

## Pskov is very ancient Russian city .

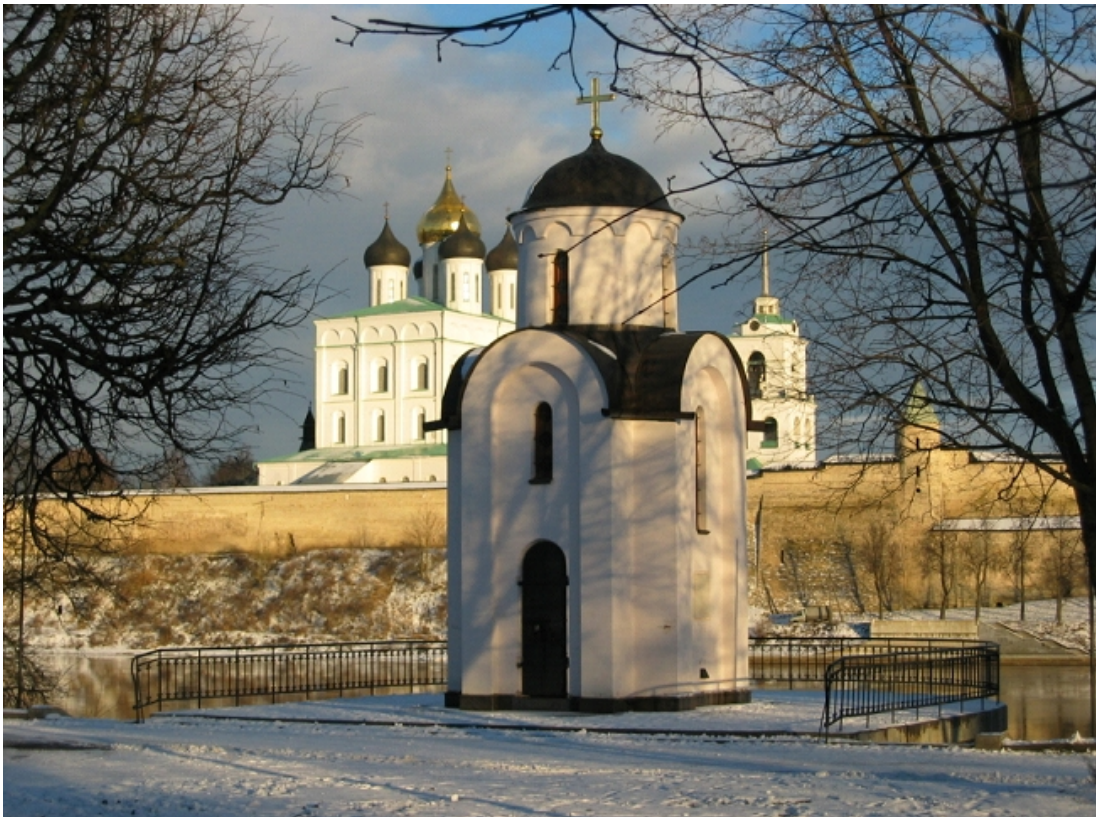


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The richest heritage of the old Russia continues to charm and surprise, while its great future potential has not yet been fully realized.

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## Pskov - a Land of Inspiration

*Pskov, the centre of the Pskov region lies in the north - west of Russia. It has the population of 210 000 people. In ancient times Pskov called Pleskov, from word "splashes" (in Russia - Pleskatsya. But the origin name Pskov is still under discussion.*



Pskov lies in the north - west of Russia, on the border with Estonia, between St. Petersburg, (Pskov is 280 km far away from St. Petersburg) and Riga (Latvian). Pskov oblast covers a territory of 55 300 sq. km and has a population of 840 000 people.

The region stretches 380 km from north to south, and 260 km from east to west.

The Pskov Region has internal borders with the Novgorod and Leningrad Regions of the north-west zone, and with the Tver and Smolensk Regions of the central zone of Russia; external borders with Belarus (352 km long), Estonia (249 km) and Latvia (270 km).

The region serves as a tourist link joining the tourist facilities of north-west and central Russia. The region is situated at the crossroads of the motorways and railways connecting Moscow with Riga and Tallinn, and St. Petersburg with Riga and Kiev.

*Pskov is very ancient town.* Pskov was first mentioned in the chronicle in the year 903, in the connection with the marriage Kievan Prince Igor Rurikovich on the Olga from Pskov.

The legend describes how romantic was this meeting of Olga and the young prince on the ferry across Velikaya River.

