

# MOSCOW inyourpocket

February - March 2014

## Sochi 2014

Where to watch

## Celebrations!

Valentine's Day,  
Women's Day and more

## Maslenitsa

7 days of pancakes





*les menus*  
PAR PIERRE GAGNAIRE TT

EXCELLENCE IN EVERY DETAIL:  
Les Menus par Pierre Gagnaire

**LOTTE**  
HOTEL MOSCOW

8, Bld. 2, Novinskiy Blvd., Moscow, 121099, Russia  
Tel.: +7 495 745 1000, fax: +7 495 287 0555, e-mail: info@lottehotel.ru  
www.lottehotel.ru



# inyourpocket

ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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This year the real winter in Moscow was a bit late and started only a few weeks ago, in mid January. You are lucky to be here right now because you can see how beautiful Russia's winters can be. And with so much fun stuff to do your stay in the capital can become an unforgettable experience.

The long New Year's holidays are over but it doesn't mean celebrations stop. They are actually just starting. Try some Russian pancakes during the traditional Maslenitsa week or have a romantic dinner on St. Valentine's day. Dear gentlemen, do not forget about your lovely ladies on International Women's day because the ladies will definitely congratulate you on the Day of the Defenders of the Fatherland (which becomes a celebration of men in general). In one word, go to page 16 to read everything you need to know about the holidays. But that's not all, there are even more things to enjoy in Moscow in February and March. For example, on February 6 you can go to a bar and celebrate International Bartender's Day. Pick a bar (or two) from our Nightlife section (pages 32 - 35) and go drink some good old Long Islands, a martini or two, and perhaps mix them up with your favourites! There you can also watch your favourite sports during the Olympics (find our special feature on Sochi on pages 16 - 18). As ever, Moscow is the right place to be. You could stay here for a few days, a week, a month, a year, five years even, and still be able to find and see something new every day. Secrets and surprises are not so much the exception as the rule and we are still discovering them – even after six years in Moscow. Explore the city and have fun! Moscow In Your Pocket is written so you can get the most out of your time here.

Ksenia Elzes, *Russia In Your Pocket*

## Cover story

It's a feast! Russia's celebratory season is in full swing as people look forward to the end of winter. Feast yourself silly this Maslenitsa on Russia's traditional and tasty pancakes. And makes pancakes and caviar even better? You guessed it, champagne! For more on Russia's celebrations and Maslenitsa see page 19 - 21.

**inyourpocket**

ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

### Moscow In Your Pocket

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Russia, 196084 St. Petersburg,  
Ul. Tsvetochnaya 25A.

### Moscow office

Russia, 101000, Moscow  
Krivokolenny Pereulok 12/2  
tel: +7 (499) 962 80 50  
russia@inyourpocket.com  
russia.inyourpocket.com

### Publisher

Bonnie van der Velde,  
bonnie@inyourpocket.com  
General director Tanya Skvortsova,  
tanya@inyourpocket.com

### Director Sales & Strategy

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jerke@inyourpocket.com  
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## Europe In Your Pocket



It's now 22 years since we published the first In Your Pocket guide - to Vilnius in Lithuania - in which time we have grown to become the largest publisher of locally produced city guides in Europe. We now cover more than **100** cities across the continent (with Gudauri, in Georgia, the latest city to be pocketed) and the number of concise, witty, well-written and downright indispensable In Your Pocket guides published each year is approaching five million. We will be expanding even further this year, with the publication of a guide to Johannesburg: our first outside of Europe.

To keep up to date with all that's new at In Your Pocket, like us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/inyourpocket) or follow us on **Twitter** (twitter.com/inyourpocket).

### Editorial department

#### Editor

Ksenia Elzes, editor.mos@inyourpocket.com

#### Layout & Design

Malvina Markina  
design.russia@inyourpocket.com

#### Research

research.mos@inyourpocket.com

#### PR

Ksenia Elzes, pr-russia@inyourpocket.com

#### Contributors

Andy Potts, Peter Campbell, Luc Jones,

Tatiana Pole-Carew

### Commercial department

#### Sales Managers

Natalia Murgo

natalya@inyourpocket.com

Pavel Bronevitsky

pb@inyourpocket.com

#### To order issues

Tanya Kharitonova

sales.russia@inyourpocket.com

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Учредитель и издатель:

ООО «Красная Шапка»

Россия, 196084 Санкт-Петербург

Ул. Цветочная д. 25, лит. А.

тел.: +7 (812) 448 88 65

факс: +7 (812) 448 88 64

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## UK-Russia Year



Each year brings something new and exciting in Russia and 2014 promises to uphold the tradition being the UK-Russia Year of Culture. The cultural year will celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of both countries. It aims to foster cultural exchange and the programme will include the arts, education, language, sport and science. A lot of interesting events will be held during this year in Moscow. The year will be officially launched in April with an exhibition, The Golden Age of the Russian Avant-Garde at Exhibition Association Manage, created by British film director Peter Greenaway. It will culminate with an exhibition at the Science Museum, London about Russian space exploration which will include unique objects that have never before been seen outside Russia. The British Council will run events in Russia, which will include Designing 007: Fifty Years of Bond Style, Dressing the Screen, the first ever exhibition of fashion film to be held there, Challenging Boundaries: Breakthroughs in British Art a major retrospective of Young British Artists at the Ekaterina Foundation and a celebration of Shakespeare's 450th birthday at the Chekhov International Festival. The cultural exchange also includes Russian events in the UK and will include an exhibition of Malevich works organised by the Tate Modern, as well as performances by the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Musical Academic Theatre, the Mariinsky Theatre, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra and Sretensky Monastery Choir. This is a great year too celebrate English, Russian and the cultures of the two countries. Like our Facebook page to keep up with the latest events as part of this year of culture. **www.ukrussia2014.ru**

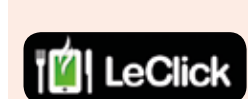
## Banned items

The Russian Federal Air Transport Agency has put in place additional restrictions on hand luggage to increase security during the Sochi Olympics. Until March 21 passengers will not be allowed to carry any liquids in their hand luggage. The list of banned items also includes: personal hygiene items, cosmetics (including lipstick and mascara), sprays, gels and items used in arts and crafts such as paints, soil and glue. Medicines are also prohibited unless you have a certificate from a doctor stating that it is necessary to take the medicine during the flight. Baby formula is also prohibited unless with a doctor's certificate. Items bought in Duty Free are not subject to these regulations.

## Aeroflot 'one of world's safest'

Russian airliner Aeroflot has received a top safety rating from AirlineRatings.com with a safety evaluation of 7/7. The internet rating agency has placed Aeroflot on its list of the world's safest airlines alongside Lufthansa, Air Berlin, KLM and Ryan Air. The list is headed by Australian airliner Qantas.

## Reserve a Table



Have you ever wished you could reserve a table at popular Moscow restaurants more easily and conveniently? Moscow In Your Pocket

and company Leclick have made the perfect solution for you. You can now make restaurant reservations direct from our website. Click on the blue "Reserve a table" button when you open up a restaurant page for Moscow In Your Pocket and quickly fill out the form. It only takes a few seconds to click a couple of buttons and send the reservation through. The booking system will then reserve the table for you (if available) and send you confirmation of the reservation via an SMS text message in English!

This is a fast, easy and convenient way to book a restaurant. You don't need to worry about tripping over some difficult Russian word, or about a possible misunderstanding, you don't even need to be able to speak or understand Russian!

This is a great way for any tourist or expatriate to make a reservation. Furthermore, you can book from anywhere in the world and receive the SMS confirmation, so when travelling you can still book your favourite restaurant. This is great for tourists, businessmen and anyone who values their time and good food!

## New Accor Hotels in Moscow

Ideally placed for passengers arriving on the train from Domodedovo Airport, Accor Hotels' new Moscow site opened its doors in the beginning of December 2013. The complex combines two hotels, the 4-star Mercure and the 3-star Ibis, with the first Adagio apartment hotel in Russia. The Mercure has stunning rooms with real nice ceilings and boasts a large reception with a great library bar. The Ibis design was completely updated and guests can enjoy an inviting and relaxing breakfast area as well as some of the Mercure facilities. The Adagio comes with 94 apartments, from studios to two-room apartments for up to four guests and offers all the facilities needed for a comfortable stay in the city. But perhaps the biggest attraction is its location – although it's a couple of minutes away from Paveletsky station, with its metro connections and rail link to the airport, the hotel is set on a quiet street in Moscow's charming and historic Zamoskvorechye region. **www.accorhotels.com**



## Aeroexpress Airport Trains

The most reliable way of travelling to and from airports in Moscow is by Aeroexpress.

Aeroexpress trains run between Belorussky Rail Terminal and **Sheremetyevo (SVO)** airport, **Kievsky Rail Terminal** and **Vnukovo (VKO)** airport, and **Paveletsky Rail Terminal** and **Domodedovo (DME)** airport. Each rail terminal is connected via the metro circle line. It takes 35 – 45 minutes to get to the airports from the centre of Moscow.

