level. Here is the geographic top of the Great Watershed between the Caspian and The Baltic Seas. Marked with a state geodesic marker, it is from this point that the deep rivers originate eventually emptying into the seas. You can reach the highest point from any of three sides – from Kuvshinovo, Vishny Voloche and Firovo. This area is backwoods in the truest sense of the word, on top of the fact that it is also very marshy, so you’d better engage a local guide if you’re considering exploring the area.

Transportation

Bus Station: Sovetskaya str. Buses from the Vyshny Voloche.
Railway Station: Sovetskaya str., Line Velikie Luki-Bologoe

Useful phone numbers

Police: Komsomolskaya str. 12 ☏ (48239) 3-10-02
District Hospital: Bolnichny Gorodok 2 ☏ (48239) 3-19-58
The territory of the Vyshny Volochek Lakeland is designated as a special tourist zone and includes three districts – Bologovsky, Vyshny Volochek and Udomelsky. Here is the place of the main European watershed between the Caspian and Baltic slopes. An abundance of rivers and lake “necklaces” scattered among the hilly plains around the highest point of Valdai, make this region extremely attractive for recreation and travel. All three regional centers are located on the shores of large lakes and reservoirs. The Russian historian V.O. Klyuchevskii called the city of Vyshny Volochek – ”The most important hydrographic point of Europe”. The zone remarkably combines the beauty of nature, the rich historical and cultural heritage, and the benefits of accessibility. It is equidistant from both capitals. Here were the most important historical trade routes: the Volga – “from the Vikings to the Arabs” and down the Volga and Kama rivers to the Urals and Siberia. A major railway junction in Central Russia is now located in the tourist area.

Because of the great importance of international and inter-regional trade, this region has been inhabited since immemorial time. Archaeologists have found a large number of objects from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages – evidence of the residences of unknown proto tribes, predecessors of the Balts, the Finno-Ugric peoples, and the Slavs.

In Bologoye there was the Manor of the famous collector, archaeologist, writer, and philanthropist – P.A. Putyatyn (1837–1919). Being the leader of the Vyshny Volochek nobility, he was for many years engaged in the archaeological excavations in the surrounding areas. A future Great Russian painter, Nicholas Roerich, also took an active part in these excavations. In 1905, the results of the excavation of P.A. Putiatina and N.K. Roerich were presented at the World Archaeological Congress in Paris, and caused a sensation.

The Prince’s Putyatyn Manor was the center of scholarly and artistic research for generations. It was a magnificent cultural oasis. Unfortunately, it died in the fire of the revolutionary war in 1917 and the precious archaeological collections were lost as well.

For example, among those finds are a number of stone-sledoviki, imprinted with the ancient foot-shaped pagan symbol. These stones were worshiped by our ancestors who brought to them bloodless sacrifices. One of these sledoviki has been preserved in the village of Medvedovo, in the Bologovo District. The river Msta, which is the main water artery of the territory, was mention in the ancient chronicler Nestor’s “The Tale of Bygone Years”. These ancient artifacts make ancient history buffs look back to the XIX century – when a keen interest in the domestic past emerged. Later, based on historian’s research the neo-Russian style of painting, architecture, music, and theater arts was formed.

More than 300 archaeological sites have been recorded in each of the areas of this zone. For example, in the vicinity of the village Shitovichi on the river Shegra more than 100 ancient burial mounds have survived. In the XII–XIII centuries it was also Novgorod’s administrative and cultural center. That is why during the excavations prince’s seals, numerous jewelry items and ceramics were found here.

Another amazing sight of the area is undoubtedly the Vyshny Volochek Reservoir. With a total area of 109 square kilometers, it is 12 km long and 9 km wide. Today it is a favorite place of many sports fishermen (p. 127).

In Soviet times the territory had many military facilities and access was restricted. As a result, the natural beauty and the magnificent landscapes have been left undisturbed.
Bologoe and Surroundings
FROM MOSCOW – 556 KM
FROM ST. PETERSBURG – 382 KM
FROM TVER – 164 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 22,000 PEOPLE
PHONE CODE: 48238
CITY DAY: 1ST SAT. OF AUGUST
WWW.BOLOGOECITY.NAROD.RU
WWW.RBOLOGOE.RU
CITY DAY: 1ST SAT. OF AUGUST
PHONE CODE: 48 238
POPULATION: FROM ST. PETERSBURG –
FROM MOSCOW –

In the first part of the XIX century, it was a small quiet village on the shores of two lakes – Ogryzkoovskoe and Bologoe. But in 1851 one of the world’s first double-track railways was laid here called Nykolaevskaya (named after Nicolas I) and the first class Train Station of Bologoe was constructed. In 1870, traffic on the Vindavo-Rybinsk railway was opened; then in 1897 – traffic on the branch of the Boloro-Staraya Russia-Pskov railway; and later – on the Bologoe-Velikie Luki.

Because of its location, the Bologoe station became and still is the largest transportation hub in the area. It has always had strategic importance, especially during the war years. For the heroic actions of the railroaders, who ensured that the trains were kept moving during wartime in spite of continuous German bombing, the station was awarded the “Order of the Patriotic War First Class”. In memory of those tragic days in the history of the city you can see one of the locomotives that drove convoys to the front. Now a monument, it has been put on “eternal parking”.

Bologoe and Surroundings

Valdai – the source of inspiration for Russian artists

An area of outdoor inspiration for many generations of artists became the surroundings of Vshyny Volochek, Bologoe and Udomlya. These places are forever imprinted in the paintings of the best Russian landscape painters and, of course, in our memory from childhood. Situated between St. Petersburg and Moscow, the favorable geographical position contributed to the great popularity of Valdai among many painters. This is where the best Russian schools for artists are located – St. Petersburg Academy of Arts and the Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. Often tourists are unaware of what they are seeing, in the Tretjakov Gallery and the Russian Museum. The landscape painting may seem modest but they are, in fact, expressive views of the Vshyny Volocheck Lakelands. In 1884, upon the initiative of I. E. Repin, and at the expense of the industrialist patron – Vasily Kokorev, a summer creative camp for the students of the Academy was opened on Mstino Lake – 18 km from Vshyny Volocheck. It has been known throughout the Russian art world for 130 years as the “Academic Dacha”. The picturesque area at the source of the river Msta (which flows from the lake), is like a magnet attracting many people with easels to the settlement, the mounds with numerous antiquities, and the epic spirit of these places. For many years I.E. Repin, A.I. Kuindzhi, and P.P. Chistyakov, taught here. Some former students were: N.K. Roerich, I.I. Brodsky, and P.P. Chistyakova, taught here. Some former students were: N.K. Roerich, I.I. Brodsky, A.A. Rilov, and P.F. Bogaevsky. Here a kind of “Russian Barbizon” was formed with an atmosphere of freedom and all-consuming creativity. During Soviet times the tradition continued and the “Academic Dacha” became the House of Creativity of the Union of Artists.

In 1974, a monument to I.E. Repin by the sculptor O.K. Komov was inaugurated. The famous octagonal pavilion, built in 1885, has been restored. It was originally built by the founder of the garden to the design of the architect – V.A. Kenev. A feast for the eye, it was originally intended to accommodate high-ranking officials. It is decorated with rich hand-carved trim and fascia boards in the Russian style. Today the legendary ‘Armackichka’ is Russia’s oldest house of creativity, with its own history museum that boasts an excellent collection of paintings. (8 (910) 843-81-77) Dacha “Chayka” in the village of Garusovo (Udomlya district) was built in 1912 by the landscape painter V.K. Byalynitsky-Birulya. In love with this land, the artist lived here for almost 50 years. Each year his co-workers would come here to stay and work. More than 220 paintings were created at his home. The artists – A.E. Arkhipov and K.A. Korovin, led classes at the Free State Art Studios. At various times, in Garusovo, A.S. Stepanov, N.P. Bogdanov-Belsky, (”the singer of the House of Gentlefolk’s”, S.Y. Zhukovsky, and I.E. Grabar lived and worked here. The restored cottage “Chayka (Seagull)” is now a branch of the Tver picture gallery. You can come here as part of a guided tour or on your own. In the village of Solnechny (Vshyny Volocheck district) on the 200th anniversary of the birth of A.G. Venetsianov the People’s Art Gallery was opened (8 (48233) 7-11-18, (910) 835-96-90).

The Trinity Church (1808) in Bologoe is an interesting functioning church as well as the restored memorial chapel (1912) built in neo-Byzantine style. Near the church is a museum of local history dedicated to N.I. Dubravitsky (Kirov str. 4, ☑️ Mon–Fri 8.30–17.00, ☑️ 8 (48238) 2-29-43).

Transportation
- Bus Station: Vokzalny Lane 3
  (48238) 2-22-01
- Railway Station: Privokzalnaya str.
  (48238) 5-24-31

Useful phone numbers
- Police: Lesnaya str. 7
  (48238) 2-25-40
- Traffic police: Naberezhnaya str. 1
  (48233) 2-24-14
- District Hospital: Krasnaya Gorka 1,
  (48238) 2-22-71

The type of pine forest that grows only in environmentally friendly light mossy places

The Roerich family rented a dacha in the village of Berezki for several years. N.K. Roerich not only painted but was engaged in archeology here. He sculptor V.M. Beklemishev, who was also president of the Academy of Fine Arts, as well as the artists M.V. Nesterov and A.M. Vasnetsov also lived and worked here.

The village of Girno, situated on the shore of the Msta River witnessed a meeting between L.D. Donskoy (a performing artist of the Bolshoi) and the famous painter Isaac Levitan in the summer of 1893. That same summer, Levitan and his apprentice and companion S.P. Kuvsheyhnkova moved to the Ushakov's estate of Ostrovnovo (now in the Udomlya district). Within the timeframe between 1893-1897, Levitan often visited these places and the Turchaninov's estate of "Gorka." Here he created such masterpieces as "Golden Autumn", as well as "March", and "Over Eternal Repose". In 1895, the artist was visited by Anton Chekhov. Literary scholars are inclined to believe that the impressions of Chekhov's trip to visit Levitan at Valdai are expressed in his theatrical production "The Seagull."
Udomlya and Surroundings
FROM MOSCOW – 330 KM
FROM TVER – 176 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 30,000 PEOPLE
PHONE CODE: 48255
HTTP://UDOMLYA-REGION.RU
WWW.GOROD-UDOMLYA.RU

Udomlya is the historical name of the area adjacent to the Udomlya and Peso-vo lakes. Not until 1929 was a separate district established here. In 1981, Udomlya, which was close to a train station, became a town.

In the center of the city an interesting Local History Museum (1995) is opened which reflects the millennial history of the region – from the Stone Age to the present day (Energetikov ave. 2; @ Wed–Sun 10.00–17.00; ☏ 8 (48255) 4-05-60). Here are the extremely interesting archaeological remains – there are two cemeteries associated with the famous natives of the area; such as A. Khrapovitsky, (the State Secretary of Catherine II), A.A. Arakcheev, the Russian Military Minister, V.I. Roborovskyi, the explorer of Central Asia and Tibet, as well as members of the noble Kolokoltsiev family and the astronaut – O.G. Makarov. The Udomelsky district is associated with the names of such artists as A.G. Venetsianov, G. Soroka, A.V. Moravova, V.K. Byalynitsky-Birulya; the writer A.P. Chekhov, the composer V. Andreev, the inventor of the radio A.S. Popov and many others.

Five kilometers from the town is the Kalinin Nuclear Power Plant, an excellent example of industrial architecture. The public relations centre of the plant conducts tours of the facility (on business days only) during which you can see the power units, cooling towers, and turbine rooms, as well as the full-scale simulator control room and the laboratory of the external dosimetry control. To make arrangements for a tour you need an official letter addressed to the station management, the passport details of all tourists, and the specifics of all photo- and video equipment. The tours start at the plant's museum (Popova str. 23, ☏ 8 (48255) 5-39-88, by appointment).

In the surrounding area of Garuso-vo village (14 km from Udomlya) is the recently restored "Chaika", the former summer residence of the artist – V.K. Byalynitsky-Birulya. It now operates as a guest house (8 (48255) 5-04-60, (48223) 4-51-27, (910) 934-85-30).

At the village of Ovsiache there is the preserved tomb of V.I. Roborovsky (1856–1910) – the great Russian explorer, and expert in Central Asia and Tibet. Together with N.M. Przheval'skiy he spent many years conducting difficult expeditions, making discovery after discovery. Every year, in the Tver region a big youth rally is held in memory of that brave and courageous man.

In the village of Venetsianovo the tomb of the prominent Russian artist A.G. Venetsianov (1780–1847) has been preserved. It is located in the functioning "Church of the Saviour" (1891). There you can see the icon painted by him and also the icon created by his student – serf artist – G.V. Soroka.

In the former Poddub Estate, located by Moldino Lake, a memorial marker has been placed at the location of the tragic death of the artist.