Prince Igor was hunting. He has been seen that on another bank of the river Velikaya are much more wild animals. Igor decided move there, but in ancient times there are no bridges on this river, prince has been seen a boat and called that man, who was in the boat. When boat was near with Prince Igor, he was

wondered, there was a girl in the boat. She was young and so beautiful, lovely and cute that Igor immediately falls in love to this girl, whose name was Olga. They have a much time for conversation still they go from one Bank River to another bank, because the river is wide. Igor understood Olga not only beautiful but and very clever and wise. Prince Igor promised Olga to marry her and we exactly know from the chronicle that he fulfill his promising.

Pskov, although a small city, has a rich cultural heritage, which is evident from the vast number of ancient monuments and merchant's chambers, monasteries and forts around Pskov. It is very ancient city.

*There are many churches in Pskov. The most important are St. Basil on the Hill, St. Nicholas from Usokha, St. Anastasia of the Rome. You can visit Kremlin with beautiful Trinity Cathedral. There are many icons there. There you can see 7 tier iconostasis. This Cathedral in of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We have very ancient Mirozhski Monastery of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. There are many frescoes in this Monastery of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. One can visit Museum of History and Fine Arts Pogankin Chambers. There are «Icons», «Picture Gallery», «Silver», «Armoury» departments in the museum. There are two professional theatres in Pskov - Pushkin Drama Theatre and Puppet Theatre. Our Theatres: fun and pleasure for all who stay young at heart.*

Here was built the first church of the Holy Trinity. The existing Trinity Cathedral is the architectural monument of the XVII century, forth in succession. The most ancient out of preserved stone buildings are the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral and Cathedral of the Spaso-Mirozhsky monastery (1156). Some of the architectural monuments of the XV-XVII centuries survived till our days. Among those are the churches of Vassiliy on the hill (1413), Nikola from Usokha (1536), Ioakim and Anna (XVI century).

In the epoch of the Kiev Russia Pskov played the role of one of the main strong points on the north-western frontiers of the state, a craftsmen and trading town.

*The picturesque nature, plenty of forests, rivers, lakes create the perfect conditions for rest. Walk and fill your lungs with fresh air, enjoy the green silence and grand views. Enjoy a romantic sunsets that touch your soul. Imagine being able to concentrate on revitalizing the passions of what's truly important to you.*

*In Pskov, a Russian city that is more than 1100-years-old, history is reflected in almost every piece of stone: old fortresses and a Kremlin, ancient towers and monasteries with churches, merchant's quarters and over 300 historical monuments. The earliest go back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the latest to the early 20<sup>th</sup>.*

*There is a natural combination of ancient monuments (fortified walls with towers, churches and monasteries, and merchant's chambers) and modern buildings.*



Pskov has been an attractive place for living since ancient times: fertile and rich in minerals, expansive hunting and fishing spots, and relatively safe, the city sits on a high rocky hill between two surrounding rivers, the Velikaya and Pskova. Originally, the town was a famous fortress and a protector of the Russian lands. It was also a trade, handicraft and architectural center with a vast number of churches. Finally, the town and its surrounding region was the birthplace to many masterpieces of art. A trip to this fascinating city is necessary in order to comprehend the importance of the place and its influence on Russian history.

### **A Guardian of the Russian Land**

The ancient walls and towers of Pskov's Kremlin were built on a cliff between the Velikaya and Pskova rivers. Pskov was an independent city-state (republic) with its own legislation and other laws. The town was defended by four rings of stone walls, and these were fortified by 40 fighting towers. The total length of the walls was 9,5 kilometers; the height - 12-20 meters and the thickness - 2-6 meters. The strategic mission of Pskov was to serve as a shield and protect Russia from enemies for ages. This is reflected in its monuments, especially in architecture (monuments in honor of Prince Alexander Nevsky and his victory over the Teutonic Knights at Chudskoye Lake in April 1242, two small churches in the corner of the fortress devoted to the heroic defense of Pskov against the troops of Stefan Batory in 1581, etc.). The history of Pskov includes many sieges and raids, and Pskov's continual struggle against foreign invaders led to the unification of Pskov with Moscow. In 1510, Pskov lost the republican rule. In 1701, Tsar Peter the Great ordered the reconstruction of the Pskov fortress, and many churches were hidden beneath the embankment of bastions and batteries. In the 20th century, Pskov suffered greatly during the Second World War. Pskov's region were occupied by the fascists for three years. On July 9, 1941, it was occupied and liberated only on July 23, 1944. Still every year, 23 July, we celebrate Day Liberations Pskov city From fascists invaders. And 24

July here in Pskov we have another great holiday - Day of St. Olga. Great Princess Olga is considered as first Russian Christian woman, wise governor of Russia (10 century). And 24 July is birthday of our city, Pskov was 1102 Years Old in 2005 year.

