# GOLDEN RING TOUR

### • 1st day

I will pick you up from the Hotel at 8 a.m. We will drive to <u>Sergiev Posad</u>, the most important Russian monastery and the spiritual center of the Russian Orthodox. It's possible to visit the Evening Mass about 4.30 p.m.

Then we will drive for 100 km to the Private Museum where will stay for the night and have a banya (Russian Sauna). His owner is passionate about history, so his great collection have been built for last 10 years and located just on the territory of his private cottage. It's the unique museum where you can touch everything! Papers, clothes, guns and so on... We will start the tour in Soviet military UAZ van and change it to the comfortable VW Multivan at the end of the day.

Night in the Private Museum for 6000 RUB / 2 rooms plus banya and museum.

### • 2nd day: Vladimir and Suzdal tour

We will start the day from visiting <u>Bogdarnya</u>, agro-touristic place where you try homemade cheese and bread. Then we will drive about 100 km to Vladimir and Suzdal. These towns are one of the best places to visit in Russia! They have been called "open-air museums" and feature unique monuments of Russian architecture of the 12th–18th centuries, including kremlins, monasteries, cathedrals, and churches. You will also see a lot of rural Russia with its old wooden houses and traditional villages.

In Vladimir, it's possible to drive another <u>famous Soviet car</u>. We will visit several cathedrals and walk in the center of the city. We will have a lunch in a good restaurant with Russian food where I will tell you about the Russian cuisine. After, we will drive to Bogolyubovo town which is 10 km from Vladimir to see famous <u>Church on the River Nerl</u>.

Night in Suzdal (several options): <u>House</u> for 4000 RUB / house with 2 rooms, <u>Apartments with 2</u> rooms for 3500 RUB

#### • 3rd day:

This day we will spend in Suzdal, small and beautiful Golden Ring town. I strongly recommend to visit Museum of Wooden Architecture, drink tea in the special Chamber of Kremlin, walk among several Monasteries, and take a 10-hour boat tour.

Night in Suzdal (same options)

4th day:

This day we will be road tripping from Suzdal to Kostroma with a stop in Ivanovo town (another

Golden Ring location). It's possible to make a stop in one of the villages on our way to Kostroma

just to taste fresh milk and learn a little bit about life in the village. This day I strongly recommend

to visit small Dunilovo town famous among photographers for its Monastery views.

Night in Kostroma: Apartments for 4000 RUB / night with 2 rooms, Hotel for 4500 RUB / 2 rooms,

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5th day:

In the morning, we will start our Kostroma tour: Ipatiev Monastery, Trinity Cathedral, etc. After

the lunch, we will drive about 50 km to Yaroslavl, another famous Golden Ring town.

Night in Yaroslavl: Hotel for 5600 RUB / night / 2 rooms, Apartments for 3000 RUB / night with

2 rooms, <u>Hostel</u> for 3000 RUB / 1 room

6th day:

We will spend this day in Yaroslavl visiting its main attractions: Saviour Transfiguration

Monastery, Church of Elijah the Prophe. I will also drive you to the sleeping district of the city to

learn more about the local life in the typical Russian province town.

In the evening, we will drive to Rostov town to see the sunset with a view to Rostov Kremlin

located on the bank of Lake Nero. If we have time, we will rent a boat to enjoy the panoramic view

on Rostov Kremlin.

Night in Rostov: Hotel for 4200 RUB / night / 2 rooms, Hotel for 4400 RUB / night / 2 rooms,

Apartments for 3000 RUB (only 2 large beds!)

7th day:

In the morning, we will walk around the Rostov Kremlin. Then we willfrive about 70 km to

Pereslavl. Besides its main attractions including several monasteries and archaeological site of old

town, I strongly recommend to visit museum of Railroad transport. The uniqueness of the museum

is that it is a small railway in itself. It's possible to drive the real railcar for a 15 minutes which is

quite impressive.

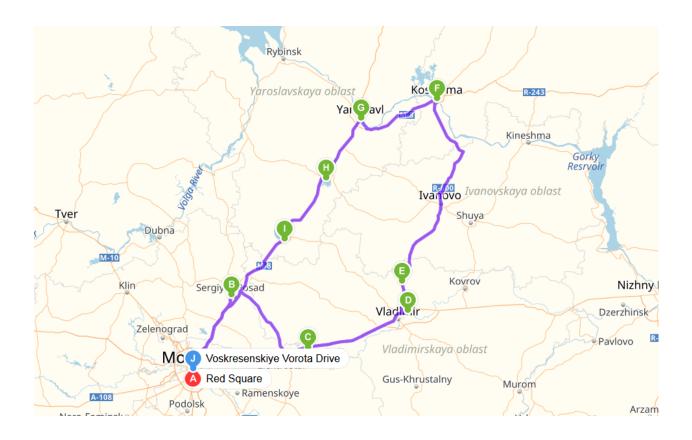
Price for hotels: from 23 000 RUB for 6 nights or about 320 EUR

**Price for transportation with English-speaking driver / guide**: 220 EUR / day for VW Multivan or 250 EUR / day for Soviet van (the price includes all expenses of driver / guide)

The route: about 850-1000 km

### THE ROUTE AND ITINERARY IS FLUENT!

We can visit any place on our way or at the distance up to 100 km from it.



# Vladimir city attractions





Dunilovo Monasteries and the countryside





Rostov Kremlin amazing view



## **Highlights**

### • Soviet military UAZ van (for 1 day of for the whole trip)

Our «CrazyBu» van is an original and authentic Russian military UAZ-452 van, built in 2010. Initially, this vehicle was designed in 1950s as a support vehicle for military forces. Now it's still being produced, just as it was sixty years ago... And, surprisingly, it looks almost like it did in 1965!

The UAZ-452 looks very similar to a VW transporter, but there is also huge difference: VW was designed in Germany, the country of perfect and numerous paved highways. Our «CrazyBu» van was designed to survive in Russian countryside. It is a Land Cruiser 40 at the back of its mind – sturdy axles, a heavy frame, stout under drive and robustness in every way. Do you really need to build highways if you produce such vans?



### • The real life of our Russian countryside

Life in the big cities in Russia will not introduce you to the true and real life in this vast country. There is a huge difference between major cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg, and life in the other less populated and developed parts of Russia. It is not easy to understand true Russian life when you are stuck in the traffic jam on your way to the Kremlin with a coffee in your hand! Visiting the countryside is an opportunity to explore real Russia and the common lifestyle enjoyed by ordinary people. The difference is like night and day. Get away from the hustle and bustle of the frantic and overcrowded metropolis cities and make a visit to the opposite way of life.

#### • The Famous Russian Bathhouse («banya»)

World travel will show you various forms of bathing, but nothing will prepare you for the infamous Russian Banya (a Russian type of sauna, a kind of steam bath but in a special way) This is not just taking a bath or sweating in a hot room, the Russian Banya is a life changing experience and it's one of the oldest Russian traditions. Despite the fact that this tradition is several centuries old, the banya is very popular even today. It takes a true life experience to learn the joys of a Russian Banya. With our excursion we will introduce you to the Banya and teach you the old fashioned way.