Transportation
■ Bus Station: Pionerskaya str. 5 (48255) 5-59-48
■ Railway Station: Pionerskaya str. 5 (48255) 5-51-05

Useful phone numbers
■ Police: Cosmonavtov str. 14 (48255) 5-43-02
■ traffic police: Oktyabrskaia str. 17 (48255) 5-51-45
■ Medical Unit number 141: Enthusiastov str. 13 (48255) 5-05-53

Accommodation
■ Hotel "Svetitsa" Cosmonavtov str. 13 (48255) 5-35-45, 5-41-00, 5-49-81
■ Hotel "Zvanitsa" Cosmonavtov str. 7/1 (48255) 5-65-78, 5-90-82, (910) 534-91-06

Food
■ Cafe "Fortuna" Popova str. 24 (48255) 5-94-94, (915) 704-44-42
■ Cafe-bar "Russky Stil" Popova str. 20 (48255) 5-01-76, (910) 648-07-74
■ Cafe "Vstrecha" Pionerskaya str. 26, (48255) 5-53-62

Vysny Volocheok and the Vyshny Volocheok District
FROM MOSCOW – 297 KM
FROM TVER – 120 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 50,000 PEOPLE
PHONE CODE: 48233
AREA DAY: 2ND SAT. OF JULY
WWW.V-VOLOK.RU
WWW.PROVOLOCHEK.RU

Milestones in the history and the appearance of the city
The quaint old city of Vysnho Voloche-ok stands "on the water". Its territory is divided by the riverbeds and channels, that are spanned by large and small bridges. It is no coincidence that the signature local souvenir is considered a carved wooden boat-barge.

The trade route from the Volga to the Baltic and back was not easy. Arriving by Volga, the ships were loaded onto wagons and the ships were dragged to the Tsna river, then through the river Tsna and Lake Mstino. Finally, they would end up on the river Msta. Then they travel further down through Lake Ilmen to the Neva River, the Volk-hov River and Ladoga Lake.

In January 1703, Tsar Peter I signed a decree to begin "digging work" and ordered workers to dig a canal between the Tvertsa and Tsna Rivers. The work was supervised by experienced hydraulic engineers, who were hired out Amsterdam, lured by hefty salaries. Shipping on Russia's first man-made water system was opened in the spring of 1709, to the great joy of the Tsar. However, it soon became obvious that ships could only pass through the locks and canals during the spring floods.

The Tsar invited masters from as far away as Venice to "joint the rivers, design canals, and deepen the mouth", www.russiangid.ru
but this was to no avail. Finally, in the early 1720ies, when Peter I handed over control over the Vyshny Volochek water system project into the hands of I.I. Serdyukov, a talented self-educated hydraulic engineer who was also a merchant and industrialist, that is when the breakthrough was achieved. Following that move the canals and the floodgates began to function normally.

In 1770, Vyshny Volochek became a county capital in the Novgorod province and in 1772, it was granted the coat of arms featuring the image of a laden barge. In 1785, Catherine II personally visited the city, examined the Vyshny Volochek water system, and was pleased with what she saw. In 2007, near the building of the Drama Theater, a monument (sculptor Y.V. Zlotyts) was set up dedicated to the Empress. In 1790s, all the wooden hydraulic structures were replaced with stone ones,
via the Moscow canal it supplies Moscow with drinking water.

The city has preserved the rare historic buildings of Catherine’s time. On the man-made island, inside the ring of the bypass canal and the Tsna River to which Moskovskaya Street leads, you can see the main church of Vyshny Volochek – **the Epiphany Cathedral** (first half of the XIX century) built in the style of the architect Thon. Here the most revered object of worship is the miraculous copy of the icon of the “Mother of our Lady of Kazan”, the ancient carved sculpture of St. Nicholas of Mozhaisk with a sword (XVII century). The Cathedral is also famous for having the best church choir in the entire diocese.

In the center on Market Square, where the majestic Kazan Cathedral once stood, you can see a preserved **shopping mall** (mid. XIX c) with open arcades. The stalls and shops are still open to this day. From Kazansky Avenue you can proceed to the **Venetsianov Square**, where there is a monument (1980) to A.G. Venetsianov – the first Russian painter of rural landscapes and portraits (by sculptor O.N. Komov). Venetsianov lived and worked on his estates of Safonkovo and Troniha. He was enchanted with the beauty all around him. Here, at his own expense, two schools were erected for talented boys of peasant decent. Many were taught how to paint which was unprecedented for Russia at that time.

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**The Genius from the Trans-Baikal area**

M.I. Serdyukov (1678–1754) was born in the Trans-Baikal region of Mongolia. In one of the border clashes the 13-year-old was captured by the Cossacks and taken to Yeniseisk. There he was noticed by I.M. Serdyukov, a salesman for one of the Moscow merchants. The clerk liked the artful boy. He managed to have the boy released, baptized, and gave him his last name. Serdyukov also taught him the Russian language and literacy along with the trading business. At the beginning of the 1700’s, during another visit to Astrakhan, Peter I dropped by the shop of the Moscow merchant M.G. Evreinov, where M.I. Serdyukov worked. The Tsar appreciated the intelligence and the trading savvy of the youth. Soon he sent out the order to make M.I. Serdyukov part of the Novgorod merchants guild and began to place orders through him to supply the Russian army in the Northern War. After his marriage in the 1705, Serdyukov built a distillery not far from the Vyshny Volochek. With keen interest, he watched the progress of construction of the water system, trying to get into all the details and after the fiasco of the Dutch project he asked the Tsar to give him control of all hydraulic structures, promising to put them in order. The Tsar agreed.

With ingeniously simple solutions, the talented self-taught engineer completely remodeled, within three years, the old so-painstakingly-dug canals and sluices, that by then had been practically abandoned. At his own expense he deepened the canal of Tsna. As a result, the Vyshy Volochek hydro system became the world’s first successful operational water system when it became possible for ships to navigate the waters on their own, without having to load the goods on and off of wagons.

In 1742, for his outstanding contributions to the cause of the state, Empress Elizabeth bestowed M.I. Serdyukov nobility and the Senate approved unprecedented benefits for his commercial activities. On the shore of the Vyshny Volochek reservoir created by him the authentic house of the outstanding engineer, built in the rare style Peter’s Baroque, has been preserved. In 2006, in the square in front of the railway station in Vyshny Volochek an expressive monument – ‘Peter I and M.I. Serdyukov’ was inaugurated.
The History Museum in Vyshny Volochek is a must-see (Kazan Prospect 63, ☎️ Tue–Fri, Sun 11.00–18.00, Sat 13.00–21.00, 📞 8 (48233) 6-13-23). The main part of the exhibition is devoted to the Vyshny Volochek water system – the main attraction of the area. There is also a very interesting collection of paintings, as well as a collection of ancient household items (used by citizens of the area) plus a display of products manufactured at the glass factory named after A.V. Bolotin. In Soviet times the factory was known as “Krasny May” (Red May).

Vyshny Volochek features one of the oldest Drama Theatres in the Tver region. The theater also houses a small museum. Two km from the center, in Krasny Gorodok, you will see the impressively preserved complex of the Monastery of Our Lady of Kazan (end of the XIX century). It includes the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan, the bell tower with the gate church of St. Ephraim the Syrian and the martyr Neonila. Also on the property is a church built in honor of the Andronik Mother of God Icon, plus the abbot’s quarters with a gate and the buildings of a homeless shelter, hotel and refectory. The main Kazan Cathedral (architect A. Kaminsky) has remarkable architecture and magnificent decor. Pilgrims have access to the monastery only when it is opened on the major Orthodox holidays and at Sunday Liturgy.

In the city, on the premises of the factory named “Hand-crafted Felt Boots”, in 2012 they opened a Museum of “Russian valenki” (felt boots). The main exhibit is known as “The Tsar-Boot”, and consists of a huge size 201 boot with a height of 225 cm and weighing 52 kg (Parizhskoy Commune str. 37/26, www.rusvalenki.ru).

Transportation

- Bus Station: Moscovskoe Highway 99, ☎️ (48233) 6-27-82
- Railway Station: Kazansky Ave. ☎️ (48233) 7-47-27, 7-47-60

Useful phone numbers

- Police: Moscovskoe Highway 2 ☎️ (48233) 6-12-60, 6-23-31
- District Hospital: Novgorodskaya str. 1 ☎️ (48233) 6-27-37, 6-12-85

The famous “Academic Dacha” near Vyshny Volochek on Lake Mstino

The Epiphany Cathedral on the Island
The Karelian Trail

The area designated for the Karelian ethno-cultural component includes the territory of the Likhoslavlsky, Maksatinskiy, Rameshkovsky and Spirovsky Districts. Here, for many centuries the area was populated by the Karelians, who preserved the features of their national lifestyle.

Since time immemorial, the Upper Volga area was inhabited by the Finno-Ugric tribes of Meria, Ves’ and Chud’. Their languages produced multiple geographic names, for example, for the rivers – Msta, Tvertsa, Tigma, Tifina, Cava; for the lakes – Udomlya, Kezadra, Pudoro; and for the settlements – Churilkovo, Koyvushka, Gumala. With the arrival of the Slavs here at the turn of the first and second millennia part of the Finno-Ugric peoples migrated to the lakes of Ladoga and Onega, and to the coast of the Gulf of Finland and the Karelian Isthmus, but many stayed and assimilated.

In the following centuries there were several waves of Karelians who returned to their ancestral lands. For example: at the end of the XVI and in the middle of the XVII century they were forced back by the Swedes whose culture was alien to the Orthodox Karelians.

In 2003, the Tenth International Festival of Finno-Ugric peoples in the Tver lands was staged with representatives from Finland, Hungary, Estonia attending. In August 2014, the Festival of Folk Art of the Finno-Ugric Peoples was held for the thirteenth time in a row.

Today ethnic tourism is very popular in Russia and relevant projects are developing in almost every region. In Tver, for example: tourists can visit an authentic Karelian house, to learn about the traditions and lifestyle of local farmers, and also to enjoy the Karelian cuisine. Many villages have their own folklore ensembles and performers eager to share folk songs in the Karelian language. You will surely be tempted to purchase a memory souvenir of handmade embroidery.

After the signing of the Stolbov peace treaty in 1617, Russia, weakened by the Times of Trouble, was forced to give up vast territories to the Swedes and many Karelians moved to Tver lands by entire villages. Here since the second half of the XVI century devastation reigned supreme following times of famine, high mortality and rampage by the oprichnina. The Russian government welcomed hardworking Karelians taking up the deserted areas. In 1662, Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich ordered a census of all the Tver Karelians and declared them “being in the service of the state”. Since then the Karelians in Russia were never serfs. On Tver land, the orthodox settlers built more than 250 wooden and stone churches and chapels.

Between 1937–1939, the region became officially known as the Karelian National District with the center in Likhoslavl. Since then the number of ethnic Karels has greatly diminished, while the active development of the indigenous culture of the small nation was actually interrupted. In 1997 they established the National-Cultural Autonomy of the Tver Karelians (Tver, Moskovskaya str. 80, ☏ 8 (4822) 33-02-72, http://tverinkarielat.ru).

The abundance of forests in the region along the banks of the major rivers – Tvertsa, Medveditsa and Mologa – has attracted fishermen, hunters, tourists, geographers and biologists for many years. The territory of the region is accessible by the M10 highway and by the Oktyabrskaya railway to the sta-
Lihoslavl and surroundings
FROM MOSCOW – 210 KM
FROM TVER – 41 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 12,000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48261
CITY DAY: THE 12 OF JUNE
HTTP://LIHOS-NET.RU

Lihoslavl district is located along the rivers of Tvertsa and Medveditsa. Approximately 60% of its population are ethnic Karelians. The former settlement around the train station by the Nikolaevskaya railroad was originally established as a result of a merger of the villages of Ostashkovo and Lihoslavl. It was granted the status of a town in 1925. The name of Lihoslavl is derived from the name of the river Lihoslavka which flows out of the Mudrovskoe lake. The first written record of the village of Ostashkovo dates back to 1624 and the first mention of the town of Lihoslavl was found in the auditor’s report of 1816.

Close to the railway station there rises the three-side-altar tent-shaped Assumption Church (1887) built through donations from the local community. There is a very enlightening exposition in the Karelian National Museum of Local History (Sovetskaya str. 34, ☏ Wen–Sun 11.00–17.00, ⏰ 8 (48261) 2-10-56), which gives insights into the peasant lifestyle at the turn of the XIX–XX centuries. Many of the exhibits were collected by the museum curators themselves as a result of their expeditions to the villages.

For more than a century the potters in Lihoslavl have made excellent local dishes from local clay and painted them by hand. The tradition is still alive: from here you can take away ceramic pots for pot roast, jugs, toys.

Transportation
Regular bus service to Tver

Antiquities of the Area
The forests of the Tver Karelia still keep many secrets. Even in the XIX century they generated repeated reports of amazing findings which included stone sculptures, shrines and boulders with traces of hands, feet and other marks imprinted on stone surfaces. The old-timers tell us that these objects, hidden from prying eyes, are normally discovered in areas charged with positive energy. They have always been revered by the people, on par with Christian sacred relics. There is no doubt, that citizens from a distant past held prayers, rituals of healing magic, and ancestral worship offerings of food and harvest.

Many boulders and mounds can still be seen on the right bank of the Mologa, amongst surviving ancient oaks which were considered sacred by people from long ago who called this area their home. In the place-name study of toponymy, names like Mokshitsy and Maksatikha clearly echo the name of Makosh, the chief goddess in the pantheon of pagan ancient gods. She was the Mother of the harvest upon whom depended the very human existence.

Fyodor Glinka and the Tver Karelia
Fyodor Glinka (1786–1880), the hero of the war of 1812, a close associate of the Decembrist movement, also a poet, essayist and researcher of ancient history is inseparably connected with the Tver region. After the uprising in 1825 he was exiled to the Olonets province. In the 1830 Fyodor Glinka was appointed to serve in the Tver provincial administration. There he met Avdotya Golenischeva-Kutuzova, the daughter of the owner of the Kuznetsovo estate, and married her. For 30 years the couple lived in love and peace. Fyodor Glinka often came to Kuznetsovo, devoting his spare time to research history of the surrounding area. His research resulted in the brochure “The ancient landmarks in Tver Karelia” which won an award from the Russian Geographic Society.