**Aeroexpress** tickets can be bought at Aeroexpress ticket counters or at automatic machines in the rail terminals, through the websites of partner airlines, travel agencies, and via air ticket agencies, either in Moscow, or indeed almost any other region of Russia. A list of sales outlets can be found on the company's website, where you can also buy an electronic ticket: [www.aeroexpress.ru](http://www.aeroexpress.ru). Download our free mobile app and you will be able to purchase Aeroexpress tickets using your smartphone with no need to print out the ticket: the turnstiles at the airport are able to read the ticket's QR-code directly from your smartphone/tablet screen.



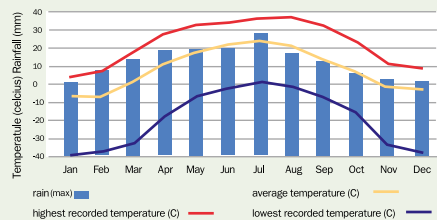
If you are a Master Card Pay-Pass or VISA PayWave holder, you can easily pay for the fare directly at the turnstiles Aeroexpress.

The Aeroexpress hotline is **(+7) 800 700 33 77** (calls from within Russia are free).



## Climate

Winters in Russia are fierce and February is typically one of the coldest months of the year, with temperatures sometimes getting as low as -20, so wrap up warm and don't forget your thick socks and warm gloves! Layers are usually the most practical. Only in the end of March does the city really start to thaw so until then expect a lot of ice and snow in the streets and minuses on the thermometer.



## Alcohol

The traditional Russian alcoholic drink is of course vodka. The Poles may also claim that they invented it, but what is certain is that the Russians - and in particular the scientist Mendelev - are the ones who perfected the recipe. Vodka is cheap and there are literally hundreds of brands to choose from. The most traditional way to drink it is straight as a shot, followed by a salty snack. Beer (*pivo*) is now the most popular alcoholic drink in Russia. *Sovetskoye shampanskoe* (Soviet champagne) is the national party drink. Take note that you cannot buy alcohol in shops between 23:00 and 08:00.

## Customs

For most travellers leaving Russia you will just need to go to the **GREEN** (nothing to declare) channel and you do NOT need to complete the 'Customs and Currency Declaration Statement' upon arrival or departure (unless you are carrying thousands of dollars in cash with you). Any art works, icons etc that are over 100 years old cannot be taken out of the country. If you are in doubt about antiques you have bought get an 'expert's report,' either from the Rosokhrankultura (Kitaigorodsky pr. 7, bldg. 2, tel. (+7) 495 660 77 30) or an accredited shop. Travelling to most countries you can legally take **200 cigarettes** and **2 litres of hard alcohol** out with you. To some countries such as Estonia, the allowance is less.

## Foreigner prices

The 'foreigner price' is a hangover from the good old days of Intourist-organised Soviet travel, which is slowly dying out although at some theatres and museums, foreigners are still required to pay twice to 6 times more than Russians. If you have a document (*propusk*), which says you work or study in Russia, you are theoretically entitled to the local price.

## Internet Access and Mobile Phones

**Internet access.** Most cafes, restaurants and bars in Moscow have free **wifi** access or offer wifi for a small sum. In most places you will need to ask for a password (*parol*) to logon.

**Mobile phones.** You can use your **mobile phone** from home if your provider has a roaming agreement with a Russian mobile company. To avoid roaming charges, you can get a Russian SIM card. You'll need to bring your passport to the store to register your new sim card.

## Registration

Remember that you must be registered within 7 days of your arrival in Russia. If you are staying in a hotel the hotel will usually register you within 24 hours of your arrival and as the service is complicated a small fee may apply. Many tourist agencies can also register you. If you don't get registered on time, you can expect serious problems when leaving Russia, ranging from paying a fine, to missing your flight.

## Crossing the road

Unless you want to play chicken with your life, you need to learn the word **переход!** It means *perekhod* in Russian or underpass in English. When you see this sign above a tunnel, know that you can head safely under and cross under the street. Miss one and you can end up walking for another 200 or 300 metres. The busiest interchanges have around five different exits, entrances to metro stations and a ton of shops.

## Alphabet

А	А	З	З	П	П	Ч	CH
Б	В	И	И	Р	Р	Ш	SH
В	В	Й	Й	С	С	Щ	SHCH
Г	Г	К	К	Т	Т	Ы	Y
Д	Д	Л	Л	У	У	Э	E
Е	YE	М	М	Ф	Ф	Ю	YU
Ё	O	Н	Н	Х	KH	Я	YA
Ж	ZH	О	О	Ц	TS	Ъ, Ъ	no sound

## Language schools

**Liden and Denz Language Centre A-1, Gruzinsky per. 3 bldg.1, entr. 6, office 181, M Belorusskaya, tel. (+7) 495 254 49 91, www.lidenz.ru.** Liden & Denz Language Centre Moscow is thankfully located in the centre, not far from Belorusskaya metro. In terms of facilities and ethos, this is a modern language school with up-to-date classrooms, and all the accoutrements that can assist students. DVD gear is in all classrooms and there's also wireless and flat screen internet workstations. Students can study in groups, of which the minimum length is one week with a maximum of ten students or learners in one class. Groups have the advantage of great social activities outside of lessons, although individual classes are also available. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Ruslingua Language Center C-5, 1-y Spasonalivkovsky per. 3/5, office 403 (4th floor), M Polyanka, tel. (+7) 495 748 31 85, www.ruslingua.com.** This excellent language school has individual and group courses for expats, visitors and revision courses for university students and can organise home stays. There's a specially dedicated conversation class and they also offer trips with a teacher to the local market to practice your language in real life situations. They also offer a special one day course on how to talk to taxi drivers and chauffeurs which is especially useful if you will be being driven around a lot in Moscow. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00.

## Pocket dictionary: Tovarishch

It is a common myth that in the Soviet Union people called each other comrade (generally said with a strong accent), but in fact the Russian word for comrade is *tovarishch*, which probably stems from the word *tovar* (merchandise). Back in the day *tovarishch* was as common as addressing someone as Mr or Miss and refusing to call someone *tovarishch* would generally be perceived as being hostile. Nowadays only diehard communist and people in the military use the word although it still exists in the non-communist phrase *tovarishch po neschast'yu* (fellow-sufferer).



КАКЖЕ:  
ЛАТТЕ:  
КАППУЧИНО:  
ЭСПРЕССО 1х2: 30/60!!! СОК:  
ВШНЕВЫ

100  
80  
30/60!!!  
120/100  
100/80

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## Numbers

1	adin	12	dvinatsat	50	pyatdesyat
2	dva	13	trinatsat	60	shesdesyat
3	tri	14	chetynatsat	70	semdesyat
4	chetyre	15	pyatnatsat	80	vosemdesyat
5	pyat	16	shesnatsat	90	devyanosta
6	shest	17	semnatsat	100	sto
7	sem	18	vosemnatsat	500	pyatsot
8	vosem	19	devyatnatsat	1000	tysicha
9	devyat	20	dvatsat	2000	dve tysyachi
10	desyat	30	tritsat		
11	adinatsat	40	sorok		

## Useful Phrases

### Basic phrases

No/Yes	Net/da	Нет/Да
Hello	Zdrastvuite	Здравствуйте
Goodbye	Dasvidaniya	До свидания
Thank you	Spasibo	Спасибо
Sorry/excuse me	Izvinite	Извините
Please	Pazhalusta	Пожалуйста
I don't understand	Ya ne panimayu	Я не понимаю
I don't speak Russian	Ya ne gavaryu pa-russky	Я не говорю по-русски
Do you speak English?	Vy gavaritye pa-anglisky?	Вы говорите по-английски?
Help!	Pomogitye!	Помогите!
Go away!	Ostavte menya!	Оставьте меня!



Moscow can be considered as the birthplace of Tchaikovsky, Tolstoy, Stanislavsky, Chekhov, Bulgakov and co. – they all took their inspiration from this magical and majestic place. Live music from local and international performers is another big part of the cultural landscape of the city and on a lighter note, contemporary Moscow also sees the running of high heeled road races, honey festivals, air-guitar competitions and other curious events.

## Concert Halls

**B2 Club B-2**, Ul. Bol. Sadovaya 8/1, [M]Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 650 99 18, [www.b2club.ru](http://www.b2club.ru).  
**Crocus City Hall MKAD 65-66 Km**, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.crocus-hall.ru](http://www.crocus-hall.ru).  
**SK Olimpisky C-1**, Olimpisky pr. 16, [M]Pr. Mira, tel. (+7) 495 786 33 33, [www.olimpik.ru](http://www.olimpik.ru).  
**International House of Music E-5**, Kosmodamianskaya nab. 52, bldg. 8, [M]Paveletskaya, tel. (+7) 495 730 10 11, [www.mmdm.ru](http://www.mmdm.ru).  
**Moscow Conservatory, the Great Hall B-3**, Bol. Nikitskaya ul. 13/6, [M]Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 629 94 01, [www.mosconserv.ru](http://www.mosconserv.ru).  
**State Kremlin Palace C-3**, Ul. Vozdvizhenka 1, [M]Biblioteka im. Lenina, tel. (+7) 495 628 52 32, [gdkremlin.ru](http://gdkremlin.ru).  
**Orkestrion Concert Hall Ul. Garibaldi 19**, [M]Novye Cheryomushki, tel. (+7) 495 504 07 85, [www.meloman.ru/hall/koncertnyj-zal-orkestrion](http://www.meloman.ru/hall/koncertnyj-zal-orkestrion).

