

Explore Russia

Part 2

From St. Petersburg by River Boat to the Caspian resp. Black Sea

From St. Petersburg by River Boat to the Caspian resp. Black Sea

There are several shipping companies offering tours from St. Petersburg to Moscow or down to Astrakhan at the Caspian Sea (e.g. <https://www.vodohod-cruises.com/>). A few also offer the way down to Rostov at Don close to the Black Sea by passing through the Volga – Don canal.



From St. Petersburg by River Boat to the Caspian resp. Black Sea

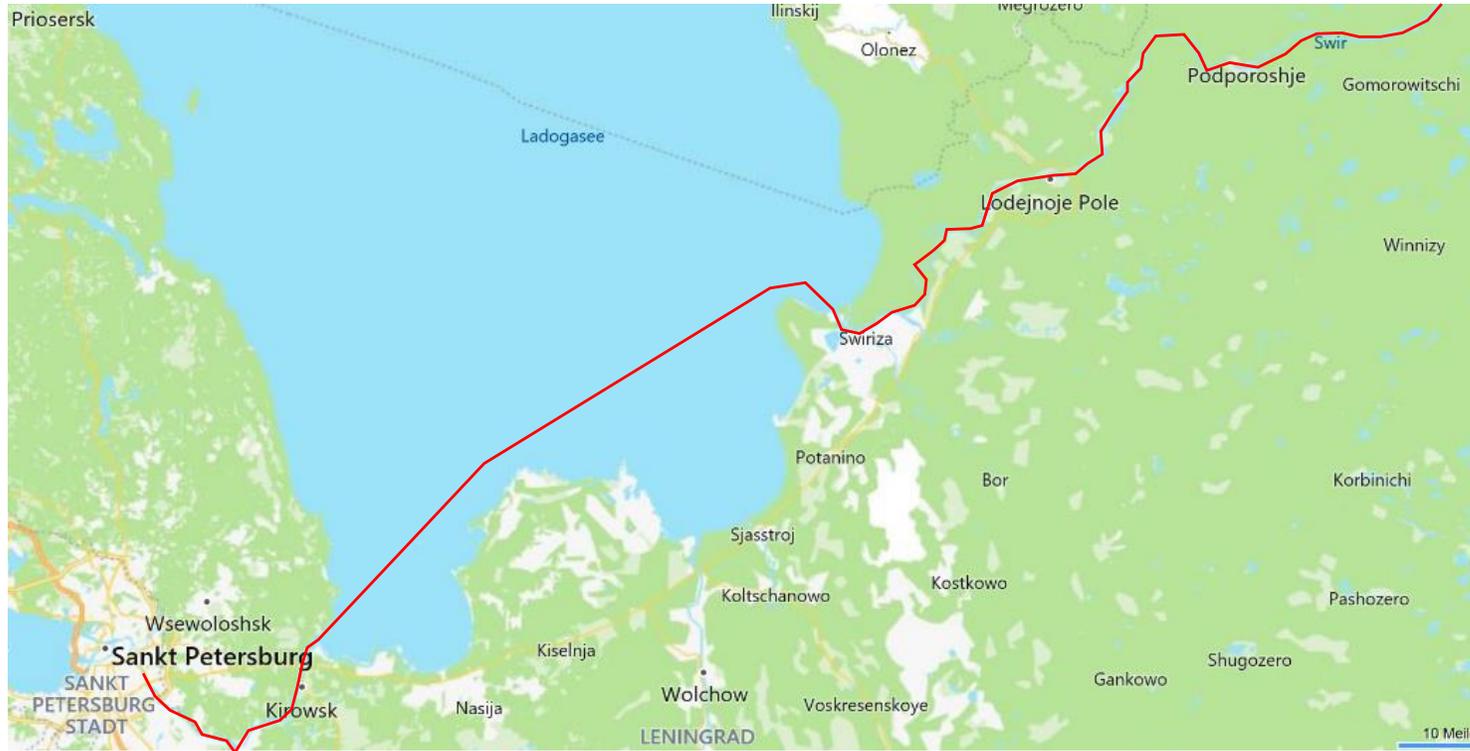
If you study in Moscow and want to use the train to visit the cities on the „Golden Ring“ or the ones more south please click directly to

- Slide 13 for Yaroslavl
- Slide 17 for Kostroma
- Slide 23 for Nizhniy Novgorod
- Slide 27 for Kazan
- Slide 31 for Ulyanovsk
- Slide 35 for Samara
- Slide 39 for Saratov
- Slide 43 for Volgograd
- Slide 47 for Astrakhan
- Slide 55 for Rostov on Don

You also can organize such a train tour from St. Petersburg by using Sapsam High speed train to Moscow first



From St. Petersburg via Mandrogi to Kishi in the northern part of Lake Onega



Leaving St. Petersburg on river Neva, passing through the Lake Ladoga and entering into river Swir for a short stop over in Mandrogi, located close to Podporoshje



The Russian „Village“ Mandrogi

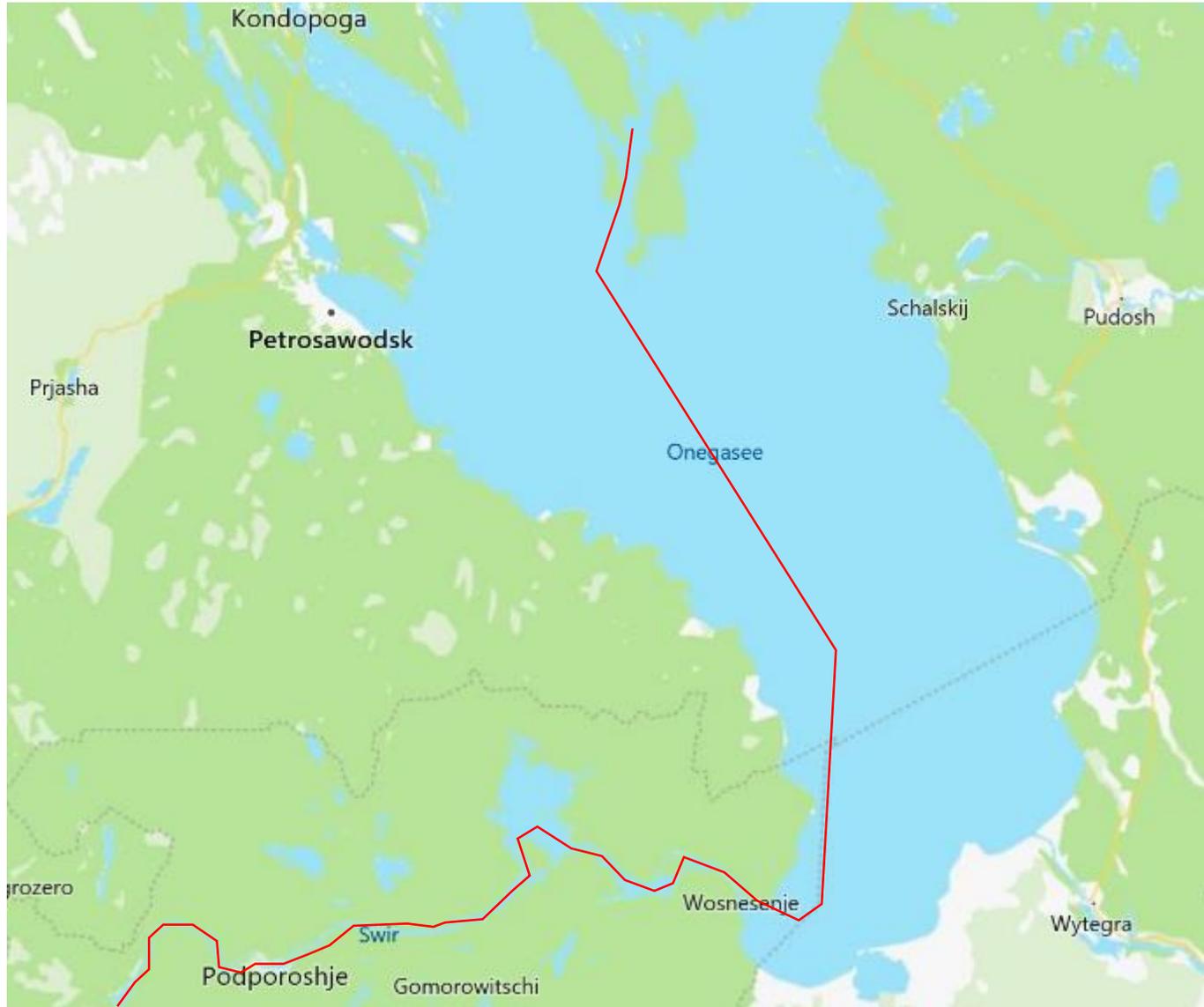


The Russian village Mandrogi is a resort area with historical Russian houses collected from all around Russia instead of a pure open area museum

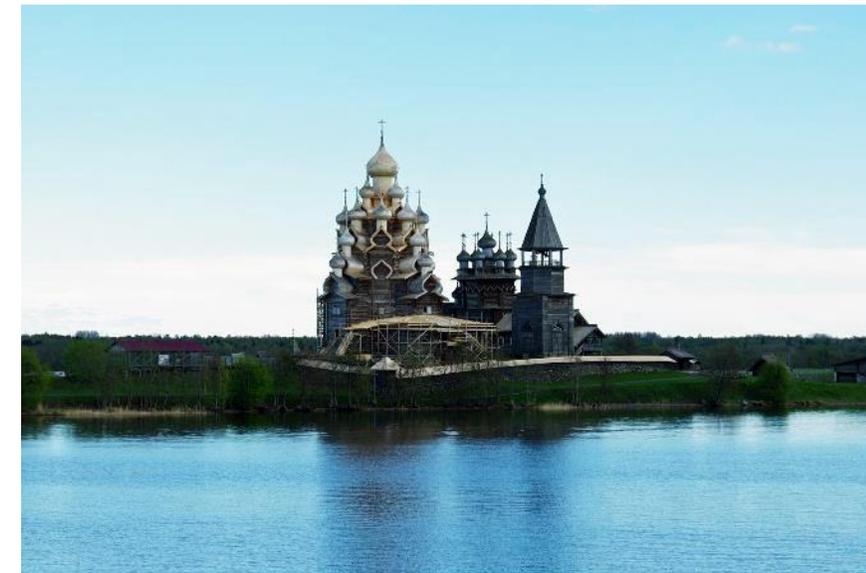
The Russian „Village“ Mandrogi



From St. Petersburg via Mandroggi to Kishi in the northern part of Lake Onega



The open area museum in Kishi



Kizhi is a large open area museum located in the northern part of Lake Onega, showing a unique selection of old Russian houses and churches in the original carnelian style

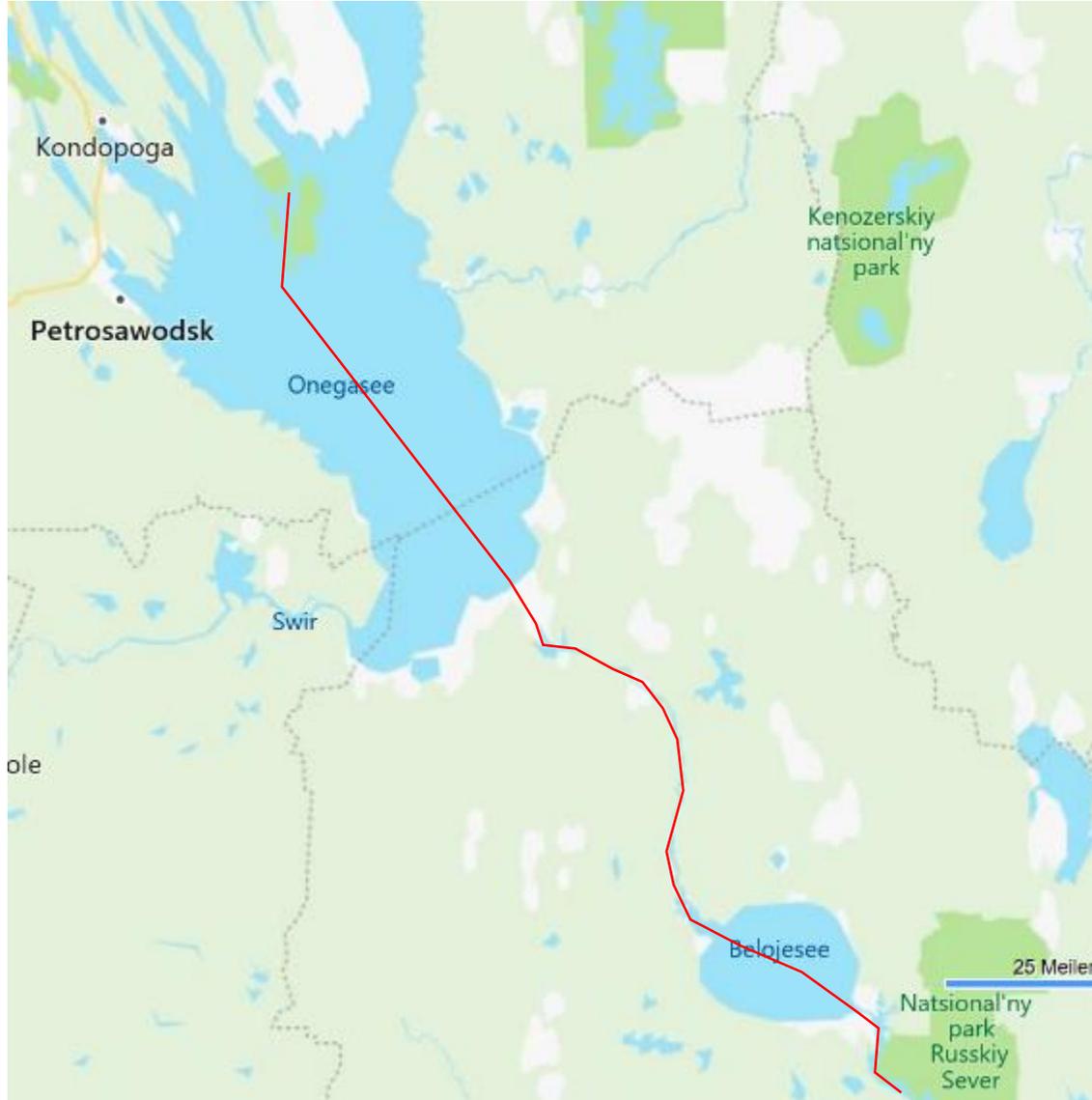
The open area museum in Kishi



In 1714, the 22-dome Transfiguration Church ([Russian](#): Церковь Преображения Господня) was constructed



