



Irkutsk City

short excursion - 2013

ASSOCIAZIONE GEO-ARCHEOLOGICA ITALIANA

Siberia – Baikal – 2013 (24 July – 3 August)

Image © 2013 GeoEye

Google earth

1661



ИРКУТСК

Восьмое небо

Irkutsk is the most popular stop for the Trans - Siberian travelers. In this city, which was once known as the "Paris of Siberia", you will find people rather more friendly and relaxed than those in Moscow and other Russian major cities on the west.



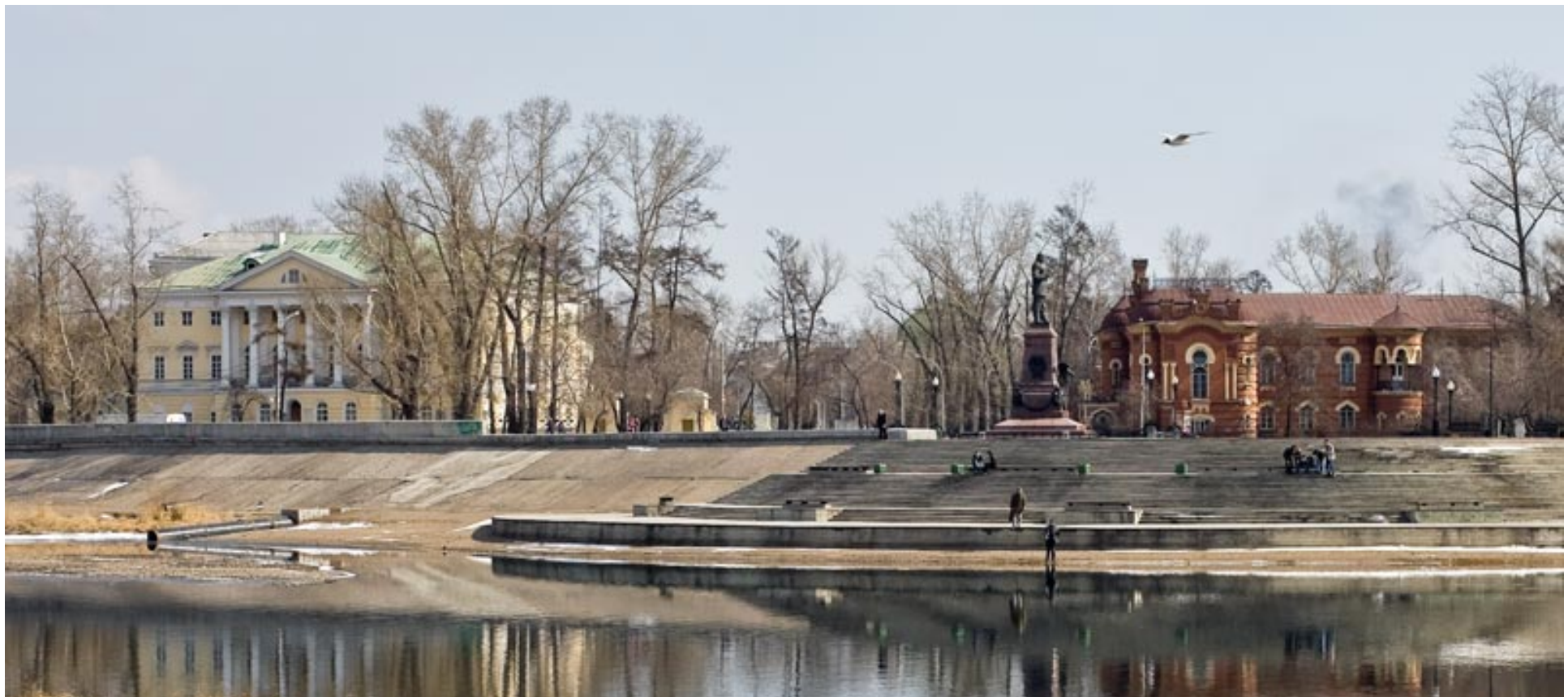
Along many of the streets you can still see the cozy - looking log cabins (eaves and windows decorated with intricate fretwork) which are typical for the Siberian style of domestic architecture.