## Theatres

**Academic Theater of Operetta C-2**, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 6, [M]Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 495 925 50 50, [www.mosoperetta.ru](http://www.mosoperetta.ru).  
**Bolshoi Theatre C-2**, Teatralnaya pl. 1, [M]Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 499 455 55 55, [www.bolshoi.ru](http://www.bolshoi.ru).  
**Helikon Opera B-3**, Ul. Novy Arbat 11, bldg. 2, [M]Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 695 65 84, [www.helikon.ru](http://www.helikon.ru).  
**Kolobov Novaya Opera Theatre B-1**, Hermitage Gardens, Karetny Ryad 3, bldg. 2, [M]Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 694 08 68, [www.novayaopera.ru](http://www.novayaopera.ru).  
**Maly Theatre C-2**, Teatralny proezd 1, [M]Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 495 625 48 59, [www.maly.ru](http://www.maly.ru).  
**Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theatre C-2**, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 17, [M]Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 629 28 35, [www.stanmus.ru](http://www.stanmus.ru).  
**Vakhtangov Theatre B-3**, Ul. Arbat 26, [M]Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 499 241 16 79, [www.vakhtangov.ru](http://www.vakhtangov.ru).

## Moscow Philharmonic

The Moscow Philharmonic is world-renowned, and carefully preserves performance traditions. Its aim is to provide the modern listener with a diverse repertoire of folklore and innovation. Over the last ten years, it has increased the number of concerts, with now more than three thousand a year across the globe. The Philharmonic's creative subscription policy attracts children to concerts, providing them with an opportunity to hear the world's best contemporary artists. The number of subscriptions is growing, with more than 200 issued for the coming season. Each year more attention is paid to children's projects, with famous Russian artists participating in the popular 'Tales and Orchestra'.

**Moscow Philharmonic Society B-1**, Ul. Tverskaya 31/4, bldg. 1, [M]Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 232 04 00, [www.meloman.ru](http://www.meloman.ru).

## February events

**31.01 Friday - 12.02 Wednesday**

### Slava Polunin Snow Show

**Natalia Satz Moscow State Academic Music Theatre, pr. Vernadskogo 5**, [M]Universitet, tel. (+7) 495 730 73 00, [www.slava-polunin.com](http://www.slava-polunin.com). Children of all ages - and those of us who are still kids at heart - have thrilled to Slava Polunin's clowning for decades. The Russian circus star has taken his 'Snow Show' all around the world, garnering rave reviews as he goes. His performances in his native Moscow, all too rare amid that demanding touring schedule, become some of the biggest family events of the winter season. After 19 years, the show still resembles the impish thrill of waking up after the first snows and stepping out boldly into a crisp, white wonderland. For older viewers, it's a fond memory of a happy past; for today's children it's a magical world of humor, and for all ages it's a rare treat. ▶ Tickets 1,250 - 7,500Rbl.



**04.02 Tuesday**

### 20:00 Queen Classic performed by Mercury and The Berlin Symphony Ensemble

**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km**, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.crocus-hall.ru](http://www.crocus-hall.ru). Nobody has quite managed to step into the shoes of the late, great Freddie Mercury - but that hasn't stopped a vast range of fascinating projects offering their own take on the music of Queen. One of the most distinctive of these is the multi-national orchestral arrangements drawn together by Germany's Babelsberg Symphony Orchestra for the Swedish soprano Marika Schoenberg and the Canadian Mercury lookalike Johnny Zatylin. It's not just a typical cover band - the new arrangements bring the sumptuous depths of Queen's most flamboyant songs richly to life in a show endorsed by Freddie's friend and former assistant Peter Freestone. ▶ Tickets 1,500 - 10,000Rbl.

**05.02 Wednesday - 06.02 Thursday**

### 20:00 Let it be

**Crocus city hall, MKAD 65-66 Km**, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.crocus-hall.ru](http://www.crocus-hall.ru). Following the success of Mamma Mia on the Moscow stage, audiences are now being treated to a rare chance to see 'Let It Be', the Beatles musical. For two nights only the international touring sensation is coming to Moscow, telling the story of the world's greatest pop group through the music which made it famous throughout the world. In Russia, where many people still recall how they learned English through the lyrics of Lennon and McCartney, the Beatles holds a special place in the public's affection; Let It Be promises to be a celebration of some of the greatest songs of the 20th century. ▶ Tickets 1,200 - 14,500Rbl.

**11.02 Tuesday - 13.02 Thursday**

### 19:00 Klass Quartet: Tapyor Show



is kept to a minimum with Klass Quartet takes to the stage, making it an ideal opportunity for non-Russian-speakers to get a flavor of the city's vibrant drama scene. And the message is to expect the unexpected, with a performance which even its creators admit is difficult to define in terms of conventional theater. It's been a year in the making, and combines live music and dance with drama. For the first time in Russia, the cast is made up of musicians rather than actors, united under director Elshan Mammadov's vision of ensuring that "theater can be different once again". ▶ Tickets 500 - 1,500Rbl.

**11.02 Tuesday**

### 20:00 Garou



**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km**, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.crocus-hall.ru](http://www.crocus-hall.ru). Garou owes his fame to the massive success of the musical Notre Dame de Paris, but his musical heritage delves deeper into classic blues and rock - which is precisely what his latest album, 'Rhythm and Blues' promises and delivers. With covers of legendary artists like Tom Waits, Joe Cocker and Nina Simone, it's a heartfelt tribute to the music which has inspired Garou himself. On the tour he promises a 'completely crazy' show, since the songs themselves are built for live performance and the scope for spontaneity and improvisation is vast. ▶ Tickets 1,500 - 25,000Rbl.

**13.02 Thursday**

### 20:00 Nazareth Forever Tour

**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km**, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.nazarethdirect.co.uk](http://www.nazarethdirect.co.uk). Rumors of the end of Scotland's rock behemoth Nazareth seem to have been somewhat exaggerated. While US promoters hailed the band's current tour as a farewell special after 45 years in the business, the band has other ideas. Rebranding the gigs 'Nazareth Forever' and promising to unveil tracks from an upcoming new album, building on the greatest hits compilation which appeared last year. It turns out you can teach an old dog some new tricks as well - 2013 also saw the grizzled veterans of fretwork release a single with rappers Shy & Drs, introducing them to a whole new set of fans. ▶ Tickets 1,500 - 12,000Rbl.



**14.02 Friday - 16.02 Sunday**

### 19:00 Caravaggio

**Theater of Russian Army, Suvorovskaya pl. 2**, [M]Dostoevskaya, tel. (+7) 495 681 21 10, [www.teatramil.ru](http://www.teatramil.ru). The Berlin State Ballet is one of the finest companies in the world, and it's making a first-ever visit to Moscow with Russia's own Vladimir Malakhov as the star attraction. Malakhov left Russia 15 years ago and has gone on to carve out a glittering international career for himself. On this tour he will lead his company in the Berlin staging of 'Caravaggio', a mystic biography of the great Baroque artist choreographed by Mauro Bigonzetti. Bigonzetti's work is also familiar to balletomanes in Moscow: his 'Cinque', staged at the Bolshoi, won him 'Best Choreographer' in the Golden Mask awards in 2012. ▶ Tickets 1,100Rbl - 6,600Rbl.



## Stanislavsky Music Theatre



There's more to opera and ballet in Moscow than the Bolshoi, and while the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theatre might not be the snappiest of names, the elegant Bol. Dmitrovka building

is an attractive place to explore Russia's cultural scene without having to wrestle with the high prices and pretentious ambience of its more celebrated neighbour.

Tchaikovsky's 'Onegin' has a special place in the Stanislavsky Musical Theatre's history - it was this work, in Stanislavsky's own production, which helped to launch the theater's fame. Now it returns to Bol. Dmitrovka in a new guise under the guidance of director Alexander Titel. He's an old-school director, more concerned with inner meaning than outer glitz, and determined to let the music speak and sing for itself. But while his concept evokes some of Stanislavsky's ideas from almost a century ago, it also keeps a finger on the contemporary pulse. With music by Tchaikovsky to verse by Pushkin, this is one of Russia's cultural highlights - and definitely worth an evening of your time. Other notable productions of the spring season include a new staging of Vladimir Burmeister's production of 'Swan Lake'. This was first performed in 1953 and proudly recreated the steps trodden in the 19th century. But even in an age when contemporary choreographers have loved to reinvent Tchaikovsky's classic ballet in a host of unexpected and controversial ways, the elegance and beauty of Burmeister's vision remain highly prized. For a classical take on the classic ballet, this is hard to match. Mozart's 'Magic Flute' is another work which needs little introduction - and the up-coming premiere of this year's production by Titel and theater director Igor Yasulovich offers a fresh look at one of Mozart's most enduring works. **Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theatre C-2**, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 17, [M]Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 629 28 35, [www.stanmus.ru](http://www.stanmus.ru).



