

RCTC bicycle tour Moscow to Saint-Petersburg

Day 1: Moscow

Arrival in Moscow (no cycling). You will be met at the airport by a guide and taken to the hotel. Hotel is located in the east part of Moscow next to the biggest Moscow park and 5 minutes walk from an underground station. It takes 15 minutes by metro to get to the Red Square. After short briefing and buffet dinner we will go for a walk in the center of Moscow. (Moscow accommodation is not included in June World Cup tour.)



Day 2: Staritsa – Volga, 55 km.

Early bus transfer to Staritsa (230 km). After short city tour in Staritsa including recently restored Assumption monastery we set up our bicycles. A quiet road through Russian countryside leads us to a charming resort hotel. A swimming pool and the beautiful Volga, the longest European river, are waiting for us in the evening.



Day 3: Torzhok, 75 km.

We continue our way to Torzhok. Road almost does not have cars and twists through a nice forest. On our way we will stop near house-museum of famous Russian opera singer Sergey Lemeshev (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergei_Lemeshev).

Torzhok – an old Russian town, famous for its unique architecture and folk craft of gold work embroidery. Chicken cutlets (called Pozharskie, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pozharsky_cutlet) were invented here. Great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin used to eat them here. To be in Staritsa and not to try Pozharsky cutlets is impossible.



Day 4: lake Seliger, 50 km.

We start a day with bus transfer to Seliger lake (100 km). We visit the Saint Nil monastery https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolobny_Island Overnight in the hotel near lake Seliger. You may try a real Russian steam bath (banya).



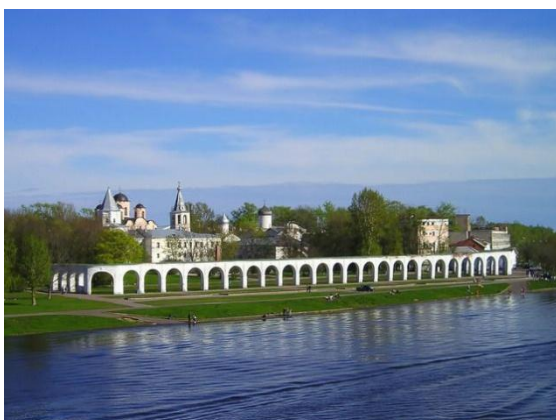
Day 5: Staraya Russa, 75 km.

Early bus transfer to Novy Brod (100 km). From here we cycle to Staraya Russa— around 75 km (mostly good road with very few cars). Staraya Russa is old provincial town famous for a balneological (spa) resort and Fedor Dostoevsky museum. (Fyodor Dostoevsky used to live in Staraya Russa from 1872 till his death in 1881. He wrote here his novels *The Brothers Karamazov* and *The Possessed*.) After settling in the hotel we walk in the spa resort with mineral water tasting.



