



Russian Spring: Volga & Golden Ring

7 days/6 nights

Your manager

Lina

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★★★★★ 4,8 out of 5

These package is available as Private Tour





What our travelers say



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Day 1: Arrive Kazan

Welcome to Kazan!

Kazan is one of the largest religious, economic, political, scientific, educational, cultural and sports centres in Russia. In April 2009, the Russian Patent Office granted Kazan the right to brand itself as the "Third Capital" of Russia.

The origin of the name Kazan is uncertain. The most accepted legends derive it from the Bulgar (and also modern Tatar) word qazan, which means 'boiler' or 'cauldron'. Most often appeal to the version of the boiling boiler: the sorcerer advised the Bulgars to build a city where without any fire will boil dug into the ground boiler with water. As a result, a similar place was found on the shore of Lake Kaban.

Your driver will meet you at the train station or airport to take you to the cozy hotel in downtown.



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Kazan hotel



Transfer to the hotel

Day 2: Discover Kazan

Today we have a really busy day to explore the main sights of Kazan. Firstl, enjoy the tour to UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Kremlin of Kazan, with our professional English-speaking guide.

Our next stop is the magnificent Kul Sharif Mosque. The impressive Qol-Şärif Mosque (also transliterated as Kul-Sharif) is the most important mosque in Tatarstan and one of the largest mosques in Europe.

As Kazan is the centre of Tatar culture, we will also visit the old Tatar villages to try a local Tatar tea. Later, have a culinary master-class of Tatar dishes at a traditional restaurant.

During our city tour will also see Kazan Arena, Millennium Bridge, Märçani Mosque, Kaban Lake, Bogoroditskaya Monastery, Peter and Paul Cathedral, Bauman Street, Freedom Square. In the evening, transfer to the train station to board the train to Nizhny Novgorod.



