

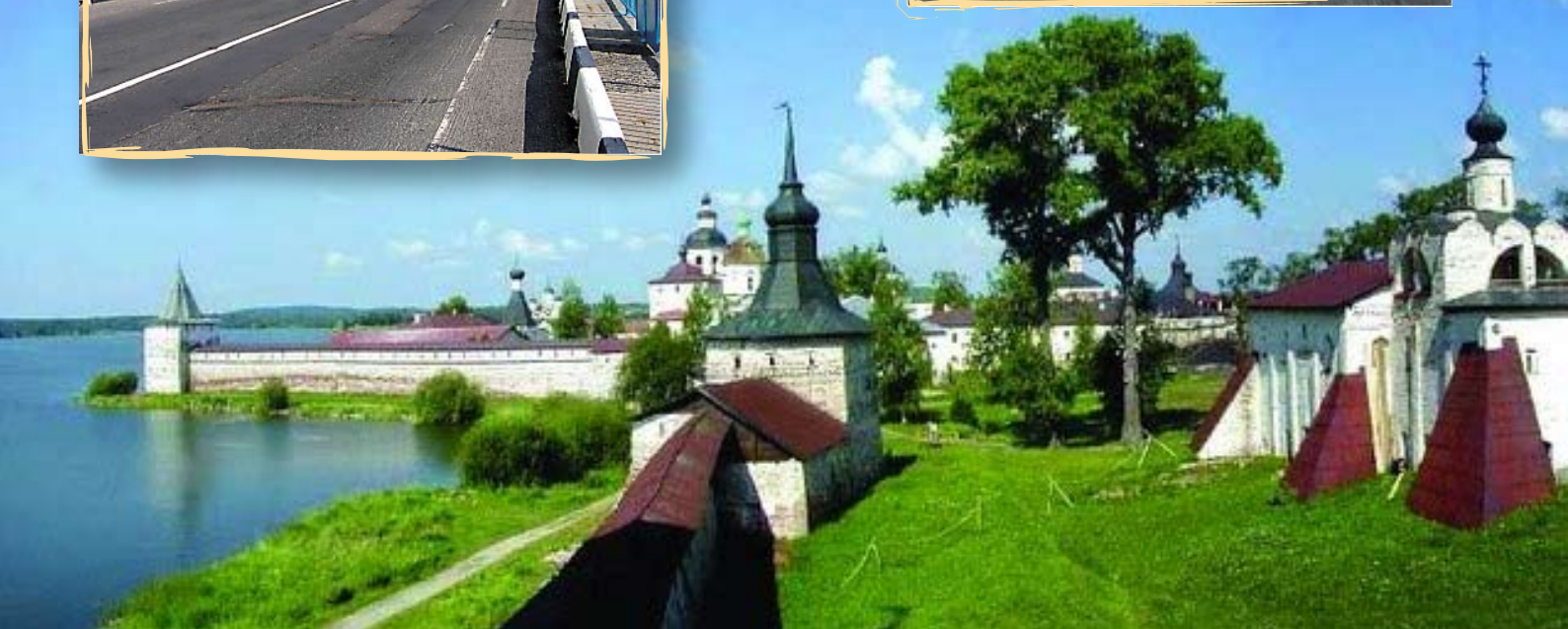
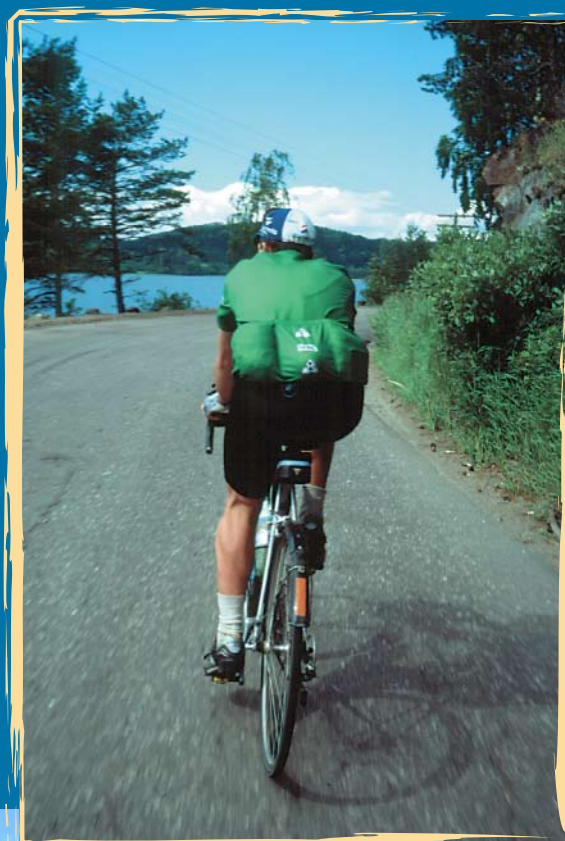


Randonnee Club of Long-
distance Bicycle Trips
Baltic Star

presents a 1,200 km randonnee

VOLOGDA
ONEGA
LADOGA
2008

Dates: **4-8**
JULY



ROUTE:

Vologda – Kirillov – Vytegra – Pudozh – Medvezhyegorsk –
Petrozavodsk – Sortavala – Pitkyaranta – Vidlitsa

Participants of the brevet will see the beautiful world of north-west Russia, its expanses, woods, and Europe's two largest lakes, Onega and Ladoga. A special feature will be the White Nights, which will be at their height during the trip.