## Dralion. Cirque du Soleil



**06.03 Thursday - 16.03 Sunday**  
**Dralion. Cirque du Soleil**

F-6, OK Luzhniki, ul. Luzhniki 24, Sportivnaya, tel. 780 08 08, [www.cds.ru](http://www.cds.ru). Dralion maintains one of the key themes of Cirque du Soleil - its willingness to blends the styles and genres of different global cultures into a single, unified stage concept. The title underlines the point, mixing the Dragon of the Orient with the heraldic Lion which symbolizes the West. The whole show aims to combine elements of both cultures, bringing people together to create harmony. The four elements of the ancient world are brought to life, colorfully telling the story of our natural world: blue for the wind, green for water, bountiful gold for earth and a passionate red for fire. Dralion's powerful ethnic energy and explosive mix of styles and forms promises passion and warmth on the wintry shores of the Moscow River. The troupe for Dralion includes 50 acrobats, performers, musicians and singers from all over the world. ▶ Tickets 1,400 - 4,000Rbl.

**24.02 Monday**  
**20:00 Kitaro**



**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.kitaromusic.com](http://www.kitaromusic.com).** Music has been the food of love long before Shakespeare wrote of it in those terms, but love takes many forms. One of the mostly global displays of sonic affection over the past 40 years has been offered to audience by Japanese new-age guru Kitaro, a musician

whose output eschews the tradition 'boy meets girl' narrative in favour of a grander tale where mankind meets a (potential) new world. His latest touring program, Final Call, is precisely that: a call to arms to change our attitudes to the world around us before it is too late. Relying on the healing powers of his music - which he claims derives from intuition rather than any training - Kitaro hopes to encourage his listeners to embrace themselves and the rest of mankind. ▶ Tickets 800 - 20,000Rbl.

**26.02 Wednesday**  
**20:00 Backstreet Boys**

**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.backstreetboys.com](http://www.backstreetboys.com).** Old boy bands never die - and after 20 years and more than 130 million album sales, the legendary Backstreet Boys are back, and bringing a new album with them. While the 'boys' may now be fast approaching middle age, a generation of fans who once plastered their posters over their bedroom walls has grown with them, making the current tour a curious mixture of youthful nostalgia and contemporary desire. While there are plenty of highlights from 'In the World Like This' to look forward to, the bulk of the show is set to bring all the old favorites back to life in what could be the ultimate girls' night out. ▶ Tickets 1,000 - 10,000Rbl.



**28.02 Friday**  
**21:00 Within Temptation**



**Arena Moscow, Leningradsky pr. 31, bldg. 4, Dinamo, tel. (+7) 495 655 99 99, [www.within-temptation.com](http://www.within-temptation.com).** Fans of Dutch symphonic rock band Within Temptation have been kept in the dark for long enough about the group's up-coming new album. But a tour in early 2014, which comes to Mos-

cow at the end of February, is set to finally give some answers about what to expect from the new material. So far, details are thin on the ground, although it is known that one of the tracks features guest vocals from the queen of metal, Tarja Turunen. The band's trademark stage show, dominated by the array of costumes donned by vocalist Sharon den Adel, ensures a memorable evening of high-energy rock. ▶ Tickets 2,200Rbl.

## March events

**07.03 Friday**  
**20:30 Leningrad**



**Stadium Live, Leningradsky pr. 80, bldg. 17, Sokol, tel. (+7) 495 540 55 40, [www.stadium-live.ru](http://www.stadium-live.ru).** Rude, crude and dangerous to know, it's something of a shock to see Leningrad suddenly embrace their feminine side. After all, Sergei Shnurov's brand of frenetic, foul-mouthed SKA-punk has always felt like one strictly for the boys, with its sniggering delight in those Russian phrases you won't find in the back of your Rough Guide. And yet, as International Women's Day rolls around, the band is promising a softer touch than usual. The mock-glam clip for 'Sumka' (Handbag) is already a huge online hit, and new singer Alisa Vox-Burmistrova has settled in well following the departure of Yulia Kogan. Leningrad for renaissance men? Perhaps not, but there are signs of a certain mellowing among the wild men of Russian rock. ▶ Tickets 2,200 - 16,000Rbl.

**10.03 Monday**  
**20:00 Bonfire and Snakecharmer**



**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.crocus-hall.ru](http://www.crocus-hall.ru).** They've been called the first super-group of the 21st century, and Snakecharmer's rocking credentials bear up to the closest scrutiny. Founded by former Whitesnake members Mick Moody and Neil Murray, and crammed with musicians from some of Britain's top hard-rock act of the 70s and 80s, the band combines some of the best of Whitesnake's sound with a distinctive twist of its own and received good reviews for last year's debut album. They're joined on this bill by Kraut-rockers Bonfire, a band which claims a rightful place alongside Scorpions and Accept in the canon of great German rock music, for a night which offers the perfect excuse to dust down that leather jacket and hit the mosh pit. ▶ Tickets 2,000 - 10,000Rbl.

**14.03 Friday**  
**20:00 José Carreras**



**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.crocus-hall.ru](http://www.crocus-hall.ru).** As one of the legendary 'Three Tenors', Jose Carreras shot to fame in 1990 after opera and football combined to make the Italian World Cup a unique, magical moment. And, almost quarter of a century later, having overcome a serious illness, he's still wowing audiences all over the world with his beautiful singing, skilful interpretations and on-stage charm. With a repertoire which includes more than 60 major operatic roles and over 600 vocal numbers from all ages, there's no danger of his performances becoming stale as he fills the biggest concert halls and opera houses of the world, from New York to Sydney. His Moscow performance, with conductor David Gimenez, promises a string of highlights from opera and oratorio as well as classic pop songs. ▶ Tickets 2000 - 20,000Rbl.

## Depeche Mode



**07.03 Friday**  
**19:00 Depeche Mode**

**C-1, SK Olimpiyskiy, Olimpiyskiy pr. 16, Pr. Mira, tel. (+7) 495 786 33 33, [www.depechemode.com](http://www.depechemode.com).** If everything counts in large amounts, it makes sense to keep coming back for more. So, fresh from a triumphant Moscow gig at the Lokomotiv Stadium last summer Depeche Mode is back in town with a reprise of the Delta Machine program. The synth-pop legends, who fame in these parts dates back to the perestroika era when they became noted as a dissident voice by disaffected Soviet youth, are heading back indoors to the Olimpiyskiy Arena to give a second chance to hear the highlights from 2013's highly-acclaimed album and, of course, all the golden oldies. ▶ Tickets 2,000 - 15,000Rbl.

**15.03 Saturday**  
**19:00 Apocalyptica**

**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.apocalyptica.com](http://www.apocalyptica.com).** When the director of the Jacqueline du Pré biopic 'Hilary and Jackie' included a scene of the great cellist veering out of a piece of Beethoven to improvise a riotous rendition of a track by The Troggs, it may have struck a chord in Finland. A quartet of cellists, trained at the prestigious Sibelius Academy, have followed that example and earned fame as Apocalyptica, a cello quartet which reinvents the work of Metallica and others, combining elements of classical and heavy metal in an unlikely yet strangely compelling mix. The band's latest tour, which comes to Moscow on March 15, sees them follow in another of Metallica's innovations - like the rockers before them, the cellists will be accompanied this time by a symphony orchestra. ▶ Tickets 1,200 - 7,000Rbl.



## Buying Concert Tickets

**Kassir.ru** The only comprehensive website that offers their event listings in English. Payment options include cash (when picking up the tickets or if delivered) or credit card (MC/V).  
**Bileter.ru** This site has the most comprehensive listings available, but is only in Russian. Payment options include cash (when picking up the tickets or if delivered) or credit card (MC/V).

**16.02 Sunday**  
**20:00 Sarah Brightman**



**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.sarahbrightman.com](http://www.sarahbrightman.com).** Once she was the muse of Andrew Lloyd Webber, when his musicals were conquering London's West End and then the world. Today Sarah Brightman is a global crossover star in her own right, established as the world's top-selling soprano - and soon she's set to

conquer the galaxy. Her previous appearance in Moscow was at a press conference announcing her plans to join a mission to the International Space Station next year and become the first professional musician to perform from space. Before that she's giving a more earthly tour, 'Dreamchaser', which comes to Russia in February before she's cleared for lift-off. ▶ Tickets 1,500 - 16,000Rbl.