**Breakfast,
Tatar lunch**



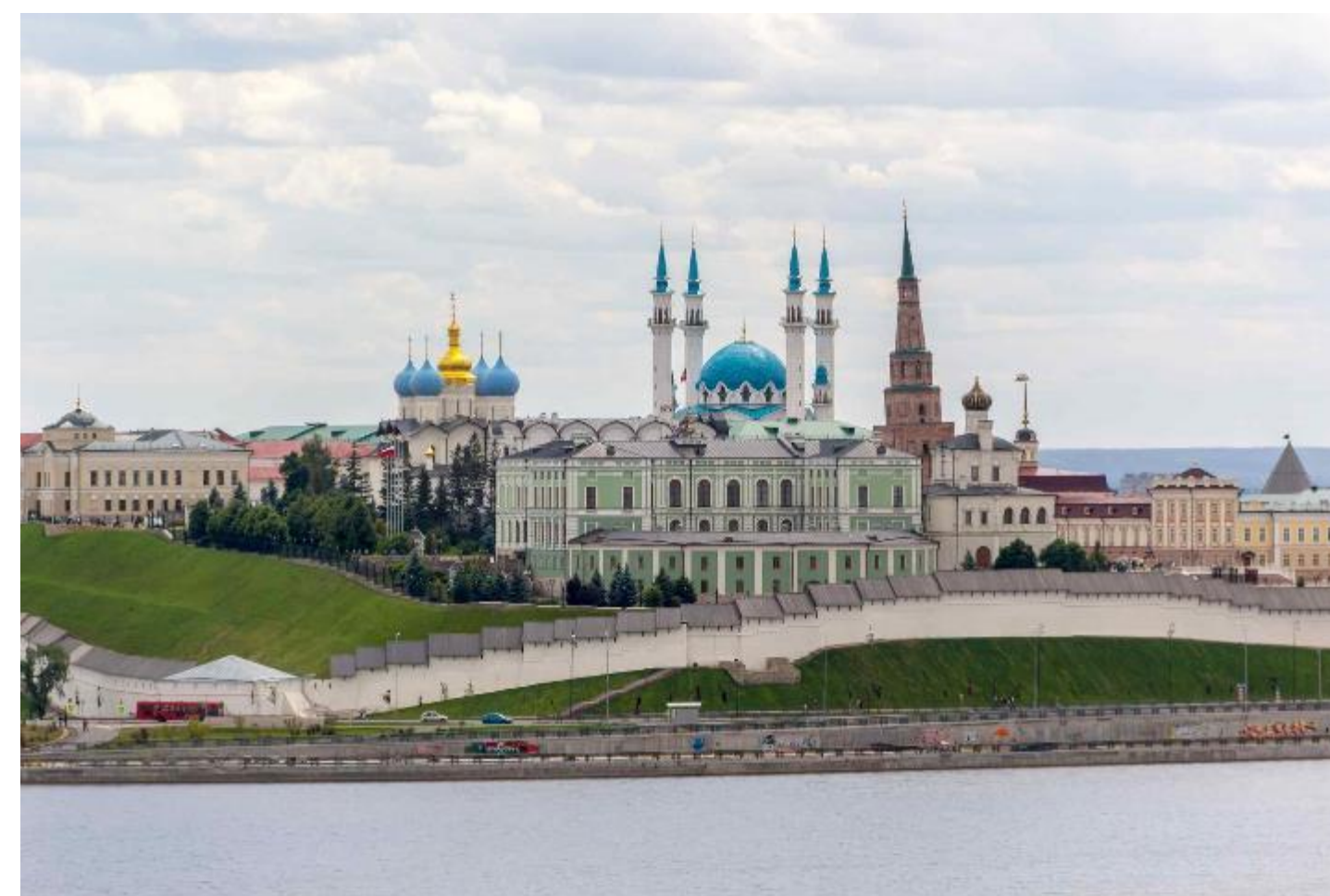
Tour



**On board the
train**



**Train Kazan - Nizhny
Novgorod**



Day 3: Discover Central Russia

Early arrival at Nizhny Novgorod and guaranteed check-in. Time to refresh.

Today, we travel to now peaceful Gorodets settlement and tomorrow will explore Nizhny Novgorod and its cultural treasures.

As there was an abundance of woods around the town, becoming a woodcarver or carpenter was always considered the best option for a profession. Today Gorodets is known as the “town of masters” – a place where numerous crafts are plied. The famous Gorodets painting style, gold embroidery, wood carving, honey cake baking, pottery and basket weaving all still flourish here.

In a largely illiterate society, Gorodets has gained a reputation of “museum-town”. Russian Samovar tea ceremony with the town's speciality, “pryaniki” – hard honey-rich cakes, it is your quintessential Russian experience of the day!





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Day 4: Discover Nizhny Novgorod

Get ready for a guided tour in Nizhny Novgorod - one of the hidden gems on the Russian touristic map. Nizhniy Novgorod is lucky to host one of the most beautiful provincial Kremlin's built on high Volga river banks. Apparently, you will get the complete set of Russia's attractions: the Kremlin, the State Art Museum with a collection of icons and national crafts dated back to XIV century, wooden architecture on streets and an open-air museum of traditional architecture and cultures, beautiful churches, ancient monasteries, great traditional Russian food and heartily people.

During Polish invasion of 1621 it was Nizhny Novgorod and its citizens who assembled the people's army to fight for Moscow. In memory of it, you have seen Minin and Pozharsky monument in front of St. Basil's Cathedral at the Red Square. Since XIX century, Nizhny Novgorod was the leading Russian international trade centre.

In the evening, take a transfer to the train station to board the train to Vladimir. Arrival and check-in.



Breakfast



Vladimir hotel



Tour



**Train Nizhny
Novgorod - Vladimir**

Day 5: Nerli & Vladimir

Pick up at your hotel and transfer to Vladimir (2-3 hours depending on traffic). Take a tour to enjoy all the wonders of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Vladimir was one of the medieval capitals of Russia, with significant buildings surviving from the 12th century. We shall visit the Dormition Cathedral that preserves the world famous frescoes of Andrei Rublev, and the architectural complex of the Cathedral of St. Dimitriy.