The randonnee will start from Vologda, an ancient Russian city with a millenium-long history. Vologda is easily accessible from Moscow or St. Petersburg. We recommend you to arrive one or two days in advance to have enough time to admire the beautiful place. Participants will depart in early morning from the city center. The first part of the route will pass along the highway P5. Just a few years ago many of its sections could only be traveled by offroaders; now it is a European-quality highway with a very low traffic.

Like everywhere in north Russia, there are few towns and villages, but participants will have reliable support, and truck drivers on these northern routes are always ready to help.

On 110th km of the route we will visit the town of Kirillov (control point 1). The checkpoint is located near the Kirillo-Belozerski monastery http://www.nortfort.ru/kbm/index_e.html - a highlight of Russian architecture of North-West of Russia.

As we come back to P5, the quality of the road will get much better. Near the lake Onega the route will approach the Volga-Baltic Canal - the main waterway between Moscow and Saint-Petersburg.

Then our route will pass through the interesting towns Vytegra (353 km) and Pudozh (457 km). The route will a few times pass by the lake shore. It's hard not to admire the wooden architecture of the Russian North. Checkpoints in villages Saminsky Pogost (395 km) and Chyolmuzhi (576 km) are close to old wooden churches.



Near the town Povenets (626 km) our route will cross one more famous canal –the White Sea – Baltic Sea Canal built by prisoners from the nearby GULAG camps in the 1920-30s.

The first leg will end in the town Medvezhyegorsk (655 km). Next will come Karelia, a country of pine woods, rocks and one thousand lakes. Near Girvas (731 km) you will see a very beautiful drained artificial river bed among rocks. "Martsyalnye Vody" (775 km) - the northernmost Russia's resort opened by Peter I decree. After checkpoint in Shuya village (807 km) just before Karelian capital Petrozavodsk the route turns to the last gem on it's way - lake Ladoga. You will travel over small highways and then one more super-modern motor road section with zero traffic. On one of the crossroads you will see the Mourning Monument (1007 km). This place is called the Valley of Death because many soldiers perished there during the Finnish War 1939-1940.

After you have enjoyed the views of the lake Ladoga and the interesting dam in the village of Lyaskela the route reaches the remarkable town Sortavala (1068 km). From here the route will go back along the lake of



Ladoga to the town of Pitkyaranta, from there is only 70 km to finish. Finish is in the small town of Vidlitsa (1216 km) which has modest but comfortable hostel which we are going to use as a final checkpoint.

In the distance of 3 km from finish there are very beautiful beaches on the shore of the lake Ladoga.

From Vidlitsa bus will deliver you to St. Petersburg. We recommend you to stay some time in this magnificent city. However, you should in advance make bookings for your possible stay in Northern Venice, since the randonnee will take place in high season when all hotels and hostels are usually full. If necessary, we will help you with lodging in St. Petersburg. We can also assist you in obtaining a Russian visa.



Baltic Star Club

Baltic Star is a club for those who love to travel long distances by bicycle and can do that. Founded in 1996, the club celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. To join the club applicants are required to carry out an Audax brevet minimum (200+300 at the moment) and take part in the club's activities. The key task of Baltic Star is to organize brevets, but also various competitions such as road races and cross-country marathon. Many club members take part in endurance competitions such as adventure races, multisport, triathlon, orienteering, marathon, as well as road and cross-country races.



The club's current president and BRM responsible person is Mikhail Kamentsev. You can any time contact him at e-mail mkam@balticstar.spb.ru

Our club's most popular long-distance brevet has been the circular route around the Ladoga, which we have organized three times, however, the fact that it included a federal highway with a dense traffic in the beginning and 40 km of a track without cover in the second leg has made us to cancel this event. You can read reports in English and see pictures at http://balticstar.spb.ru/ladoga2004_en.htm

As an alternative, we proposed the Onega – Ladoga route, which is partly used in this brevet.

We can understand that many people see Russia as a very distant and unknown country, but we hope that you will change your opinion as you visit us. This is not an unfounded claim, you just need to read the reports of those people who have already traveled with us. Of course, they are not just all praise, but also include criticism. This is very good, since we have taken it into account and will make efforts for the brevet to have a European level in terms of organization and participants' comfort.



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