From Kishi south through Lake Onega and the White Lake to Goritsy



Sunset on Lake Onega



The Monastery of Goritsy

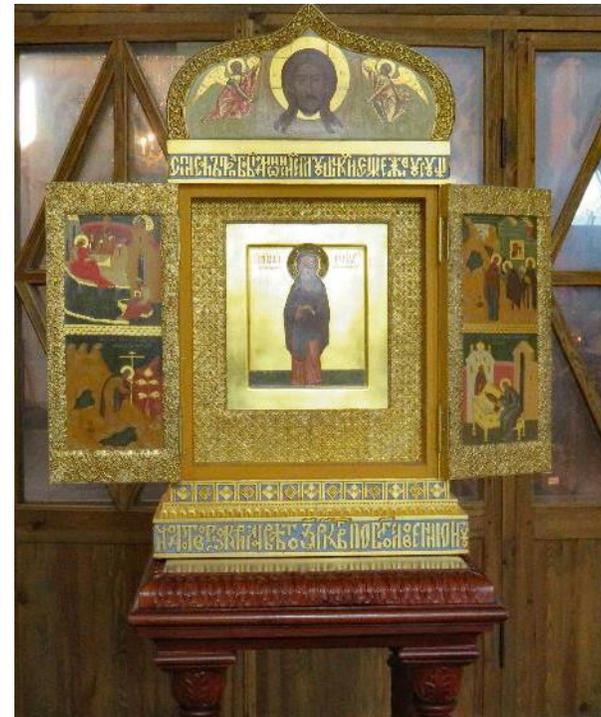


The Monastery of Goritsy



The Goritsy Monastery of Resurrection (Russian: Воскресенский Горицкий монастырь) is a Russian Orthodox convent (female monastery) in the village of Goritsy, Kirillovsky District, Vologda oblast

Taken from Wikipedia



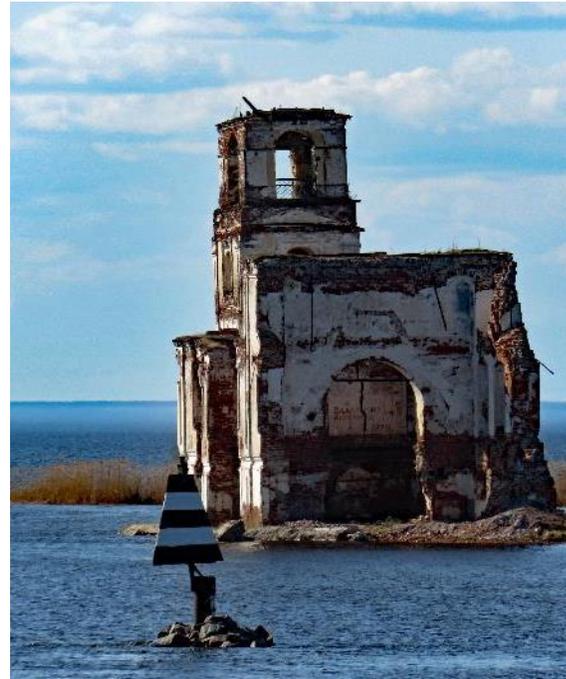
Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

From Goritsy through Lake Rybinsk either to Moscow or Volga downstream to Jaroslawl

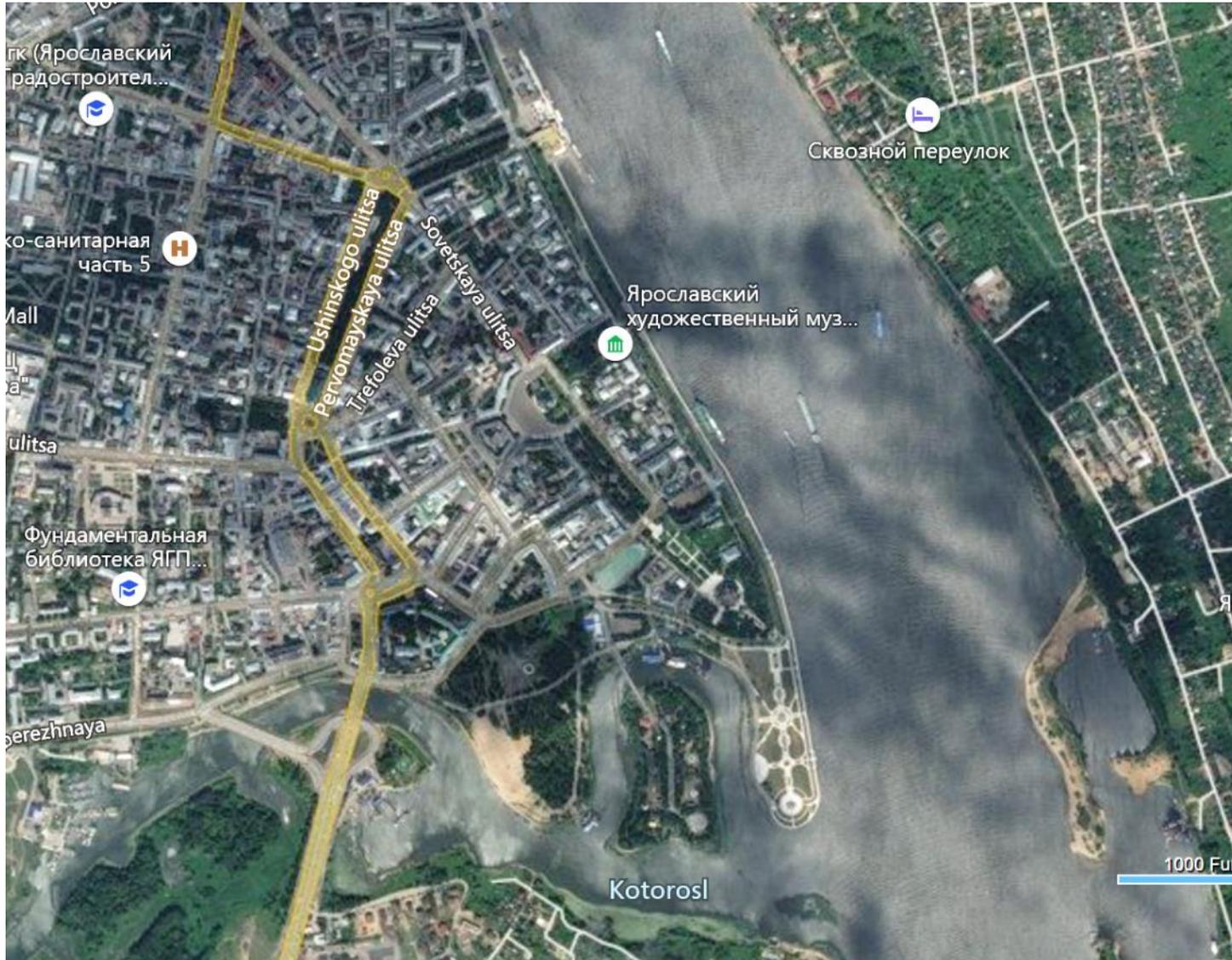


In order to create the connection to the White Lake (Lake Beloje), the Volga was dammed up to Lake Rybinsk and some villages disappeared into the water

Taken from Wikipedia



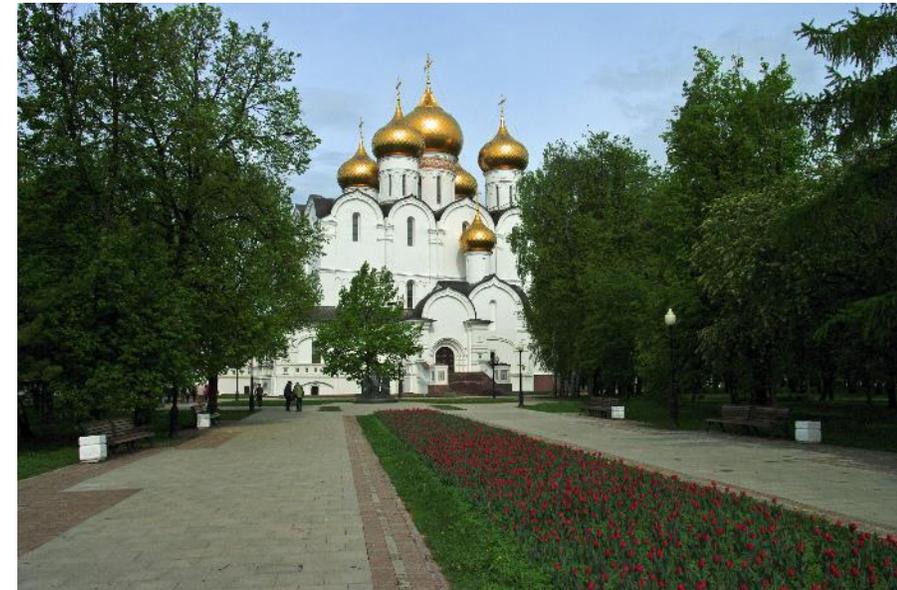
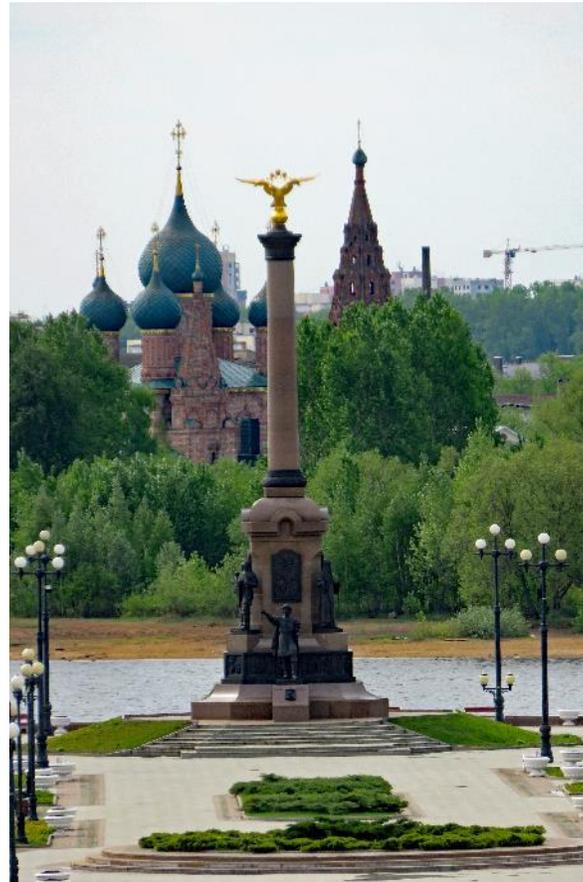
The city of Jaroslavl



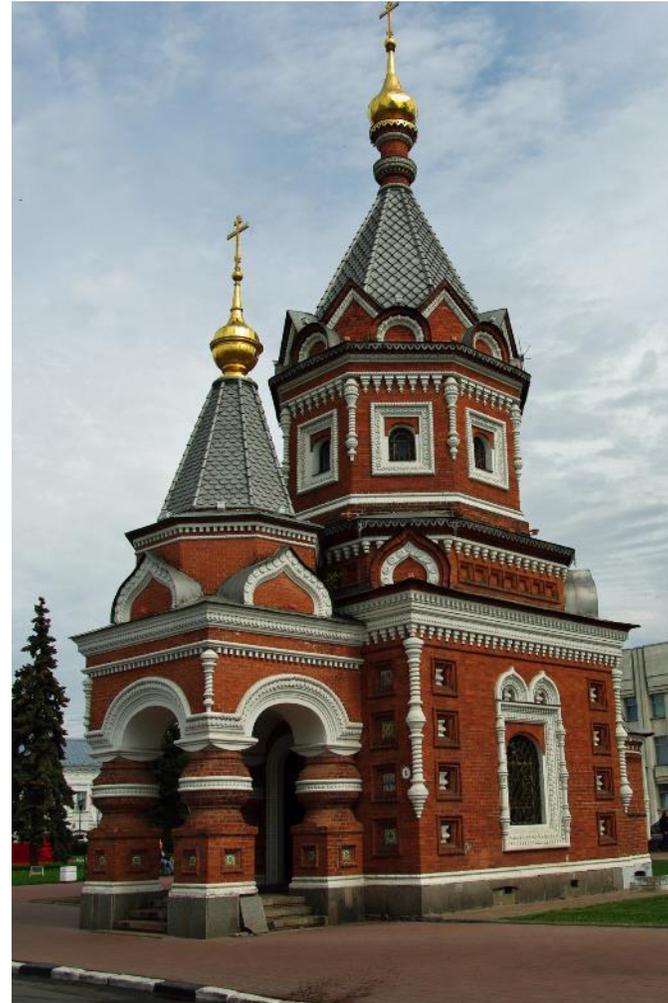
The city of Yaroslavl



Yaroslavl with its 600.000 in-habitants was founded about 1000 years ago. Several sights are listed on the UNESCO world heritage list

