

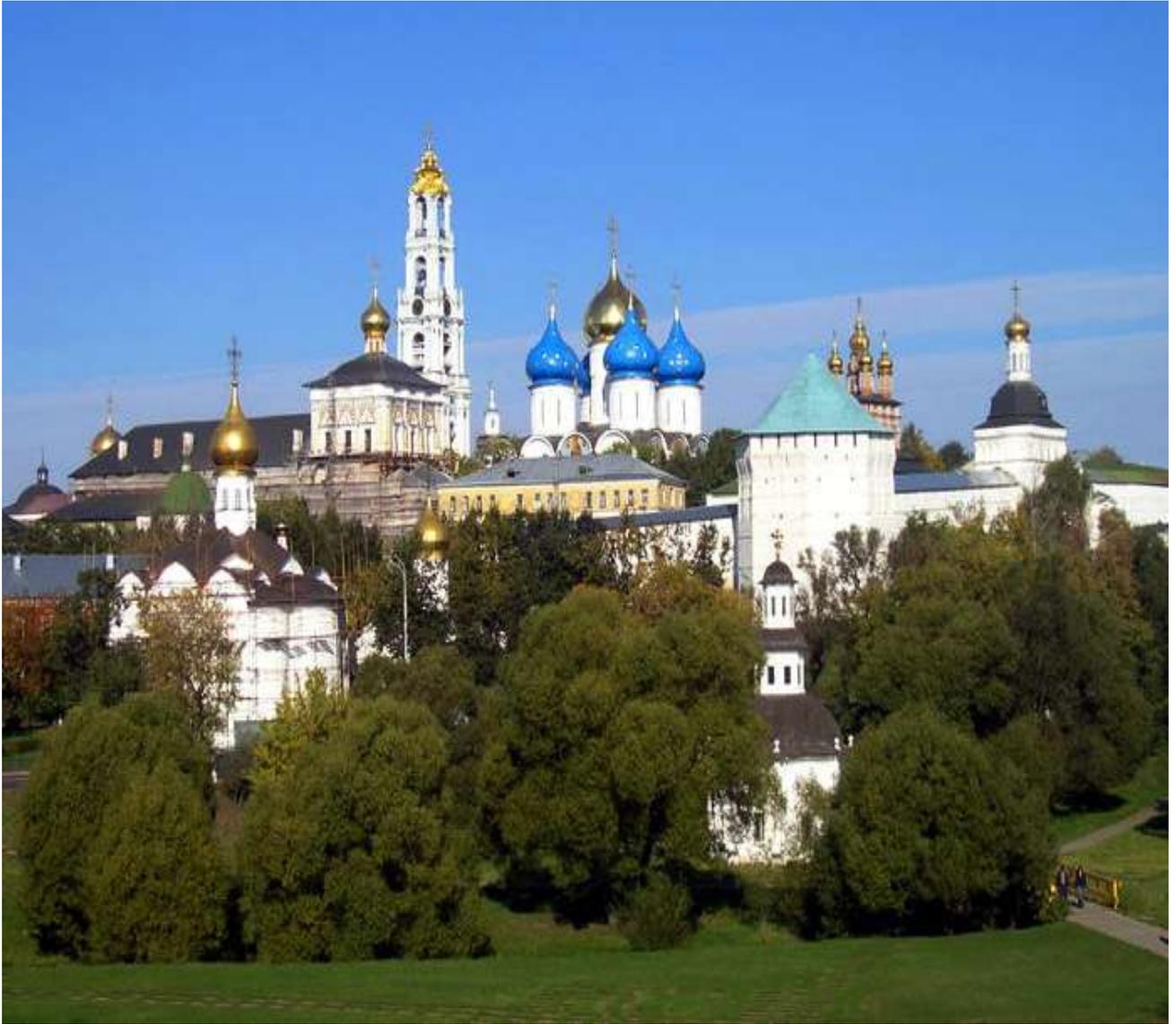
г. Москва

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I would like to say a few words about the village where my grandparents' country house is situated. The name of the village is Konstantinovo, it is just 25 km from Konstantinovo to Sergiev-Posad.



There are a lot of fields, a large forest and a river near the village. This is a very beautiful place especially in winter: trees and roads under the snow and ice, roofs under the snow and ice too. Some people say that spring in this place starts two weeks earlier than in other villages situated nearby. They say that Konstantinovo was built by Konstantin, one of the monks of the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius. Trinity Lavra is situated in Sergiev-Posad.



The Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius is the most important monastery of the Russian Orthodox Church. The monastery now is home to over 300 monks.

The monastery was founded in 1345 by one of the Russian saints, Sergius of Radonezh.

St. Sergius sent two of his monks, Peresvet and Oslabya, to participate in the Battle of Kulikovo (1380).