Russians borrowed its early architecture, like its icon painting, from Byzantium. One of the best-known Russian churches in the northern style is the Church of the Intercession on the Nerl.. Today it stands alone in the midst of green meadows, the small lake below reflecting its white walls and single dome. This church is one of the most poetic creations of early Russian architecture which ever come down to us out of the past. It was built in 1164 and it now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Transfer to Yaroslavl for overnight.



Day 6: Yaroslavl & Rostov the Great

Historical centre of Yaroslavl, is, of course, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Yaroslavl was the first Christian city on the Volga River. Apparently, there are plenty of decent cathedrals and churches here to visit, however, we feel it's better to skip and instead, visit the Residence of Maslenitsa. What is, or who is Maslenitsa? Sign up to our tour to find out!

After lunch, transfer to Rostov the Great, which has been known since the 9th century. It is famous for the 17th century Kremlin with numerous churches and gorgeous views from the Kremlin walls. (Unlike in Moscow Kremlin, here you might walk along the fortified wall). Tour of Rostov Kremlin and exhibition of Finift (Rostov painted enamel). We shall visit great local museum, one-of-a-kind place to get acquainted with this unique Russian art. The master class will allow you to create your own enamel miniatures.

Transfer to Suzdal for overnight.



Breakfast, Lunch



Tour



Suzdal hotel



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Day 7: Suzdal Kremlin & Wooden Houses

A day to explore treasures of ancient Suzdal, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the brilliant Suzdal Kremlin and its gem - the beautiful Chamber of the Christ, explore the ensemble of the Monastery of Saint Euthymius.

Try Russian national drink - "medovukha" - a soft drink based on honey. Suzdal produces the very best one!

Visit Museum of Wooden Architecture. It keeps numerous examples of old wooden architecture and is considered to be a little corner of classical ancient Russia.

In the evening, take a transfer to Moscow.



**Breakfast,
Degustation of Medovukha**



Tour





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Dates & Rates RUB per person in twin/double room

	★★★ hotels 1st/2nd class train	★★★★ hotels 1st/2nd class train	★★★★★ hotels 1st/2nd class train
Private tour Based on 2 people to go. For customized tours, please inquire.	122 400/ 119 775 RUB	131 025/ 128 400 RUB	on request
Single supplement	17 250 RUB	25 875 RUB	

Private tour: choose your own date



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Tour Inclusions

ACCOMMODATION

Hand-picked centrally located hotels of selected category (3*, 4* hotel of your choice):

- 1 night Kazan
- 1 night with early check-in Nizhny Novgorod
- 1 night Vladimir
- 1 night Yaroslavl
- 1 night Suzdal

1 night on board the train

TRANSPORTATION

- Kazan - Nizhny Novgorod train tickets of the chosen category according to the itinerary
- Nizhny Novgorod - Vladimir intercity bullet train, standard class, 4 hours ride. Please inquire about business or 1st class upgrade and flight options
- Private return airport/train station transfers
- Meet & greet at the airports/train stations
- Private transportation on tours as per program in a comfortable a/c car/minivan/bus (except on walking tours)

SIGHTSEEING

- Kazan full day (8 hours) guided tour: the Kul Sharif Mosque, the Kazan Kremlin, Old Tatar Slobodal
- Nizhny Novgorod full day (8 hours) guided city tour
- Gorodets full day (8 hours) guided city tour
- Vladimir and Bogolyubovo full day (8 hours) guided tour: the Dormition Cathedral, the architectural complex of the Cathedral of St. Dimitriy, Intercession Church on the Nerl
- Yaroslavl half day (4 hours) guided tour: the Residence of Maslenitsa, the main cathedrals
- Rostov the Great half day (4 hours) guided tour: the Rostov Kremlin, master class on national crafts
- Suzdal day (6 hours) guided tour: Kremlin and the ensemble of the Monastery of Saint Euthymius, Museum of Wooden Architecture, master class on national crafts

MEALS

- Full breakfast at the hotels (except Day 1)
- Tatar cooking master-class with lunch in Kazan
- Russian tea ceremony in Gorodets
- Russian pancakes experience in the Residence of Maslenitsa (lunch) in Yaroslavl // Degustation of Medovukha (lunch) in Suzdal // 1 lunch in Vladimir



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Tour Inclusions

ENTRANCE TICKETS, VISAS & MISC.

