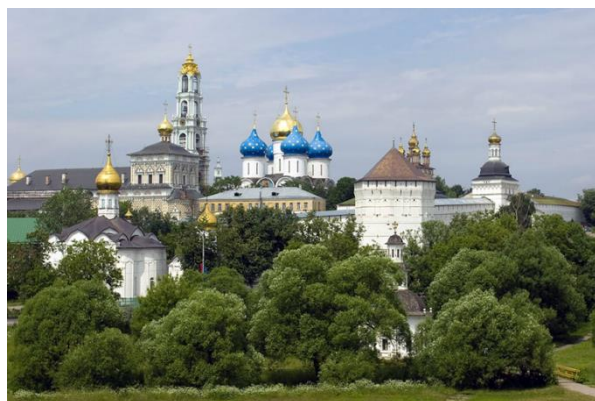


Welcome to the Golden Ring of Russia



"Being a Concierge I am proud to be able to open my country to our guests, direct them to the most memorable locations. It is more than a pleasure to know that with our help the guests get acquainted with our country, its traditions and customs, and when they leave they bear a piece of Russia in their heart"

Russia has always been a religious country, and Moscow is one of the main cities of the Golden Ring, a number of most significant centres of Orthodox Christianity. However if you have already seen the highlights of our city, with Christ the Saviour Cathedral, Novodevichi, Novopetrovsky and Donskoy monasteries, and still have a day or two to spare, I strongly recommend to visit one of the other towns of the Ring.

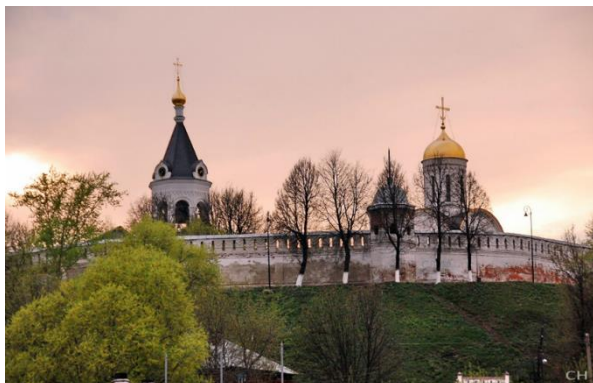


SERGIEV POSAD

The closest town to Moscow is Sergiev Posad, or Zagorsk as it was used to be called in Soviet Russia, situated about 70 km away from Moscow. It was founded in XIV century by one of the most renowned Russian saints Sergiy Radonezhsky, and has played an immense role in Russia's history, to say nothing about religion. Originally Sergiy and a few of his followers built a church there, far from any settlements, and within a couple of decades the monastery was constructed and the village became larger and larger around it, its population growing by the year with more and more believers joining

the community. Russian Tzars used to come here seeking blessing before the largest battles, or advise in complicated times, and always found it.

One of the best-known stories connected with the monastery is from the time when Sergiy himself still headed the town. In 1480, when the Mongols came



to punish the Russian principalities, who were still mostly fighting each other for influence, besides opposing the Mongol Yoke, duke Dmitri of Moscow and Vladimir came to Sergiy Radonezhsky for guidance. Sergiy blessed Dmitri and his warriors, and the battle that commenced between

Russian forces and Mongols on Kulikovo Field is widely considered the crucial moment in the over-200-year-long strife between the Russians and the Golden Horde.

If you have an opportunity to spend a night away from Moscow, it might be a good idea to go a little further, about 200 km East of Moscow, to the towns of Vladimir and Suzdal, situated right next to each other. Both are also very important religious locations, and used to be vitally important in the feudal times.

VLADIMIR

Vladimir Principality used to be one of the main forces fighting for influence over other lands in medieval Russia, especially before Moscow's foundation and its rise to power in the XIV century. The main things to see besides a huge number of buildings dated back to before XX century, are certainly the Golden Gate, built in 1164, that used to be the parade gate to the town and symbolized its importance and supremacy over other cities of Russia and Uspensky Church that was the main church in the Russian lands for a very long time and still has the icons created by Andrey Rublev.



SUZDAL

Suzdal, just several years short of being 1000 years old, boasts being one of the major pretenders for leadership in feudal Russia. This small town is probably unrivaled in the beauty of its old architecture by any other Russian city. Suzdal's Kremlin, around which the town was built, the monasteries and churches, small streets and almost virgin nature let you get carried away several centuries back and experience what Russia used to be like a long time ago. The locations not to be missed here are the wooden architecture museum where you can find buildings constructed without use of nails or any other technology, and Pokrovsky monastery, that looks the same as it used to centuries ago.



Igor Lantsev

Chef Concierge

St. Regis Moscow