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## Irish Week in Russia



Irish Week 2014 sees the advent of a massive expansion of the annual series of Irish cultural activities that has been taking place in Russia for 22 years. Over 70 events will take place from March 12th to 23rd in Moscow, Yekaterinburg, St. Petersburg, Voronezh, and Volgograd. Flagship events including the Irish Parade in Moscow, the Irish Film Festival, a comedy festival, three different music festivals, a dance festival and many, many more. Last year more than 50,000 people attended Irish Week. This year the festival will take over Moscow with the establishment of different city-centre venues as «Official» Irish Week venues. The main one will be the Central House of Artists, but others events will be on more than 30 local venues. All Irish Week visitors can travel from one place to another free of charge by hopping on special Irish Week party bus. Traditional St. Patrick's Parade will be held of March 15th. Every year thousands of dolled up Muscovites participate in merry march in the very center of Moscow. Irish musicians and street theatre artists come to the capital to lead the parade and bring the aura of Dublin. The organizers stress the fact that most of the events are going to be free of charge. Lotteries and raffles will be held for attendees, with such valuable prizes as tickets to Ireland, holiday trips, and many more. Irish Week 2014 is almost two weeks of everyday concerts, raffles, exhibitions, and film screenings. It is 5 cities, 70 events, and more than 50,000 attendees. It is a unique opportunity to get into the spirit of Irish culture and see off the winter in a festive way. Find the full schedule here: [www.irishweek.ru](http://www.irishweek.ru).

### 15.03 Saturday

#### 21:00 Gogol Bordello

**Arena Moscow, Leningradsky pr. 31, bldg. 4, [M]Dinamo, tel. (+7) 495 655 99 99, [www.gogolbordello.com](http://www.gogolbordello.com).** Matching the fire of the Ukrainian Cossacks with the fury of New York punks, Gogol Bordello has created a unique and powerful sound - and now Eugene Hutz is adding a Latin accent to the mix. The latest album, *Pura Vida Conspiracy*, shows the fruits of Hutz's four-year sojourn in Brazil, while retaining his familiar roar of high-octane energy. That same energy is what fuels the band's ever-popular live shows: whatever emerges from the studio can only be a pale imitation of the frenzy that engulfs performers and audiences alike when Gogol Bordello takes to the stage. ▶ Tickets 1,500 - 15,000Rbl.



### 16.03 Sunday

#### 19:00 Brian May and Kerry Ellis

**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.crocus-hall.ru](http://www.crocus-hall.ru).** Queen has a loyal fanbase here in Russia, and the post-Freddie frontmen have toured successfully with the nucleus of the band more than once. But Brian May's latest trip to Moscow offers something a bit different - an acoustic, candlelit concert presenting some of the band's biggest hits in an intimate format. May is joined by Kerry Ellis, star of the musical 'We Will Rock You' for an evening which includes some of Queen's greatest hits, a selection from Ellis's album 'Anthems' and a smattering of the duo's favourites from throughout the musical world. ▶ Tickets 2,500 - 5,000Rbl.

### 16.03 Sunday

#### 19:00 Thirty Seconds to Mars



**C-1, SK Olimpisky, Olimpisky pr. 16, [M]Pr. Mira, tel. (+7) 495 786 33 33, [www.thirtyssecondstomars.com](http://www.thirtyssecondstomars.com).** Fronted by the hunky Jared Leto, 30 Seconds to Mars has always inspired a passionately loyal following, with a fanbase perhaps more fervent than the band's brand of epic, soaring stadium rock truly deserves. Gigs turn into a two-way dialogue between the band and their die-hard enthusiasts, the music becoming almost secondary to the 'event'. For the uninitiated, it can be a difficult evening: while the stage show is impressive and the musicianship highly competent, it all feels a bit hollow to ears which are reluctant to fully buy into the 30 Seconds concept in full. Not that the band would have it any other way, as Leto insists that full artistic integrity outstrips all other considerations. ▶ Tickets 2,000 - 10,000Rbl.

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### 17.03 Monday

#### 20:00 The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra & Voices Metro choir

**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.rpo.co.uk](http://www.rpo.co.uk).** The marriage of classics and rock used to lurk under the slightly embarrassing name of 'easy listening', and few who were cool would be willing to venture into those musical doldrums. Today, though, it's big business - and ensembles of the calibre of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are happy to join the party. The RPO, which has an enviable track record of providing a beefy live sound for a string of pop acts, is joined in Moscow by Voices Metro - nothing to do with the underground, but a vocal ensemble which has appeared on a range of tracks, from the symphonic metal of Nightwish to the wry disco pop of the Pet Shop Boys. Together they promise a program of classic rock hits from the 60s to the present day, all presented in specially-commissioned arrangements for this tour. ▶ Tickets 500 - 15,000Rbl.



### 19.03 Wednesday

#### 19:00 Dmitry Hvorostovsky and friends

**C-3, State Kremlin Palace, ul. Vozdvizhenka 1, [M]Biblioteka im. Lenina, tel. (+7) 495 628 52 32, [www.hvorostovsky.com](http://www.hvorostovsky.com).** Russia's golden baritone, the silver-maned aristocrat of the operatic stage Dmitry Hvorostovsky, always packs out the biggest venues when he performs in his homeland. Last time it was Red Square, in a joint performance with fellow Met Opera star Anna Netrebko, and his intermittent 'Hvorostovsky and Friends' series always offers a top-quality evening of music-making with some of the greatest voices in the world. The latest of these concerts has been announced for March 19 and while the guest stars have yet to be announced, it's likely to be another blockbuster event for all lovers of classical music. ▶ Tickets 2,200 - 10,000Rbl.

### 22.03 Saturday

#### 20:00 Scooter



**Stadium Live, Leningradsky pr. 80, bldg. 17, [M]Sokol, tel. (+7) 495 540 55 40, [www.scootertechno.com](http://www.scootertechno.com).** Stadium house is the game, and German dance act Scooter have been playing it longer than most. Inspired by the anarchic antics of the KLF and tying into Russia's current Winter Sports kick after providing the goal horn music when their homeland hosted the World Hockey Champs in 2010, this lot specialize in making a proper gig out of what can all too easily turn into boffins pressing buttons. Typically they travel with their own dance troupe and a pyrotechnic lighting rig which calls to mind Rammstein's son-et-lumiere spectacular. March's visit to Stadium Live follows on from a tour of smaller venues last autumn, and gives Russian fans a chance to enjoy the full-on Scooter experience on a lavish scale. ▶ Tickets 2,190 - 16,000Rbl.



### 23.03 Sunday

#### 19:00 Katie Melua

**Crocus City Hall, MKAD 65-66 Km, [M]Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, [www.katiemelua.co](http://www.katiemelua.co).** She was born in the USSR - in Kutusai, Georgia, to be precise - but after moving to Britain as a child it's taken Katie Melua a long time to get round to performing in the old Soviet capital. At last, though, she's here for her first ever Russian gig. Good things come to those who wait, however, and her fans can look forward to seeing her here as part of a Europe-wide acoustic tour in support of last year's album 'Ketevan'. That release is a collection of ballads that highlighted her glorious voice even if it didn't always deliver convincing lyrics (although there was no repeat of the cosmic controversies that dogged 'Nine Million Bicycles'); in a stripped down, intimate acoustic arrangement it should provide a great vehicle for a talented singer to shine. ▶ Tickets 2,000 - 12,000Rbl.

## Exhibitions

### Through 16.02 Sunday Above the barriers



**C-3, Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, Ul. Volkhonka 12, [M]Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 697 95 78, [www.arts-museum.ru](http://www.arts-museum.ru).** Russian art of the 20th century was a hugely varied clash of political ideologies and creative impulses, an era of state diktats and sudden thaws. Generations of artists, working at home and in exile, grew up and developed styles which dealt with the unique atmosphere of the times, adopting stances which veered from submission to confrontation and leading to heady mix explosion of creativity. The Pushkin Gallery's new exhibition of works from the collection of the Museum of the Avant-garde divides the century into three distinct periods to explore the development of the leading creators and styles, from Chagall to Kabakov's installations. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon.

### Through 30.03 Sunday Soviet Family Life



official art of the time, displaying the complex relationship between 'public' and 'private' art under Communism. Much of the show is devoted to portraits in various forms, from the formal to the natural. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:30. Closed Mon.

### Through 16.02 Sunday

#### Natalia Goncharova, Between East and West



**B-5, Tretyakov State Gallery, Krymsky Val 10, [M]Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 499 230 77 88, [www.tretyakovgallery.ru](http://www.tretyakovgallery.ru).** Natalia Goncharova was a hugely significant figure in 20th century art, and this long overdue retrospective at the Tretyakov offers a valuable opportunity to explore her creative life in detail. Presenting more than 400 of her works, it reflects several areas of her art, from painting and sculpture to theater design and book illustration. Goncharova was a vigorous defender of the avant-garde, having begun her career in the heady post-revolution period of experimentation and audacity. Yet she also drew heavily on the history of art - especially Russia's diverse folkloric traditions - for inspiration, creating a bridge between past and present. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:30. Closed Mon. Open 10:00 - 19:30. Closed Mon.



**Through 10.03 Monday****The Gods of Perm**

**C-3, Red Square 1, [M] Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 692 37 31, www.shm.ru.** A unique display of religious art from the early days of Russian Christianity is on display at the State Historical Museum. The collection of sacred works from the Perm Region in Russia's northern Urals centers around the celebrated 'Perm Gods'. When the local pagans converted to Orthodoxy, they maintained their own tradition of venerating 3D icons, and created intricate, colorful wooden carvings of Christ and the saints - a collection of holy sculptures which has no equivalent in any other culture. The images even defied edicts laid down by the church leaders of the time: local priests, fearful of losing their flock, turned a blind eye to the manufacture and use of these icons. This display forms part of a special exhibition devoted to the Christian heritage of Perm, compiled to mark the 290th anniversary of the founding of the city. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 11:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue.