- Entrance tickets to all listed attractions (except optional)
- Russian local sim card with data for the Russian part of the trip
- 24/7 English-speaking support line in Russia

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Porters
- Extras of personal nature
- Lunches and dinners not listed in itinerary
- Travel insurance

Optional: Bolgar Tour

Take a transfer to Bolgar. This historical and archeological site is set on the left bank of the Volga River about 140 km from Kazan and is a well-known UNESCO World Heritage Site. The complex includes the remains of the medieval city of Bolgar, which was the first capital of the Golden Horde in the 13th century. Bolgar is an early settlement of the Volga-Bolgars civilization that existed between the 7th and 15th centuries AD.

Fabulous architecture of 12-13th centuries included the Mosque, minarets, mausoleums, the Khan's tomb, the Khan Palace, the Eastern, White and Black Chambers, the «Gabdrakhman's Well» complex and more.

Transfer back to Kazan. The evening is free at leisure.



**Breakfast,
Lunch**



Tour



Kazan hotel

Optional: Sviyazhsk Island Tour

Take Sviyazhsk Island for half-day (4 hours) guided tour. Discover its unique history as the place has hardly changed over the last century.

With no fewer than 37 cultural monuments on the island, including two monasteries and seven churches, it's next to impossible to explore everything at this historic and scenic island, which is now UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The pearl of the collection is the Trinity Church – the only preserved wooden church in Sviyazhsk from the times of Ivan the Terrible (XVI century). It was built without a single nail and the axe marks made by the Yaroslavl carpenters can still be seen.



Breakfast



Tour



Kazan hotel



OPTIONAL TOURS

Ask your travel manager for more details

MOSCOW

Cold war traces: secret anti-nuclear bunker - 42

USD 85 // AUD 120 // GBP 66 // CAD 115
per person (min. 2 ppl to go)

Moscow River Yacht Panoramic Cruise

Year round. Transfer included.

USD 70 // AUD 100 // GBP 55 // CAD 95
per person (min. 2 ppl to go)

Tank driving

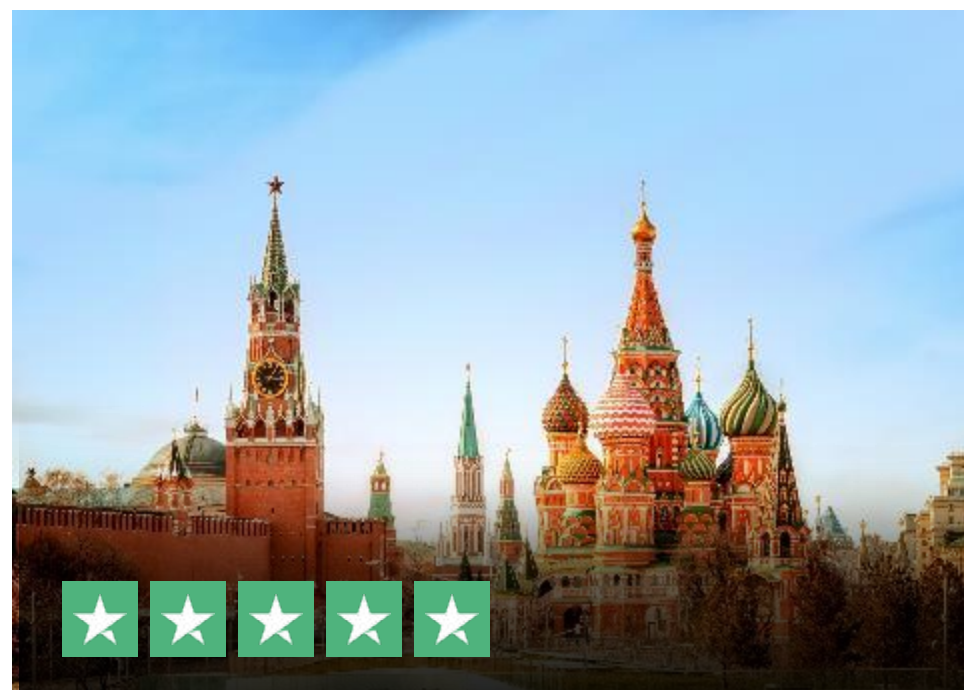
USD 1315 // AUD 1850 // GBP 1020 // CAD 1770
per person (min. 2 ppl to go)



