

[FREE] Yaroslavl: A Guide

## Yaroslavl: A Guide

*Felix Razumovsky*

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**Felix Razumovsky : Yaroslavl: A Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yaroslavl: A Guide:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Russian heartland...By John P. Jones IIIAlong with Suzdal and Vladimir, Yaroslavl is one of the principal cities on the so-called "Golden Ring," which is a tourist bureau concept to lure the visitors to Russia beyond St. Petersburg and Moscow. When I did my review of Vladimir Suzdal: An illustrated guidebook I noted that the powers-that-be in the tourist bureau lumped the two cities together in one guide, whereas Yaroslavl rated its own. And in terms of content, as well as the corresponding "sights to see," that is understandable, since Yaroslavl should rate a three day visit, at least, just to scratch the surface. The town is 280 km north of Moscow, and is billed as the first Russian town on the Volga, the mighty water way of Russia that has inspired much artistic endeavor, including the "Song of the Volga Boatman."My copy dates from 1987, and I purchased it when I was in the city, with my own vehicle (yes, it was quite a trip) in 1990, in the very dying days of the Soviet Union. It is only natural that some emphasis is placed on the memorials to the dead in the Great Patriotic War (the Russian name for the Second World War, in which 20 million Russians died). The style of the memorials is that klutzy "socialist realism." What is perhaps a bit more surprising, given the official atheistic doctrine of the country at the time is the emphasis on the churches, and religious paintings and icons. But the guide's creators must have realized that this heritage is the true draw for the tourist: the structures and art work is magnificent, irrespective of your feelings or relationship to the Russian Orthodox Church. The Saviour Monastery, the Church of the Epiphany and the Church of Elijah the Prophet are some of the highlight, and the guide contains some excellent pictures of them. We were on an "Intourist Schedule" which meant that we had to declare the period of our stay in any city, and pay for

all hotel rooms before entering the Soviet Union. Though that schedule was rigid and unchangeable, (and we chose one day, alas), one had a remarkable amount of freedom, considering all that Cold War propaganda, in what one could do on any given day (essentially, you were allowed to do anything, as long as you showed up at the next hotel on time). We also stayed at the first two sites indicated above. The English is of good quality, and there is solid substance to the history and characteristics of the numerous sites described. There are also numerous quality color pictures, and there is an excellent pictorial style map in the inside back cover that I would most useful for orientation. Even though numerous changes have been made since the Soviet Union has dissolved, and hence my 4-star rating, this would be an excellent guide to purchase from secondary sellers, and read, BEFORE you arrive. Hopefully I get a second chance, for I'd love to spend three days there.