Fyodor Glinka was one of the first who started paying attention to the "sledoviki" stones which carried mysterious signs. He would take the most interesting items he found to his estate, the collection eventually evolved into a veritable open-air museum. Here is how he described one of the “strange” stones: “…A black stone, small in size, but very heavy. Looks like it is entwined intricately with either a lace or a ribbon while, in fact, it is prominent carving. At one end of the stone there is a clearly carved footprint, as if was the impression of a booted person for we can clearly see a heel and a footprint. While on the opposite end there is a knot with the scattered ends. The middle part is totally entangled with cross-crisp prominent lines. The entire stone has the appearance of a bandaged mummy”. Fyodor Glinka handed over several of the “sledoviki” stones to the Tver Museum.
The church complex in the village of Zaramenie is the perfect example of the modern wooden architecture.

**Maksatikha and surroundings**

**FROM MOSCOW – 300 KM**
**FROM TVER – 124 KM**
**POPULATION: ABOUT 9000 PEOPLE**
**PHONE AREA CODE: 48255**
**DISTRICT DAY: AUGUST 16**
**HTTP://MAKSATIHA-ADM.RU**
**HTTP://VESTI-M.RU**

In a small township of Maksatikha at the confluence of the rivers of Volchina and Rivitsa into Mologa there is the functioning Vsesvyatskaya (All Saints) Church (1827) in the classical style as well as the old building of the railway water tower (1860). It is also interesting to see the exposition of the Museum of Local History (Svobody sq. 3), where you can learn about the ancient monuments of this region: the mounds, the ancient settlements and the Neolithic sites of Kargovo, Ust-Keza and Varkun. Local historians have designed a most interesting tour route named “Following the trail of the unknown civilization.” You can learn more on the details of the tour at the Department of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth Policies of the district government (8 (48253) 2-18-95).

In the village of Truzhennik (50 km from Maksatikha) we can visit the very famous monastery of St. Nicholas Terebenskaya Monastic Retreat founded in the XVII century. Emperor Nicholas II and his family held a prayer here; also Fyodor Shalyapin, the world-famous opera singer sang here as part of the church choir of St. Nicholas Cathedral. This remarkable architectural complex of the classical period is impressive even now, after the years of neglect. We can still admire part of the monastery wall, the majestic summer five-domed Cathedral of St. Nicholas (1833), the high bell tower with its gilded spire, the winter Church of the Annunciation (1883), the unique St. Alexander Svirsky Church (second half of the XIX century) built below the ground level, the quarters for father superior and monk cells (1850).

It was re-established as a convent of St. Nicholas in 2004 (information and excursions: 8 (48253) 3-13-19, (903) 075-47-79). According to the eye witness accounts, with the revival of life in the convent faded frescoes began to re-appear on the walls of the once-neglected cathedral. The convent is famous for its inexpensive high-quality healthy food (potatoes, eggs, milk and dairy products, honey) produced at its in-house farm. To improve the quality of the milk the cows at night are read an evening prayer. Milk from individual cows is not mixed together and is sold in separate containers. This kind of milk is considered superior quality and people are prepared to pay a premium price for it.

**Transportation**

- **Bus station:** Novi square 16, (48253) 2-28-11
- **Railway station:** Vokzalnaya str. 4 (48253) 2-12-82, 2-14-93
- **Useful phone numbers**
  - The police, traffic police: Zhelezodorozhnaya str. 20 (48253) 2-23-31, 2-25-79
  - District Hospital: Krasnoarmeyskaya str. 25 (48253) 2-28-31, 2-22-31

**Accommodation**

- **Hotel “Seda”** Privokzalny lane 2, (48261) 5-52-08, (910) 555-26-54
- **Food**
  - Cafe “Skazka” Privokzalny lane 1 (48261) 3-68-74
  - Coffee “Tavern” Sovetskaya str. 18 (48261) 3-57-49
  - Cafe “Pizza House” is located in the shopping center “Green City” (near the railway station) (952) 089-48-98

**Useful phone numbers**

- Railway station: Privokzalny lane
  - (48261) 2-41-69
- Police: Sovetskaya str. 15 (48261) 3-59-61
- Traffic police: Aptekarskaya str. 21 (48261) 3-54-59
- District Hospital: Pervomayskaya str. 29 (48261) 2-11-42, 2-13-24
Rameshki and surroundings


In the center of the township there is a church complex embracing the Trinity Church (1784) and the Alexander Nevsky church bell tower (1837). In the square on the opposite side there is a bronze monument to pilot Alexei Smirnov, a native of the area who was awarded twice the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union, the nation’s highest military decoration. He performed 457 combat sorties and shot down 35 enemy aircraft during World War II. There is also a memorial marker announcing “The 450th Anniversary of the Village of Rameshki.”

The high concentration of ethnic Karelians in Rameshkovsky district is to be found in the communities of Rameshki, Aleshin, Nikolskoye, Vysokie, Zakline. The regional library in Rameshki hosts a small museum. The highlight in the village of the Nikolskoye is the restored Church of the Epiphany (1861).

In the old village of Kushalino (36 km from Tver) they preserved the remarkable monuments of the church architecture including the elegant tent-shaped Smolensk Church (1592, one of the six churches in the Tver region preserved from the XVI century) and the massive Svyatoduhovskiy (Holy Spirit) church in the classical style (1842; architect Ivan Lvov). In the architecture of the Smolensk church we can trace the influence of the Italian style. The village itself in the XVI century was the domain of Khan Sain-Bulat, who switched allegiance to Ivan the Terrible. In the 1573 he was baptized near Kushalino under the the name of Simeon and he came to be addressed as the Kasimov Prince Simeon Bekbulatovich. In 1575 at an unexplained whim Ivan the Terrible suddenly abdicated the throne and officially crowned a Nogay descendant of Genghis Khan as the Tsar of Russia. For 11 months a former Khan formally headed the Russian state. Finally, Ivan the Terrible returned to the throne, and Simeon Bekbulatovich was granted the title of the Grand Prince of Tver and the ownership of the lands near Tver and Torzhok.

Near the village there was once an ancient monastery of Archangel Michael. Now you can see the granite obelisk (1909) in memory of this monastery.

In 2008 in the village of Zastolbie the memorial cross of St. Jonah and Nectary of Zastolbie was unveiled. They were regarded the Kazan Wonderworkers. The Zastolbie has been known since the middle of the XIII century as the border village of the Novgorod Republic and the ancestral lands of the Zastolbsky boyar family. The last owner of the village of this ancient family was Ivan Elizarovich who in 1555 was dispatched, along with his son Nestor, by Ivan the Terrible to Kazan to be in charge of the newly created diocese of Kazan. Later the father and the son took monastic vows and were canonized along with their spiritual mentor Gury, the first Archbishop of Kazan. They were bestowed the titles of “Saints Jonah and Nectary, the Kazan miracle workers.”

In the 1995 the reliquary of St. Jonah and Nectary of Kazan was placed in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in Kazan. Today the Church of the Ascension (1798) reminds of the ancient history of the village.

In a village of Vednoe they carefully honor their famous signature technique of stitching. Here you can learn the history of the stitching technique and buy souvenirs.

At St. Michael’s churchyard of Prudovskaya (54 km from Tver) you can admire the surviving three-tiered belfry with an airy colonnade under the dome as well as the Trinity (1812) and the Kazan (1883) churches. Nearby there was the estate of Kuznetsovo which belonged to Golenischev-Kutuzov family. For more than 50 years it served as a home to Fyodor Glinka, a writer and a member of the Decembrist movement. Now there is a memorial marker on the site of the former estate. Surviving are the late XIX century tombstones of the owners of the estate. There are more than 20 churches around Rameshky: especially beautiful is the church in the village of Zamytve.

Transportation
Bus station: ☎ (48244) 2-10-07

Useful phone numbers
Police: Pionerskaya str. 36 ☎ (48244) 2-10-74
Traffic police: ☎ (48244) 2-14-54
District Hospital: Pionerskaya str. 1 ☎ (48244) 2-11-42

The Smolensk Church of the XVI century in the village of Kushalino, the birthplace of St. Simeon Bekbulatovich

The Napkin embroidered with the vednovskaya stitching design

The traditional decor of the Karelian folk clothing

www.russiangid.ru
In the small township of Spirovo there is an interesting monument of industrial architecture. They were able to completely preserve the first class railway station complex of 10 buildings (2nd half of the XIX century) designed by the architect Rudolf Zhelyazevich.

Usually the tourists’ attention is attracted by a VIP-room with a fireplace and a mirror. The History Museum is located in the center of the village. (Sovetskaya str. 32).

In the old village of Vydropuzhsk (1545, 12 km from Spirovo) on the high bank of the river Tvertsa stands the Smolenskaya church (XVI–XIX centuries, architect Savva Chevakinsky), the origins of the Vydropuzhsk icon of Our Lady of Hodegetria. Here is also the crypt of Chevakinsky family. The church also preserved the frescoes of the XIX century and the fragments of the old cast iron floor. Next to the church is a 3-tiered bell tower with a square foundation, decorated on all sides by the colonnaded porticoes.

There are also ancient noble estates in Spirovsky District, for example, an estate in the village of Dubrovka (28 km from Spirovo). It used to belong to Lieutenant General Nikanor Svechin (1772–1849), hero of the 1812 War against Napoleon. His portrait adorns the 1812 War Gallery of the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. Located on a hill in a picturesque area between the Shegra and Osuga rivers the manor contains a complex of buildings and the park in the classical style, presumably built by Nikolai Lvov. There is a surviving although dilapidated main house with a portico (XVII–XIX centuries), the ancillary outbuildings and the ice-house cellar built within a boulder. The overgrown Old Park alleys lead to the two ponds, the front yard is surrounded by the beautiful larches. The complex is complemented by the elegant Church of the Saviour (1813) with a bell tower.

Transportation
- Bus station: Pryamoy lane 1
- Railway station: Zheleznodorozhnaya str. 5a

Useful phone numbers
- Police: Sovetskaya str. 8, (48276) 2-16-50
- District Hospital: Proeszhaya str., (48276) 2-12-06

Accommodation
- Roadside complex “Vydropuzhsky tract” (road)
  266th km of M10 highway Vydropuzhsk, Sovetskaya str. 2G
  ☎ (920) 693-55-52,
  www.spirovo.biz
- The Cottage “Usmani”
  Village Usmani
  ☎ (915) 377-30-73, (915) 377-31-07

Food
- Cafe “Raduga”
  Sovetskaya str. 21.
  The café of the roadside complex “Vydropuzhsky tract”

www.td-bk.com
First, people settled the area by following the retreating glaciers 10 thousand years ago. Excavations showed that long time ago the Finno-Ugric tribes of Meria and Ves’ populated the area. The descendants of the tribe of Ves’ – Veps – live today in the Republic of Karelia and Leningrad region near the Onega and Ladoga lakes.

From the VII century the Ilmen Slovenes settled in the Mologa Valley. They were attracted by the convenience of the river trade routes, because from the banks of the Ilmen through the Mologa they could easily get to the Volga.

Soon the region became the pyatina (administrative territorial unit) of the Novgorod Republic. Novgorod founded here the fortresses of Bezhiichi, Gorodetsko (later – Bezhetsk), Zmen’, Ezsk, Rybansk and another one with an unknown name situated near the village Gorodische in Sandovo District. The area apparently has carried over its extant name of Bezhetsky Top since that time, it is a vast upland featuring picturesque lakes in the upper reaches of Mologa.

The area promised incredible wealth with its valuable fur animals, forests, lakes and rivers full of fish as well as fertile soils. In the XV century here was the Bezhetsk independent principality (headed by St. Prince Dmitry Yurevich Krasny, Moscow saint, the grandson of Dmitry Donskoy) and then these lands became part of the Moscow principality.

The economic prosperity of the region came around the XVIII–XIX centuries thanks to rich harvests of grain and high grade potatoes, the best-in-Russia flax, convenient geographical location on the river trade routes and a large trade fair in Vesyegonsk. The noble estates near Bezhetsky and Vesegonsk belonged to the famous and rich Russian families. The wealth passed down to the less fortunate in the form of higher wages, particularly to rural school teachers. This, in turn, opened the door to gradually introducing the unusual idea and implementation of universal free secondary education, unheard of at this time for Russia.

A vast tourist area in the North-East of the region includes Bezhetskiy, Vesegonsky, Kesovogorsky, Krasnokholmsky, Lesnoy, Molokovsky, Sandovsky and Sonkovsky Districts. Dense coniferous forests, flow-through lakes and sandy beaches of the Mologa and its tributaries attract lovers of summer fishing and hunting, family recreation and rafting. The proximity to the Rybinsk reservoir of the Vesyegonsky District offers ample opportunities for a year-round fishing and a various types of boating and yachting.

The zone is easily accessible by either roads or by the Kalyazin-Vesegonsk railway line, which intersects in Sonkovo with the line towards Bologoye.

The floods of the Kesma in the vicinity of Ves’yegonsk

Bezhetsk and surroundings
FROM MOSCOW – 307 KM (THROUGH TVER)
FROM TVER – 130 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 23 000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48231
CITY DAY: 1ST SATURDAY OF AUGUST
WWW.BEZH-CITI.RU
HTTP://BEZHSCTV.TV

The milestones of history and the city appearance
As the capital of the vast area in the past Bezhetsk was able to preserve extant historical development thus maintaining the outlook of a merchant town at the confluence of the Mologa, Ostrechina and Pohvala rivers.