**Through 30.03 Sunday****The Art of Work**

**B-5, Tretyakov Gallery, Krymsky Val 10, [M] Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 499 238 13 78, www.tretyakovgallery.ru.** The Soviet Union was committed to promoting the dignity of labour, and raising the status of the working classes. As a result, 20th century Russian artists were encouraged - and sometimes instructed - to explore the worlds of industry and manufacturing as well as more traditional themes. The Tretyakov's display features works from the 'severe school' of 60s realist artists, conceptual works derived from reportage of the Communists' voluntary working Saturdays and models and demos created by designers at the Aero-hydrodynamic Institute. In addition, contemporary works are included to contrast the heroic labour lauded by the Soviets with modern-day interpretations of the world of work.



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**Through 31.03 Monday****Merchant portrait**

**C-3, State Historical Museum, Red Square 1, [M] Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 692 37 31, www.shm.ru.** Red Square has been a place of commerce throughout its history - from the days when an impromptu market grew up against the Kremlin walls right up to the Christmas controversy over a giant suitcase advertising Louis Vuitton. So it's an appropriate place for an exhibition of portraits of Russia's merchant classes, taking in images from the 17th century until the Russian revolution which aimed to sweep away these so-called 'profiteers' who sought to make money from the labors of others. Starting with anonymous works portraying unknown merchants, the collection at the State Historical Museum moves on to the lavish self-images of prestige-hungry nouveau-riche traders of the 19th century. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 11:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue.

**18.02 Tuesday - 11.05 Sunday****Erwin Blumenfeld**

**B-4, MMAM (Moscow Multimedia Art Museum), ul. Ostozhenka 16, [M] Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 637 11 00, www.mamm-mdf.ru/en.** Erwin Blumenfeld was one of the giants of 20th-century fashion photography, regular producing cover shots for Vogue and other leading magazines. But this exhibition at Moscow's Multimedia Art Museum explores the full range of his work, including

drawing, collage and montage as well as his famed photography. Within its 200 works it tells the story of his creative development from his early days as a jobbing portraitist in Amsterdam to the experimental films he shot for the Dayton store in Minneapolis, exploring his role in the development of commercial color photography along the way.

**28.03 Friday - 24.08 Sunday****Alexander Golovin, Fantasies of the Silver Age**

**B-5, Tretyakov Gallery, Krymsky Val 10, [M] Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 499 238 13 78, www.tretyakovgallery.ru.** Alexander Golovin, whose 150th anniversary falls this year, was one of the brightest representatives of the Silver Age, that brief flowering of Art Deco creativity in the early years of the 20th century which ultimately fell foul of the dead hand of the Soviet commissars and their determination to impose Socialist Realism as the only acceptable form of cultural expression in the country. This large-scale retrospective explores the magical theatrical sets and costumes designed by Golovin, as well as his wide-ranging landscapes, still lifes and portraits of many of the leading lights of his age. The exhibition opens on March 28. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:30. Closed Mon.

ist Realism as the only acceptable form of cultural expression in the country. This large-scale retrospective explores the magical theatrical sets and costumes designed by Golovin, as well as his wide-ranging landscapes, still lifes and portraits of many of the leading lights of his age. The exhibition opens on March 28. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:30. Closed Mon.

**All eyes on Sochi**

The top sporting event of the year for Russia is, without doubt, the Sochi Winter Olympics. Taking the Games to what used to be the Soviet Union's favorite seaside resort hasn't been without its challenges, but everything is finally set for the grand opening ceremony on Feb. 7 and more than two weeks of top action on snow and ice.

The big draw for most Russian fans is the men's ice hockey tournament. For decades the USSR was almost invincible on the world's hockey rinks, but since the fall of the Iron Curtain - and the switch to allowing NHL professionals to play at the Olympics - Russia has failed to win gold.

Now, on home ice, the time is nigh for the team to scratch that 20-year itch and deliver the top prize. It piles the pressure on head coach Zinetula Bilyaletdinov and his men - from established NHL stars like Alexander Ovechkin, Pavel Datsyuk and Evgeny Malkin to rookie talent like 18-year-old Valery Nichushkin, completing his first full season in senior hockey at Dallas Stars.

The build-up, perhaps inevitably given the forensic scrutiny, hasn't been smooth: the dress rehearsal at Sochi's Olympic Arena saw team Russia slip to third place in the four-team Channel 1 Cup, while fears over the availability of star goalie Semyon Varlamov were only allayed when domestic violence charges against him were dropped by a Denver court late in December. But, when the puck is dropped for Russia's opening game against Slovenia on Feb. 13 all that will be forgotten as Russia huddles around its TV screens to follow every bit of the action.

The Feb. 15 showdown with the USA will be another occasion when Moscow's sports bars are as packed as the scenery, and once the knock-out phase gets going in the second week this is destined to be the biggest show in town.

But it's not just about hockey. The figure-skating competition is always a likely source of Russian medals, and this year's top story will be the return of Yevgeny Plushchenko to Olympic competition. A gold-medalist in Turin in 2006, and many people's pick of the skaters when he won silver in Vancouver four years later, he's back again - competing in the team event rather than solo program - and looking to add to his tally.

Eisewhere, though, preparations have again been hampered by an injury to Alexander Smirnov, whose partnership with Japanese-born naturalized Russian Yuko Kavaguti had promised much in preparation for the competition. There will, however, be one naturalized Russian from the Far East in action - speed-skating Viktor Ahn, born in Korea, is reckoned to be a strong medal prospect over 500m and 1000m.

Biathlon is another national obsession in Russia - in terms of TV viewers this combination of skiing and shooting is behind only football and ice hockey, and it far outstrips the usual blue-ribbon downhill events. Watch out for Dmitry Malyshev and Evgeny Ustugov in the men's event, while the experienced Olga Zaitseva is looking for one last hurrah in the women's. Although Moscow isn't hosting the big event, it's likely that the city's bars will be covering it extensively. And, if the evidence of previous Russian sporting successes is anything to go by, every medal - especially in the hockey - will bring fans out to celebrate in style.

**The art of sport**

Meanwhile, sports fans might also enjoy the 'Soviet Sport' exhibition running at the Institute of Russian Realist Art from early February. Timed to coincide with the Games - and also running a parallel show in Sochi itself, as well as posting reproductions in GUM - it highlights the way art became a hot topic for 20th-century artists.

As the Soviet regime strove to promote physical exercise and healthy living - exemplified by Alexander Deyneka's poster 'You don't have to be an athlete, but you must keep fit!' - images of sporting prowess were highly prized. Apart from the social benefits of participation sports, there was also the scope for international prestige to consider, with international champions doing great propaganda work for the socialist system. Deyneka is well-represented in the show, as are the photographs of Lev Borodulin, one of the top photo-journalists of the Soviet era.

By Andy Potts







## Sochi after the Olympics

Sport fans have flocked to the resort town of Sochi for the Olympics, but it might be worth considering a trip to Russia's Riviera once the sports obsessed crowds have departed, leaving in their wake a city of world class facilities which are ready for a visit by guests willing to spend time to explore the beauty and attractions of this little known part of Russia. Known during the Soviet times as the Russian Riviera, Sochi is a resort town located on the Black Sea, nestled under the Caucasus mountains, offering you plenty of options all year round to do sport, get back to nature or just chill out in a Jacuzzi and watch the world go by.

If visiting during the summer there is more to do than simply laze about on the beach perfecting your tan. There are dozens of attractive waterfalls, waterways and lakes where you can chill out, go swimming or enjoy hikes with amazing views. Some of the top attractions have to be the Agur Waterfalls, the Mammoth Ravine, and the White Cliffs. In addition to scenic hikes, visitors can also go on horse tracks. There are also some cool caves that are worth checking out if you want to get out of the summer's sun. In winter you can go up to Krasnaya Polyana, go skiing or watch the snow in front of a log fire at a cosy resort.

Despite the region's popularity among Russians, Sochi was unknown to foreign tourists and expatriates until it was put forward as a contender for the 2014 Winter Olympics – consequently, this resort city is largely untouched by foreign influences and is a great place to relax and enjoy an authentic Russian experience.

Furthermore, following the Winter Olympics Sochi hosts the most up to date hospitality infrastructure in Russia with over 100 hotels, including major hotel brands such as Radisson, Hyatt and Swissôtel, as well as the latest sports facilities. The city now boasts 14 new Olympic facilities, consisting of stadiums, skating rinks, ice hockey arenas and alpine ski trails. This is in addition to 30 new four-star and five-star hotels, and 54 three-star hotels. So regardless of your price range and interests, your visit to Sochi should be comfortable, pleasant and a great new experience.

