

## 10 Symbols of Russia

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We love travelling around Russia very much. Our tutor organises a lot of interesting trips for us. We have already been to Uglich, Sergiev Posad and Moscow and lots of museums. There are a lot of heritage sights in our country. We are proud that we live in Russia. As real lovers of travelling we want to develop our own itinerary of our trips around Russia for the nearest future, and project 10Russia.ru helped us with it.

From 25<sup>th</sup> of March to 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2013 TV-channel Russia 1 and Russian Geographical Society with the help of some radio stations and newspapers organized an online-project “Russia 10”.

The aim of the project was to choose 10 visual symbols of Russia via free voting. 700 objects were chosen to participate in this contest as the brightest sights of nature, architecture and culture of our country.

The point of the first round was to choose sights from ten federal districts. At first, there was a thousand of sights. But after the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, only 30 sights remained. As it seems, these 30 objects are the brightest and most important for Russian people.

Unfortunately, we learned about the first round quite late, but we took part in the second and the third ones. We voted for Kizhi and The Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, as it was possible to vote 3 times from one device.

To our great joy the sights we voted for made it to the final.

You can see ten finalists on the site “10Russia.ru”. They are Pskov Kremlin, Rostov Kremlin, Kolomensky Kremlin, The Monument “The Motherland calls”, The Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin, The Mosque “The Heart of Chechnya”, Petergoph, Lake Baikal and Kizhi.

- Pskov Kremlin is the biggest fortress in Europe. This fortress was used for military purposes for almost 1000 years and remained untouched till today.

- Kolomensky Kremlin is a very powerful fortress of its century which was built in Russia during the reign of Vasiliy III.

- The Mosque “The Heart of Chechnya” in Grozny is the largest mosque in Russia. It is named after Akhmad Kadyrov.

- Rostov Kremlin was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is the most recognizable Kremlin after Moscow one, as all Russians know it thanks to the film “Ivan Vasilievich changes profession”.

- The Monument “The Motherland Calls” was built on Mamayev Kurgan in honour

of the heroes of the battle of Stalingrad.

- The Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius is a working monastery and a spiritual center. Incorruptibility of Sergiy of Radonezh are kept inside the Lavra.

- Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin was built in the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Nizhny Novgorod played the role of guard city and served as a place of military gathering in Moscow actions against Khanate of Kazan.

One day we were watching TV and we saw an ad about this contest and we thought that we had to vote. We browsed several web-sights and couldn't decide on what we liked the most. Some days after we went to a local shop and saw a mini model of Kizhi. We were impressed by the opportunity of its reconstruction, so we bought this model and even voted for Kizhi on "10Russia.ru" site.

It is a unique historical and cultural and natural complex, which is under UNESKO protection. The heart of this architectural ensemble is the churchyard between two churches. The Preobrajenskaja Church was built in 1714 and survived after the fire. We were shocked when we learned that it was built only from wood, with no nails or saws and tools, only with the help of hands and axes. We want to see this handmade miracle with our own eyes one day. And it is the first point of our desirable trip round Russia.

The second one will be Midagrabinski waterfalls. The highest point of the waterfall stands out for 750 meters. This is the highest waterfall in Europe, and the fifth in the list of the highest waterfalls on the planet.

Smolensky Uspensky Cathedral will be our next destination. The first stone of this Cathedral was laid down by Vladimir Monomach. Even Napoleon took off his hat standing in front of it.

Petergoph is located near Saint-Petersburg. It is one of the most magnificent summer residencies of the Russian royal family. You shouldn't miss its parks with amazingly luxurious fountains.

And the last one lake Baikal. It is a rift lake in the South of the Russian region of Siberia. It is the clearest, the deepest and the oldest lake in the world.

We believe that due to political situation in Egypt, Turkey and Ukraine domestic tourism will be much more popular with Russians nowadays and our issue help them to plan their holidays.