



Kostroma, Ipatievsky Monastery

# Golden Ring Highlights

## Privately escorted tour - 5 days/4 nights

There is so much to see in the church-rich region known as the Golden Ring, located north-east of Moscow. Its ancient towns are considered to be the most picturesque in Russia. The jewel in the crown is undoubtedly Suzdal, which dates back to the 11th century and retains its sleepy rural atmosphere to this day. The town was bypassed during the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway and later protected by the Soviet government, both of which limited development. Its fairy-tale setting with its rolling meadows, quiet streets and old wooden houses transports you back to another era. Your hotels have been hand-picked for their central location, character and comfort. We have tailored this itinerary to allow you some free time to enjoy this rural tranquillity, however if you have limited time then we can offer a 4 day/3 night option.

### Inclusions

- 4 nights accommodation with breakfast in superior 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Transportation by A/C car
- Escorted throughout by **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing as specified with local **English speaking** guides - Vladimir, Suzdal, Bogolyubovo, Kostroma, Yaroslavl, Rostov Veliky, Sergiev Posad

### Your hotels

- **Suzdal** - Kremlevsky or Suzdal Inn
- **Kostroma** - Ya
- **Yaroslavl** - Ring Premier (*superior*)

### Day 1 Moscow to Vladimir & Suzdal

Depart Moscow for your 3-hour drive to Vladimir. After lunch at a local restaurant,

you have a sightseeing tour of Vladimir, one of the medieval capitals of Russia. Two of its cathedrals are World Heritage-listed. You will also visit the 12th century Church of the Intercession on the Nerl at Bogolyubovo. Continue by car for 28 km through rich farming lands to Suzdal. After check-in, you have some free time before dinner. Overnight Suzdal. **LD**

### Day 2 Suzdal

This morning you have a walking tour of Suzdal. You will see the Kremlin, Cathedral of the Nativity and enjoy a performance of bell-ringing at the Saviour Monastery of St. Euthymius. You will also visit the Museum of Wooden Architecture. Your afternoon is at leisure to explore this delightful rural town. Overnight Suzdal. **B**

### Day 3 Suzdal to Kostroma

After breakfast and hotel checkout, drive to Kostroma. After lunch at a local restaurant, you have a sightseeing tour of Kostroma,

founded on the banks of the Volga River in 1152. Continue with a visit to the Ipatievsky Monastery, where the Romanov dynasty began in 1613. The rest of your day is free. Overnight and dinner Kostroma. **BLD**

### Day 4 Kostroma to Yaroslavl

After breakfast and hotel checkout, drive to Yaroslavl, an important Volga port founded in 1010 by Prince Yaroslav the Wise. Your city tour includes a visit to the 17th century Church of Elijah the Prophet with its exquisite frescoes. The remainder of your day is yours to explore independently. Overnight Yaroslavl. **BL**

### Day 5 Yaroslavl to Pereslavl Zalesky, Rostov Veliky, Sergiev Posad & Moscow

After breakfast, drive to Pereslavl Zalesky - a small provincial town on the banks of Lake Pleshcheyevo. The town was founded by Yury Dolgoruky in 1152 and was also the birthplace of Alexander Nevsky, one of Russia's favourite heroes. Peter the

Great built his first flotilla to sail on Lake Pleshcheyevo for his own amusement and it became the forerunner of the Russian fleet. You will have some time to soak up the rural tranquillity, as well as visiting the major landmarks. Then drive to Rostov Veliky, one of Russia's oldest and most beautiful towns. Your sightseeing includes the Kremlin, with its dramatic silver and black domes. After lunch, drive to Sergiev Posad to visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Trinity Monastery complex of St. Sergius. It is the spiritual heart of Russian Orthodoxy and a popular place of pilgrimage. Early evening arrival Moscow. **BL**

### Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.  
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2019.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	2794	5296



Sergiev Posad, Trinity Sergius Lavra monastery



Rostov Veliky