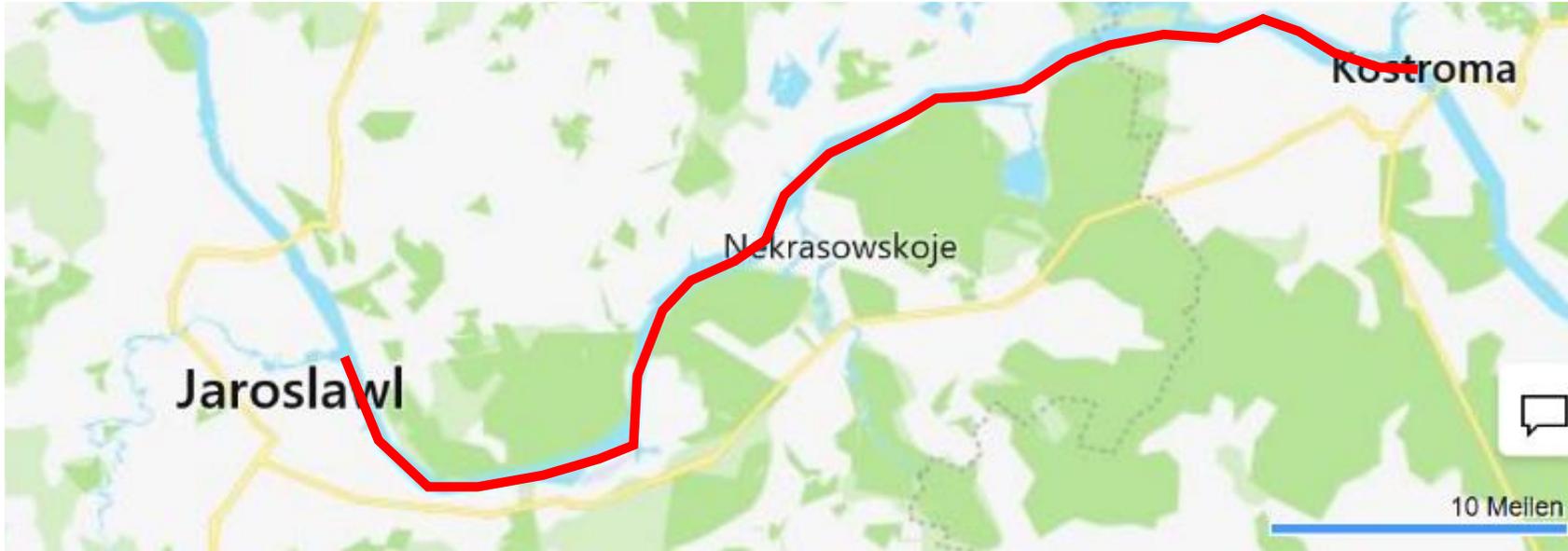


The city of Yaroslavl

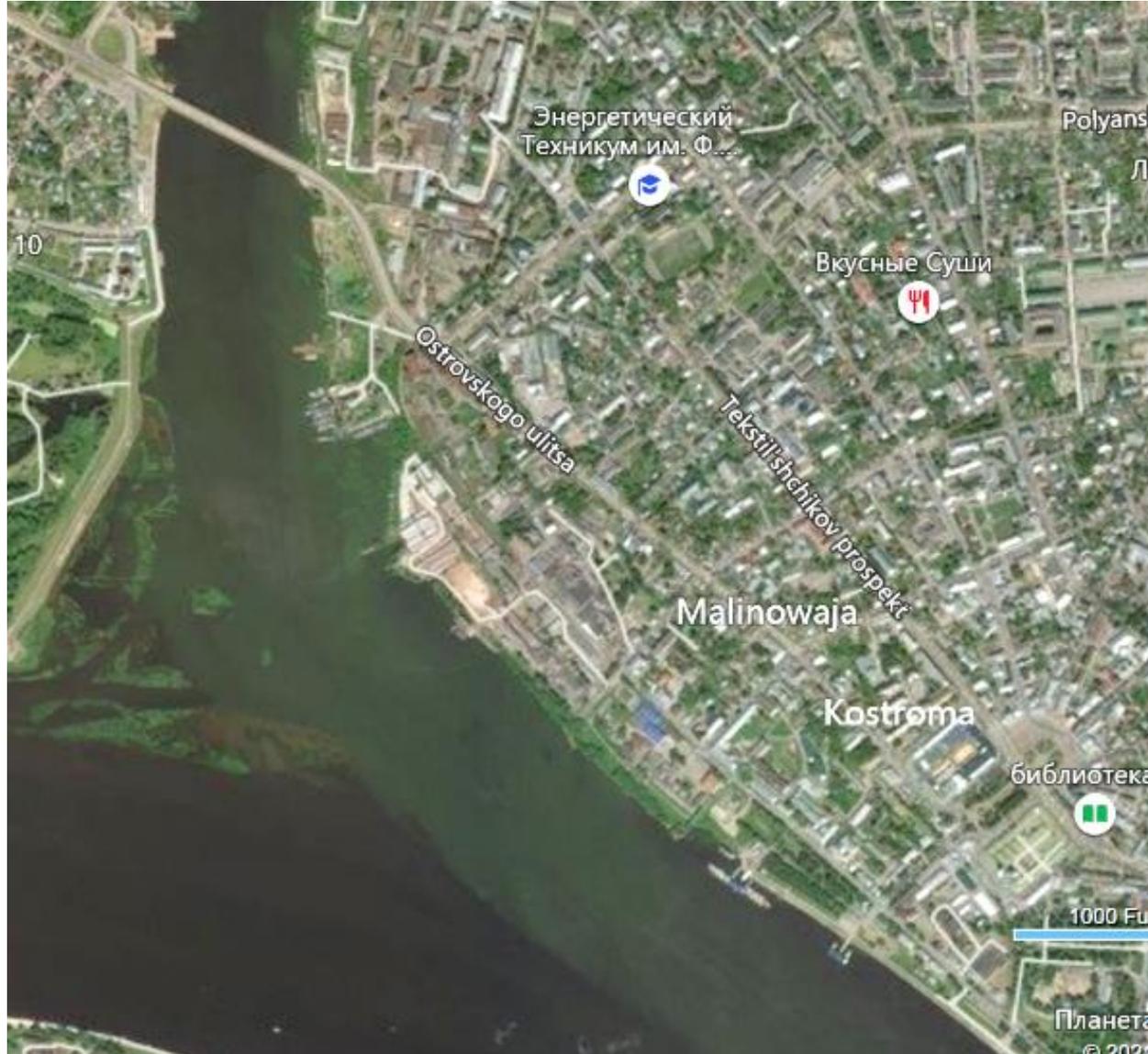


Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

From Yaroslavl to Kostroma



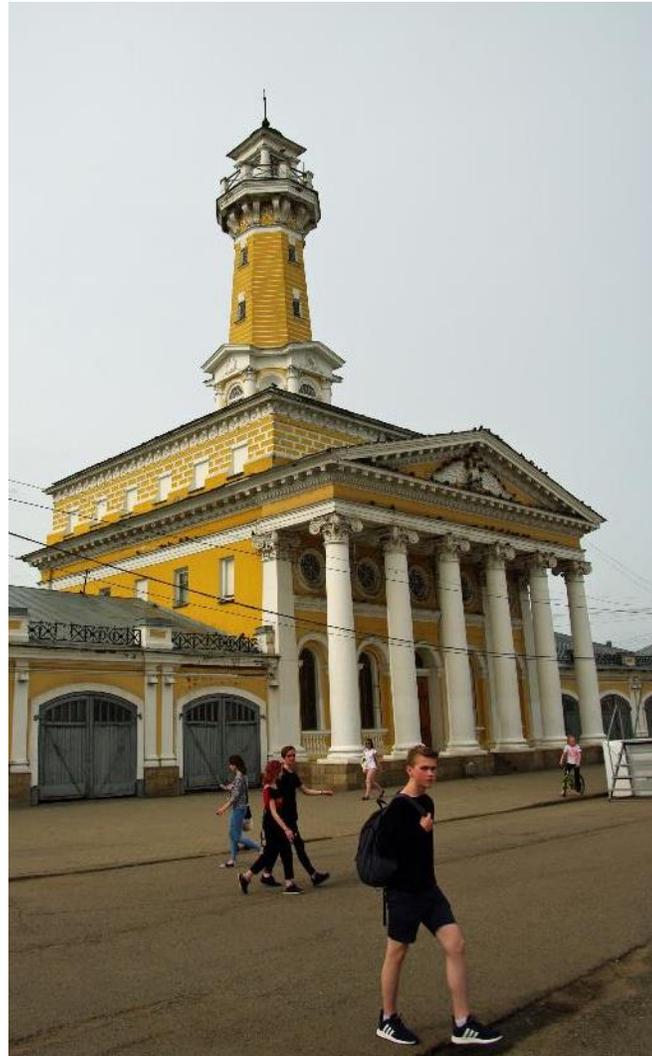
The city of Kostroma



The city of Kostroma



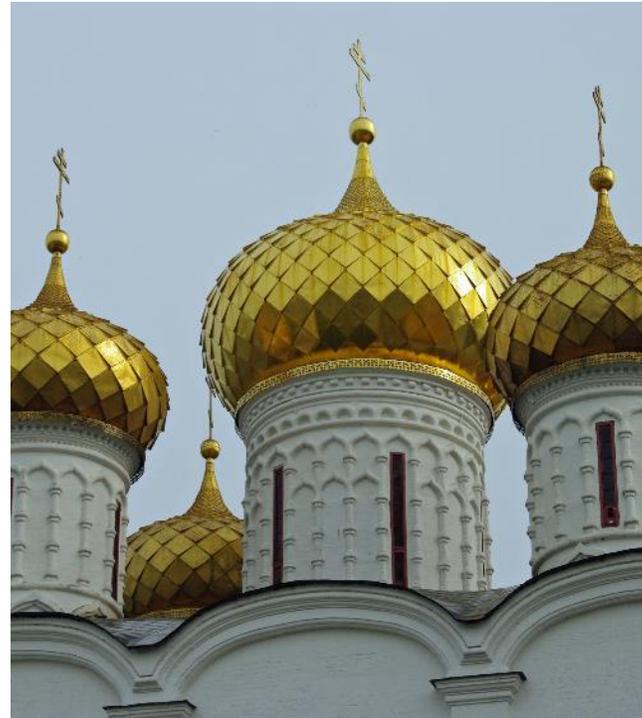
Kostroma with its 270.000 inhabitants was founded in 1152



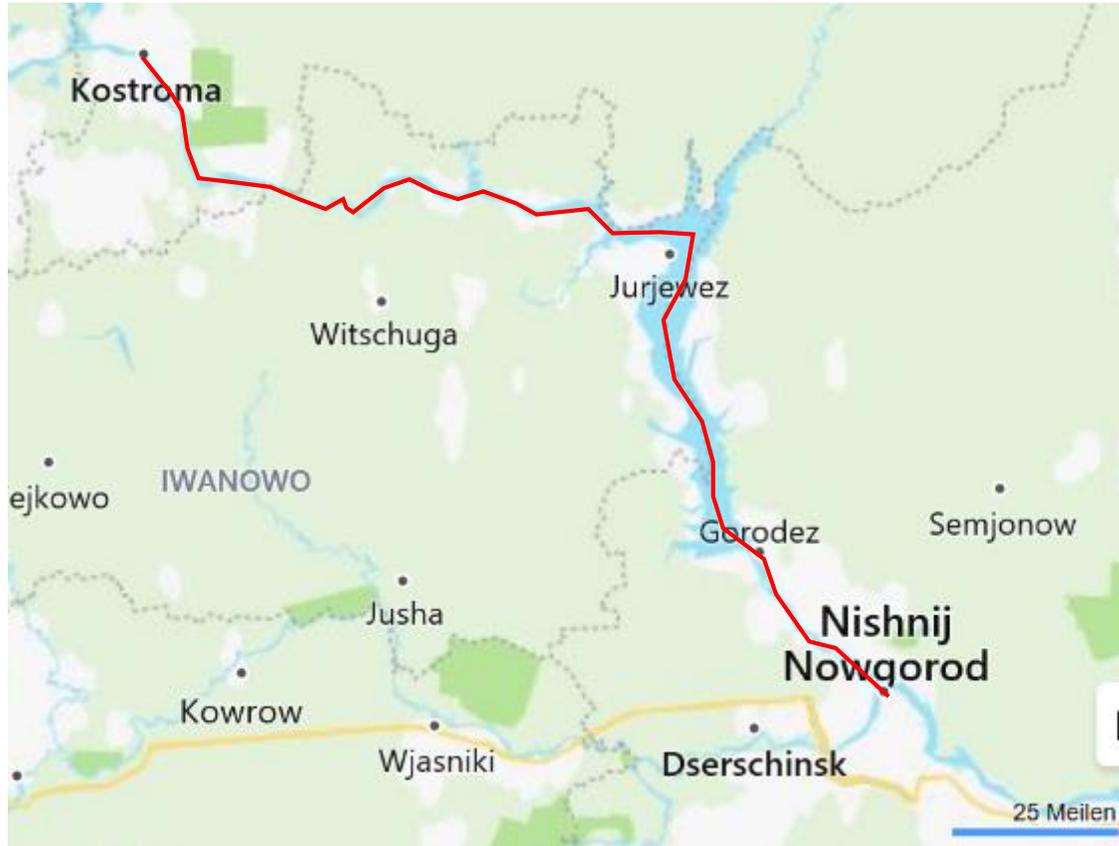
The city of Kostroma

In the Ipatios Monastery, which is picturesquely located at the mouth of river Kostroma into the Volga, Mikhail Romanov was staying when he received the news in January 1613 that he had been elected Tsar by Moscow's Semsy Sobor.

Taken from Wikipedia



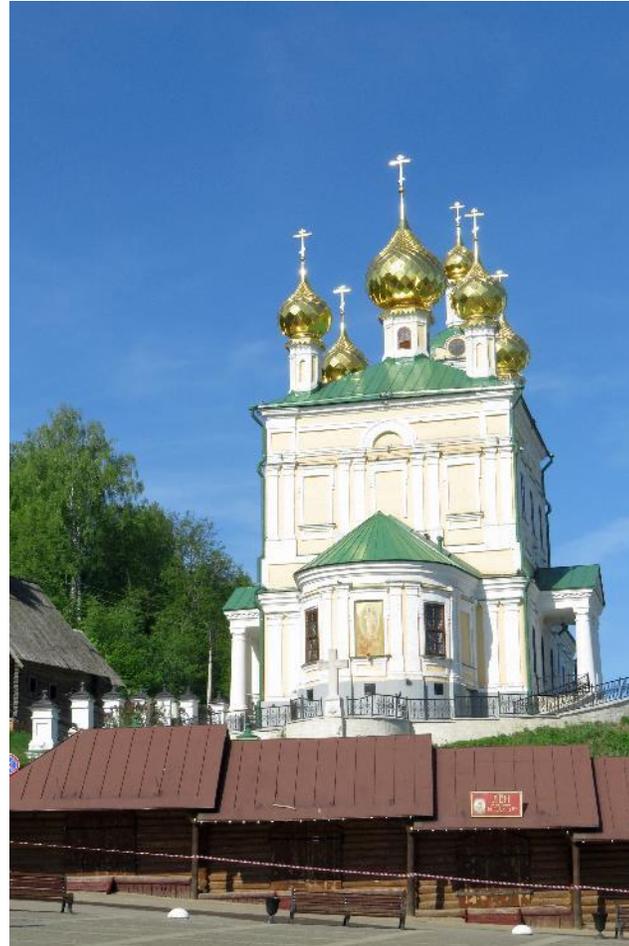
From Kostroma via Pljos and Gorodez to Nizhniy Novgorod



Stop over in Pljos



Pljos is one of the best preserved and picturesque small towns on the Volga River. It belongs to the "Golden Ring" and is in its entirety under monument protection