History buffs will enjoy the unusual history of this region which has been home to the Cimmericians, Scythians, Sarmatians, Khazars and Mongols. Although an iconic location in Russia today, it was virtually unknown to Russia at the start of the 19th century and only became Russian territory 150 years ago after drawn out conflicts with the Ottoman Turkish Empire and Circassian mountain tribes.

With a diverse culture, great access to the outdoors and stunning scenery, the question really is why haven't you visited Sochi already?

## Russia at the Olympics

When it comes to the Olympics, sport has always been mixed with a little politics. During the Cold War the United States and Soviet Union competed against each other, believing that athletic skill on the sports field equated to military power on the battlefield. Given this intense competition, many are surprised to learn that although the Russian Empire participated in the 1900, 1908 and 1912 Olympics, the Soviet Union didn't participate in them until 1952 when they were held in Helsinki, Finland.

The Sochi Olympics are the second to be held in Russia with the first held in Moscow in 1980. Moscow took considerable pride in these Olympics, building much of Moscow's sporting infrastructure for the events and extending television coverage to many regions of the Soviet Union that had previously been beyond broadcast range. However, the much anticipated event was something of a flop. Protesting the Soviet Union's 1979 invasion of Afghanistan, America led a group of 65 countries that boycotted the Olympics (compared to only 24 countries that boycotted the 1976 Olympics in South Africa). In response the Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Since the end of the Cold War, Russia has actively participated in both summer and winter events and despite economic difficulties have managed to maintain their position in international sport maintaining medal hauls for the summer games of second, third and fourth place overall and largely staying in the top five for the winter games.

For the Sochi Olympics, Russia has spent a record \$51 billion USD which has gone to building venues and tourism infrastructure – making the Olympics the most expensive games ever.



## Your favourite Olympic mascot?

Today it is hard to imagine the Olympics without a cool and cuddly mascot to represent the games, the country and the athletes. Although there is some confusion about the appearance of the first mascots they seem to have cropped up back in 1968 and have been devoted fans and patrons of the games ever since. In keeping with the winter theme these games are represented by Polar Bear, the Hare and the Amur Leopard. Each mascot represents a virtue or a skill that all true Olympians strive to meet.

The Polar Bear is the natural sportsperson who spends the long winter skiing and tobogganing and is ready for any adventure.

The Hare is constantly busy and is your favourite extravert, fun loving and honest. You'd be amazed how busy Hare is, helping out parents, studying, playing sport, singing and dancing.

The Leopard is a mountain rescuer and an accomplished snowboarder who rides avalanches, climbs tree and loves good company.

Ray of Light and Snowflake are the mascots for the Paralympic Games. Ray of Light is an interplanetary explorer, is courageous, understanding and overcomes all challenges. Ray of Light's best friend is Snowflake and together they ski and have invented all sorts of great sports that they teach their friends. The two friends are united by their love of sport and their love for people around the world in need. Celebrate the Olympic spirit with these fun loving mascots.



The souvenir sheet of Russia: 3 self-adhesive stamps.  
(c) Russian Post. Designed by O. Shusleбина

## Symbolising peace

It is perhaps one of the most powerful brands on Earth and we barely even think about it. For most of us the Olympic logo is more than a brand, it is a symbol of sporting endeavour, competition and peace. The Olympic logo of five interlocking rings coloured blue, yellow, black, green, and red was designed in 1912 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, co-founder of the modern Olympic Games.

The design represents the colours of all national flags to create an international symbol and the interlocking relief was inspired as a symbol of connection as is sometimes depicted with two wedding rings. This powerful symbol was first used in 1920 for the Antwerp Games. Curiously enough it wasn't until the 1936 Berlin games that the symbol was popularised and became an integral part of the Olympics. The Olympic Torch was also first introduced at the 1936 games.

See pages 64-65  
for more on Sochi

## Where To Watch

Nothing beats the energy and excitement of watching a game live in the stadium, with the throb of the crowd and the thrill and tension of the sport. But if you can't be there yourself, joining a bunch of friends down at a classy sports bar is a pretty good alternative. Enjoy the game on large screen TVs, order some classic pub food and a jug or two of beer and enjoy the best sports events in comfort. Moscow In Your Pocket has selected the best sports bars in the city which promise you great service, great beer and a great environment to make the most of your favourite sport. Enjoy the Olympics and European football in style and enjoy world class sport in good company.



**Bavarius B-1**, Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya 2/30, bldg. 1, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 699 42 11, www.bavarius.ru. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**Durbin C-5**, Ul. Bol. Polyanka 56, bldg. 11, M Dobryninskaya, tel. (+7) 495 953 52 00, www.durbin.ru. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**Gambrinus C-1**, Tsvetnoy bul. 20/1, M Tsvetnoy Bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 608 15 19, en-tsvetnoy.gbsbar.ru. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**Kolbasoff E-4**, Ul. Taganskaya 21, M Taganskaya, tel. (+7) 495 995 23 33, kolbasoff.ru. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**Pilsner. Czech Alehouse A-1**, Ul. 1-ya Tverskaya - Yamskaya 1, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 499 251 20 23, www.pilsner.ru. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**Prazecka E-4**, Ul. Vorontsovskaya 35b, bldg. 2, M P-roletarskaya, tel. (+7) 495 781 26 99, www.prazeckarest.ru. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**Probka Ukrainsky bul. 15**, M Kievskaya, tel. (+7) 499 243 33 36, www.realbeercard.ru. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**Stirlitz A-1**, Ul. 2-ya Tverskaya-Yamskaya 2, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 617 61 03, www.stirlitz.su. ▶ Open 24hrs. €€ (€) (€) (€) (€)

**William Bass C-4**, Ul. Mal. Yakimanka 9, M Polyanka, tel. (+7) 495 778 18 74, www.mcom.ru. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. €€€ (€) (€) (€) (€)



Photo by Sochi Media Center





## Capital of the Caucasus

Russians talk about the Caucasus region as if it were a separate country, even though it is very much an integral part of the Russian Federation. However, whilst most of Russia, from Kamchatka to Kaliningrad is much of a muchness, the Caucasus is strikingly different, and seen as a place where few dare to tread – a hotbed of lawless, angry, unemployed, fundamentalist headbangers who seek to carve out an Islamic state, at least both the national and the international media would have you believe. The reality is our course quite different, but if you aren't quite ready to charge into Chechnya or delve deeper into Dagestan, an easy option is Pyatigorsk. Pyatigorsk's name is derived from the Russian words 'pyat' (five) and 'gor' (mountain) and is a Russian translation of the Turkish 'Beshtau', the name of a nearby mountain range that overlooks the city, and does indeed have five peaks. Soon after the being founded in 1780, Pyatigorsk became a health spa with mineral springs (in 1803, in case you were wondering) and remains one of the oldest spa resorts in Russia, boasting unique medical facilities thanks to around 50 underground sources of healing waters. The city itself is rather urbanized and is not as obvious a tourist destination as some of the smaller spa towns located nearby, such as Kislovodsk or Essentuki, but these can easily be visited as day or half-day trips, and Pyatigorsk has a much wider selection of hotels and restaurants.

The most famous spring is known locally as the 'Proval' which lies hidden inside a cavern at the foot of the south of Mount Mashuk. You can't actually reach the water's edge as it's fenced off but the tunnel reaching the pool is an attraction in itself, as is the statue of Ostop Bender at the entrance, selling tickets to passers by – something that will no doubt make literature buffs smile, if you've read *Twelve Chairs*. The best views of Pyatigorsk are not surprisingly from the top of Mashuk, and closer to the city centre a cable car will whisk you up there in a few minutes (350Rbl return, although you can walk or drive up and down for free if you so choose) – it's windy at the top, but try to spot your home town on one of the numerous posts pointing to various cities of the world, although you'll soon realize that most are in Russia!

As is often the case in Russian cities, Pyatigorsk's main street is ul. Kirova, and the attractions that you'll want to see are located at the eastern end, in and around Park Tsvetnik. Most impressive is the ornate Academic Gallery, which was built in 1851 and houses one of the city's best-known springs, even if it's simply called spring no. 16. But the building itself is closed anyway, although the architecture is amazing, and behind it is Diana's grotto. Then walk up the stairs to do as locals and tourists alike do, and take a photo of the bronze eagle sculpture, complete with Mount Mashuk in the background. You don't need to be an expert in Russian literature to know that more than the occasional famous writer punched his

ticket well before his time was up by means of a duel. Alexander Pushkin may have been the best known to kick the bucket in this way, but Mikhail Lermontov was a mere 26 when he was challenged to such a duel after supposedly insulting comments, and subsequently lost! Lermontov may have hailed from Moscow and studied at cadet school in St Petersburg, but was banished to the Caucasus by Tsar Nicholas I who had taken offence to a poem written by Lermontov who referred to 'powerful pillars of Russian high society of complicity in Pushkin's death', who had died just two years before. It was in 1839 that Lermontov completed his most important novel, 'A Hero of our Time' where he described a duel similar to the one in which he would eventually lose his life, just two short years later in Pyatigorsk. Hadn't these guys ever heard of fistfights, or are we just wimps nowadays?