Irkutsk was founded as a military outpost in 1661 by Ivan Pakhabov (Cossack) and tax collector who had come to encourage the local Buryat tribesmen to pay their fur tribute.



By 1686 a church had been built and a small town established on the bank of Angara. Tea caravans from China passed through Irkutsk, fur traders sold their pelts here, gold was found around and the town quickly developed into a center for trade in Siberia.



By the middle of the 19-th century Irkutsk was recognized as Siberia's administrative, financial and cultural capital. Its cosmopolitan population included fur traders, tea merchants, gold prospectors, officials, craftsmen and ex- convicts. Being the capital Irkutsk was the destination of many exiled nobles from West Russia.



Regional Museum. Small museum of city history

The most celebrated exiles were the Decembrists, who had attempted a coup in St Peterburg in 1825.



Volkonsky Museum-House



for St. Petersburg with its Emperor's Hermitage and Moscow with its Tretyakov Art Gallery....

Nowadays, with the population about 600 000 people, Irkutsk is one of the largest Siberian cities, with more than 10 state universities, scientific town and service & engineering as the main activity. Most of the brick mansions and grand public buildings varying in architectural styles were constructed in the late 19th - early 20th century. Several beautiful Russian Orthodox churches and a Polish Cathedral are located in downtown, near the central square.