The first written mention of the city under the name of Gorodets appears in the chronicles of 1137 and it is exactly this very year that is considered the founding date of the city. In the 1766 Gorodetsko was renamed into Bezhetsk.

The main Bezhetsk attractions are to be found on the Bolshaya Street. Deep inside the shady square near the symbol of the city – the bell tower of the Vvedensky Monastery (1682), stands the Worship Cross on the burial site of Saint Nectarios of Bezhetsk.
The Bezhetsk Memorial Museum of Literature and Local History (Bolshaya str. 63, everyday 9.00–17.00, 8 (48231) 2-06-02) is situated in the building of the former city college. Three rooms of the museum are devoted entirely to the life and work of Vyacheslav Shishkov, a native of Bezhetsk (1873–1945). He was an explorer of Siberia, who designed the famous “Tchuisky tract” (Trans-Siberian road). Shishkov was also the author of the epic historical novels of “Ugrum-river” and “Emelyan Pugachev”. (In the 1950 in the city park they unveiled a monument to the writer.)

Of great interest to the visitors are the exhibits related to the Siberian research by Vyacheslav Shishkov which include a genuine Evenk tribal chum (type of lodging), their household items and the Evenk shamanic ritual objects (Evenks are an ethnic group in Siberia). Today, the museum is unfortunately closed for restoration.

The nearby mansion of the merchant Chernov (beginning XX century) – the patron saint of the Bezhetsk land. The local residents raised funds to built a church in his honor at the city cemetery in 2004.

There were 15 churches in Bezhetsk before the revolution, many of which were destroyed in the XX century. The one that was never closed was the five-altar Saviour cemetery church (1895) with 19 domes and a carved cypress iconostasis, a masterpiece of Russian decorative crafts.

1994 saw the revival of the Annunciation convent. The Krestovozdvizhenskaya (Exaltation of the Cross) Church (1770) was re-opened. Now it is the town church of the convent. They also restored the amazingly beautiful Holy Transfiguration Church (1816).

In the center of Bezhetsk there are surviving mansions of the merchants Nevorotini, Korovkini, Rudakovi, Bobunovi and wooden houses of the XIX–XX centuries in the style of eclecticism and art nouveau.

Of particular value is the architectural ensemble of the market square of the XVIII–XIX centuries; all 5 buildings of the shopping malls are still used for their original purpose.
The completely renovated two-store building (Bolshaya str. 14, ☎ 8 (48231) 5-01-55, www.dom-ivanova.ru) houses a museum featuring the memorial personal effects of the singer, an exhibition hall, a gift shop selling a great variety of books and souvenirs and the best restaurant in the city called the "Restaurant "Aleko". The Center organizes musical concerts, meetings, publishes books about the illustrious career of the singer and Bezhtetsk region. The Cultural Foundation of the People's Artist of the USSR Aleksey Ivanov in conjunction with the regional government holds the International Vocal Competition in memory of Aleksey Ivanov (http://vocalcon.ru) in Tver. The event is staged once in two years in December. The organizing committee of the VIII Competition in 2013 received 400 applications from around the world. The strict jury selected only 30 applicants.

The current flag and the coat of arms of Bezhtetsk features a lush raspberry bush with 8 juicy ripe berries. The tradition of this very pattern dates back to 1780, when the description of the first city coat of arms approved by Catherine II read "a raspberry bush against a silver background, which is in abundance in the surroundings of this city".

In the 2010 the local history enthusiasts started the National Museum of Raspberry at the Selmash Youth Center (Clubnaya str. 2, ☎ Wen–Sun 10.00–18.00, ☏ 8 (48231) 5-80-41) where you can learn all about the plant and taste the jam prepared from it. It also houses the office of the youth agency for local history called "The Malinovaya okolitsa (Raspberry neighborhood)" (☎ Wen–Sun 10.00–18.00, ☏ 8 (48231) 5-80-41, http://малиновая-околица.рф) which arranges interesting interactive walking.
The northernmost city of the region is located on the shores of Mologa Creek of Rybinsk Reservoir. The Ves' Yegonskaya village was known since the XV century. In 1776 by decree of Catherine II Vesegonsk became a city. In 1947 in connection with the construction of the reservoir on the vast territory between the rivers of Mologa and Sheksna nearly the entire city was moved to a new location.

Rybinsk Reservoir with total area of 4,550 km² is the third largest fresh water mass in the Europe. The flooded areas of the city attract divers and underwater archaeologists. The peaceful creeks around Vesegonsk are ideal for developing marinas. Two marinas that are already up and running: the yacht clubs “Biosphere”, and “Port Vesegonsk” (p. 151). Summer visitors can enjoy watching the cruise ships as they sail to the city.

The exposition of the Vesegonsk local history museum (Karl Marx str. 97, ☎ Wen–Sun 11.00–18.00, ☏ 8 (48264) 2-11-11) tells the story the story of the once ancient and prosperous city that sadly was flooded underwater. The museum, in particular, presents a wonderful collection of the Vesegonsk embroidery and the old Russian and Karelian women’s hats. A separate room is dedicated to a craw-fish – a symbol of the city depicted in its coat of arms. The biggest forged craw-fish with a length of 50 cm was delivered from the city of Cherepovets. Every summer the tourists come together for the fun event.
"Under the Flag of Craw-fish" held usually on the day of the area.

In the village of Sushigoritsy you can enjoy the sight of one of the few surviving wooden churches in Tver region – the ancient Znamenskaya (Holy Sign) Church (1727) and the Park "Sofini Gory (Sofia Mountains)". In the village of Yogna (20 km from Vesyegonsk) on the river Egnitsa (Yag-nitsa) Ivan Bilibin (1876–1942) created his spectacular fairy paintings. They also preserved the two-storey wooden manor house (1908) and the park which belonged to the land-owning lady by the name of Gronskaya. The artist stayed several times at her estate.

September 2014 saw 100th anniversary celebration of the Vesyegonsk winery (www.wine-tour.ru) which has been successfully reviving the tradition of berry wine-making. In honor of this event they started the Festival of Cranberry, which is expected to be an annual event. The last Cranberry Festival was held in the 2015.

A tour of the winery is available for both groups and individuals with wine tasting on the spot and in the specially designated wine tasting hall (Karl Marx str. 48, ☎️ 8 (919) 050-32-62, (495) 504-28-32). Here also works the company store.

During its one hundredth anniversary in 2014 the winery also announced the opening the yacht club "Port Vesyegonsk" (hotels, restaurants, marinas, spa, Naberezhnaya str. 17, ☎️ 8 (919) 050-32-62, (495) 504-28-32).

Transportation

- Bus station: Communisticheskaya str. 2B 📞 (48264) 2-14-72
- Railway station: Stantsionnaya str. 21 📞 (48264) 2-14-87
- "Vesegonsk" Pier – on the Rybinsk Reservoir

Useful phones numbers

- Police: Communisticheskaya str. 15 📞 (48264) 2-12-02
- Traffic police: Zagorodnaya str. 64 📞 (48264) 5-08-74
- District Hospital: P. Morozov str. 52 📞 (48264) 2-12-03

Accommodation

- Comfortable accommodations in the city and in the village of Protivie on the bank of the Rybinsk reservoir are offered by the "Mologa-Tour" tour company (📞 (920) 155-05-50, (812) 490-75-15, www.mologatur.ru) – It is the official operator of the "Delhi hotel" (Primorskaya str. 19; 📞 (48264) 2-22-75) and recreational centers of "Dom Rybaka (Fisherman's House)" and "Rybnoe mesto (Hot Fishing Spot)".
- Yacht Club "Biosphere" on the river Sebla near the border with the Yaroslavl region (📞 (964) 550-51-30, www.biosphera.ru).
- Hotel "Ves'" Kirova str. 75 📞 (48264) 2-13-51 http://veshotel.ru
- Recreational center "Vesegonsk Island" village of Baranovo, Zadnedvorskiy Island, (495) 225-94-95 www.ostkompleks.ru

Food

In addition to the restaurants and cafes in the hotels you are welcome to:

- Restaurant "Chaika" Karl Marx str. 122
- Eatery Karl Marx str. 50A 📞 (48264) 2-13-39
- Eatery Karl Marx str. 50A
- "Under the Flag of Craw-fish" held usually on the day of the area.
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- Bus station: Communisticheskaya str. 2B 📞 (48264) 2-14-72
- Railway station: Stantsionnaya str. 21 📞 (48264) 2-14-87
- "Vesegonsk" Pier – on the Rybinsk Reservoir

Useful phones numbers

- Police: Communisticheskaya str. 15 📞 (48264) 2-12-02
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- Eatery Karl Marx str. 50A 📞 (48264) 2-13-39

Kesova Gora and surroundings

FROM MOSCOW – 281 KM (THROUGH KASHIN)
FROM TVER – 180 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 3500 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48274
DAY OF THE AREA: SECOND SATURDAY OF JULY
HTTP://KESOVA.RU
WWW.SAVELRR.RU/POSELE-NIE-KESOVA-GORA.HTML

This township featuring wooden single-storey buildings is located on the banks of the river Kashinka, the left tributary of the Volga. The name of Kesova Gora was known since the 1238 and has a Finno-Ugric origin (translated as – "clay terrain"). For a long time Kesova Gora was the ancestral domain of the princes Prozorovsky, later of the princes Trubetskie.

There is the miraculously surviving functioning St. Nicholas Church (end of the XVIII c) with a bell tower, popularly known as Nicola-Grachi (at the intersection of Sovetskaya and Grachi streets). Also interesting is the wooden building of the first railway terminal (early XX c) of Kesovo station of the Nikolaev railway. The village...
Krasny Holm and surroundings

FROM MOSCOW – 352 KM
FROM TVER – 175 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 6000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48237
DAY OF THE AREA: JULY 12
WWW.KRHOLM.RU

The small town of Krasny Holm (formerly the village of Spas-na-Holmu, one of the oldest settlements in the area) is located on the banks of the river Neledina in its lower reaches. The first mention of it relates to the beginning of the XVI century in connection with the construction of the monastery of St. Anthony; it received the status of a county town in the 1776 by a decree of Catherine II.

Krasny Holm (Red Hill) is on the official roster of historical Russian cities. The lovers of Russian art know very well Pavel Chistiakov, the native of the Krasny Holm district. Pavel Chistyakov (1832–1919) was a painter, academician of painting, the teacher of many famous Russian artists.

In the city center you can see the high bell tower (1870) of the now lost Trinity Cathedral, the shopping arcade (1910), the building of the girls’ school (now the secondary school № 1), the City Council, the postal and telegraph station, a number of a commercial buildings and the core of the residential historic development of the XIX century. They include – the house of the merchant Lapshin (now the police station), the house of the merchant Kichigina with a wing (the building of the School of Arts). Very remarkable is a spectacular wooden house of the country doctor Leonid Myasnikov with carved trims on the windows of the 2nd floor and an intricate turret. It is now home to the History Museum (Kommunisticheskaya str. 21, ☏ Wen–Sun 9.00–18.00, 🌐 8 (48237) 2-27-11), which is not only conducting tours, but organizing exciting interactive children’s program. Several buildings create the complex of medical institutions of the XIX century: a former country hospital (now the infectious department of the regional hospital) and clinic, where Leonid Myasnikov worked (now a residential building). On the outskirts there is a saved a small Nikolо-Cemetery church (1794).

Not far from the city by the road to Tver you can see the structures of the once magnificent St. Nicolas Krasnokholmsky Anthony’s Monastery. Its founder was St. Anthony Krasnokholmsky, a monk of the St. Kyrill-Belozersky Monastery, who started to live here in the 1461 at a place where Neledina empties into the Mologa River. The model of the monastery complex can be seen in the city museum. The most valuable monument of the history and architecture was heavily damaged. At its center is the shell of the white-stone Nikolsky (St. Nocolas) Cathedral of the end of the XV century, there are also surviving elegant buildings with brick patterns including the corner tower. Today the former monastery is registered as Krasnokholmsky St. Nicholas Archbishop town church (www.tver-antonievmon.narod.ru), excursions can be booked by calling ☏ (962) 246-20-07. In the village

is the birthplace of Alexei Aleluhin, the famous fighter pilot who was twice awarded the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest military decoration in the Soviet Union. (1920–1990; 601 combat sorties, 258 air fights, shot down 57 enemy aircraft). You can see his bust in the public garden (1953). In the museum of local history you will be offered an interesting tours of the area featuring an exciting story of its rich past (Kooperativnaya str. 14, ☏ 8 (48274) 2-16-72, (960) 711-43-39).

Transportation

- Bus station: Kooperativnaya str. ☏ (48274) 2-22-36
- Railway station (on the line Moscow-Rybinsk): Starovokzalnaya str., ☏ (48274) 2-10-41

Useful phone numbers

- Police: Kooperativnaya str. 24 ☏ (48274) 2-11-89, 2-14-97
- District Hospital: Sovetskaya str. 86 ☏ (48274) 2-16-09

Transportation

- Bus station: Kooperativnaya str. ☏ (48274) 2-22-36
- Railway station (on the line Moscow-Rybinsk): Starovokzalnaya str., ☏ (48274) 2-10-41

Useful phone numbers

- Police: Kooperativnaya str. 24 ☏ (48274) 2-11-89, 2-14-97
- District Hospital: Sovetskaya str. 86 ☏ (48274) 2-16-09

Want to learn more about the history and culture of Russian cities? Visit www.russiangid.ru for a wealth of information on Russian history, culture, and travel destinations.
July – the anniversary of the 1770 Chesma Battle.