The monastery was destroyed by fire in 1408.

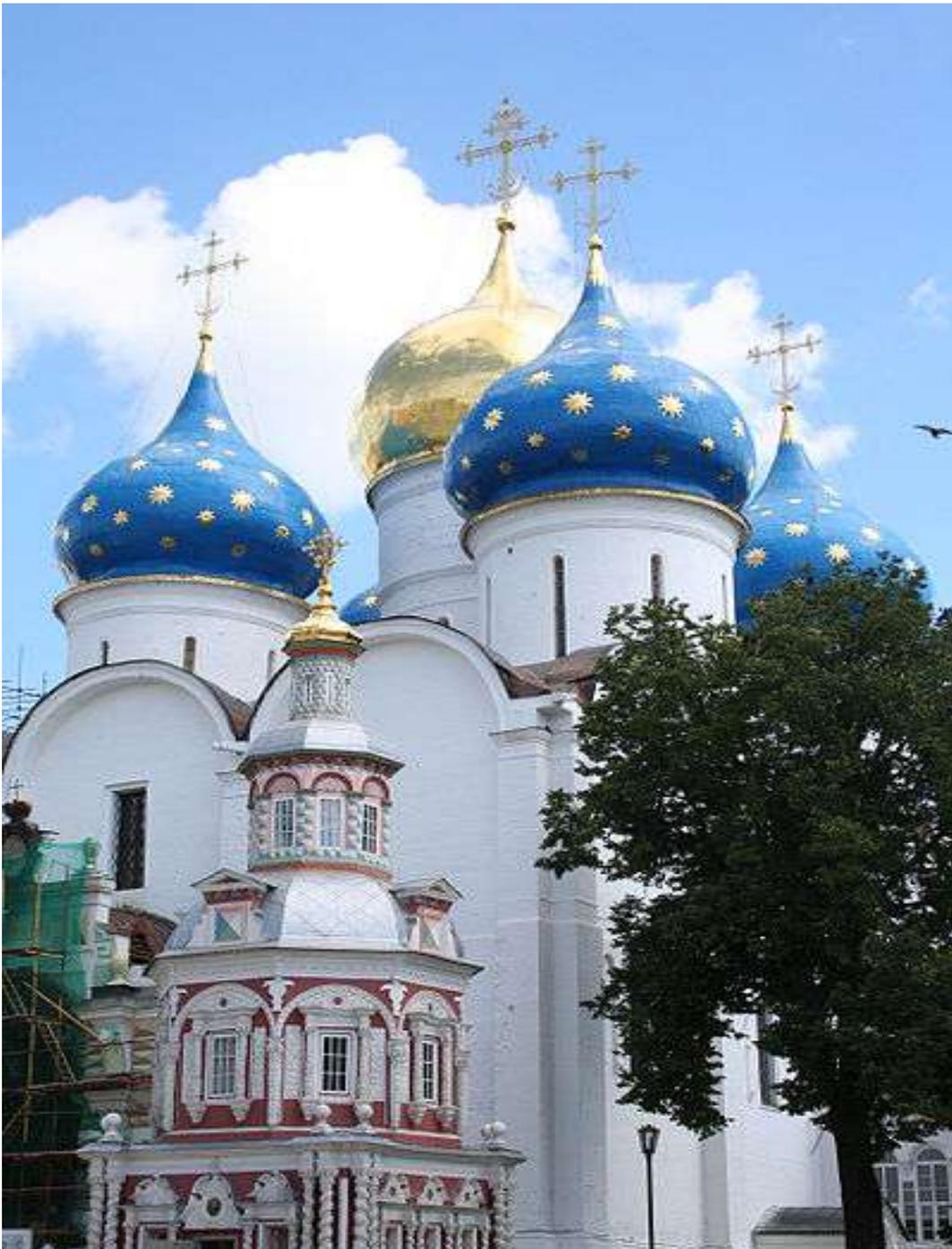
In 1422 the first stone cathedral was built.

The greatest icon painters - Andrei Rublev and Daniil Chyorny decorated the cathedral with frescoes.

Traditionally, Muscovite royals were baptized in this cathedral.

It took 26 years to construct the Assumption Cathedral finished by Ivan the Terrible in 1559.

The cathedral is much larger than the similar cathedral in the Moscow Kremlin.



The monastery grew and the village (or posad) near the monastery walls became larger and larger. Now it is not a village but a town of Sergiyev Posad.

In the 17th century young Peter I twice found refuge inside the monastery walls from his enemies.

After the Russian Revolution of 1917 the Soviet government closed the Lavra.

In 1930, monastery bells, including the Tsar-Bell of 65 tons, were destroyed.



Important restoration works were done in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1993, the Trinity Lavra was added to the UN World Heritage List.