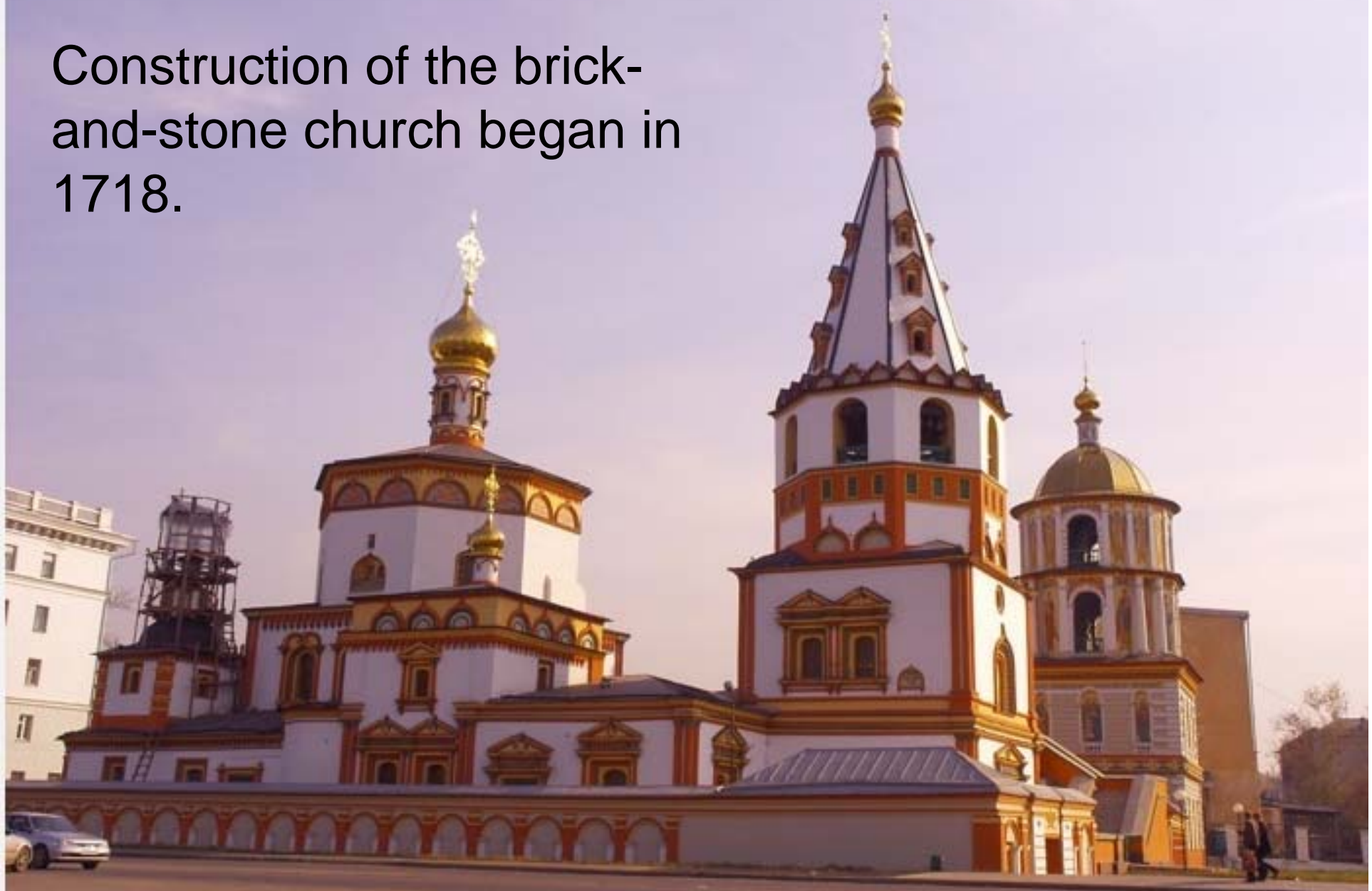
<http://www.baikalcomplex.com/info.htm>

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Bogoyavlenskiy (Epiphany) Cathedral

Construction of the brick-and-stone church began in 1718.