The only surviving aristocratic estate in Lesnoe is the Alekseykov-Otradnoe with the Alexander Nevsky Church (1886) and the brick house with columns, a mezzanine and winter garden.

**Transportation**
- **Bus station:** Kelpsha str. 1A, (48271) 2-11-72

**Useful phone numbers**
- **Police:** Leninskaia str. 1, (48271) 2-16-32
- **District Hospital:** Mekhanizatorov str. 9; (48271) 2-11-11, 2-12-18

**Lesnoe and surroundings**

FROM MOSCOW – 370 KM
FROM TVER – 204 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 2000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48271
DAY OF THE DISTRICT: THE 7TH OF JULY
WWW.LESNOE.INFO

In the center of the quiet Lesnoe (until 1935 known as the village of Smedyn) on the border of the Novgorod region they recently built the wooden Trinity Church with a bell tower. Its surroundings are the site for the interesting Church of the Ascension (1749) in baroque style in the village of Mikhailovskoe and the St. Sergius wooden church (1881) in the village of Pestovo. The village of Borisovskoe on the Mologa River attracts your attention with the impressive Kazan church (1817) in Palladian style. The churchyard of Zastizhe is the site of the grave of D.S. Ilyin, the hero of the famous 1770 Naval Battle of Chesma, who virtually single-handedly destroyed the entire Turkish fleet.

His tomb displays a majestic obelisk unveiled by the decree of Emperor Alexander III (1895). The Russian sailor’s name is engraved on a marble plaque in St. George Hall of the Moscow Kremlin. The Day of the Lesnoe District is celebrated on the 7th of July – the anniversary of the 1770 Chesma Battle.

**Transportation**
- **Bus station:** Privokzalnaya sq. 1
- **Railway station:** Privokzalnaya sq. 1 (48237) 2-25-04

**Useful phone numbers**
- **Police:** Kalinina str. 24; (48237) 2-22-19, 2-24-52
- **Traffic police:** Kalinina str. 8/5 (48237) 2-22-01
- **District Hospital:** Myasnikova str. 59, (48237) 2-24-02

**Molokovo and surroundings**

FROM MOSCOW – 368 KM
FROM TVER – 203 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 2000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48275
DAY OF THE AREA: 12 OF JULY
WWW.MOLOKOVOADM.RU

The township is situated on the river Luzhana. The exact time of its foundation is not known: the first mention in the written sources refers to the year of 1568: Tsar Ivan the Terrible granted Duchess Maria Ovchinina and her daughter Nastasia “ownership of the village of Molokovo along with the neighboring small villages and surroundings.” Almost immediately the princess handed over the title to Molokovo to the St. Trinity Sergius Monastery to be included in its lands near Moscow.

Molokovo is the birthplace Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov, the prominent military commander of the Soviet era. It is the site of the local history museum (Marshala Ogarkova str. 43, Mon–Fri 9:00–18:00, (920) 162-66-11), where on display are the personal effects of the commander, documents, gifts. The ethnographic collection is also good. The museum organizes “high tea” gatherings and offers to enjoy the taste a most delicious Molokovo kvass (traditional drink made of grain).

In the village of Deledino (16 km from Molokovo) there is a preserved stone church of the Merciful Saviour (1821) built originally in the Olsufev’s estate to the design of the celebrated architect Ivan Starov, the founder of the classical style in Russia.

The unconventional natural monument called “Ringing Mountains” (20 km from Molokovo) is situated near the village of Novoselka in a natural picturesque landscape. Just a slight tap makes the rocks produce an unusual sound. You can also visit the revered spring of St. Seraphim of Sarov (12 km from Molokovo) famous for its healing properties. The spring is equipped for collecting holy water to take home.

!!! The Rivers of the Molokovo area are perfect for amateur kayaking.
The township of Sandovo has been known as the village from the year of 1500. Today it is the center of the Sandovsky district bordering on the Novgorod and Vologda regions.

The district official emblem depicts a bee – a symbol of hard work, indefatigability, love for order and diligence.

More than one hundred beekeepers are officially registered in the district. The village is famous for its colorful local festival “Sandovo – Savior of the Honey Feast Day” which is famous far beyond its borders. It is not by chance that the main attraction of Sandovo is the museum and recreational center “House of Bees” (Sovetskaya str. 15, Mon–Sat 9.00–18.00, (48272) 2-16-44). Here tourists will hear about the features of the different varieties of honey, about the ancient incantations on honey, about food and medicines produced thanks to bees. In one of the halls you will be shown the collection of images of bees from around the world. By all means you will be offered some fun games to play, a chance to be photographed in a fun bee-striped suit, to buy local souvenirs (including bees made in a Torzhok signature hand-made golden embroidery technique), to taste some honey and mead. The museum has opened a tasting hall and cafe.

Historically the memorial was built through the effort of the local residents of the entire area to mark the Victory anniversary in 1975.

The area is rich in archaeological sites from the Proto-Slavic and Slavic periods. A very interesting is the archaeological site near the village of Gorodische (17 km from Sandovo, approximately 2 hectares). In the times of pre-Mongolian invasion there stood a mighty fortress; also here the archaeologists unearthed the remains of the two villages. They also discovered about fifty hills which were in effect the ritual burial sites of the Novgorod Slovenes from the pre-Christian and early Christian eras. Such huge necropolises are extremely rare. Externally the hill resembles a small haystack, sometimes with a flat top. A large number of them have been preserved on the entire territory of Pomolozhie. The archaeologists have found here also numerous burial groups.

In the past the Sandovo district embraced more than 60 estates. Today it is interesting to visit the Ukhtomsky Manor in the village of Tukhan (15 km from Sandovo). Here they were able to preserve an impressive architectural ensemble: a two storey gray stone house of the XIX century in the style of classicism and the baroque Church of the Annunciation (1789), as well as the park with the ponds. The bell tower above the bell tier is decorated with an airy colonnaded rotunda in the style so beloved by the Novotorzhsk architects. They were also able to preserve the so-called "old Ukhtomsky house", the stone chambers of the XVII century, an example of Russian residential architecture extremely rarely found in Tver region.

Transportation
- **Bus station**: Zarechnaya str. 2 (48275) 2-14-24
- **Police**: Kornilova sq. 6, (48275) 2-10-71
- **District Hospital**: Lenina str. 3, (48275) 2-13-23

Useful phone numbers
- **Police**: Oktyabrskaya str. 9, (48272) 2-12-76
- **District Hospital**: S. Kochurovoy str. 10, (48272) 2-13-45

**Useful phone numbers**
- **Bus station**: 2nd Alexandrovskaya str. 24A (48272) 2-10-12
- **Railway station**: (on the line Pestovo – Sonkovo): (48272) 2-16-07

**Snowden and surroundings**

FROM MOSCOW – 300 KM (VIA TVER)
FROM TIVER – 240 KM
POPULATION: MORE THAN 3000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48272
DISTRICT DAY: 1ST SAT.
OF AUGUST
WWW.SANDOVOREGION.RU
WWW.SANDVEST.RU

The celebration of the "Sandovo – Savior of the Honey Feast Day"

The memorial was built through the effort of the local residents of the entire area to mark the Victory anniversary in 1975.

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Among the war memorials and modest mass graves scattered throughout the territory of the Tver region, a monument to fellow-countrymen soldiers in Sandovo stands out for its expressiveness. On a low green mound there is sad figure of a soldier,s a startling reminder of sacrifice. The memorial was built through the effort of the local residents of the entire area to mark the Victory anniversary in 1975.

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Transportation
- **Bus station**: 2nd Alexandrovskaya str. 24A (48272) 2-10-12
- **Railway station**: (on the line Pestovo – Sonkovo): (48272) 2-16-07

Useful phone numbers
- **Police**: Oktyabrskaya str. 9, (48272) 2-12-76
- **District Hospital**: S. Kochurovoy str. 10, (48272) 2-13-45

**Useful phone numbers**
- **Bus station**: 2nd Alexandrovskaya str. 24A (48272) 2-10-12
- **Railway station**: (on the line Pestovo – Sonkovo): (48272) 2-16-07

**Sandovo and surroundings**

FROM MOSCOW – 300 KM (VIA TVER)
FROM TIVER – 240 KM
POPULATION: MORE THAN 3000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48272
DISTRICT DAY: 1ST SAT.
OF AUGUST
WWW.SANDOVOREGION.RU
WWW.SANDVEST.RU

The celebration of the "Sandovo – Savior of the Honey Feast Day"
Sonkovo and surroundings

FROM MOSCOW – 365 KM
(THROUGH KASHIN-BEZHETS)
FROM TVER – 127 KM
POPULATION: ABOUT 4000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48246
DISTRICT DAY: 1ST SUNDAY OF AUGUST
WWW.SONKOVO.RU
HTTP://SONKOVO-NEWS.RU
WWW.SEVERO-KOI.NAROD.RU

The township of Sonkovo is a large railway junction located at the intersection of two major railway lines of Rybinsk-Bezhetsk-Bologoe and Savelyovsky railway radius (Moscow–Savelovsky–Sonkovo-Mga–St. Petersburg). No wonder that the feast day of the settlement is celebrated on the same day as the Russian Railroad Day. Here you can see the preserved wooden building of the station and the water tower (XIX century); also they unveiled a steam locomotive on a granite pedestal, one of those which carried troops and military hardware to the front during Word War II. On the square in front of the station there is a bust to fighter pilot Vasily Andrianov, a native of the district. He was twice awarded the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest military decoration during the Soviet era (1920–1999, made 177 combat sorties).

Sonkovo land is bursting with antiquities. The monuments of the IX–XI centuries are the remains of an ancient settlement on the bank of the Korozhechna River and the high mounds near the village Bozhonka. It is here on the river Cit’ on the 4th of March in the year of 1238 that the site was the scene of the battle between the army of the Vladimir Grand Duke Yuri Vsevolodovich and one of the units of Batu Khan army under the command of Burundi. The chronicle says: “The battle was great and the carnage was vicious and the blood was flowing like water.” The battle ended in defeat of the Russians.

With the death of Prince Yuri came the demise of Vladimir Russia. The sad place is marked with a modest memorial sign (1980).

Transportation

- **Bus station:**
  Lenina Prospect 48A, ☎ (48246) 2-14-73
- **Railway station:**
  Vokzalnaya str. 13, ☎ (48246) 2-15-51

Useful phone numbers

- **Police:**
  Lenina Prospect 48, ☎ (48246) 2-13-80
- **District Hospital:**
  Narodnaya str. 4, ☎ (48246) 2-10-41
The Baltic arrow

The vast territory of the tourist zone on the western spur of the Valdai mountains starts from Zubtsov and ends with Toropets. It stretches along the almost straight-as-an-arrow international highway M9 “Baltic”. The zone includes Andreapol’kskii, Bel’skii, Zharkovskii, Zapadnodvinskii, Zubtsovskii, Neli’ dovskii, Oleninskii, Rzhetskii Toropetskii areas. The railway line serves as a way to conveniently connect the region, Moscow and St. Petersburg.

M9 highway, in general, follows the direction of the ancient Great Moscow “tract” (road), which for many centuries connected the North-West Russia with the countries of Northern Europe. This road witnessed journeys of Kings, Tsars and Emperors, Russian and foreign ambassadors, and endless stream of merchant caravans from East to West and West to East. Now, as in times immortal, this highway is popular with travelers heading for Pskov region and the Northern cities of Belarus – Polotsk and Vitebsk, and the Baltic states.

The real treasure of the zone is the almost untouched wilderness. It is well known as the land of the majestic forests, pristine lakes and rivers. Today it is recognized as a treasury of nature of the Tver region and the whole Euro-Russian. This nature-made miracle is so diverse that UNESCO made a momentous decision to preserve it as a national landscape. Here they established The State Central Forest Natural Biospheric Reserve, the only of its kind in Tver region (p. 74). The Neli’ dovskii, Zapadnodvinskii, Toropetskii districts are considered as among the purest places in Eastern Europe. The appropriate certificates to the fact are issued. Abundant springs, lakes, natural landmarks are recognized as the nature monuments. This is the land of the great rivers and tiny charming rivulets. And the cities of Rzhov and Zubtsov are the first cities which stand on the great Volga River.

These sparsely populated territories for a long time have been the favorite destination for fishermen and hunters. The local hunting grounds offer great opportunities for hunting and recreational activities thereafter throughout the year; some of the best facilities are available in the Zapadnodvinskii and Neli’dovskii districts. Many rivers and lakes offer exciting opportunities for outdoor water sports such as kayaking, catamaran sailing and canoeing, windsurfing. The pure rivers are not only nice for swimming on the hot summer days, but it is also perfect for making tea. Very popular are the ski- and ski-roller tracks, used not only by professional athletes but by everyone who love skiing. (Sport hotel “Vrevo” in Toropetskii District, Ski lodge “Toropchanin” in Toropets, fitness center “Mukhino” in Zapadnodvinskii District). Artificial downhill ski slopes have been created, as the natural elevation difference is about 270 m.

Milestones

These places were inhabited since the time of the Mesolithic era (VIII–VI thousands BC). On the territory of the tourist area the archaeologists found a lot of sites of a primitive man, as well as the settlements and tombs. The Slavic burial mounds produced a lot of discoveries that shed light on the life of the Krivichy tribes which inhabited the cross-roads of these important ancient trade routes.