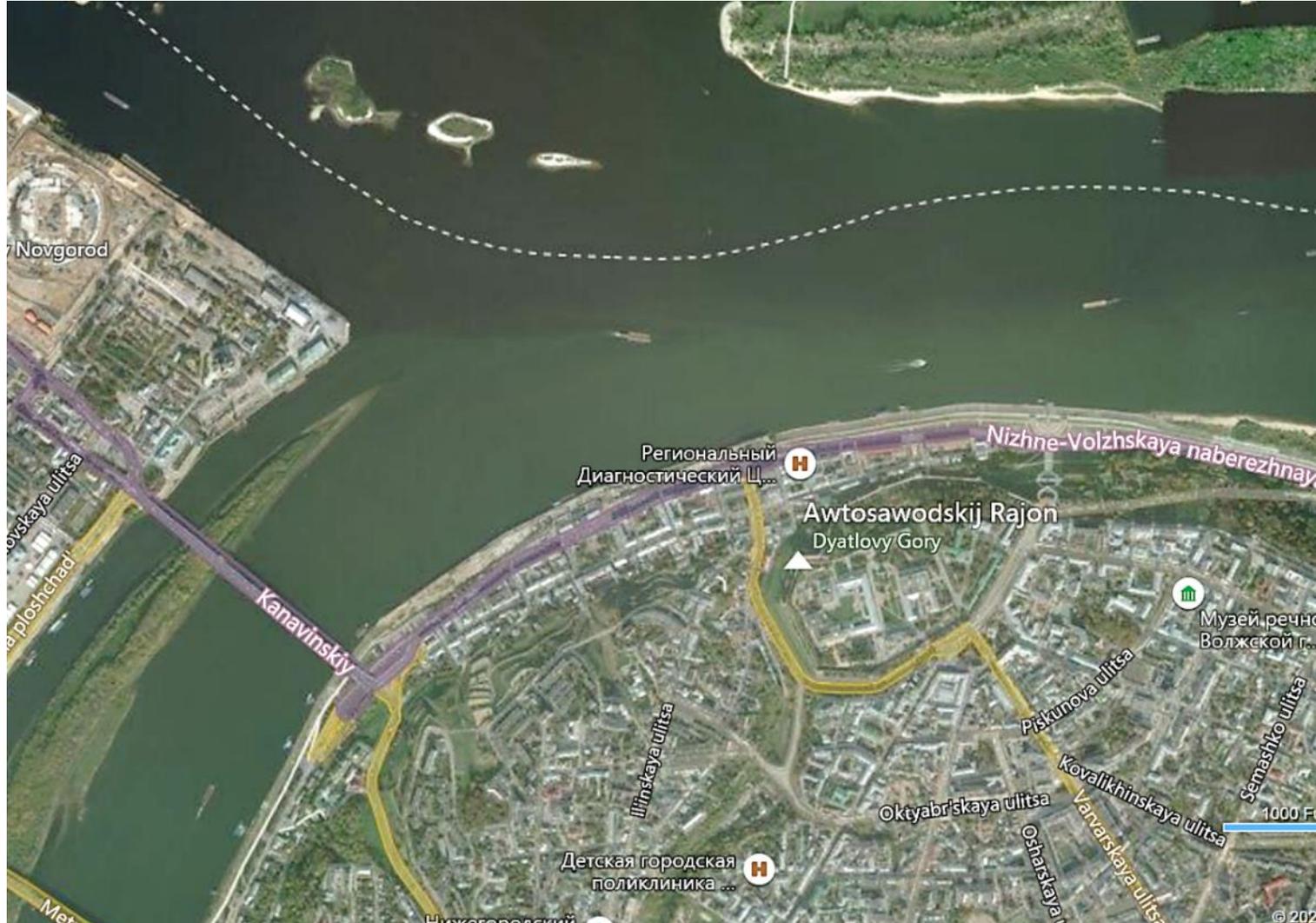
Stop over in Gorodez



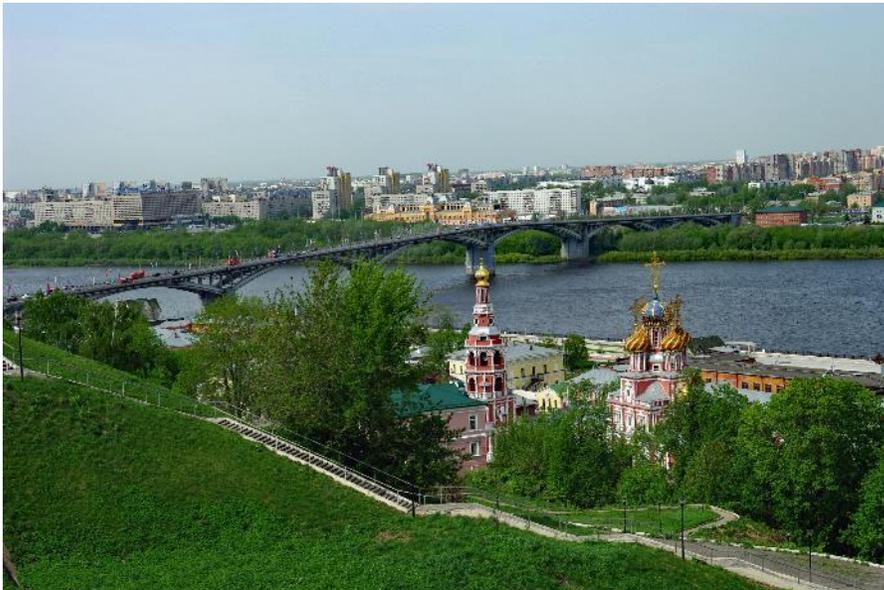
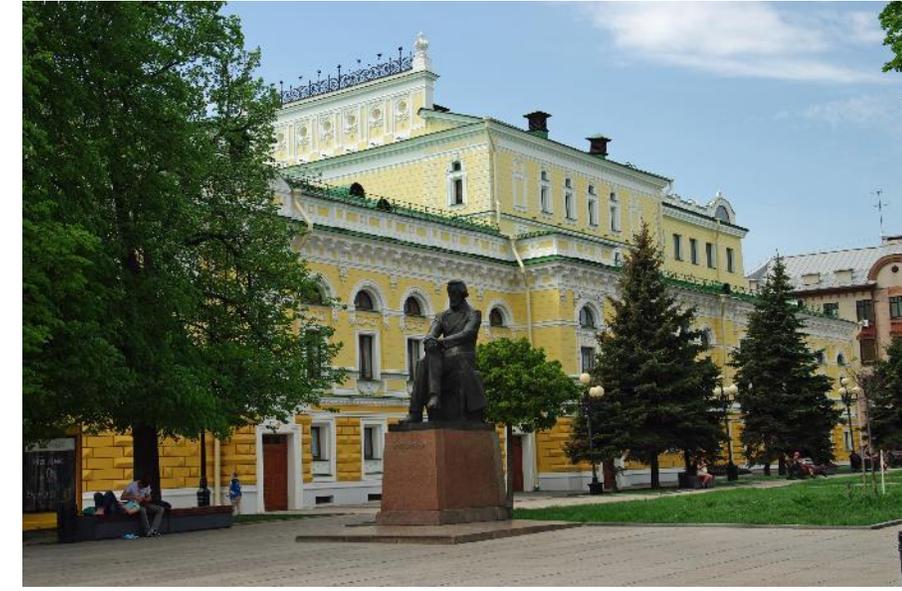
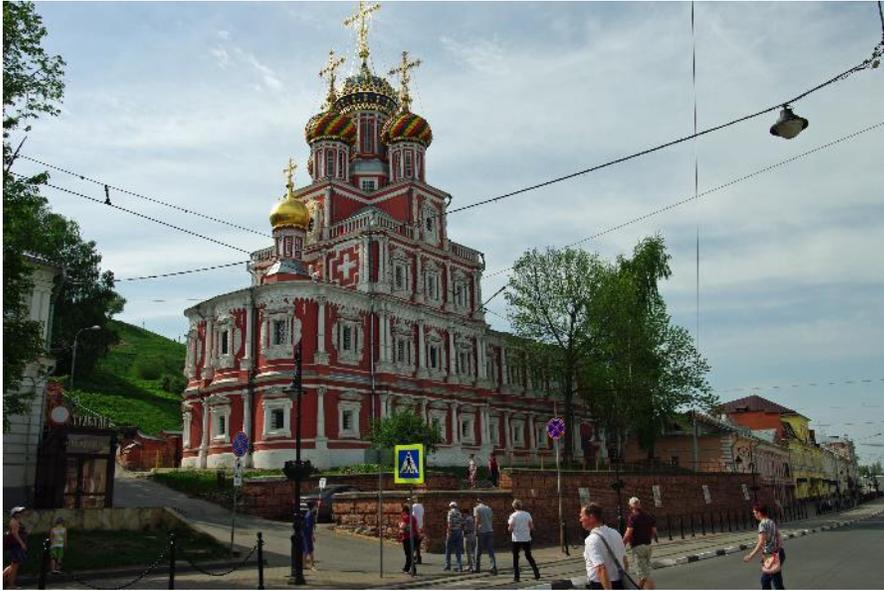
In Gorodez with its 30.000 inhabitants, a part of the 18th and 19th century buildings is preserved.



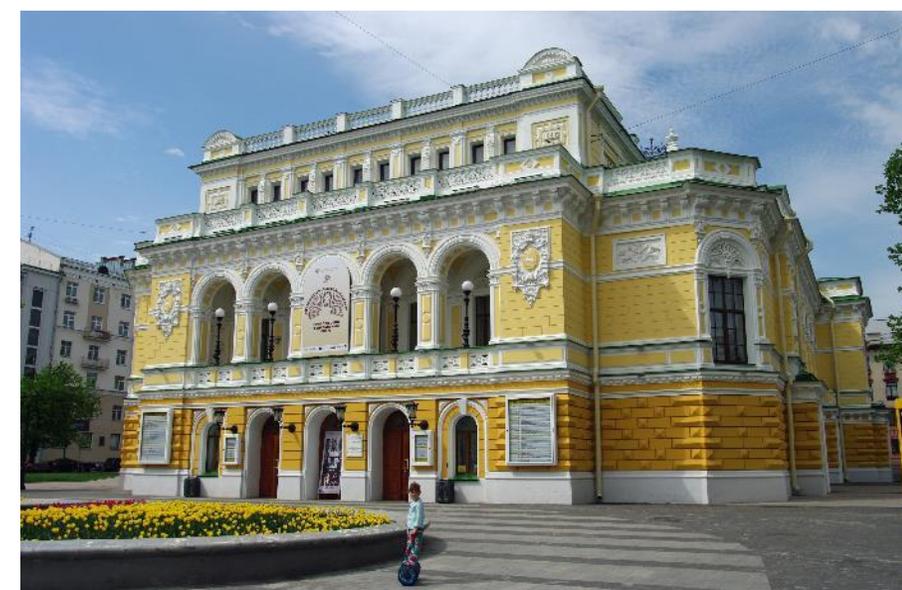
The city of Nizhniy Novgorod



The city of Nizhniy Novgorod



Nizhny Novgorod is the **sixth-largest city in Russia**, the second-most populous city on the Volga, as well as the Volga Federal District.



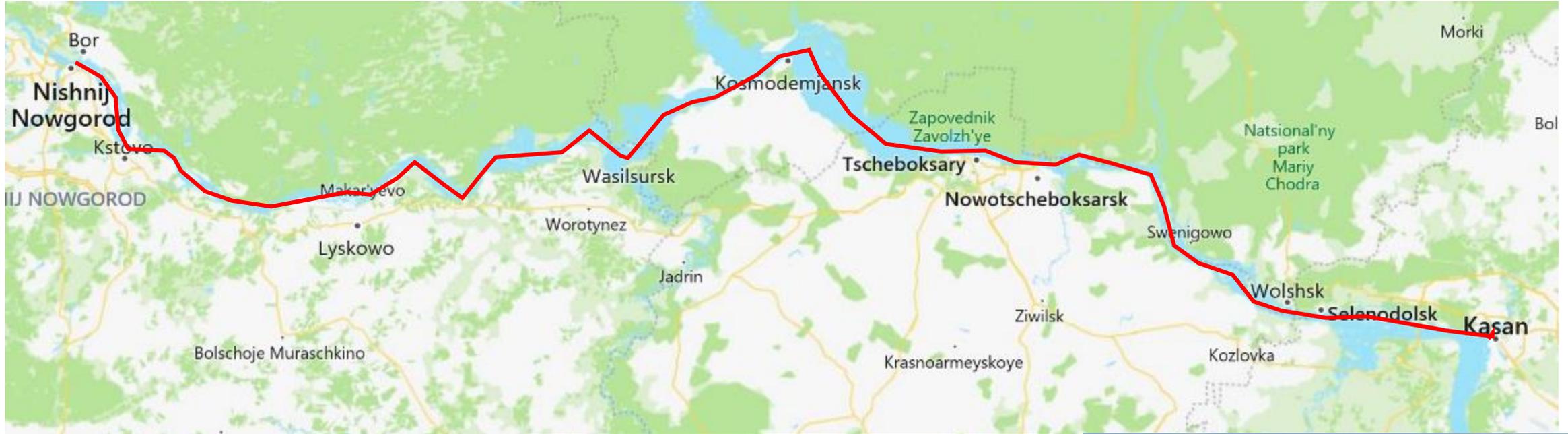
The city of Nizhniy Novgorod



It is an important economic, transportation, scientific, educational and cultural center in Russia and is one of the main center of river tourism in Russia.



From Nizhniy Novgorod to Kazan



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

The city of Kazan

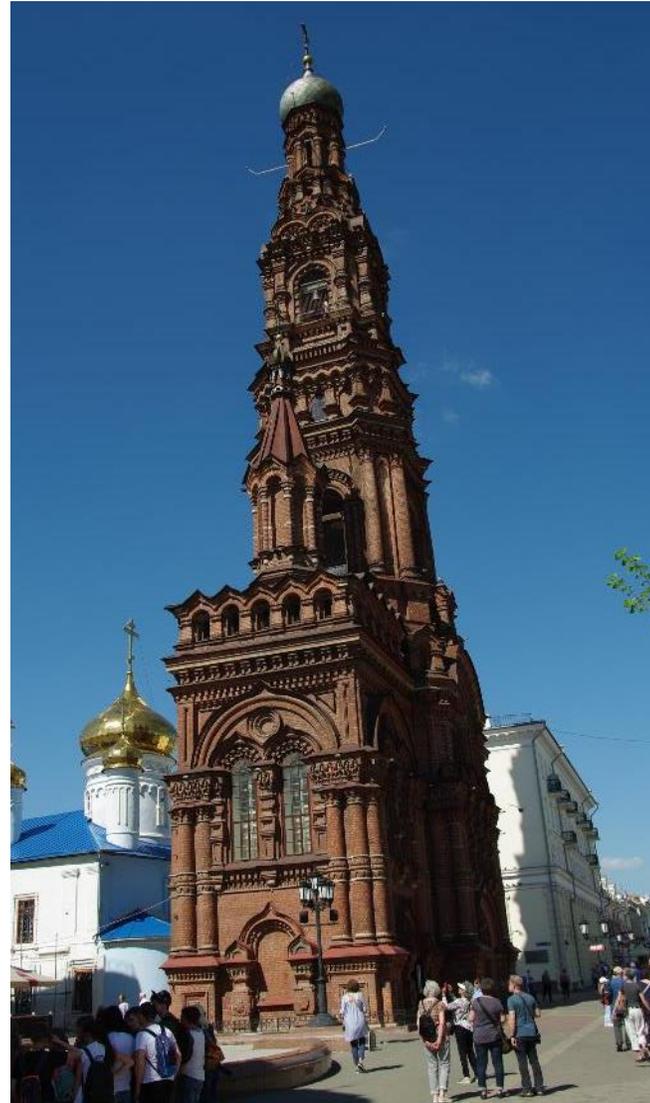


Kazan is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Tatarstan in Russia. The city lies at the confluence of the Volga and the Kazanka rivers, covering an area of 425.3 square kilometres, with a population of over 1.2 million residents, up to roughly 1.6 million residents in the urban agglomeration. Kazan is the fifth-largest city in Russia, and the most populous city on the Volga, as well as the Volga Federal District.