Extra night stay

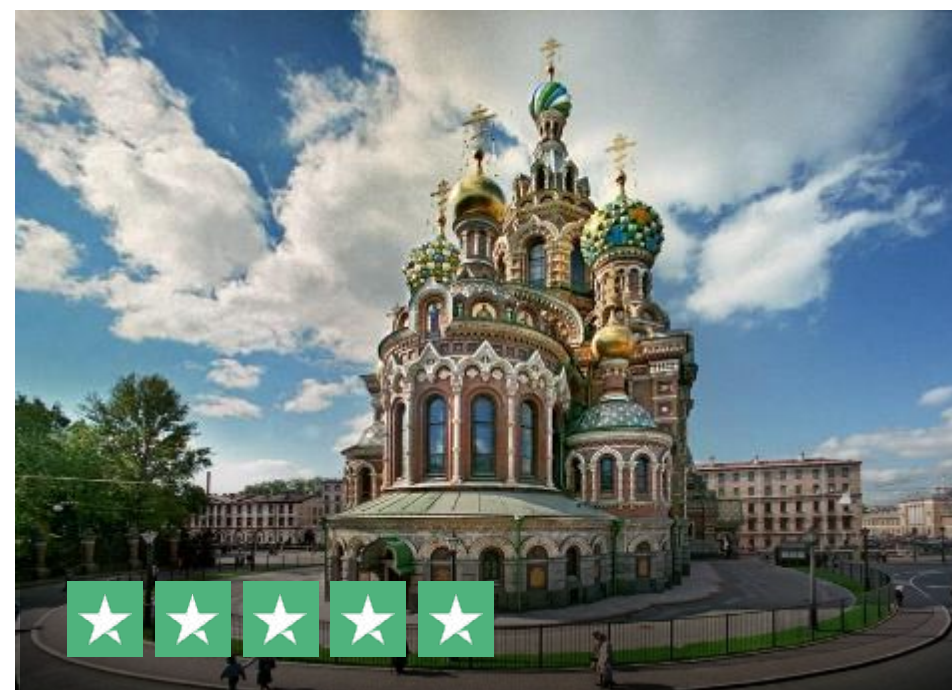
USD 55 // AUD 75 // GBP 45 // CAD 75 per person (3*)
USD 95 // AUD 130 // GBP 75 // CAD 125 per person (4*)
USD 165 // AUD 230 // GBP 130 // CAD 220 per person (5*)

