

The Russian Orthodox Church has always been an integral part of Russian life, even during the Communist period when it was officially proscribed. Today, Russians who might not go to church very often, can still be seen holding a lighted candle during the all-important Easter service.

Our tour of the most important centres of Russian Orthodoxy, the group of towns clustered around Moscow known collectively as the Golden Ring, is a trip back in time, not only in terms of the icons and architecture, which date back to the twelfth century, but also for its insight into the role that the Church played in the lives of the tsars and the people. Suzdal, for example, where industry is forbidden, is still very much as it was in the nineteenth century.

#### **WE SUGGEST:**

**One night Moscow, one night Yaroslavl, two nights Suzdal, one night Moscow.** Visits to Vladimir, Kostroma, Rostov Velikiy, & Sergeiev Posad. **Experience a traditional meal served in the home of a local family in Suzdal.**