Taken from Wikipedia



The city of Kazan

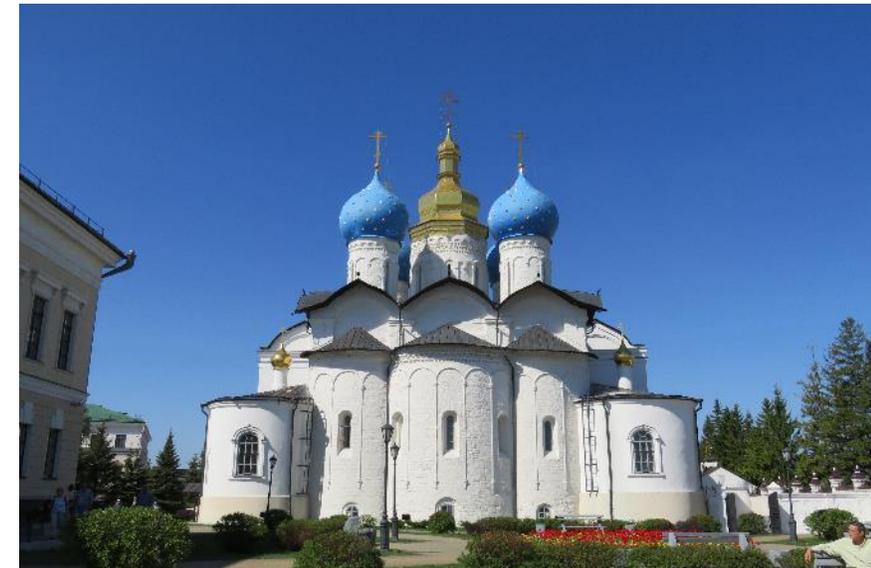
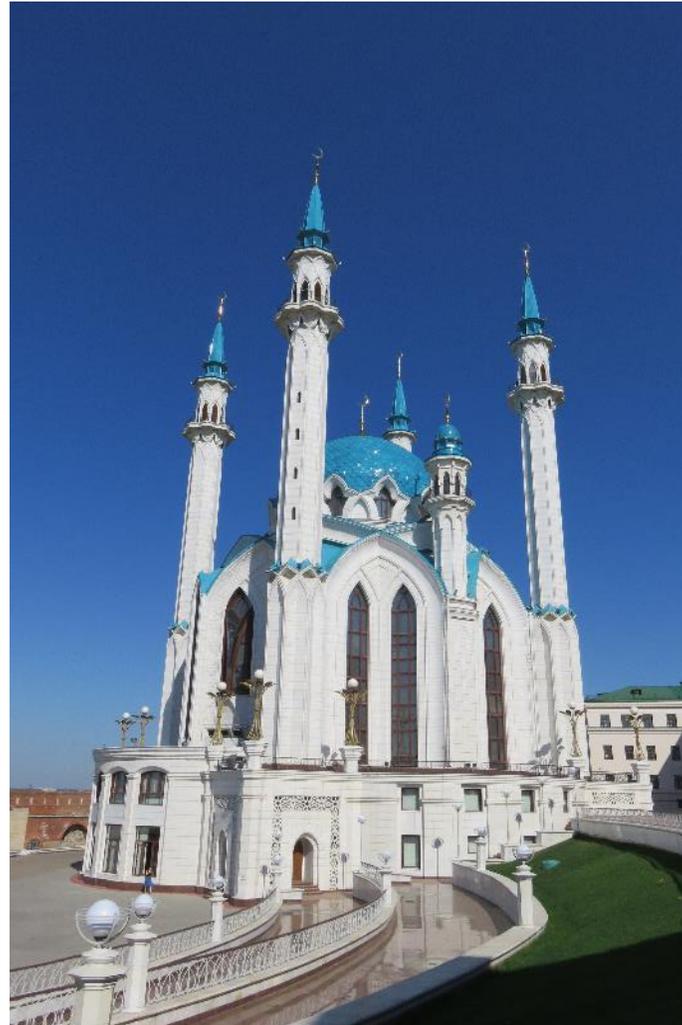


Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

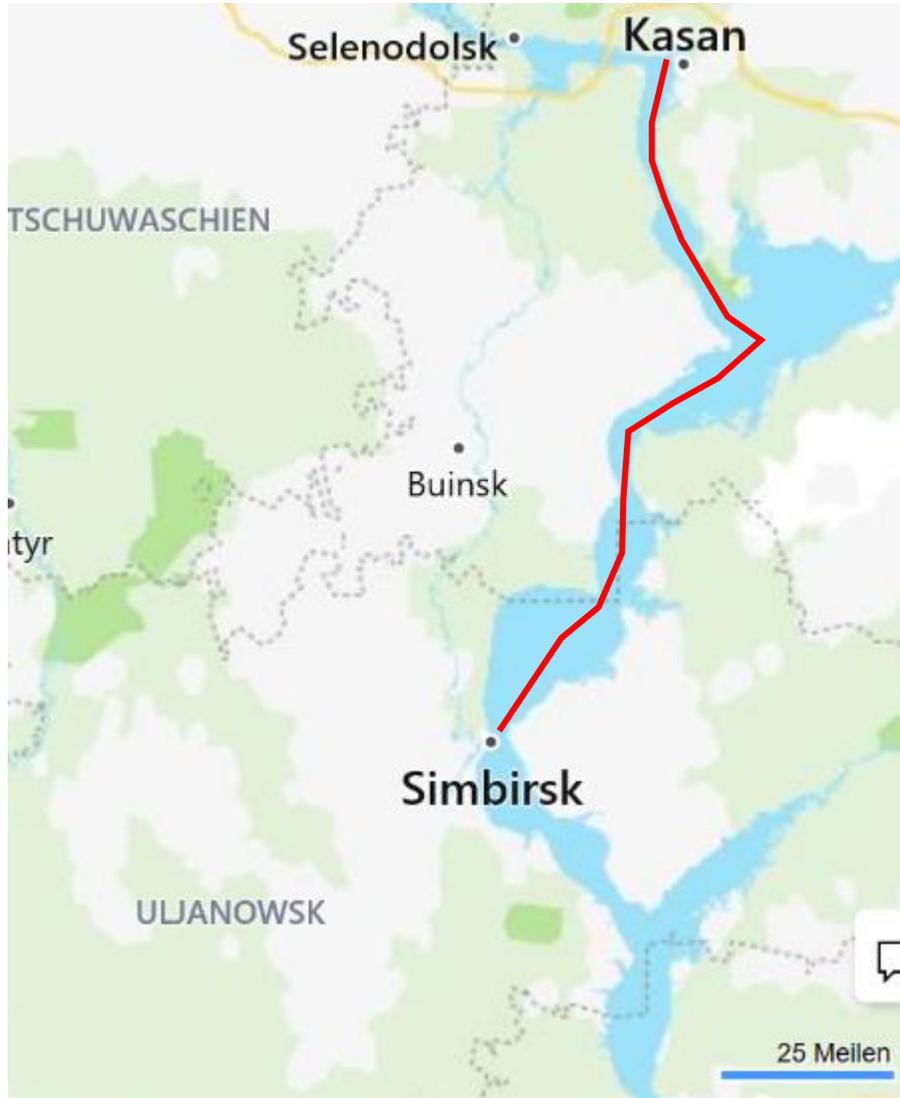
The city of Kazan



The Kazan Kremlin



From Kazan to Ulyanovsk (old name Simbirsk)



The impressive size of river Volga

City of Ulyanovsk (old name Simbirsk)



Ulyanovsk was founded in 1648. Up to 1924 its name was Sinbirsk resp. Simbirsk. Due to Wladimir Ilijtsch Ulyanov (known as Lenin), who was born in the city, the name was changed into Ulyanovsk in 1924.

Taken from Wikipedia

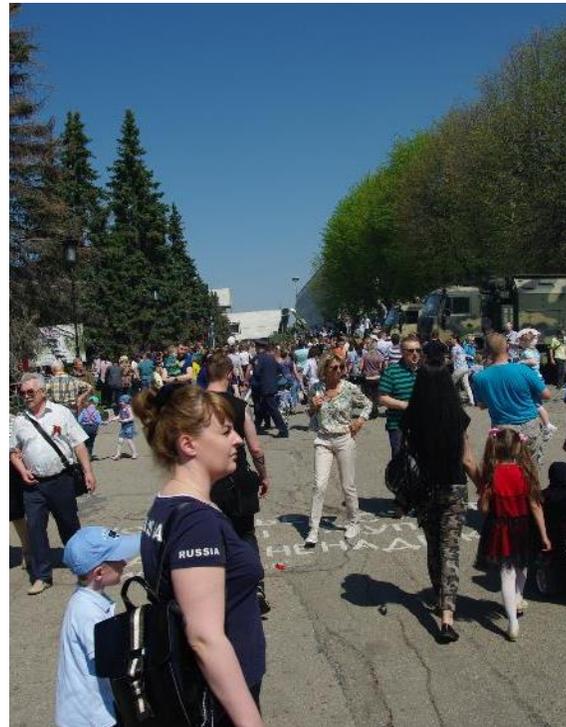
Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

City of Ulyanovsk (old name Simbirsk)



Simbirsk was founded in 1648 by the [boyar Bogdan Khitrovo](#). The fort of "Simbirsk" (alternatively "Sinbirsk") was strategically placed on a hill on the Western bank of the [Volga River](#). The fort was meant to protect the eastern frontier of the [Russian Empire](#) from the nomadic tribes and to establish a permanent Imperial presence in the area.

Taken from Wikipedia



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

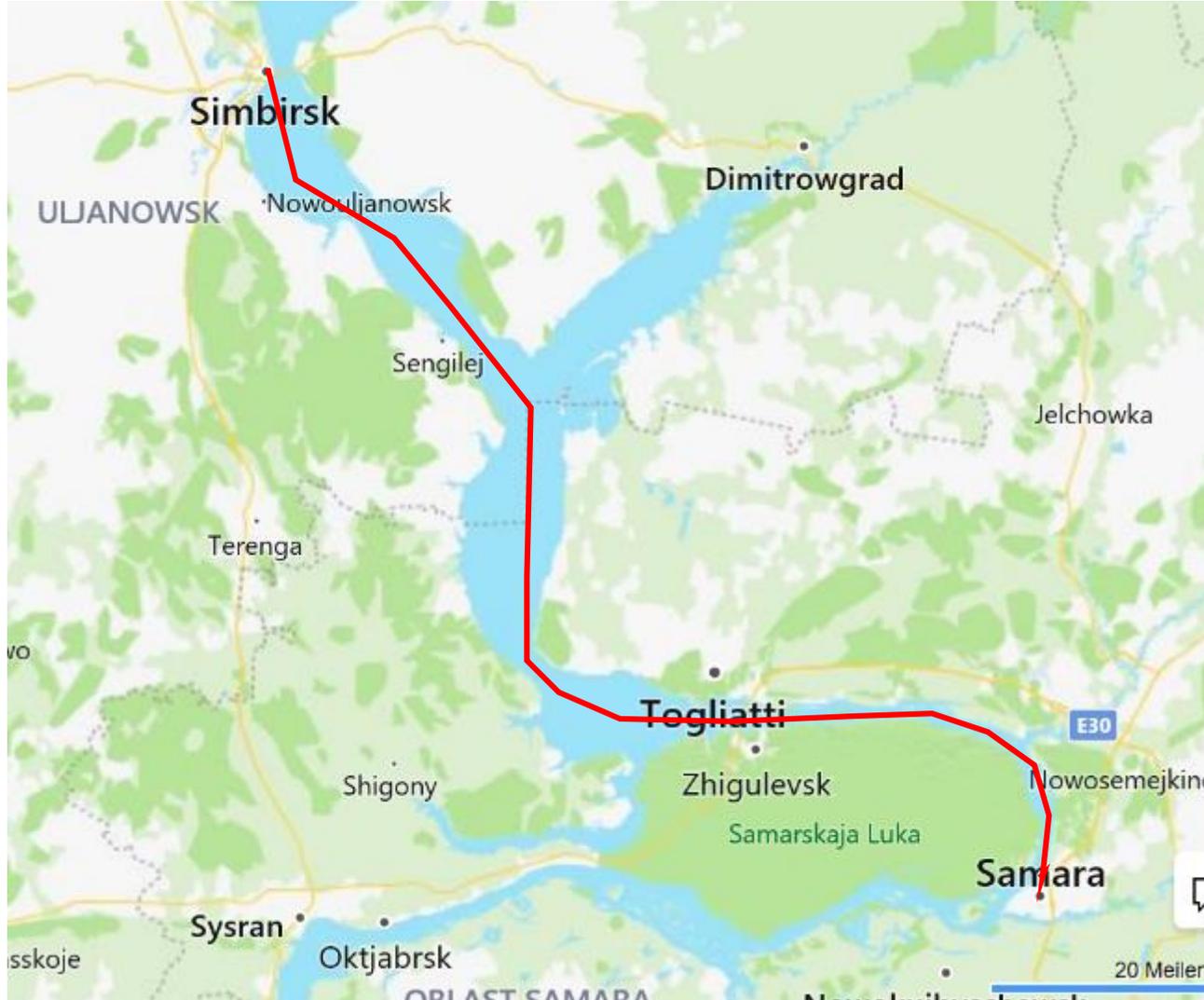
City of Ulyanovsk (old name Simbirsk)



The different living houses of the Ulyanov family, which were growing with the size of the family



From Ulyanovsk to Samara



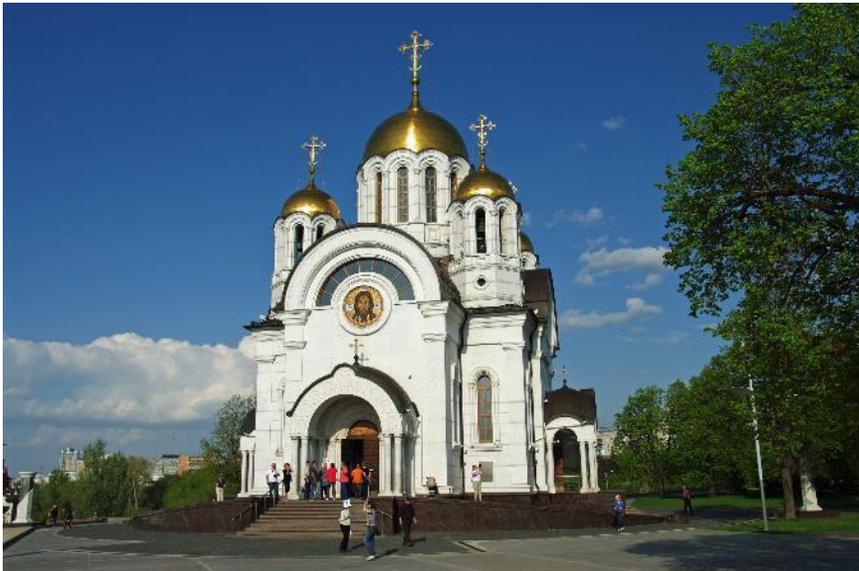
City of Samara



Samara known from 1935 to 1991 as Kuybyshev (Куйбышев), is the largest city and administrative centre of Samara Oblast. The city is located at the confluence of the Volga and the Samara rivers, with a population of over 1.1 million residents, up to 3 million residents in the urban agglomeration. Formerly a closed city, Samara is now a large and important social, political, economic, industrial, and cultural centre in Russia and hosted the European Union—Russia Summit in May 2007. It has a continental climate characterized by hot summers and cold winters.