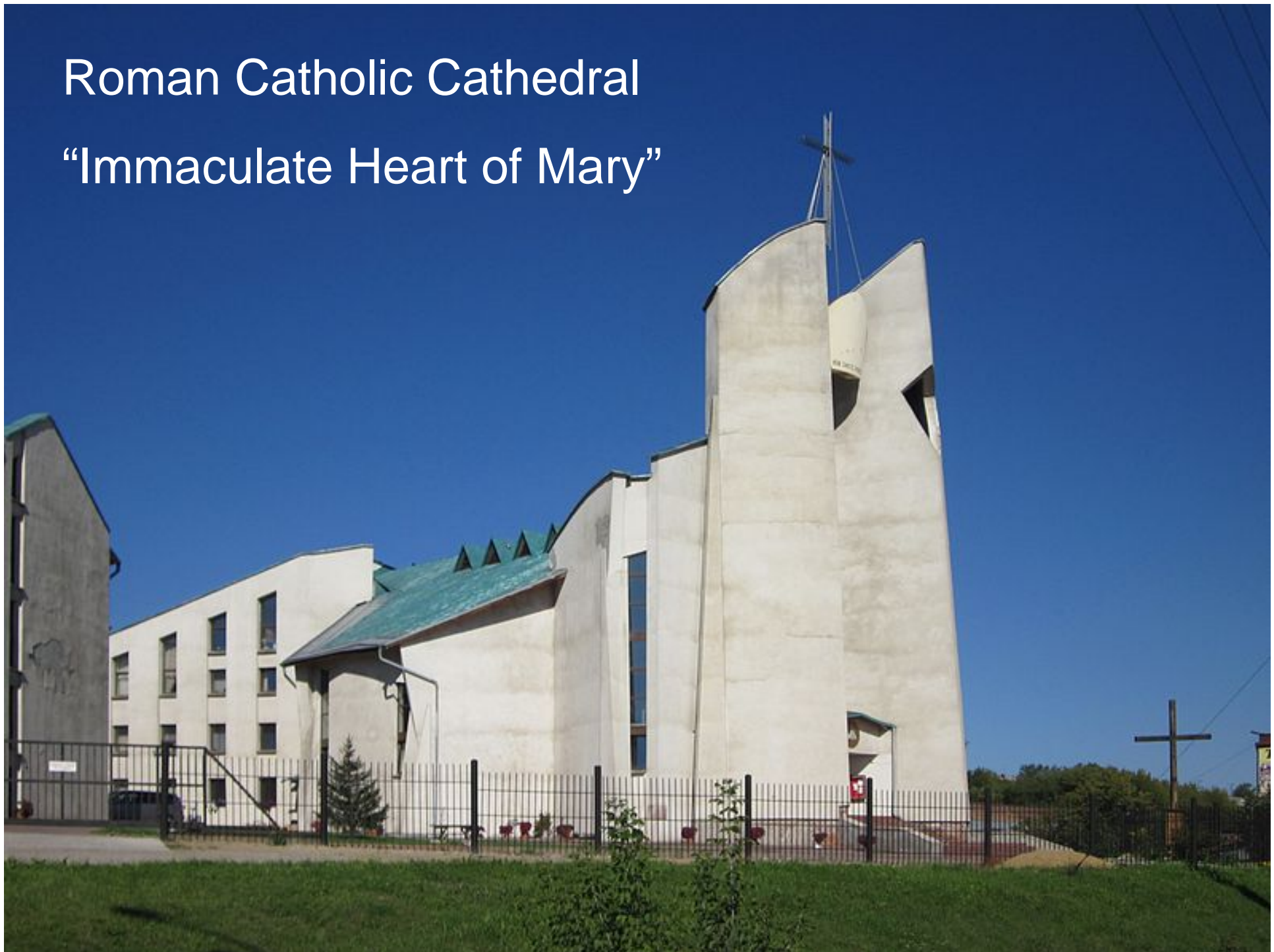




Polish Roman Catholic Church

The brick-and-stone church was built in the place of the burned down wooden church with the contributions collected by the exile Poles. Works continued from 1881 till 1884. This church is the only Gothic style edifice in Irkutsk. After restoration, an organ hall of Irkutsk Philharmonic Society was opened in the buildings of the church.

