

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMER CAMP NEAR VELIKY NOVGOROD



A full-immersion into Russian history

Liden & Denz offers an authentic and unique experience combining lessons of Russian medieval history with actual excavation work at Staraya Russa, a wealthy medieval town not far from Veliky Novgorod. Our archaeological volunteers help a team from the Novgorod University to unearth artefacts from the 11th to 15th century!

The excavation sites in and around Novgorod have huge importance for historical researchers as they contain a significant number of written birch barks from a bygone era dedicated to a wide range of every-day topics. Finding written sources in the mud is extremely rare. Not so in Novgorod, where specific geological conditions helped to preserve the birch barks in the mud for centuries.



Camp and lectures

The field work on the site is conducted under the supervision of trained archaeologists from the University of Novgorod, who will provide proper training, organise excursions and conduct several lectures on archaeology in the specific context of the Republic of Novgorod during and after the reign of Yaroslav the Wise.

Camp lectures focus on the following topics:

- Archaeology as science;
- Methods and organisation of the archaeological work;
- Rules and regulations at the excavation site;
- Cultural layers and their formation;
- Methods for dating the excavated objects;
- Archaeological relics in the Novgorod region and their historical significance (including excursions).



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1 Camp duration and requirements

The archaeological camp lasts three weeks and is preceded by a two-week module consisting of lectures of Russian language and history; this module is compulsory for all volunteers whose level of Russian is below B1 (A1, A2). Absolute beginners must also attend a 6-week General Russian course at any Liden&Denz campus. Those whose level of Russian is B1 or above will be exempted from any preparatory course and can join the archaeological camp directly. Your level will be determined through a phone/Skype call after the booking. All participants will receive a certificate by the University of Novgorod. The minimum age is 21.



Archaeological Summer Camp 2020 Fees

Camp fee* if booked with Russian language course	€ 1300
Language + history module** (2 weeks; levels A1 and A2)	€ 360
Camp only fee (minimal level B1)	€ 1650

2 Dates and prices 2020

Date	Duration	Stage	Notes
25 May 2020	6 weeks	Any Russian language course in any Liden & Denz centre	Compulsory for absolute beginners
6 July 2020	2 weeks	Russian language course + History module at Liden & Denz St. Petersburg	Compulsory for all students below B1 level
20 July 2020	3 weeks	Archaeological summer camp in Staraya Russa	Conditions at the excavation site in Staraya Russa***

***Included services:** Level assessment by phone/skype, transfer to and from Staraya Russa, single en-suite accommodation in a 3* hotel with breakfast during the 3-week camp stay, all camp meals, lectures and excursions in Staraya Russa. **Not included:** enrolment fee covering visa support and registration, language course fees and history module fees (where applicable), accommodation costs in St.Petersburg.

****Compulsory** for all camp volunteers below B1 level. Optional for all other students.

*****Archaeological field work** at the Piatnitska-2 excavation site in Staraya Russa can be physically and mentally demanding. Volunteers sit on makeshift benches and dig through the mud with their hands looking for artefacts made of birch bark, leather, ceramics or metal under the supervision of professional archaeologists. The reward comes in artefacts, which are found on a daily basis!

Our volunteers work alongside volunteers from Russian universities, usually from the local region. All meals are taken together. Conditions are basic. Sun protection is essential. No work can be conducted during rain showers (this time will be used for lectures and excursions). Work is conducted from Monday-Saturday. Some of the supervisors speak English but all lectures are held in Russian.

3 Accommodation

Single en-suite accommodation in a 3* hotel with breakfast.