Taken from Wikipedia

City of Samara

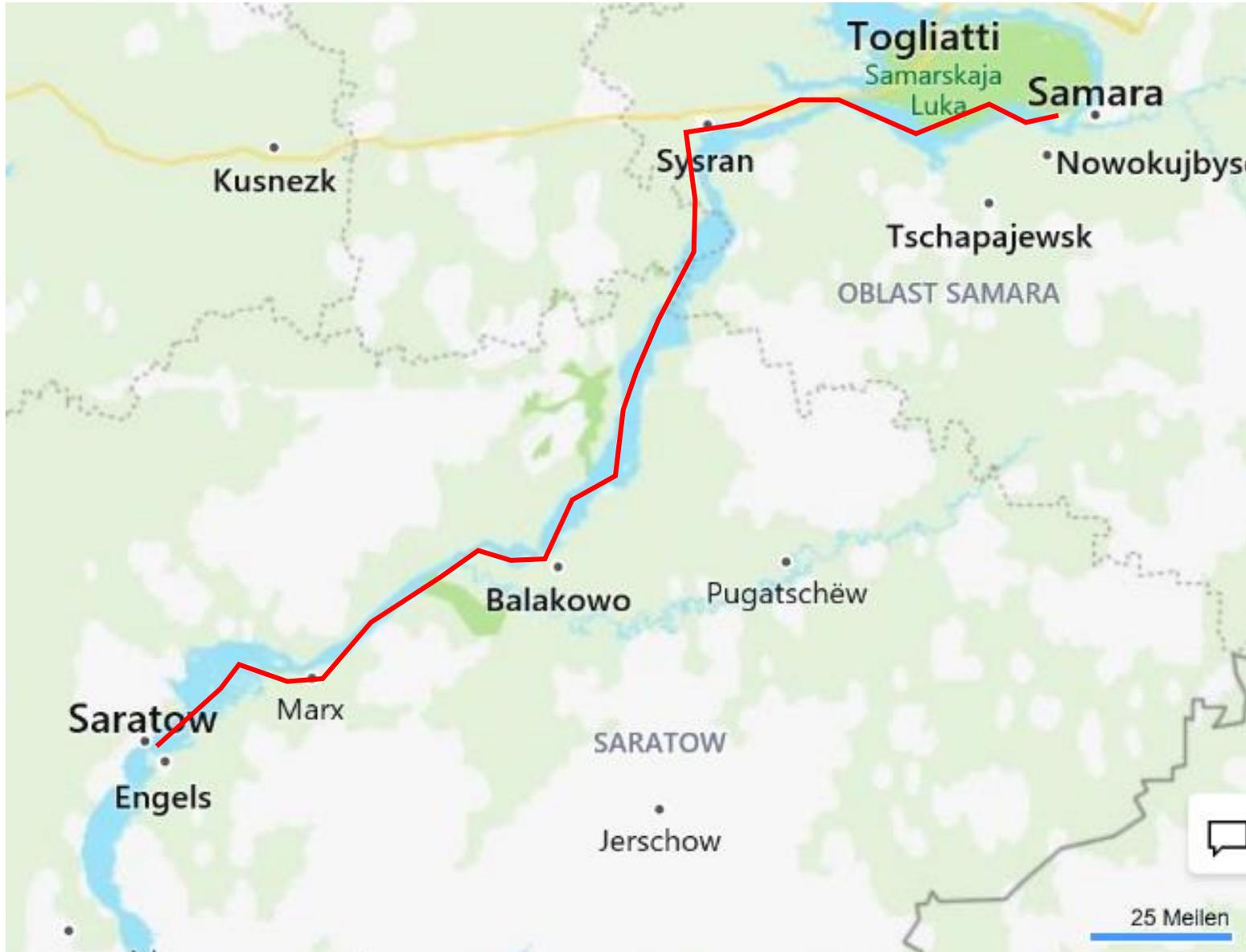


City of Samara

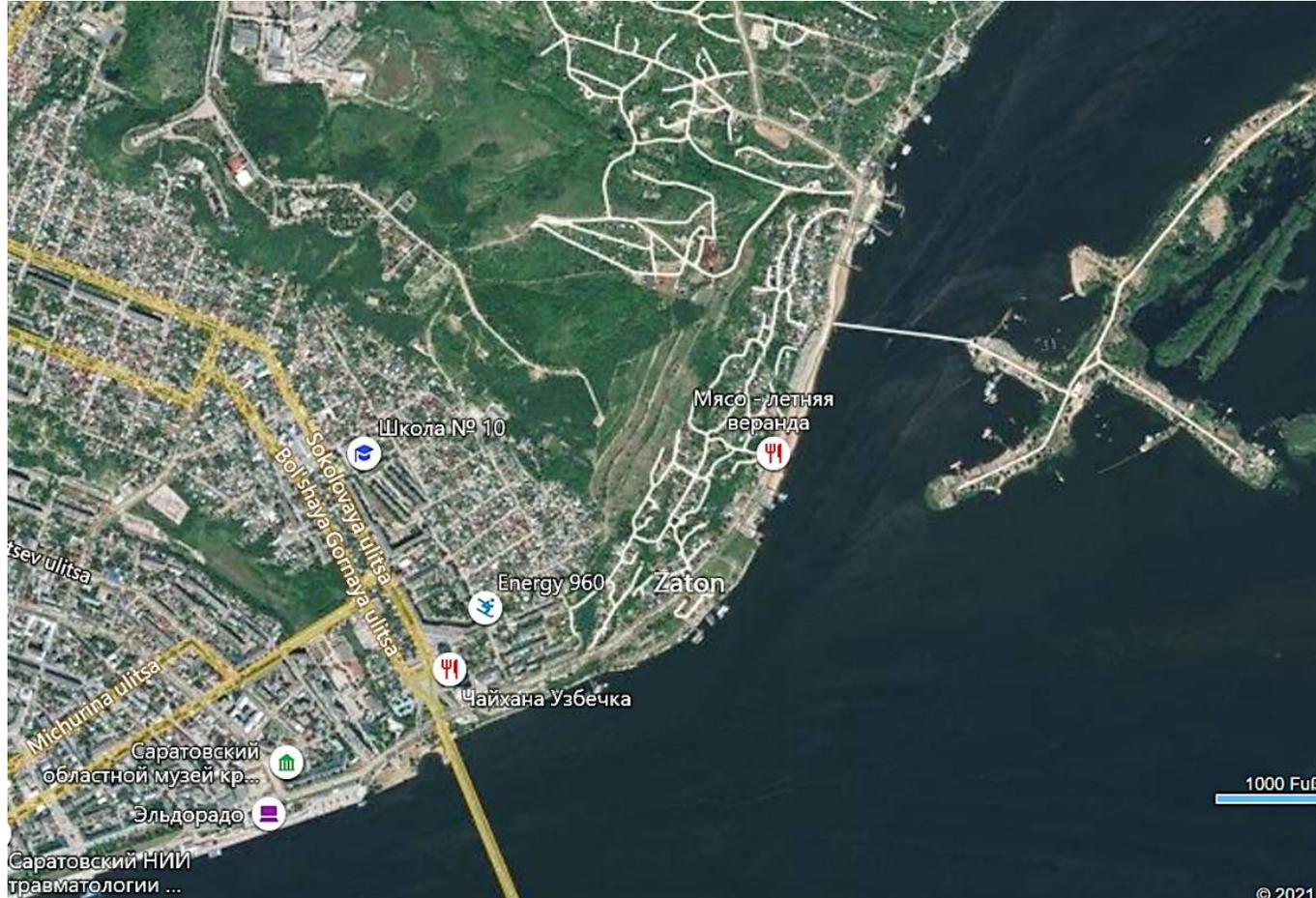


Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

From Samara to Saratov



City of Saratov



The city of Saratov played an important role in the history of the Volga Germans. Until 1941, the town of Pokrovsk (present-day Engels), located just across the Volga from Saratov, served as the capital of the Volga German Republic. The ethnic German population of the region numbered 800,000 in the early 20th century, with some people whose families had been there for generations. Beginning with Catherine the Great's 1763 Manifesto promising land, freedom from military conscription and religious freedom, the Russian Emperors invited German immigration in the 18th and 19th centuries to encourage agricultural development.

Taken from Wikipedia

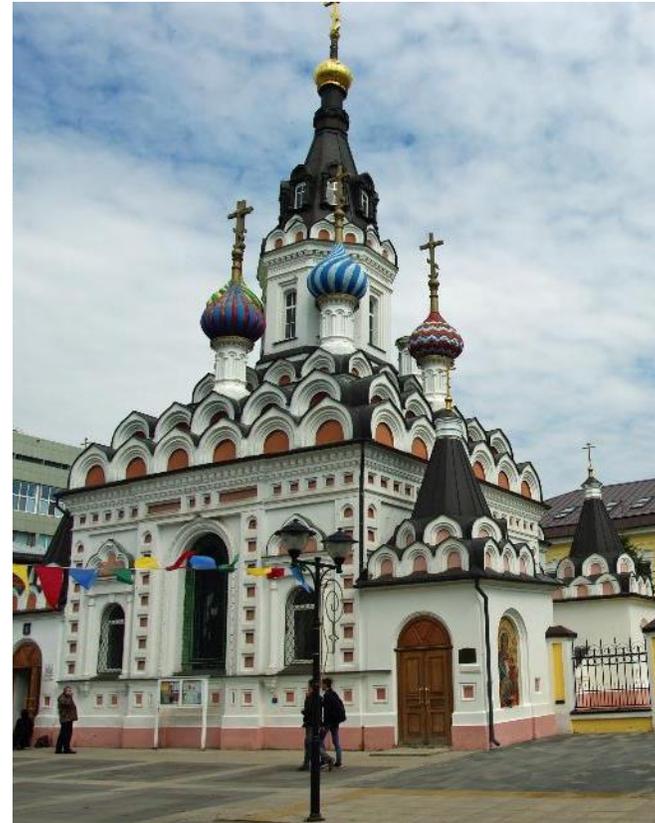
Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

City of Saratov



While the exact date of the foundation of modern Saratov is unknown, all plausible theories date it to ca. 1590, during the reign (1584–1598) of Tsar Fyodor Ivanovich, who constructed several settlements along the Volga River in order to secure the southeastern boundary of his state. Town status was granted to it in 1708

