**Saratov**

I want to tell you about my native city called Saratov. It has an exciting history which goes back to 1590.It was founded as a fortress by Catherine the Great. Our city was visited by a lot of famous people including Pushkin and even Peter the First, the Great Russian Tsar.

Nowadays Saratov is a big, industrial city with the population of about one million people. There are many outstanding monuments and interesting places in Saratov, such as Theatre Square, Sobinov Conservatory, Troitsky Cathedral, the Cosmonaut Embankment, City Park, Lipky Park and others. Radishchev Museum is rightly called “The Hermitage of Volga region” due to the magnificent collection of Russian and European masterpieces of fine art.

Among Saratov sights and attractions one should mark out the memorial complex "Victory Park" on Sokolovaya Mountain, which includes the Museum of military equipment in the open air and the" Cranes" Monument. The memorial commemorates Saratov soldiers who perished during the II World War .

Saratov is also a center of opera and drama. They even speak of Saratov drama school. Besides, it is the city of students, with a great variety of higher institutions including the State University, the Medical University and many others.

It is interesting to know that the first cosmonaut Y. Gagarin landed on the Saratov Region territory, near the village of Smelovka.

If you ask me, I enjoy wandering along Kirova Avenue or numerous side streets admiring various picturesque historical buildings.

I am proud of my city and believe that Saratov will become one of the most highly developed cities in Europe in the next ten years.