In an era of ancient Rus’ the part of the zone was dominated by the Novgorod Republic and the Smolensk principality and later these areas became part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (Bel’skii). Initially only Zubtsov and Rzhov belonged to Tver. It is only in the XV–XVI centuries during the rise of Moscow they became part of the Moscow state, and later became the districts of the Tver province. However, some of the cities – Bely and Toropets – only recently became part of Tver region; that’s why even now their coats of arms have elements of Pskov and Smolensk emblems. The region for a long time lived under harsh realities of a frontier state: the territory with the residents repeatedly changed hands from one principality or state to another. There was only one thing that was missing i.e. an extended period of calm and peace. This fact, of course, could not but affect the integrity of historical appearance of the frontier fortress-cities of the province.

Andreapol’ and surroundings

FROM MOSCOW – 407 KM
FROM TVER – 304 KM
POPULATION:
ABOUT 7500 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48267
DISTRICT DAY LAST SAT. OF JUNE
HTTP://TSMA.TVER.RU
HTTP://ГОРОД-АНДРЕАПОЛЬ.РФ

Near the village of Dubno and the estate of Andreyanovo Pole in the first half of the XIX century was the site of a thriving spa resort, one of the first in Russia, named “Andreapol’ Mineral Waters”.

Major General Sergei Kushelev, a land-owning aristocrat, started it on...
his own lands in 1810. He was able to attract for treatment and recreation members of nobility from Moscow and St. Petersburg. For example in the 1830 the great architect Carlo Rossi and his family enjoyed their time at the spa. Unfortunately after the death of the founder in the 1840s the spa was closed. Today the water from one of the springs is bottled and sold under the trademark "Andreapolsky". This natural mineral water with medical properties is of the group of calcium-magnesium hydro carbonate composition. The bottle label features the image of the Kushelev family coat of arms.

40 km away from Adreanopol the Western Dvina (Daugava), one of the largest rivers in Europe, originates and flows within the tourist zone. Since the XIX century the birthplace of its largest tributary of Toropa was marked with a chapel. Extremely attractive are local lake-and-river-shaped necklaces: only one small river Lyubutke alone encompasses 20 pure flow-through lakes.

One of the mysteries of the Russian nature is the horseshoe-shaped lake of Brosno stretching for about 15 km, lost in the pristine Andreapol forests. Until now we don’t know its exact depth. The depth measurements are suspended at 42 meters, but some argue that there are caves and funnels at the bottom which depth has never been determined. These and other features of the lake gave rise to the persistent legend about the mysterious dragon-like creature living in its waters from the times immemorial. Once in a while all of a sudden someone exhales loudly near the surface of the water, while on other occasions that someone overturns the boats with hapless fishermen. The locals and the tourists called the mythical creature “Brosni” while those who love to explore the unexplored call to organize a scientific expedition to study the lake. Furthermore, according to stories of local residents among the fish species you find oceanic herring.

During the War the district witnessed fierce bloody battles in August and September of 1941. The fascists managed to seize the foothold of Ivashkovo with the commanding eminence of Ivanova Mountain dominating the Eastern bank of the Daugava River. Later they were planning to launch an offensive on Nelidovo with a view of encircling the grouping of Russian troops. As a result a Red Army counter-offensive September 3 through 6, despite heavy losses, the enemy was defeated and the bridgehead was liquidated. The “Ivashkovo bridgehead” Memorial display several markers unveiled through the efforts of Andreapol residents.

You can learn more about history of the area through displays at the Andreapol Museum of Local History named after Eduard Shimkevich (Andreapol, Klenovaya str. 9, ☎ Wen–Sun 10.00–17.00, 8 (48267) 3-37-09), the Museum of Peasant Lifestyle (village Toropatsa, 8 (48267) 2-37-22) and Zhukovsky Museum of Local History (village Zhukopa, 8 (48267) 2-21-21).

**Bely and surroundings**

**FROM MOSCOW – 380 KM**
**FROM TVER – 287 KM**
(HIGHWAY M9)

**POPULATION:**
**ABOUT 3500 PEOPLE**

**PHONE AREA CODE:** 48250

**DAY OF THE AREA:** 2ND SAT OF JULY

WWW.BELEJ.RU

Since its appearance in the middle of the XIX century on the boarders of Russian, Polish and Lithuanian lands, the city of Bely for nearly three centuries has defended its right to be a part of the Russian state. In the 1506–1508 on the order of the Moscow Grand Prince Vasily III (ordered to build the city to protect against Lithuania”) a powerful fortress of Belaya was erected, a most advanced fortification at that time. The significance of the fortress was stressed by the fact that after its completion the titles of the Muscovite rulers were complimented with yet another title of “Prince Belsky” (The fortress’ ramparts have survived, they were a favorite place of recreation both in the XIX century as they are now now).

During the Time of Troubles the fortress changed hands many times. In the 1613 during the siege of Bely by the Russians, the Polish hired some sixty Scottish and Irish mercenaries switched their allegiance to Russia. Among them was George Learmonth, the ancestor of the Great Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov.

In the spring of 1634 during the 1632–1634 Russian-Polish Smolensk war, the twenty thousand strong Polish-Lithuanian army led by the Polish King Vladislav IV laid a two-month long failed siege to the fortress, which was defended by a garrison of 1,000 people only under the commander Fyodor Volkonsky. This heroic page in the annals of the city came to be known as the “Bielskoe standoff”.

During World War II it was the scene of heavy fighting and the town was captured by the Germans on 22 June 1941, the scene of heavy fighting and the town was captured by the Germans on 22 June 1941, the Germans occupied the fortress of Belaya and destroyed it. After the war the fortress was restored with a reduced number of towers, and now the fortress has become a major tourist attraction of Andreapol.

**Souvenirs** (such as ceramics made by local artists) are available at the store “Verhnevolzhie” (Polovcheni str. 14a, ☎ 8 (48267) 3-11-92).

**Transportation**

- **Bus station:**
  Vokzalna sq.
  ☎ (48267) 3-26-64

- **Railway station:**
  Octyabrskaya str., Line Bologoe – Velikie Luki

**Useful phone numbers**

- **Police:**
  Novgorodskaya str. 17
  ☎ (48267) 3-14-48

- **Traffic police:**
  Novgorodskaya str. 17
  ☎ (48267) 3-27-08

- **District Hospital:**
  Nelidovskaya str. 1
  ☎ (48267) 3-10-32

**www.russiangid.ru**
was almost completely destroyed. In memory of the bloody battles the ramparts of the ancient fortress feature the legendary wartime T-34 battle tank. The highlight among the numerous war memorials belongs to the "Death Valley" memorial complex (village Ploskoe, 12 km from Bely), inaugurated on the 14th of August of 1996 in a memory of the soldiers killed in the "Mars" operation. (second Rzhev Sychev operation of November-December 1942). The casualty figure stood at 12,500 of Siberian soldiers.  

It is no coincidence that the Germans called it "the Valley of Hell". This is the area of the Russian break-through charge of the German defensive positions, the floodplain of the Vishnevaya River (to the North and West from the Ploskoe) with the dominant hills beyond its southern shore. The date of the inauguration of the Memorial of Glory became the inter-regional Remembrance Day.

The city has a regional history museum (Lenina str. 27, (48250) 2-00-17.00), 8 (48250) 2-27-50. In 2013 on the square in front of the seminary a monument was unveiled to one of its graduates, an outstanding ascetic-missionary.  

There are plans in the making for a monument to Mikhail Lermontov. In the Bely District there are 13 lakes, 10 of them are certified as natural monuments and protected by law, some of them are the relict.

**Transportation**

**Bus station:** Oktyabrskaya str. 12

**Useful phone numbers**

**Police:** Lenina str. 11 (48250) 2-25-22

**District Hospital:** Bazarnaya str. 1 (48250) 2-22-14

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**Zharkovsky and surroundings**

FROM MOSCOW – 449 KM FROM TVER – 345 KM POPULATION: MORE THAN 6000 PEOPLE PHONE AREA CODE: 48273 DISTRICT DAY LAST SUN. OF JULY HTTP://ZHARKIADM.RU

Zharkovsky district and its capital, the township of Zharkovsky, (much like Bely district) were part of the Smolensk province. The Mezha river flows through the entire area of the district, which is a tributary of the Daugava River. Its bank is home to the Ordynsky (Horde) Porechsky Monastic Retreat, whose 560th anniversary was celebrated in the 2011. They were able to restore the singular Nativity of the Virgin Church in the style of ancient Pskov architecture style with the arched bell tower. The church now holds services, and there is a guest house for pilgrims (village of Ordynok, (8 48273) 2-16-77).

The gems of the area are the lakes of Chistik and Schuchye. The small lake Chistik is a favorite vacation spot of tourists and residents of the area, it is located not far from the Highway Western Dvina – Zharkovsky. Equally popular is the Lake Schuchye. It is a home for pike-perch, bream, tench, perch, roach, and of course, pike. The village of Schuchye (15 km from Zharkovsky) is home to the Museum of Pike.

Among the exhibits is a variety of fishing tackle for winter and summer fishing, pictures of the lucky fishermen, essential items for overnight camping in rugged conditions, cuisine recipes, collections of fishing tales and rhymes. Local historians claim that the fairy tale character by the name of Emelja lived in these places and caught the magic pike in this lake. You will certainly be offered to check whether the progeny of the magic pike in the lake Schuchye inherited the magical powers of their famous ancestor.

The Museum also organizes workshops presented by experienced anglers for fabrication of fishing gear.

**Transportation**

**Bus station:** Krasnoarmeyskaya str. 34 (48273) 2-13-72

**Railway station:** Line Zemtsi – Zharkovsky

**Useful phone numbers**

**Police:** Krasnoarmeyskaya str. 2 (48273) 2-11-61

**District Hospital:** Komsomolskaya str. 18 (48273) 2-13-36, 2-13-83

**Zapadnaya Dvina and surroundings**


The city of Zapadnaya Dvina is one of the most modern centers with good infrastructure in the Tver region. It is distinguished by beautiful houses and sports facilities, cozy cafes, supermarkets, creatively appointed streets. The ancient history of the region is represented in the museum (Pochtovaya str. 6) while during your travels you can rest and have fun in the cultural and entertainment center "Planet of Happiness" (Shkolnaya str. 31, (8 48265) 2-15-15, http://planet-happy.ru) which offers food, bowling or billiards.

Zapadnodvinsky District is a perfect place for a year-round recreation. There are no manufacturing enterprises here, but rather plentiful are berries and mushrooms in the pine forests, and scenic non-navigable rivers. There are 70 lakes that offer excellent fishing opportunities. More than 50 thousand hectares are considered protected areas, including 32 reserves, 9 nature monuments, and more than 20 stork’s nesting sites. Among the protected areas special importance is attached to the "Velesskaya marsh system" (the river Veles, the village of Veles) which is an area with a variety of natural landscapes of water and glacial origin. 6 hunting grounds encompassing large areas offer everything essential to roam the forests for hunting opportunities.

The well-known "Mukhino" fitness and recreational center operates year
The kind of natural terrain available here with elevation changes of 270 m is rare for the region and the ski tracks (in the summer – roller ski tracks) has served as a huge draw for both internationally-renowned athletes and urban residents. Very popular is the modern “Derbovezh” resort (village Solomkino, (48265) 12-03, (903) 805-83-65, http://zapdvina.ru/turism/).

The Lake Derbovezh round (12 km from the Zapadnaya Dvina, Vokzalnaya str., 8 (48265) 2-12-03, (903) 805-83-65, http://zapdvina.ru/turism/).

Zubtsov and surroundings
FROM MOSCOW – 211 KM
FROM TVER – 114 KM
(VIA STARITSA)
POPULATION: ABOUT 7000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48 2 62
DAY OF THE AREA: THE PENULTIMATE SATURDAY OF AUGUST
WWW.ADMINZUBCOV.RU
HTTP://GOROD-ZUBCOV.RU

Where the Volga makes a sharp bend Eastwards near the Vazuza river estuary, that is where Prince of Tver Mikhail Yaroslavich built a fortress in 1297. You can still see the powerful ramparts stretching for 830 m, which once surrounded the former Kremlin in the past. The city of Zubtsov itself which is located on both banks of the Volga was first mentioned in the Novgorod chronicles in 1216. The small islands on the rivers add picturesque flair to it, as did the Moscovskaya and Polustova Mountains in the Zarechie area. Despite the devastation of the Great Patriotic War, which is reminded by the majestic memorial complex on the Polustova mountain and by “Katyusha” rocket launcher and T-34 tank installed on their respective pedestals, we can still see the well preserved historical development of the district capital (for example, urban mansions and other buildings on the Dekabristov and Oktyabrskaya streets). But the loss in the XX century of all the churches except the Cathedral of the Assumption (1801, still operational) caused irreparable damage to the appearance of the city.

The city is remembered, above all, for extraordinary expressiveness of its landscapes; it looks particularly impressive from the Polustova Mountain. Also interesting is the local history museum (Embankment of the river Vazuza 18, ☎ Wed–Sun 10.00–17.00, 8 (48262) 4-41-35).

In the village of Borki you can see the extant manor house (the end of the XVIII – beginning of the XIX century) with wings. It was the property of the renowned playwright and poet Vyacheslav Ozerov (1769–1816), whom Alexander Pushkin mentioned in his poem “Eugene Onegin”. Now it houses an art gallery, a branch of the Tver Art Gallery.