### **Trade, handicraft and architectural center**

The city of Pskov also served as a key point of Russian and even international trade. In the 9th to 10th centuries, silver arab currency - drakhm - appeared in Pskov, and West European money came to Pskov in the 11th to 12th centuries. Some of the commodities which the Pskovites exported were: furs, wax, honey, tar, flax, leather, fat and grain. They imported salt, herring, expensive cloth, wine and fruits, paper. The large quantity of construction materials - limestone slabs, for example - propelled progress in church and fortress constructing. The most brilliant samples of Pskov architecture are the Churches of St. Nicholas on Usokha (16th century), St. Basil on the Hill (15th century), the Pogankin House (17th century), and the Intercession complex (16th century). The Holy Trinity Cathedral must be especially mentioned as a masterpiece of Pskov secular architecture. It was founded by the aforementioned Olga on the right bank of the Velikaya River. All the streets in the town lead to this splendid church. The most famous figures of ancient Pskov still lie beneath Trinity Cathedral.

### **A place of inspiration**

The region's picturesque nature, abundant forests, rivers and lakes neighboring white-walled churches create perfect conditions for contemplation. The brilliance of green silence and grand views strongly inspired artists, touching the very soul. Among them - two great Russian composers, Modest Mussorgsky (Boris Godunov) and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (Sadko, The Tale of Tsar Saltan). The impressions they drew from the local folk songs, tales and sayings nourished their music as well as the poetry of the famous Russian poet, Aleksander Pushkin, who wrote a series of poems in the Pskov province. The wonderful estates of Trigor'skoye and Petrov'skoye were a source of delight and wonder for the poet. At Mikhailov'skoye Pushkin wrote over 100 works including the country chapters of his major novel Eugene Onegin, the drama Boris Godunov, the lyrical poem A Magic Moment I remember... The famous poet is buried by the walls of Svyatye Gory Monastery. The place now is called Pushkin'skiye Gory, or Pushkin Mountains, and includes a number of estates around, monastery and museums. Here, everything is devoted to the life of Aleksander Pushkin, his relatives and friends.

### **Pskov natural resources**

The primary natural resources of the region are timber, peat and raw materials used for the construction industry (ceramic clay, limestone, gypsum, molding sand, sand for glass-manufacture, non-ore construction materials). There is also

considerable agricultural activity in the region, primarily in meat and milk production as well as cultivation of flax, potatoes and other vegetables.

Industrial enterprises in the region are primarily focused in the following industries: electric power production; light industry; machine building; timber, wood-processing; construction materials; food-processing. Since Pskov oblast is close to St. Petersburg, there are many branches of St. Petersburg enterprises in the region, mostly manufacturing, electro-technical and radio-technical goods. The region is a major producer of low-power electric motors for household appliances as well as mechanization and automation devices.

For more information, [try the Pskov Travel website](#).

## Discount Hotels Reservations in Pskov city.

### **RIZHSKAYA \*\*\***

It was built in 1981. Located in Zavelichie area, next to Post office, market, Banks. It is app. 700 meters from the center of city, and 3 km from Railway Station. [Rooms and Price Reservation:](#)

<http://www.hotelclub.net/enter.asp?id=4525>

### **Heliopark Old Estat e\*\*\*\***

The hotel operates with the online booking system "All Hotels of Russia".

[To check room availability online, book a room and pay](#) using your credit card please visit site: <http://all-hotels.ru/index.en.html?rn=10504>

Description Hotel: 50 rooms, 3 floors. Year of construction: 2004

Address: Russia, Pskov, Verkhnyaya Beregovaya Str., 4;

Moscow Representation: 103064 Moscow, Zemlyanoy Val Str., 4

Rooms - 2 president rooms, 2 luxe and 46 double standard rooms.

For more Hotels Reservations in Pskov city visit:

[http://www.pskovgo.narod.ru/hotels\\_eng.htm](http://www.pskovgo.narod.ru/hotels_eng.htm)

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**We hope that you find all the necessary information you need to plan your travel to Pskov. Our goal is to provide all possible and necessary reservations for your business or leisure travel.**