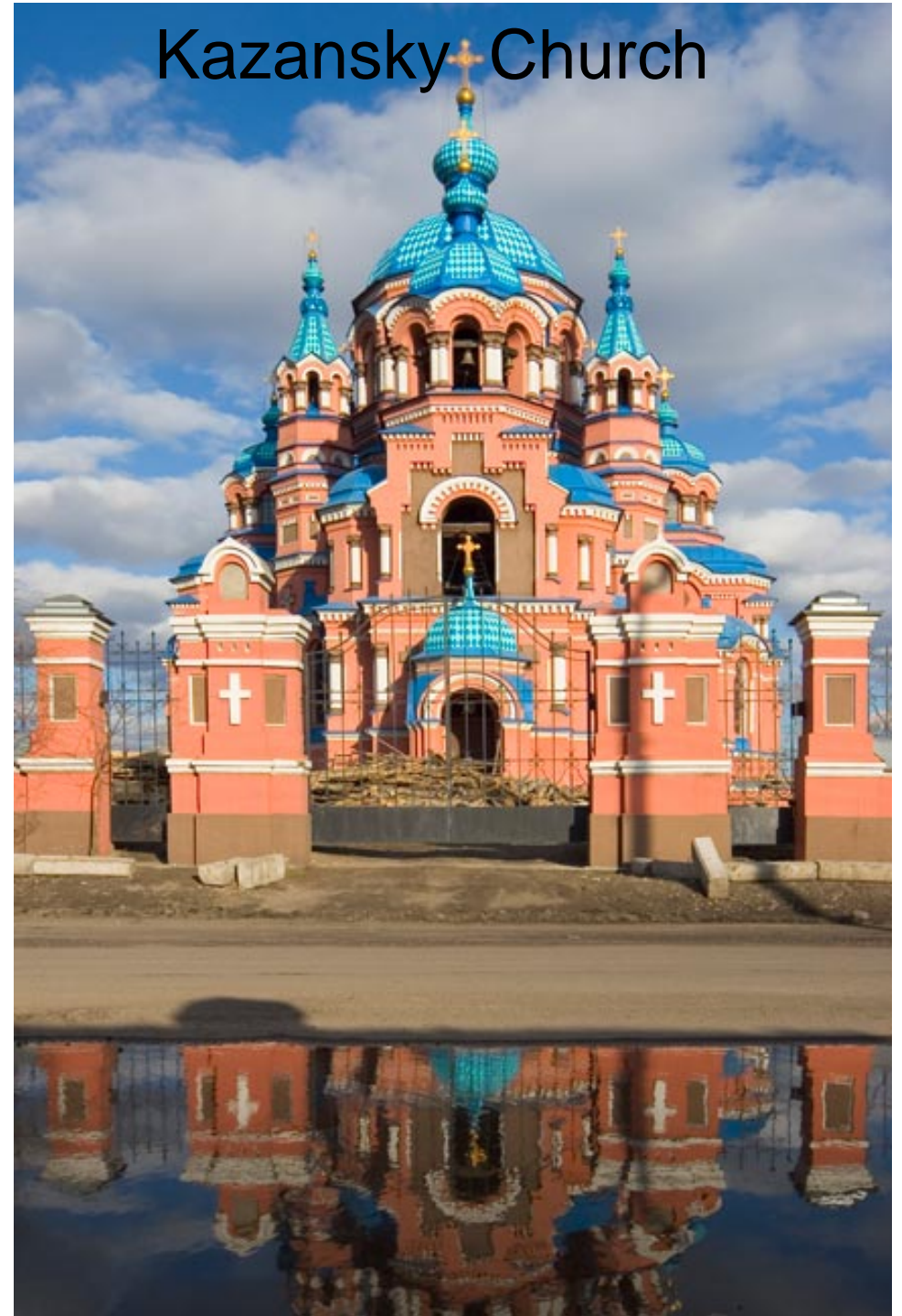
Roman Catholic Cathedral
“Immaculate Heart of Mary”