It is worth your trip to visit the famous Stepanovskoe estate of Prince Kurakin (2nd half of the XVIII – 1st half of the XIX century; village of Volosovo) where you can enjoy a perfect example of revival of the once hopelessly neglected noblemen lodging. The property is privately owned and in recent years has been virtually recovered from ruins. The grandiose classic manor house and the outbuildings, the garden and the pond, which looks more like a small lake, produce a striking impression. Giacomo Quarenghi is considered to be the author of the estate’s design. The luxurious furniture and furnishings of Stepanovskoe-Volosovo can admired in the Tver Art Gallery.

In the vicinity of Zubtsov there is the revered Kurkovsky spring consecrated in the name of the St. Nicholas. A peculiar attraction of the area is the 800 meter long dam on the Vazuzsky reservoir (the village of Pashutino). The construction of the Vazuzsky Hydraulic Systems, as a back-up drinking water supplier of Moscow, was carried out in the 1960–1970s.

Transportation
Bus station: Volodarskogo str., (48262) 2-21-19
Railway station: Vokzalnaya str., (48262) 2-12-06. Long-distance trains from Moscow to Velikie Luki, Moscow – Pskov

Useful phone numbers
Police: Volodarskogo str. 8a (48265) 2-17-04
Traffic police: Volodarskogo str. 8a (48265) 2-17-03
District Hospital: Hospitalnaya str. 41 (48265) 2-13-38

Modern park-hotel “Derbovezh”

The Lake Derbovezh

www.russiangid.ru
Nelidovo and surroundings

FROM MOSCOW – 330 KM
FROM TVER – 230 KM
POPULATION: MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE
PHONE AREA CODE: 48266
AREA DAY: MINER’S DAY – LAST SUNDAY OF AUGUST
WWW.NELIDOVO.SU

The city of miners, a major Soviet-era industrial center with a population of more than 30 thousand people, is located on the river Mezha.

The highway to the city of Bely passes through it, linking the region with the Smolensk region. The railway station and the city that subsequently arose out of it owes its name to the Nelidovo ancient noble family, whose members donated their land for the road construction. The Museum and Exhibition Center (Gorkogo str. 12, 8 (48266) 5-51-61) conducts tours named “Nelidovo miners” with a visit to the Museum of Miners’ Fame, the only of its kind in Central Russia (Lenina sq. 2) and to the facilities of miners’ heritage. Many secondary schools in the city and region have history museums of their own (for example, at the secondary school number № 3, Pravdi str. 17, 8 (48266) 3-27-53).

For more than half a century Nelidovsky District has been the venue for a motocross which year after year welcomes more and more fans and participants of this spectacular sport. The finals of the Russian national championship both in team and individual contests attract motorcyclists of all ages from all over Russia and abroad.

Transportation
■ Bus station: Vokzalnaya str., 8 (48266) 3-14-91
■ Railway station: Vokzalnaya str. 8 (48266) 3-14-72. Long-distance trains from Moscow to Velikie Luki, Moscow-Riga, Moscow-Pskov

Useful phone numbers
■ Police: Sovetskaya str. 12 8 (48266) 3-22-58
■ District Hospital: Bolnichnaya str. 4 8 (48266) 5-37-31

UNESCO refuge

Located in the Nelidovsky district the Central Forest State Natural Biospheric Reserve, the only of its kind in the region (8 (48266) 2-24-29, 8-915-727-44-67, www.clgz.ru) enjoys the status of a UNESCO refuge. Biologists from around the world would come here to explore the completely pristine spruce forest, a unique piece of Europe undisturbed by human intervention. It is part of the ancient Okovsky forests (pp. 8, 113) and the upper swamps. In its buffer zone, for more than 15 years already, the refuge conducts scientific, educational and recreational tours for nature lovers of all ages available throughout the year. With the help of the employees you can take great pictures of: a grouse on a mating place in the misty sunrise; hunting owl; the bear’s breakfast using oats as a bait (from a observation tower). Accommodation facilities include log cabins and comfortable guest houses. The reserve has its own church and a holy spring with a font.
**Olenino and surroundings**

**FROM MOSCOW – 280 KM**
**FROM TVER – 192 KM**
**POPULATION:** ABOUT 12,000 PEOPLE
**PHONE AREA CODE:** 48258
**DISTRICT DAY:** 1ST SAT. OF JULY
WWW.OLENINO.RU

The township of Olenino was founded in 1898 by the landowner Alexandra Olenina (married name of Solbakh), the descendant of an ancient noble family. The emblem of the district and of the village display a running elk – a very common animal in these places. In order to preserve the pristine nature in the area they established two state reserves with a total area of two and half thousand hectares.

Ivan Kasatkin, the future Saint of Japan, was born in the village of Bereza. Father Nicolas spent more than 50 years in Japan conducting missionary work, his is still very much revered there up to this day. The village now is the city of military glory. The first stronghold on the Volga crossing, it regularly became a target of territorial claims by the Smolensk, Lithuanian, Tver and Moscow princes.

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**Transportation**
- **Bus station:** Kuzmina str. 5A, (48258) 2-11-43
- **Railway station:** Kuzmina str. 5, Long distance trains from Moscow to Velikie Luki, Moscow-Pskov.

**Useful phone numbers**
- **District Hospital:** Bolnichnaya str. 5, (48258) 2-11-50

**Rzhnev and Rzhnev area**

**FROM MOSCOW – 234 KM**
**FROM TVER – 112 KM (THROUGH STARITSYA)**
**POPULATION:** MORE THAN 60,000 PEOPLE
**PHONE AREA CODE:** 48232

**CITY AND AREA DAY:** LAST SATURDAY OF JUNE
WWW.RZHEVCITY.RU
HTTP://RZHEVREGION.COM

Rzhnev is one of the oldest cities in the Tver land, a most important strategic stronghold on the Volga crossing, it is the city of military glory. The first mention of Rzhnev dates back to 1216. Because of its importance Rzhnev lands regularly became a target of territorial claims by the Smolensk, Lithuanian, Tver and Moscow princes.

The Museum of the Local History (Krasnoarmeyskaya emb. 24a, (48258) 2-12-22, 2-04-59) is located in a mansion of the Pogankin merchants (end of the XVIII century) with the bright baroque carved trims. Today the museum which was revived in 1956 displays the objects of the merchant and peasant lifestyles and local ceramics.

By admiring the miraculously preserved landscapes created by the artists of the XIX century you can understand how spectacular this city was before its almost complete destruction during the Great Patriotic War. On the canvas of 1856 the landscape artist Aleksey Voloskov created a marvelous panorama of the left bank highlighting the high Cathedral Hill and the surrounding settlement’s churches and monasteries. Almost nothing is left today from the ancient beautiful city.

In ancient times **the Cathedral Hill**, one of the highest points of the city on the left bank of the Volga, was the site of a fortress. This steep slope, severed by deep ravines, commands a view of the Volga bend and the low lying trading area dominated by **the Cathedral of the Icon of Okovetski-Rzhevskii Mother of God with a bell tower (1821, operational)***. From here you can see the steep descent from the ancient citadel to the bridge across the Volga.

In 2012 the Spasskaya Square of Rzhnev saw the inauguration of a monument to Major General Alexander Seslavin (1788–1857), a native of the Rzhnev district, an outstanding Russian military commander of the war of 1812 against Napoleon. He gained his fame for bravery of his guerrilla detachment. Next to the bust is the oak planted by the father of the hero after the 1812 victory. In a memory of the 200th anniversary of the glorious event another young oak was planted besides the old one at the time when the bust was unveiled. Alexander Seslavin was buried in his home land, on a steep bank at the confluence of the river Sishka and the Volga (former churchyard of Nicola Sishka 18 away km from Rzhnev). The monument unveiled on his grave in 1873 in the **village of Esemove** was preserved to this day. In 2012 in the village they recreated the St. Nicholas Church and installed a memorial marker featuring the bas-relief of Alexander Seslavin. Both monuments carry engraved lyrics of the Russian poet Vasily Zhukovsky.

**Rzhnev self-taught genius**

In one of the halls of the Museum of Local History there is a portrait of Rzhnev native Terenty Voloskov (1729–1807), an outstanding mechanic, inventor, chemist and astronomer. The Astronomical Clock engineered by the master showed not only the hours and minutes but days, as well as holidays, phases of the moon, the movement of the sun through the signs of zodiac, and leap years. Some of his watches, unfortunately not the largest and most complex, can be seen in the museum in Tver. Also Terenty Voloskov became famous for the invention of various dyes, essential in production of fabrics, he also established a textile manufacturing facility. In the 2004 the Sovietskaya Street, the birthplace of the inventor and the first Mayor of Rzhnev, was renamed into Voloskovskaya Gora.
regarded by the people as the memorial-city by itself, although not officially recognized. And the lyrics by the poet Alexander Tvardovsky “I was killed near Rzhev...” is etched in the memory of more than one generation. However, the silencing of the tragic facts about the battle for Rzhev and Vyazma bridgehead and the staggering casualty figures served as a barrier to showing the true story of the course of events. And it is only in 2005 on the 60th anniversary of the Victory in World War II, the city of Rzhev saw the opening of a separate large museum dedicated to Rzhev Battle (Krasnoarmeyskaya emb 26, ☎ Wen–Sun 10.00–17.00, 🌐 8 (48232) 2-12-22, 2-04-59) and to a most difficult period of the war. You will experience extremely vivid portrayal of the exhibits from the battlefields and the original documents of those years. The core of the museum is the impressive diorama called ‘Battle of Rzhev on the 24th of September, 1942’.

Also in Rzhev on the Ostashkov highway there is a memorial on the site of a mass grave of soldiers, guerrillas and civilians. The cemetery is divided into two parts: Russian and German. Today this tragic place is marked with a chapel and a symbolic image of the wall of the Moscow Kremlin. It serves as a reminder of the terrific price paid to save the capital. Across the street from the Russian part of the cemetery, there is the section where the Wehrmacht soldiers are buried. It is tribute to modern understanding of the world wars. From 1941 to 1943 the Red Army casualty figure near Rzhev stood at more than 1 million (140 infantry divisions, 50 infantry brigades, 50 armored brigades were part of the battle), out the prewar population of 50,000 only less than one thousand civilians survived. More than 100 villages around Rzhev repeated the fate of the Khatyn massacre; Wehrmacht losses amounted to approximately 500,000. Every year thanks to the efforts of the search parties the newly discovered remains of the fallen soldiers and civilians are buried.

In the 2008 film director Aleksey Pivovarov produced a highly controversial documentary about the horrific drama in Rzhev. It sparked a great deal of interest because the debates on how justified the millions of our losses were have not subsided even up till now. “The fight was at its high with no end in sight. // As the scar on the body // I am killed and still do not know // whether Rzhev is finally ours” (excerpt from Alexander Tvardovsky’s poem).

In the 2007 Rzhev was one of the first to receive the well-deserved title of the “City of Military Glory”. The memorial stele “City of Military Glory” was opened on the 8th of May in 2010 in the Sovietskaya square. This is a ten-meter granite monument, its bas-reliefs depict important events: the first is devoted to the 1380 Kulikovo battle and the war of 1812 (Rzhev’s squads took part both in the battle and the war), the other three – to the Great Patriotic War, one of them immortalizes Tvardovsky’s verse.

The books and premium souvenirs with military symbols can be bought at the Museum of Local History and the Museum of Rzhev Battle. The books and premium souvenirs with military symbols can be bought at the Museum of Local History and the Museum of Rzhev Battle.

The Toropa river flows out of the lake Solomeno. (The right bank offers a magnificent panorama of Toropets.) The town is surrounded by four lakes, the biggest of which is the Solomeno. (The right bank offers a magnificent panorama of Toropets.) The Toropa river flows out of the lake enveloping the Krasny Island on both sides. The city is located in a wide gully surrounded on three sides by low hills referred to as the Poklonie(Bow) mountains; each of them marked by a church. On the Krasny Island in the XVI century they built the Kremlin, a third in a row, surrounded...
by the Krasny (Red) rampart. Its compound still features two surviving churches.

**The Church of the Epiphany** (1771), a graceful and tall building with a tall bell tower, houses the **Museum of Local History** (Komsomolskaya str. 2, 8 Wen–Fri 10.00–17.00, 8 (48268) 2-26-94, 2-14-92). In the summer the elegant green church with rich white stone decorum seems to grow out the surface of the lake and the island’s greenery and its reflection in the still water has attracted more than one generation of photographers and artists. Critics consider it one of the best examples of the singular Toropets style of Russian Baroque. The museum has interesting exhibits from the rich past of the necklace of estates around Toropets, including the tiles created by craftsmen of the local school of ceramics and the carved almost life-size wooden image of Saint Nil Stolobensky.