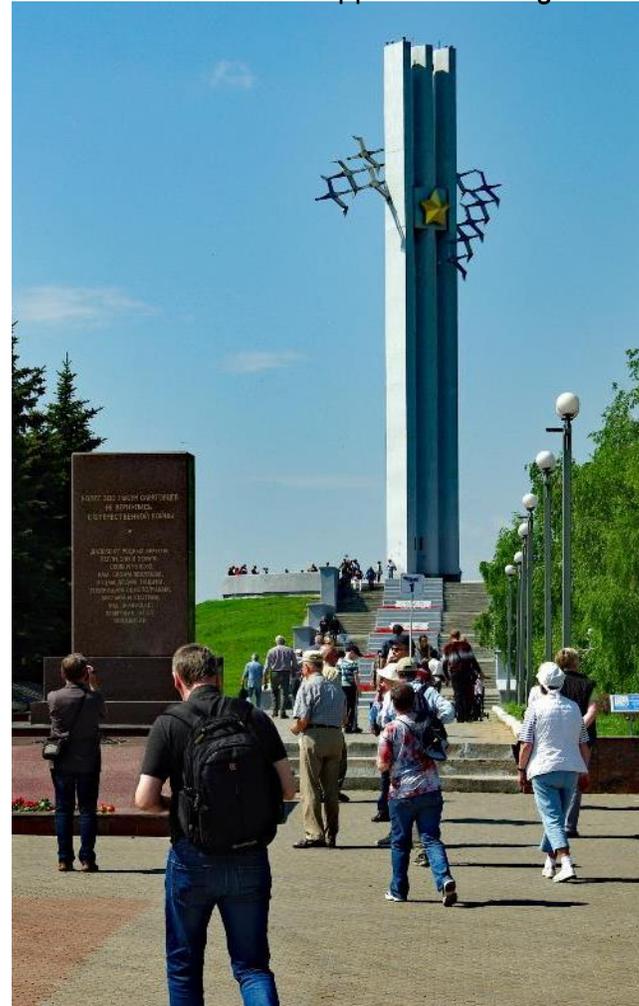
Taken from Wikipedia



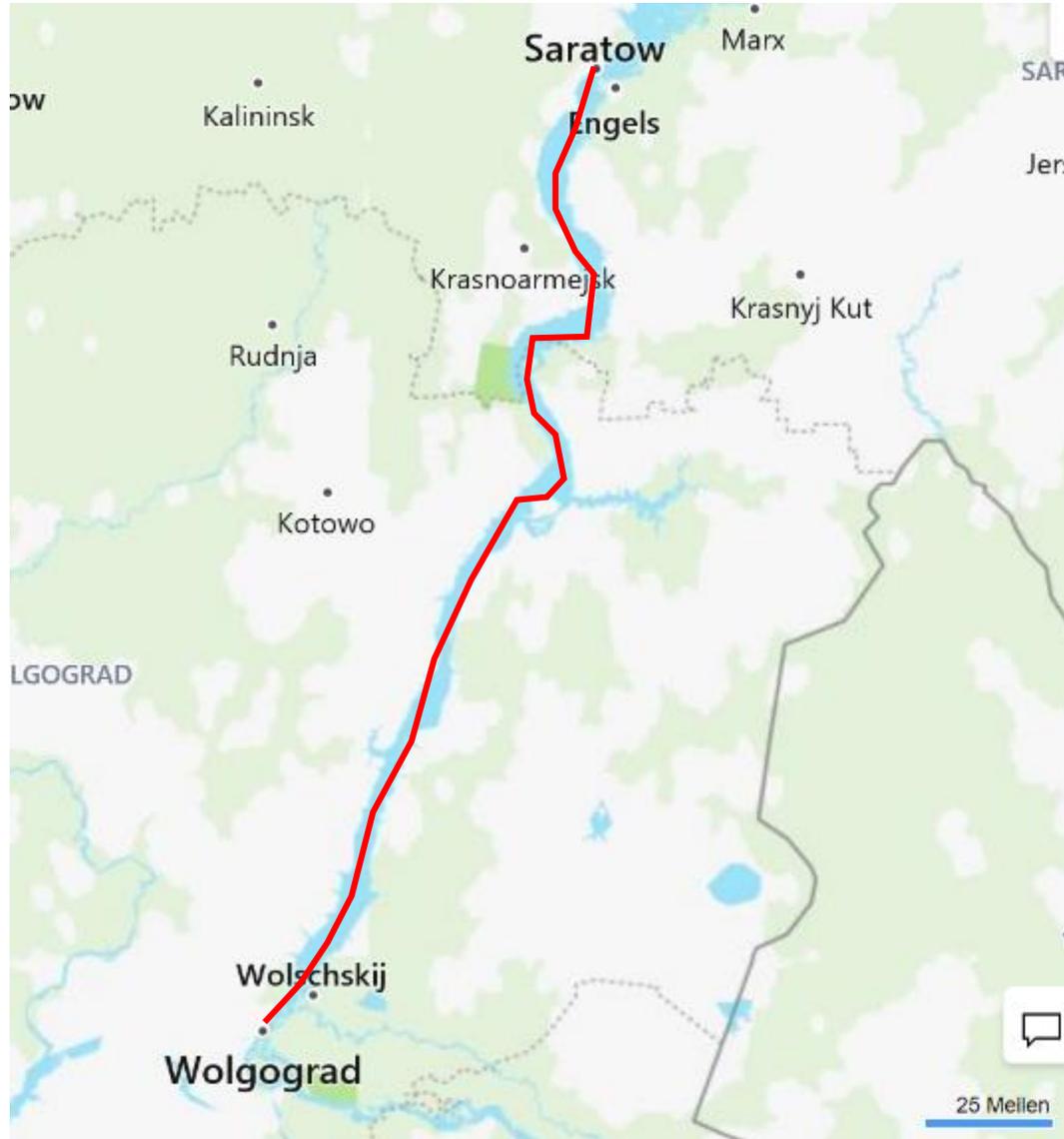
City of Saratov



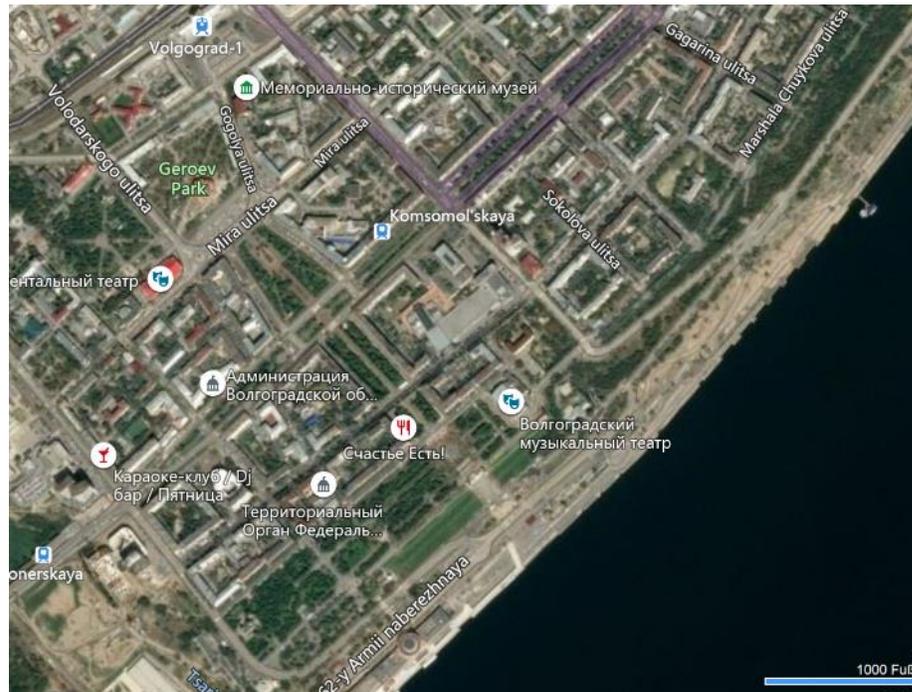
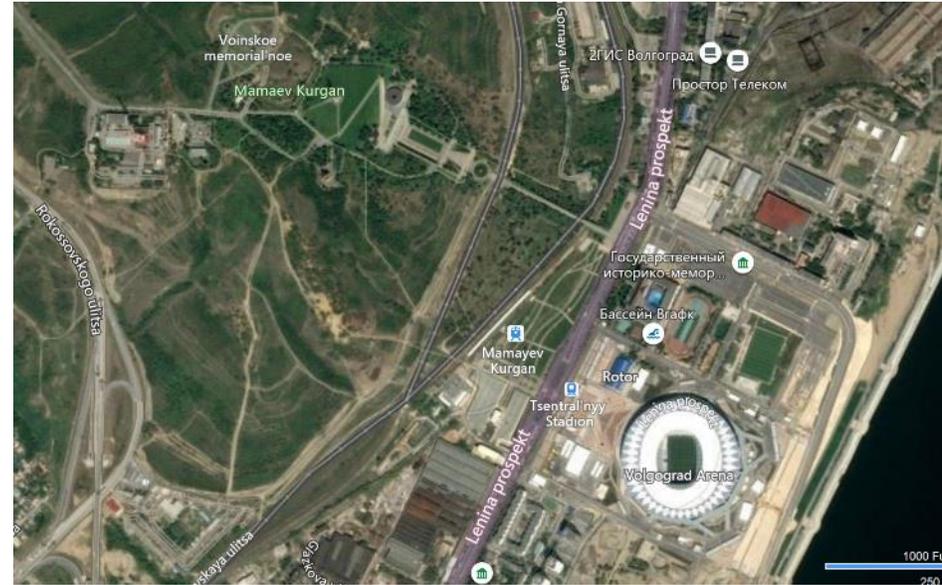
During World War II, Saratov was a station on the north-south Volzhskaya Rokada, a specially designated military railroad supplying troops, ammunition and supplies to Stalingrad



From Saratow to Volgograd (former Stalingrad)



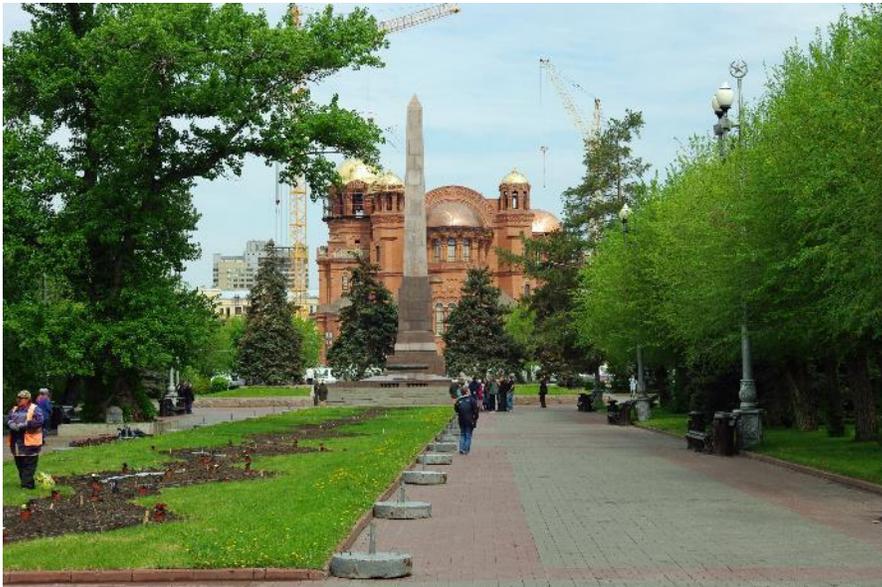
City of Volgograd



During World War II Stalingrad was nearly completely destroyed. Especially Mamajev Kurgan, a small hill inside the city was one of the hotspots of fighting and is now converted into a Russian national memorial.

Taken from Wikipedia

City of Volgograd



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

City of Volgograd



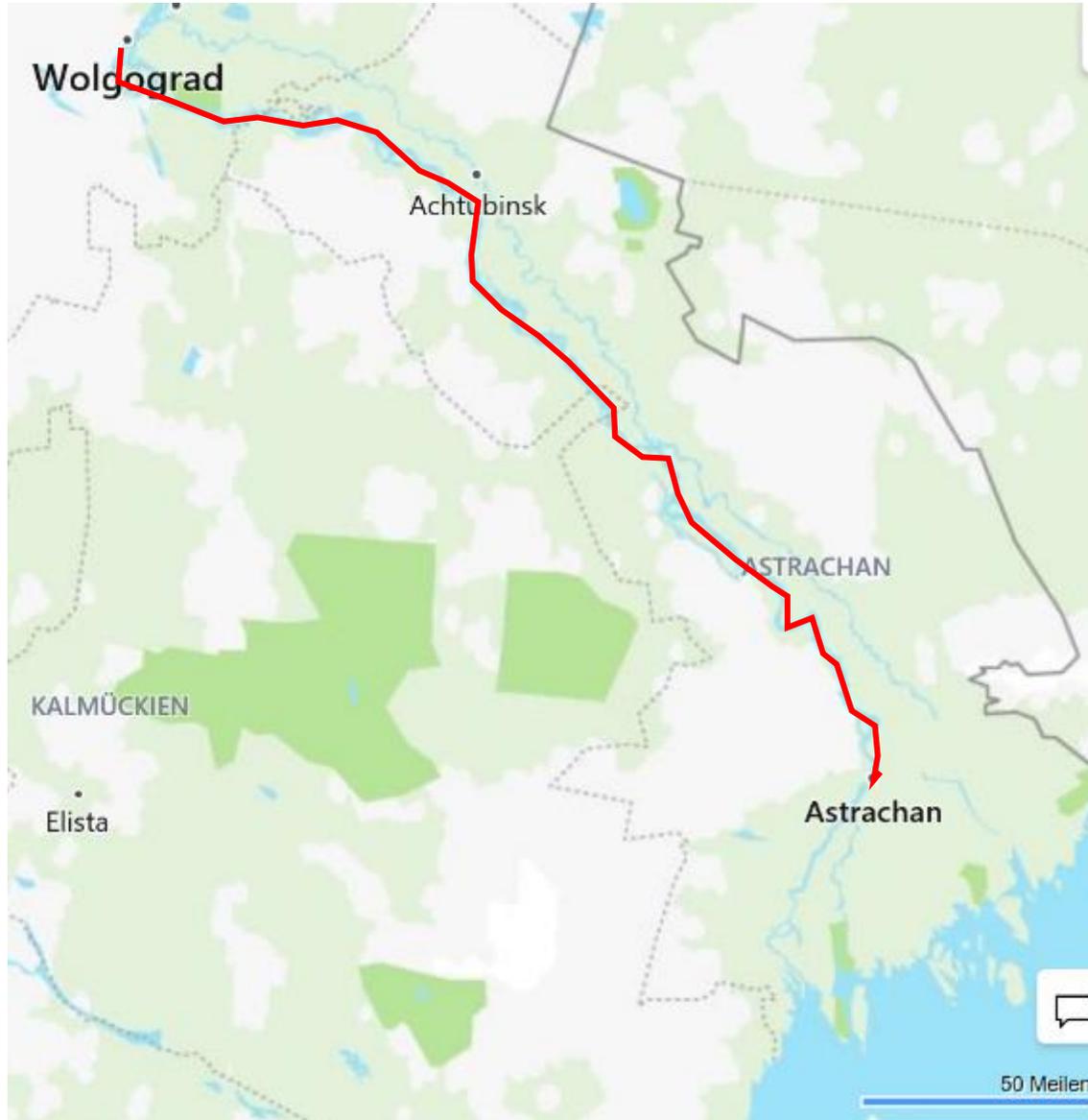
Mamajev Kurgan the Russian National Memorial Site to remember



to 30 million Russian people who lost their life in 2nd world war.



From Volgograd to Astrakhan close to the Volga delta at Caspian Sea (option 1)



City of Astrakhan



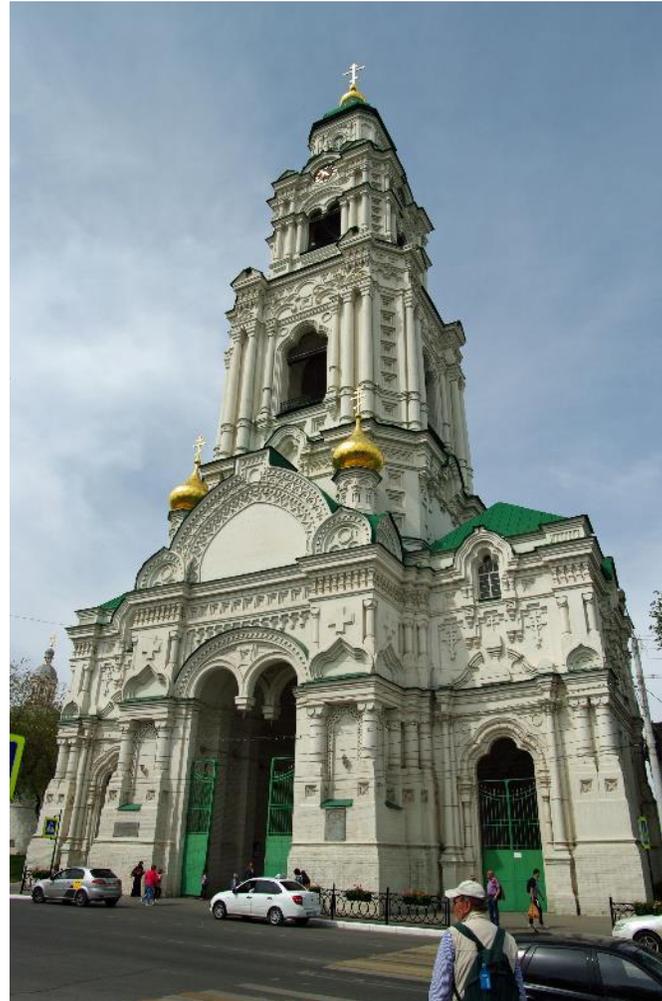
Astrakhan was formerly the capital of the Khanate of Astrakhan, a remnant of the Golden Horde, located on the higher right bank of the Volga, 11 km from the present-day city. Situated on caravan and water routes, it developed from a village into a large trading centre. It was conquered by Timur in 1395 and captured by Ivan the Terrible in 1556. In 1558 it was moved to its present site.

Taken from Wikipedia

City of Astrakhan



The Kremlin in Astrakhan built at the end of the 16th century



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

City of Astrakhan



Astrakhan is also known for its fish fishing (especially sturgeon fish) and caviar production

Into the Volga delta



The Volga Delta is the largest river delta in Europe, and occurs where Europe's largest river system, the Volga River, drains into the Caspian Sea.

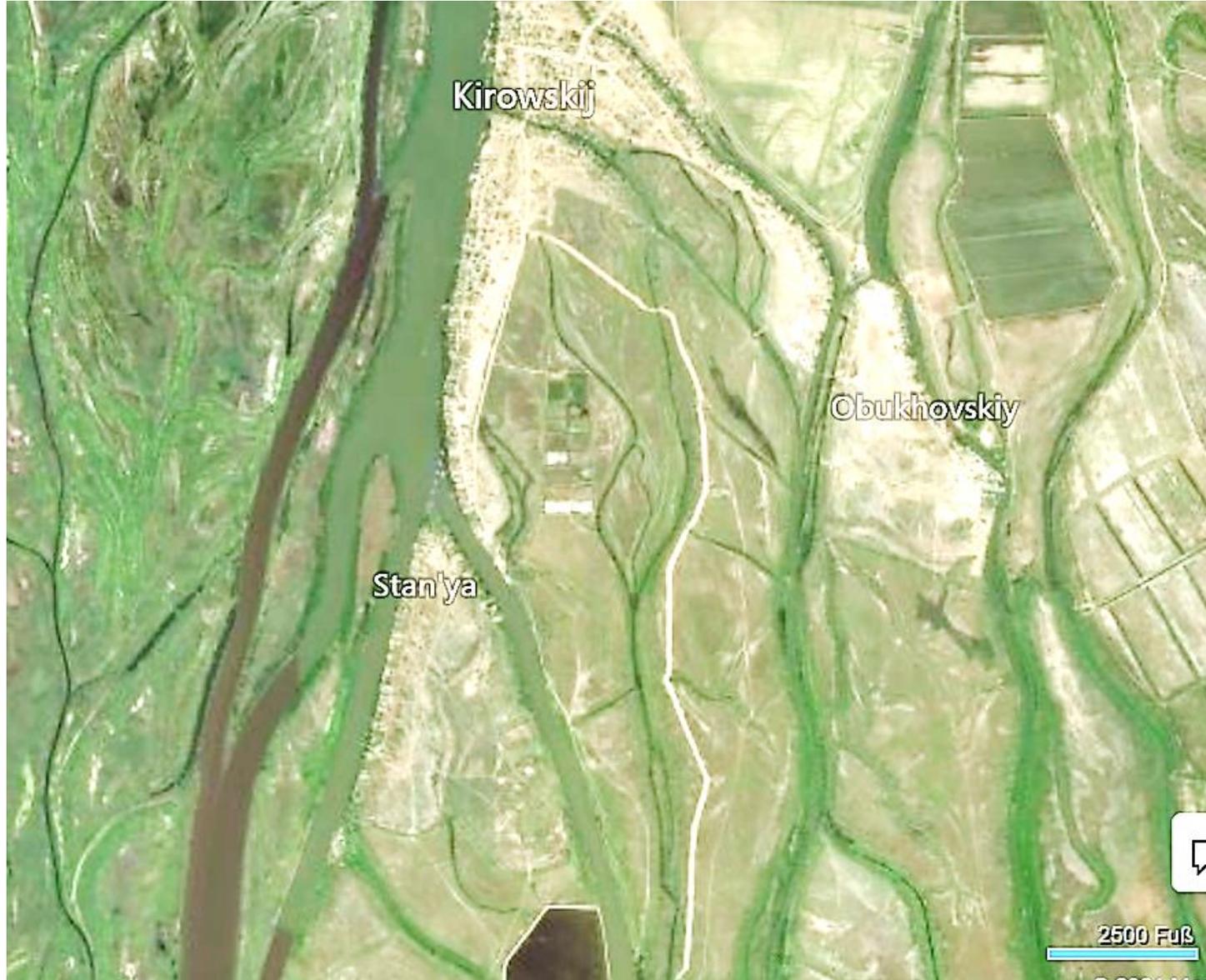
The Volga Delta has grown significantly in the 20th century because of changes in the level of the Caspian Sea. In 1880, the delta had an area of 3,222 km².