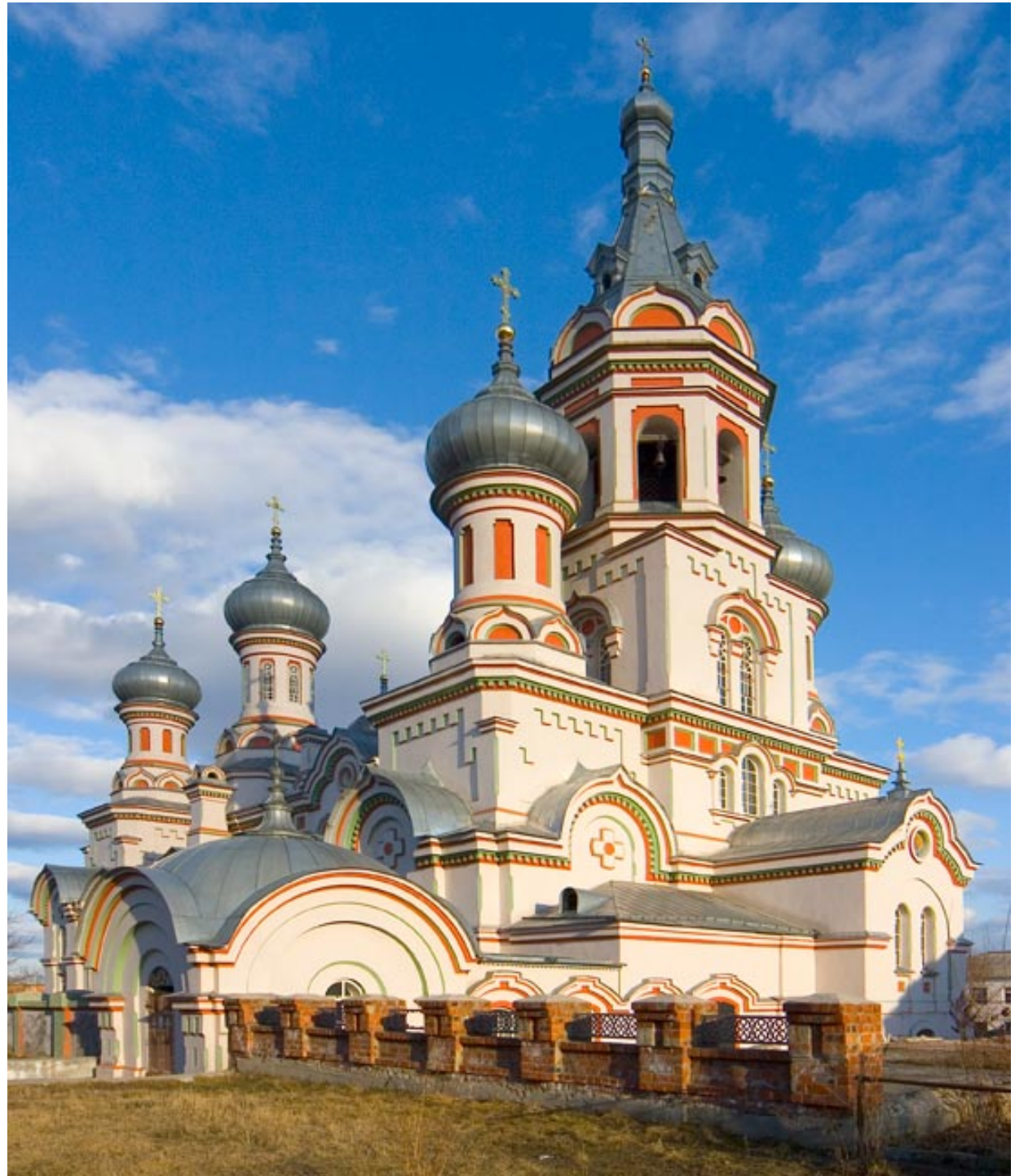
Spasskaya Church



Kazansky Church



Knyaze Vladimir's monastery



Preobrazhenskaya Church



Moslem mosque



Monument to Alexander III (tsar)



The monument was erected in 1908 in honor of completed construction of the Siberian Railway. The square around the monument became one of the city's favored public recreational areas. In 1920, the Emperor's bronze sculpture was torn down from its pedestal. East-Siberian Railways undertook to restore the monument for 100th anniversary of Trans-Siberian Railway. In 2003, Emperor took place on the pedestal again.

White House. The house was built by sons of Irkutsk merchant M.V.Sibiryakov in 1804. This building soon became known as the Sibiryakovs' Palace.



The Irkutsk Regional Drama Theatre is one of the oldest Russian theatres. It received professional theatre status in 1859 when a professional touring company decided to stay in Irkutsk for permanent work.



The building of the Drama Theatre (formerly called the Town Theatre) was built in 1894-1897 according to the project of the St. Petersburg architect V. Shreter with the funds raised by residents of Irkutsk.

Music theatre



IRKUTSK REGIONAL PHILHARMONIC HALL



The hall was established in 1939, in the building of former local government. During the years of existence, philharmonic orchestra has worked out three main tendencies. Diversity of the repertoire, engagement of young local musicians and third tendency is participation of foreign musicians in its performances

Traditional wooden houses



<http://www.pribaikal.ru/single-image/gallery/0/126/4086.html>

Irkutsk is one of very few cities that saved old wooden buildings in the city center.



Unfortunately, many of them are in very bad condition, silently asking for repair. But still they give to Irkutsk charming feeling of the end of XIX century.