A little further along the main street you will are sure to enjoy the majestic **Cathedral of our Lady of Korsun** shining with gilded domes (1804). It was consecrated in honor of the Korsun-Ephesus Icon of the Mother of God. According to one of the local legends the image of the ancient Greek letter was presented to

**Toropets**

1. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Korsun
2. The Red Mound ancient settlement
3. The Church of the Epiphany, Museum of local history
4. The Small High ancient settlement
5. The Large High ancient settlement
6. The Myrrhbearers church
7. The Trinity Nebin Monastery
8. The House of the merchant Bessonova
9. The House with columns
10. The house-museum of Patriarch Tikhon
11. The Transfiguration Church
12. The John the Baptist Church
13. The Kazan Church
14. The Museum of History of Photography and “Gorenki” ethnographic center
15. The St. Tikhon convent: the St. Nicholas Church and the Church of the Intercession
16. The memorial “Watchtower” marker
17. The Church of the Nativity
18. The Church of the Ascension
19. The Monument to a teacher
20. The memorial “Airplane” marker
21. The Church of the Assumption
22. The All Saints Church
23. The Fadeevskaya (Thaddeus)
24. Nadклеадзнaya (Over the Holy Spring) Chapel
The Church of the Intercession
in the St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Convent

The stucco decorum of the Church of the Intercession

At the “Toropets Evening Party” you can find out how the headdress “Kika with cones” looked

The Church of the Transfiguration
in the Transfiguration Church

of the current center of the town. It is here that in the X–XI centuries they raised the wooden fortress of Krivets.

the worst years of vicious atheism that swept across Russia after the revolution. His father, also a priest, John Bellavin for many years served in the Transfiguration church in Toropets (beg. XVIII c.). Near the church is the preserved parents’ house of the future patriarch, where he spent his childhood years. The house bears the memorial plaque. It now houses the growing museum dedicated to Patriarch Tikhon (Nikitina str. 11), which now offers tours conducted by the priest of the Holy Transfiguration Church.

In the 2005 the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church approved the establishment of the Convent of St. Tikhon in Toropets 15 (Eremenko str. 7, ☎ 8 (48268) 2-21-68, 2-14-09). Within its confines there are the well-preserved Intercession (1774) and St. Nicholas (1697) Churches in the baroque style, the most beautiful in the city. The Church of Intercession now under restoration features the preserved magnificent interiors which include frescoes and rich stucco molding. The convent is being revived on the site of the former St. Nicholas Monastery that existed here since ancient times till it was abolished by Catherine II.

The location of the town’s foundation is a Small High ancient settlement with the steep ramparts South of the current center of the town. It is here that in the X–XI centuries they raised the wooden fortress of Krivets.

the city by Polotsk Princess Alexandra in honor of her wedding (as they said back then, “marital porridge”) with the Novgorodian Prince Alexander Yroslavovich, the future Alexander Nevsky. The wedding took place in 1239 in Toropets.

Since then the icon became the patroness of all Toropets residents; people from all corners of the Russian Land came to worship her. The image remained intact thanks to its timely handover to the museum during the years of persecution. Since 2009 it has temporarily remained in the new church in the village of Knazhie Ozero in the Moscow region on the way to Toropets. The Cathedral is open and its restoration continues; inside you can pay homage to a copy of the famous icon.

Toropets land is the birthplace of St. Tikhon (Born Vasily Bellavin; 1865–1925), the 11th Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. After reinstatement of the Moscow patriarchate in 1917 he led the Russian Orthodox Church through the worst years of vicious atheism that swept across Russia after the revolution. His father, also a priest, John Bellavin for many years served in the Transfiguration church in Toropets (beg. XVIII c.). Near the church is the preserved parents’ house of the future patriarch, where he spent his childhood years. The house bears the memorial plaque. It now houses the growing museum dedicated to Patriarch Tikhon (Nikitina str. 11), which now offers tours conducted by the priest of the Holy Transfiguration Church.

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The fortress had strategic importance on the “route from the Vikings to the Greeks”. It is no coincidence that the city was first mentioned in the chronicles in the 1074. During the excavations they found an ancient causeway, attached seals of the XIII century and many other valuable artifacts. Today the small settlement is a favorite place for strolls among the residents and visitors of Toropets.

A little bit to the West you can see the preserved Large High ancient settlement, the origin of which remains a mystery to the experts. Thus, Toropets is a city of three Kremlins – a rare case in urban planning. And if you choose a vantage point from where you can see both ancient settlements, then you are sure to keep strong memory of the image for a long time. Here you can feel the breath of the ancient Russia. And you may suddenly think that there are two surviving high forts in Toropets as if in memory of that historical wedding, like two surviving wedding crowns. At the foot of the Small ancient settlement in 2009, to commemorate 770th anniversary of the Prince’s wedding, a memorial marker was unveiled. Now it is a place of pilgrimage of Toropets newlyweds.

The Toropets architecture stands out for its spectacular stylistic unity. Wealthy merchants built up Toropets according to prototype designs popular in the two capitals and they did not skimp on magnificent churches. The city preserved whole blocks of old mansions of the XVIII century in style of classicism and baroque. One of these houses near the wooden tower, which, as if it “descended” from the emblem of the city, houses “The Seagull” studio. The studio serves as a basis for the fascinating Museum of History of Photography (Eremenko str. 4, ☎ 8 (48268) 2-16-85) where almost all of the exhibits are in good working condition. There is a number of permanent exhibitions including “Russia of Peasant Log Huts”, “Faces of Residents of Toropets”, “Toropets
ссылка 163

www.russiangid.ru

Отделение колледжа на озере Чистое. Гостиница “Тора” расположена в старинном доме торговца.

Медвежий угол России

In 1999 in the well-known XVI century Bubonitsy village (approx. 30 km from Toropets) the existing biological station was converted into the Toropets municipal biological reserve “Чистый Лес” (Pristine Forest) with an area of 35 square kilometers (8 (910) 930-97-38, http://clean-forest.ru). At the Biological Station the Pazhenov family of biologists has nursed, grown and prepared for independent living the abandoned orphaned bear cubs. Since 1990 they released 186 bears, including those who were born in zoos. The Toropets biologists activities gained world recognition: the Program is funded by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), foreign experts are involved in studies of the animal behavior.

In the middle of 2000s a group of scientists led by Tver Professor Vyacheslav Vorobyov and the local ethnographers created here the children’s ecological summer hands-on camp “Cubs”. Students from all over Russia come here and learn to love nature, to protect objects of cultural and historical heritage. At the museum and educational center “House of the Bear” they show documentaries produced in the course of many years of research, offer lectures, conduct environmental quizzes and events. The visitors can take a walk down the eco-trail, to take part in the historical and archaeological tours (there are many ancient sites, settlements and burial mounds in the area). Accommodation is provided in a comfortable guest house on the lake, or in the residential houses. Visits by appointment only.

Also popular in Toropets District is the Eco-Camp “Чистое” (Pure) (Chistoe village, 8-910-845-33-67, www.Toropets-nasledie.ru). On the shore of the lake Chistoe they set up a summer camp where students “in the field” under the guidance of scientists learn the environmental tricks of the trade and the skills of folk crafts, traditional games and even how to live in harmony with nature.

Churches”, “Toropets: Yesterday and Today”. Nearby is the Gorenskaya ethnographic center (8 (48268) 2-19-75) featuring a section of peasant lifestyle. Interactive programs are offered for tourists that include folk games, a cup of tea within the interior of a peasant hut and a Russian folklore show. A native of the province was the celebrated composer Modest Mussorgsky. His memorial museum-estate of “Наумово” is located on the Lake Zhizhitskoye not far from Toropets in the Pskov region. He admired the Toropetskiy chants and included them in his operas.

Another feature of clothing of wealthy Toropets merchants was the headdress of married noble women made of the freshwater pearls – the “Kika with cones”. It weighed a few kilograms and cost a fortune.

Recently the House of Arts craftsmen were able to replicate the “Kika with cones” technique and the headdress can now be viewed when performers wear them in the “Toropets Evening Party” show.

In 1974 in Komsomolskaya Street in front of the school number 1 they installed the-first-in- Russia monument to a teacher (sculptors Yury Orekhov, Victor Dumanyan).

In order to see the whole panorama of the medieval Toropets it is better to take a boat ride through the lake of Solomono or to drive off to its right bank to the village of Harino. Everyone who come to the city in the middle of the winter would be incredibly amazed to see a whole family of mute swans busily floating in bright blue water of the rapid and none-freezing Toropa in the city center. Sometimes the ice-hole becomes covered with ice and then Toropets citizens cut edges away helping the snow-white handsome swans to find their food. And that is why these birds do not fly away to warmer climes – it’s one of the mysteries of attractive ancient Toropets.

Useful phone numbers

Police: Alexandra Nevskogo str. 16 (48268) 2-12-04
District Hospital: Karl Marx str. 39, (48268) 2-11-74

Transportation

Bus station: (48268) 2-10-64
Railway station Old Toropa (30 km from the city): (48268) 2-10-70
Long-distance trains from Moscow to Velikie Luki, Pskov – Moscow

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Through the Russian plains


The journey North-West down the old Tsar's road, formerly the main road of the country, passes through Valdai mountains and the Veliky Novgorod to the Northern capital. The first stop on Tver section will be Torzhok, the site of the most ancient functioning monastery in Russia, and Vyshny Volochyok, an amazing city, standing on the rivers and canals, the first Russian capital of an artificial water system. En route it is interesting to find preserved imperial travel palaces, the most spectacular of which is considered to be the once located in Tver. It is for those traveling down that route in XVIII–XIX centuries that Ivan Glushkov wrote the first Russian guidebook named 'Hands-on guidebook for a journey between the two capitals'. And even today this book is an invaluable companion on the road. It is by the tsar's road from the time of Peter I many great Russian people made their journey. Not surprisingly there was a popular saying among residents of St. Petersburg that 'Tver is the door to Moscow'.


Other no less ancient roads heading East start from the capitals of the Rostov-Suzdal Rus'. Today the recognized centers of attraction on the Golden Ring route of Russia which continue to be a huge draw for tourists are the ancient cities of Uglich, Rostov Veliky, Yaroslavl. Uglich in Yaroslavl region and Kalyazin in the Tver region are only 40 kilometers apart; a little bit further is Kashin and you find yourself on the territory of one of the centers of the Russian statehood i.e. the Grand Duchy of Tver. The route Moscow – Zubtsov – Rzhev – Toropets – Modest Mussorgsky's 'Naumovo' Estate – Pushkin "Mikhailovsky Reserve – Pskov

It is interesting to make a trip heading West; the international "Baltic" highway dissects, like an arrow, the South Western part of the region. All the travelers visiting Pushkin's Svyatogorye continue to Izborsk and Pechora, as well as Smolensk lands and Belorussian Polotsk, definitely passing through Tver's Zubtsov and Rzhev. Now many tourists are happy to stop in Toropets, an ancient town on the border with Pskov region. Very close to it is the Naumovo family estate of Modest Mussorgsky, a beautiful estate over the lake, whoever comes to Toropets definitely makes a detour to Mussorgsky's estate.


Judging by the distance and abundance with monuments of world and nationwide renown this route is no less interesting than the Golden Ring of Russia and provides excellent insights into the ancient culture of the Russian North. It has everything that we include in the concept of 'Authentic Russia' – the ancient monasteries, nobleman estates, "House of Bees" in Sandovo and the monument to balalaika in Bezhetsk.

The route Moscow-Kryukovo – Gorodnia village (Konakovo district) – Emmaus village (Kalinin district) – Tver – Village Ryasna (Staritsky District) – Rzhev – Zubtsov – Volokolamsk – Dubosekovo – Moscow

The Route of "Wartime Memory of Russia" is dedicated to the heroic military past of our country. The "Bayonets" Memorial on the 40th km of the Leningrad highway is built on the site of a mass grave of the soldiers killed on the outskirts of Moscow in 1941. It is from this grave that they took the remains of an unknown soldier to be reburied in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall in the Alexander Garden. Tver's oldest church of the Virgin in Gorodnya was built to commemorate the victory of Kulikovo, and next to it is a monument to Mikhail Skopin-Shuisky, an outstanding military leader during the Time of Troubles. In the village of Emmaus near Tver through the sponsorship of the Moscow city government they created the Museum of the Kalinin Front. In the village of Ryasna they carefully preserved the memory Rear Admiral Vladimir Kornilov, a local native, the hero of the defense of Sevastopol during the Crimean War. The memories of World War II is kept vivid by majestic memorials in Tver, Rzhev and Zubtsov. The strong reminder of the heroic defense of Moscow is the Memorial to Panfilov's Twenty-Eight Guardsmen at the junction of Dubosekovo near Volokolamsk.
Practical advice

If you are planning a trip to the Tver region during the winter holidays, in summer or on other holidays it is necessary to make arrangements for accommodation in advance: the number of those wishing to relax by enjoying nature and visit local sights is very high. However, no double you are sure to enjoy even a one-day (no overnights) visit to any place, especially on the days of local celebrations, festivals and events.

The monasteries and sometimes functioning churches require appropriate attire. Some churches offer to rent a skirt and scarf at the entrance, some don’t.

Most museums of the region charge a photography fee, except for exhibitions; the monasteries and churches may recommend a photography donation. Some monasteries allow (also for a donation) to climb the bell tower, offering beautiful views; check in advance to schedule the time of climbing.

Most regional museums are closed on Monday and Tuesday, but there may be exceptions. Some museums during national holidays lasting 3 to 4 days, unfortunately, are closed for individual visitors and can only be booked by prior arrangement for tour groups. It is also better to let the cashiers know in advance about your visit.

Beware of the wild animals on the roads, especially in remote areas.

Useful Sites

- The official website of the Government of the Tver region www.region69.gov.ru
- The Tourism Association of the Tver region www.tourism-tver.ru
- The Sights of the Tver region http://welcometver.ru
- The Tver United Museum-Reserve and its affiliates http://tvermuzeum.ru
- The architectural heritage of the Tver region www.tversvod.ru
- The Orthodox churches of the Tver region http://hram-tver.ru
- Bus carrier in the Tver region “Tveravtotrans” www.tveravtotrans.ru
- The Sights of Tver www.tverplanet.ru
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