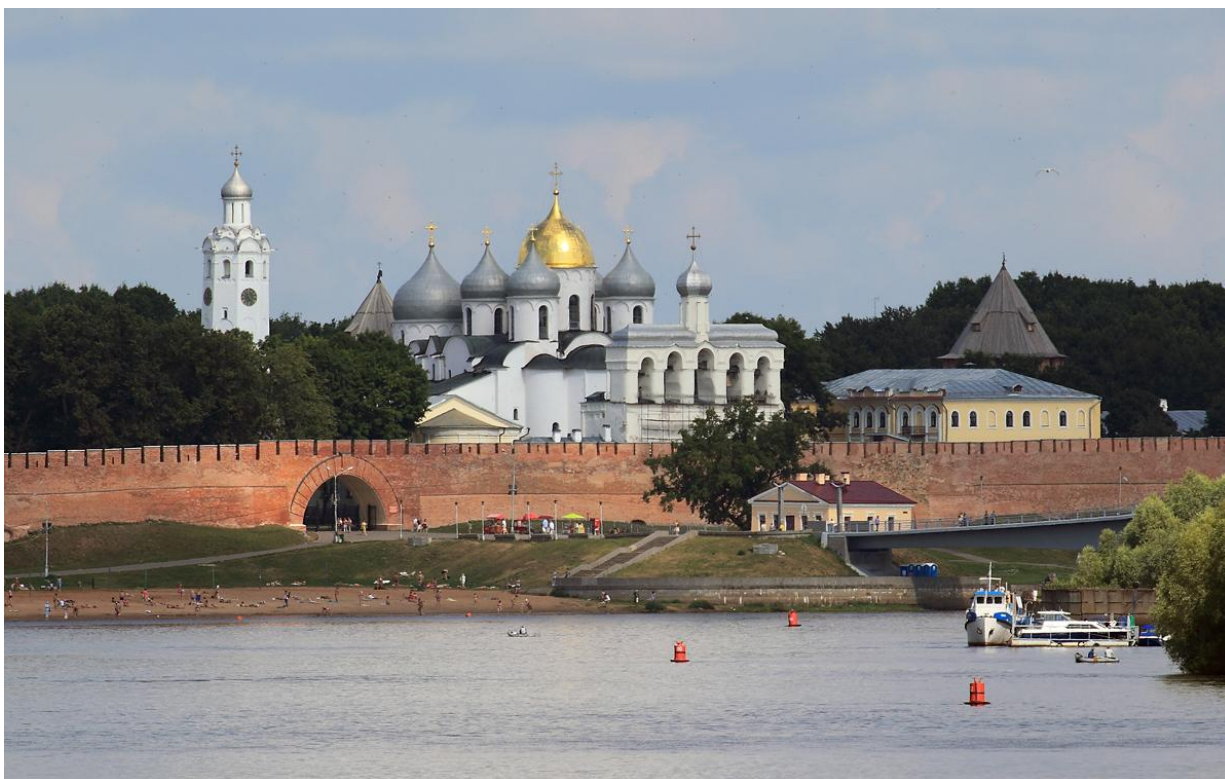
Day 6: Veliky Novgorod, 35 km.

After visiting Dostoevsky museum there is a short bus transfer to Borki (75 km) from where we cycle a scenic road along lake Ilmen to Veliky Novgorod (35 km). On our way we stop in Ur'evno to see the oldest Russian monastery and the open-air museum of wooden architecture "Vitoslavitsy". Veliky Novgorod is one of the oldest Russian cities supposed to be the most influential in that time which gives us grounds to call it the first capital of Russia. The center of the city including outstanding Kremlin is World Heritage Site. We stay in a hotel next to the Kremlin. City-tour in Novgorod with a local guide.



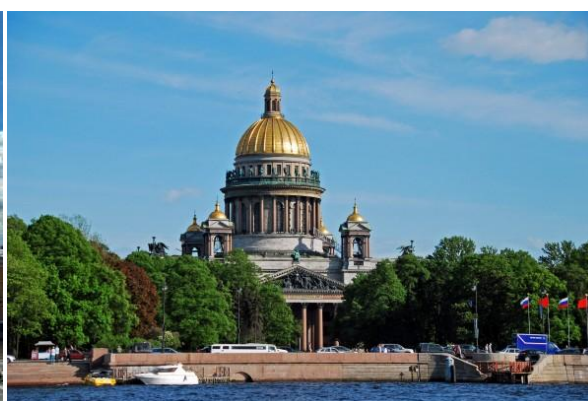
Day 7: 60 km.

You start in Novgorod and cycle to Spasskaya Polist around 70km along Volkhov river by quiet road. We finish near ruins of Arakcheev barracks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leEOUZC1gko> From there we will take a bus to St. Petersburg (150 km).



Day 8: St. Petersburg.

City tour with a local guide in St. Petersburg including Metro, Nevsky prospect, downtown, Hermitage. Farewell dinner.



Day 9: Departure

It is time to say goodbye, hopefully we'll see you back soon on our future trips. We wish you a good flight back home or a pleasant stay in St Petersburg.

Bus tour to Peterhof park is optional. <http://en.peterhofmuseum.ru>