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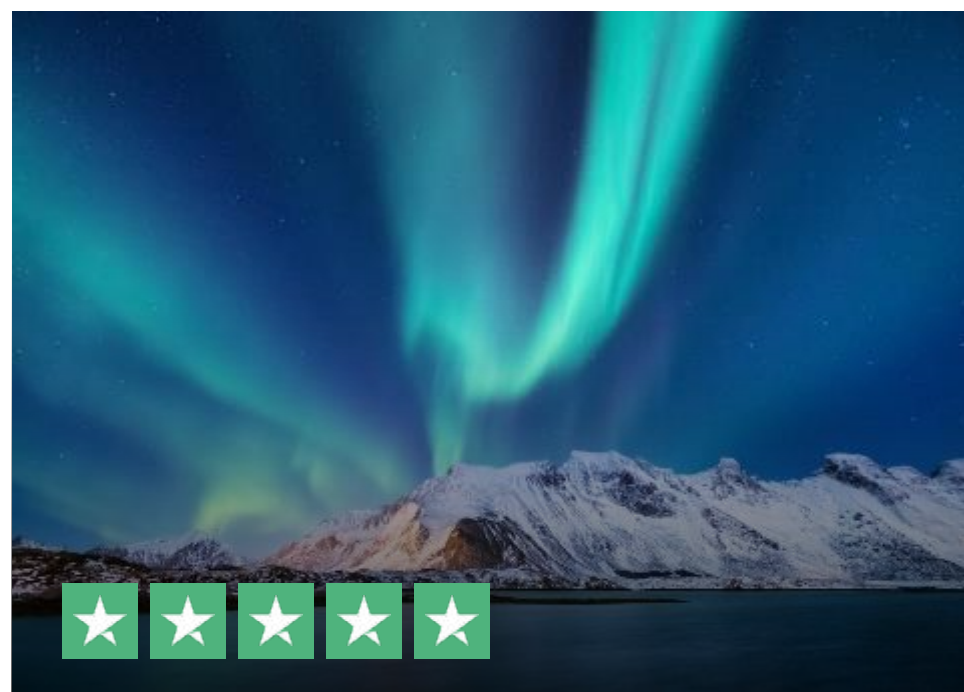
Grand Russia UNESCO Tour

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Trans-Siberian Eastbound Moscow To Vladivostok

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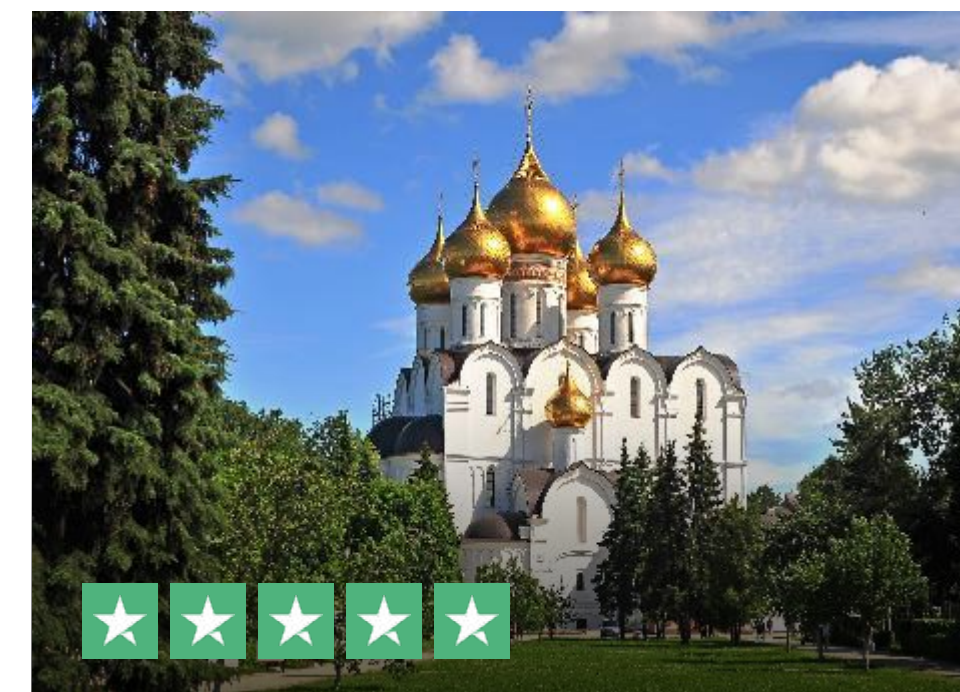
Chasing The Northern Lights

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Naadam Eastbound Explorer

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Gems of the Golden Ring

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