Today the Volga Delta covers an area of 27,224 km² and is approximately 160 km across

Taken from Wikipedia



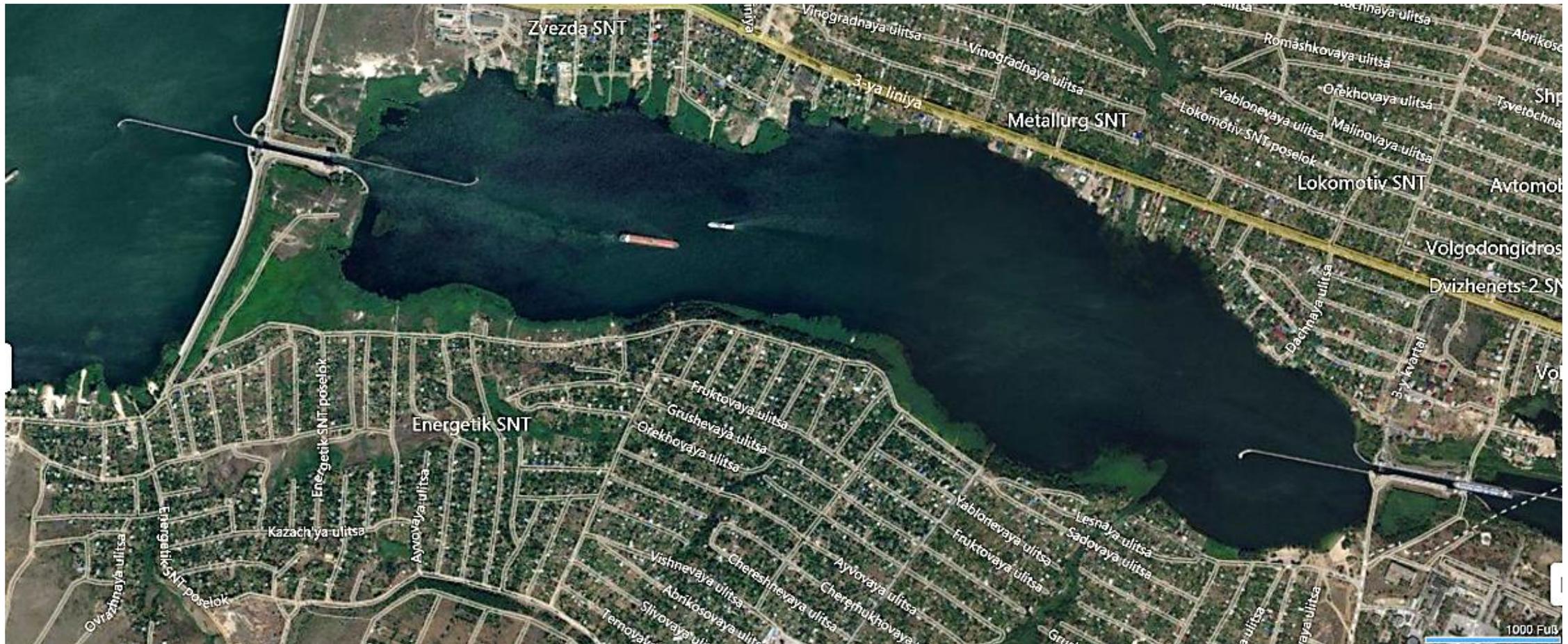
Into the Volga delta



From Volgograd to Rostov on Don close to the Black Sea (option 2)



The Volga – Don canal

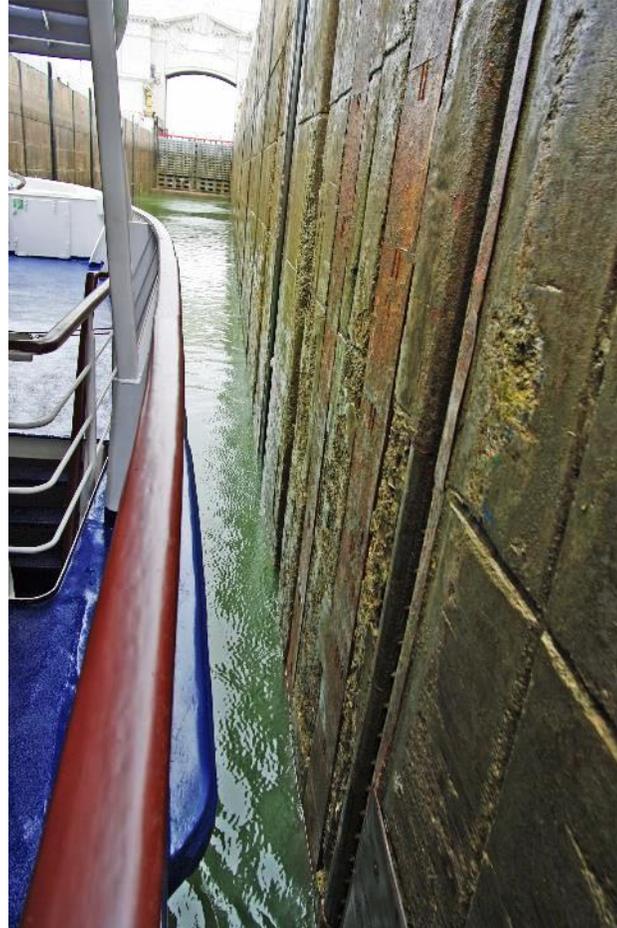


The canal connects Volga and Don, allowing shipping between the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. To the west of the reservoir, the ships can enter the Sea of Azov via the Don, from where they can reach the Black Sea via the Kerch Strait. Planning was started before 2nd world war and the canal was finished in the beginning of the 1950th.

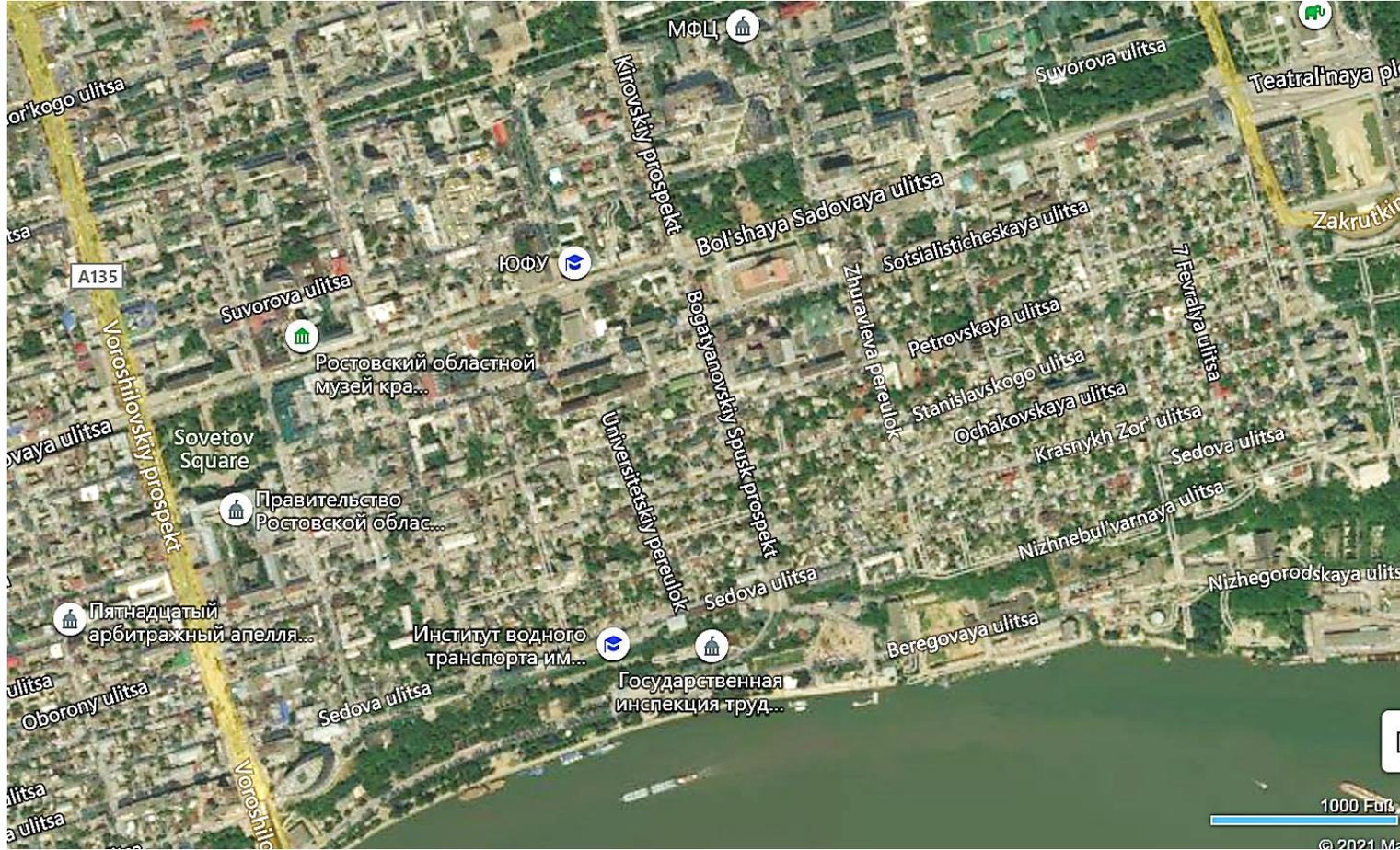
Taken from Wikipedia

The Volga – Don canal

9 ship locks will be used on Volga side to overcome the 88 m height difference and another 6 ship locks to overcome the 44 m on the river Don side.



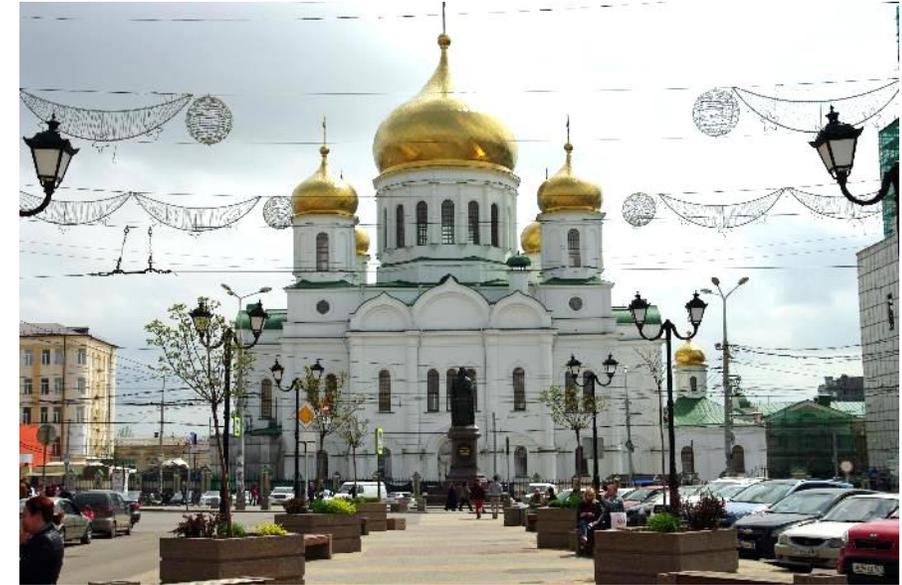
City of Rostov on Don



In 1749, a custom house was established on the Temernik River, a tributary of the Don, by edict of Empress Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great, in order to control trade with Turkey. It was co-located with a fortress named for Dimitry of Rostov, a metropolitan bishop of the old northern town of Rostov the Great.

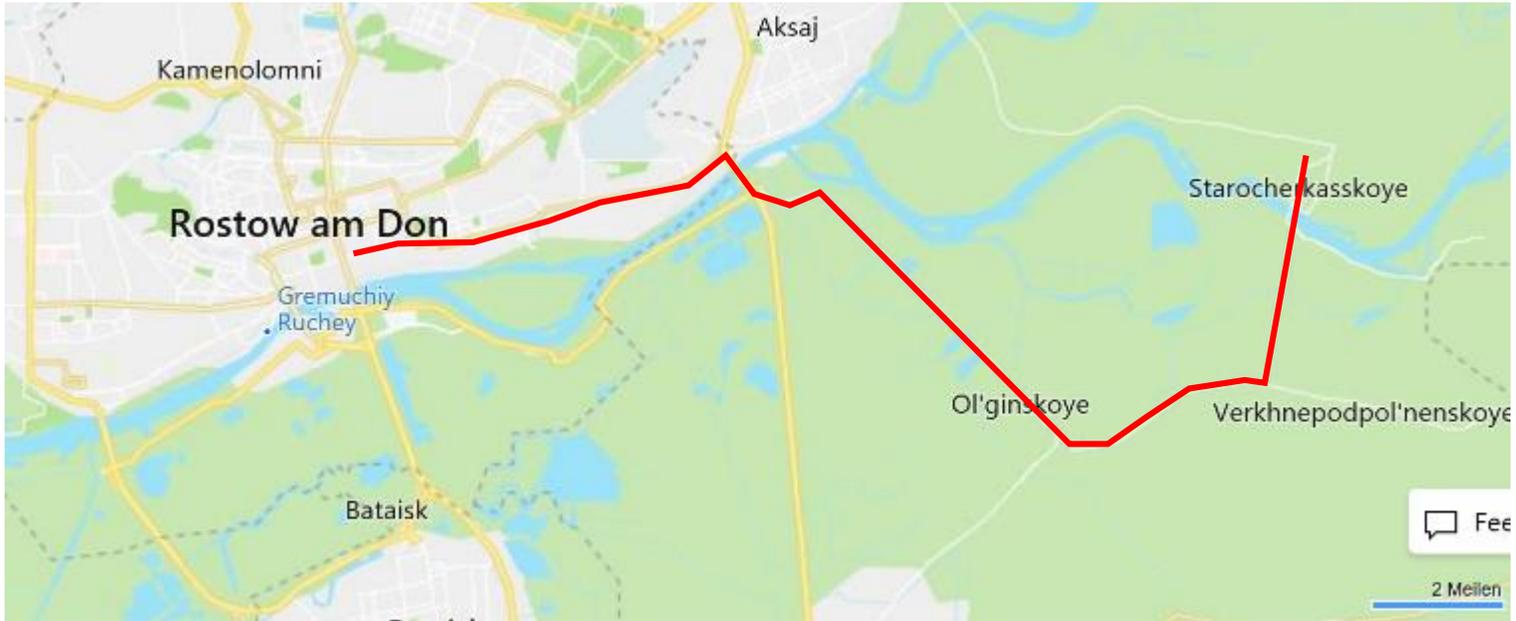
Taken from Wikipedia

City of Rostov on Don



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

City of Starocherkasskoye, the former capital of the Don Cossacks



Don Cossacks (Russian: Донские казаки) or Donians (Russian: донцы, dontsy), are Cossacks who settled along the middle and lower Don. Historically, they have been located within what was the Don Cossack Host (Russian: Донское казачье войско, Donskoye Kazache Voisko), which was either an independent or an autonomous democratic republic in the present-day Southern Russia and the Donbass region of Ukraine, from the end of the 16th century until 1918. As of 1992, by the presidential decree of the Russian Federation, Cossacks can be enrolled on a special register. A number of Cossack communities have been reconstituted to further the Cossack cultural traditions, including those of the Don Cossack Host.

Taken from Wikipedia



City of Starocherkasskoye, the former capital of the Don Cossacks



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

City of Starocherkasskoye, the former capital of the Don Cossacks