A new project of Irkutsk administration - creation of the history zone - Irkutskaya sloboda / 130 kvartal



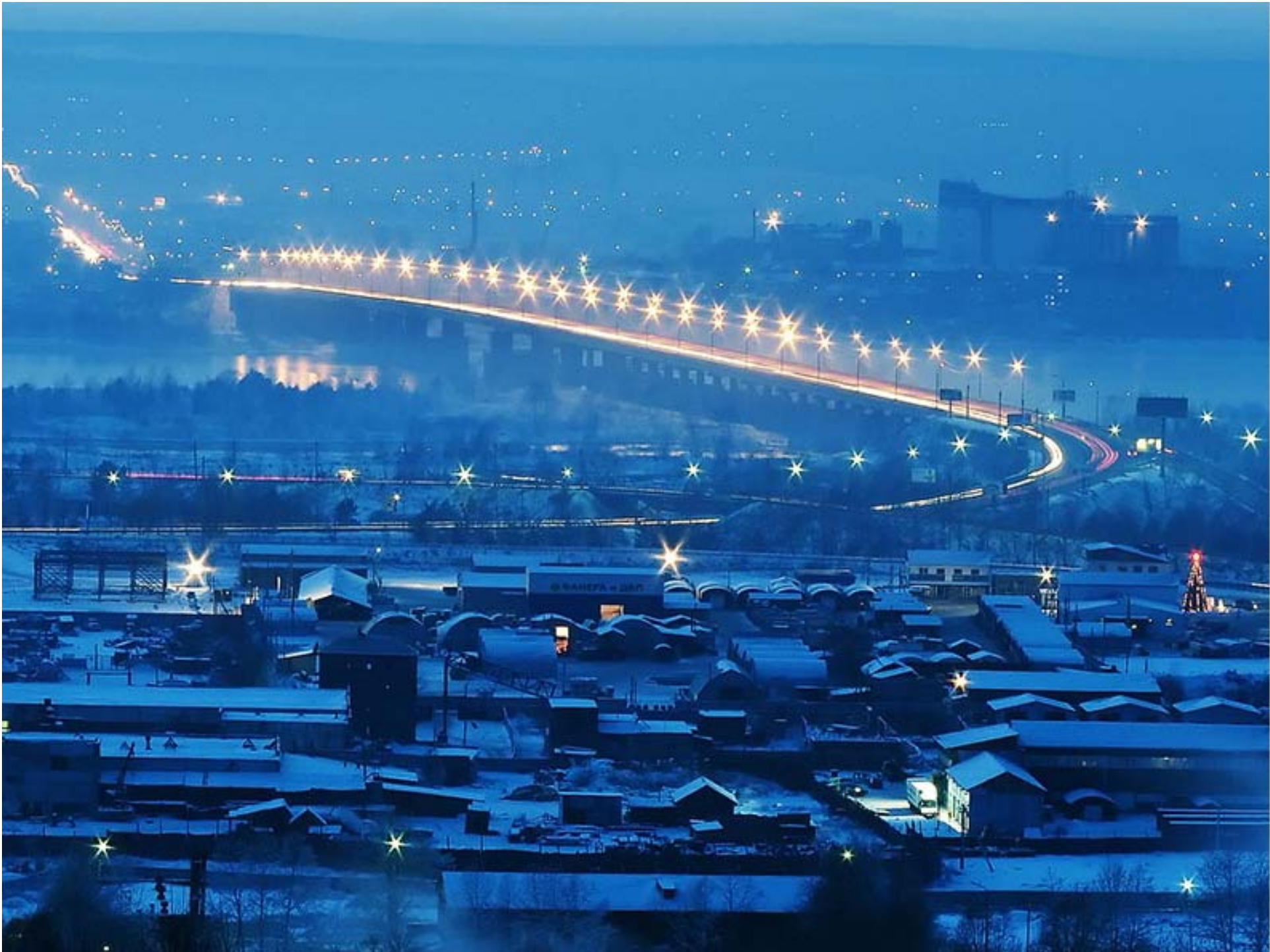


Irkutskaya sloboda / 130 kvartal



Night Irkutsk







Welcome to Irkutsk!

All information and pictures were taken from Internet