

UNESCO Adds Russia's Ancient Pskov Churches to World Heritage List

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Seventeen unique buildings in the northwest Russian city of Pskov were among the latest cultural gems to join UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. Pskov is one of Russia's oldest cities, first mentioned in ancient annals of the 9th century. In the Middle Ages, it was the bustling, wealthy capital of the Pskov Republic, acting as a bridge between Russia and Europe. The buildings, located in Pskov's historic old city, include churches, cathedrals, monasteries, fortification towers and administrative buildings dating back as far as the 12th century. They are part of the Pskov school of architecture, which influenced Russian architecture over five centuries and reached its peak in the 15th and 16th centuries. The buildings included in UNESCO's list feature architectural elements like cubic volumes, domes, porches and belfries. The churches and cathedrals are integrated into the surrounding environment through gardens, perimeter walls and fences, UNESCO wrote.



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