

An article: Describing a place

The Jewel of the Golden Ring

Would you like to travel back in time and experience the beauty of untouched Russian culture? Then the city of Yaroslavl is just what you are looking for. Despite being an administrative centre of a district of the same name, it has managed to keep away from the bustling rhythm of large cities and preserved its ancient traditions and grandness. Yaroslavl is known to be one of the most magnificent Golden Ring cities, a group of historic cities to the northeast of Moscow. In fact, its centre is a World Heritage Site.

Yaroslavl is steeped in history and, although modernized during the Soviet era and afterwards, is still atmospheric. Being the oldest city of all the currently existing on the Volga River, it has witnessed many cruel and heroic events. The city suffered countless fires in the Middle Ages as a result of invasions and conflicts, so most of the monuments that can be found in the city date back to the early 16th and 17th centuries, when they were rebuilt. Yaroslavl is renowned as a centre of churches and monasteries (there are 11 significant ones in the city). However, visitors may not only observe the might of medieval Russian architecture, but also see some great examples of baroque, classicism and modernist style houses and administrative buildings scattered all around the city, still used and inhabited.

For those fond of vibrant cultural life, the city of Yaroslavl offers a wide range of great plays in the local theatres, acknowledged to be among the best in Russia, and lively music festivals for all tastes and preferences, from rock to ethnic music. There are also numerous exhibitions taking place throughout the year in the Yaroslavl museums. Art lovers may pamper themselves with a huge collection of masterpieces from traditional icons to Russian impressionism and avant-garde.

Visitors mustn't be prejudiced and believe Yaroslavl to be back in the Soviet or even the medieval times in terms of facilities and accommodation. On the contrary, the city provides tourists with a great choice from welcoming rooms to rent to upmarket country hotels along the picturesque quay of the Volga River.

So, if you are eager to get acquainted with a completely new culture and feel the light touch of Russian mystery and grace, you will always be greeted with an open-hearted and warm welcome of the city of Yaroslavl!

By Kate Leonenkova 11 grade