Nobody can agree on the exact actual duel site itself but in a clearing on the forested western side of Mount Mashuk is a monument market the event where Lermontov met his fate, and there is a nearby obelisk that apparently marks the spot. It's a 5km walk from the city centre although we paid 300Rbl in a cab (there and back – including a little waiting time to take photos).

*By Luc Jones*

**GETTING THERE:** Pyatigorsk has no own airport to call its own, but nearby Mineralniye Vody airport, which is very much the hub for the Northern Caucasus has at least daily flights to Moscow on Aeroflot (operated by Donavia), S7, Transaero and UTAir.

**GETTING AROUND:** There are several official taxi desks upon arrival at MinVody airport, which will whisk you down to Pyatigorsk in about twenty minutes; the fare is fixed at 600Rbl. Pyatigorsk itself isn't big and is easily manageable on foot, although semi-official taxis hover around the tourist spots.

**STAYING THERE:** Many hotels in Pyatigorsk are in fact spa resorts and can be located far from the centre of the city; downtown options exist but are fairly limited. We stayed at the hotel Russia which is very central (pr. Lenina 32); a double room cost 3,200Rbl per night including a reasonable breakfast served on the roof of the hotel.



## Celebrating Russia's winter

February is the coldest month in Russia and after three or four months of dark days and cloudy weather we all need a reason to celebrate. Fortunately in Russia there are plenty of reasons to get together with friends and celebrate life in general. The celebratory season kicks off in romantic style with Valentine's Day a day for couples to celebrate their love and for singles to celebrate being single. This is followed ten days later with the Day of the Defender of the Fatherland which is great excuse for girls to celebrate the manliness of their man and for blokes to get together and celebrate being blokes with vodka, beer and the sorts of stories you don't tell the girls. After surviving these two celebrations, it's time to relax and celebrate by feasting through the week of Maslenitsa. After this marathon effort you should be in fine fettle to celebrate the climax of the celebratory season, Women's Day. In Your Pocket brings you the hows, whys and whens of Russia's celebratory season.

### 14.02 Friday Valentine's Day

Few countries seem to ooze romance the way Russia does and it is surprising that Valentine's Day is a relatively recent import. However, it is now widely celebrated and if you intend to go out this Valentine's be prepared to book in advance, restaurants are crowded and bars are packed on the night of February 14 as couples dine together to commemorate their love, and singles flock to clubs offering special programmes to bring the lonely and unattached together. The traditions are similar to those in other countries, couples give each other flowers, heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, and greeting cards.

## 23 February

### 23.02 Sunday Day of the Defenders of the Fatherland

The Day of the Defenders of the Fatherland was originally a holiday to commemorate the formation of the Red Army in 1918 and is still celebrated in many former Soviet republics. In 1995 it became known as the Day of the Military Glory of Russia, during a trend for changing Soviet names, although it's most commonly known simply as Men's Day. Although technically it is still a military holiday, it's also a public holiday. Thus all men are celebrated, whether they've served in the forces or not and has in effect become the male counterpart to International Women's Day. Thus, you will see many beer festivals and specials occurring on the city on this day.

### 24.02 Monday – 02.03 Sunday Maslenitsa

Maslenitsa is an ancient pagan festival which has been merged into Orthodox tradition and celebrates the end of winter and the arrival of spring. It lasts from February 24 to March 2 and is sometimes known in other countries as Mardi Gras or Carnival. In Russia it celebrates the last week before lent and turns into a huge pancake festival designed to carb load the faithful in preparation for 40 days of fasting. On the last day of Maslenitsa, there's usually a union of pagan and Christian traditions when a huge effigy - representing winter - is burned.

## Russian Wide Maslenitsa in Pskov

Located just a few hours southwest of St. Petersburg, near the Estonian border, Pskov is a great place to get away from the city for a day, breathe some fresh air and enjoy a walk in time to medieval Russia. Dotted all over the city are squat domed little churches, most dating from the 15th and 16th century, and the oldest continually functioning monastery, the Monastery of the Caves, can also be found here. Many features particular to Russian architecture originate in Pskov and considering the violence the city has been subjected to, it is astonishing so much of it remains. The crown jewel of the city is and always has been the Kremlin, locally known as the Krom. In its 1000-plus years, the Krom has been besieged 42 times, attacked by Teutonic knights, Muscovites and Poles but stormed only twice until the modern era when German forces from both World Wars occupied the city. Given the strength of its defenses, it isn't surprising that culture and the arts flourished within the city. Masons, painters of icons and writers all developed and refined their crafts here. Pushkin himself even spent considerable time writing on his family's estate just outside the city. Steeped in history and rich in tradition and culture there's no better place to experience the particularly Russian holiday of Maslenitsa than Pskov.

Festivities during Maslenitsa in Pskov (28.02 – 02.03) usually include a bustling crafts fair, folk songs and dances, troikas racing through the snow, ice sculptures, pole-climbing displays of strength and virility by the gents, doll-making from the ladies and did we mention bliny? Oh, the bliny. Stacks and stacks of pancakes bought, sold and relished, which culminate in a contest whereby participants have 10 minutes to prepare the largest number of blini their hot little frying pans can handle. The delectable results are then auctioned off to benefit the Church of the Holy Martyr of Faith, Hope and Charity. Don't forget to stay for the burning of Kostroma and cheer on the end of winter!

**GETTING THERE:** From Vitebsky station, there are a couple of trains a day to Pskov. From the City Bus Station, there are daily buses, and there is a Eurolines bus service from Baltiyskiy station.





### 08.03 Saturday International Women's Day

On March 8, Russia celebrates International Women's Day. One of Russia's biggest public holidays, it is second only to New Year and Russians go all out to congratulate their women. It's impossible to ignore the infectious spirit of this holiday. Beaming men wait with red roses at metro exits and happy couples linger about in the streets. See them drinking champagne, while the first sunshine after many dark winter months warms their hearts and their relationships. Employers would be fools to forget to give gifts to their female staff. Many clubs and restaurants celebrate this special day the evening before, so be sure to mark your calendar and visit one. Women's Day in Russia proved to be the first stage of the Russian Revolution. In 1917 Russian women rallied on the last Sunday of February for their right to bread and peace. This demonstration was part of the movement that led to the February Revolution. Four days later the last tsar was forced to abdicate and women won their right to vote. After converting the date to the Gregorian calendar, March 8th became International Women's Day. It is celebrated in every nook and cranny in Russia and flowers are sold by the dozens. Following the October Revolution, the Bolshevik feminist Alexandra Kollontai persuaded Lenin to make it an official holiday, and during the Soviet period it continued to celebrate 'the heroic woman worker'. Although in Russia Women's Day is an official holiday, in the West countries attach less value to this day. In the West, International Women's Day was commemorated during the 1910s and 1920s, but dwindled. It was revived by the rise of feminism in the 1960s. In 1975, the United Nations began sponsoring International Women's Day. The general idea of having an international women's day worldwide was first put forward at the turn of the 20th century amid rapid world industrialization and economic expansion that led to protests over working conditions.



Soviet postcard

## Russian Women

You can call them the pillars of Russian society: the Russian women. But most of them don't stand in the foreground (men always take this place). Yet through the whole of Russian history there were women who excelled others in arts, sciences, sports and politics. We have chosen some of the most famous to highlight as part of this year's Women's Day.



### Catherine the Great – Empress

Catherine II took up the work that Peter the Great started and made Russia into a European power. She came to power after her husband Peter III was removed in a coup d'état. Influenced by the French Enlightenment, Catherine carried out correspondence with some of the leading thinkers of her day, including Voltaire. She wanted

to rationalise and reform the Russian Empire. She founded some of the first Russian schools for girls and a medical school to provide health care for her subjects. She was thought of a 'queen for the people', although she resisted any suggestions to modernise agriculture or improve the conditions of the serfs. This led to the Pugachev Rebellion in 1773-75. Catherine undoubtedly played a key role in the development of Russia as a modern state.



### Sofia Kovalevskaya – Mathematician

Born in 1850, Kovalevskaya was a great mathematician, a writer and advocate of women's rights in the 19th century. Her struggle to obtain the best education possible forced her to study overseas. She was dedicated to social reform, making an important contribution to opening university doors

to women in Russia. She wrote her doctoral thesis on partial differential equations of Saturn's moons at the University of Göttingen. Her masterful work in mathematics made her male counterparts reconsider their archaic notions of women's inferiority to men in scientific arenas. In 1883 she lectured at the University of Stockholm and was made Professor of Mechanics, becoming the first female professor in Northern Europe. In 1888 she entered a pioneering paper in an international competition by the French Academy of Sciences and won. Her life's work produced revolutionary scientific theories and gave impetus for future discoveries.



### Anna Pavlova - Ballerina

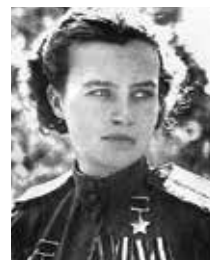
Born in a suburb of St. Petersburg, Pavlova is one of the greatest ballerinas of the 20th century and also one of ballet's most influential ambassadors. Pavlova fell in love with ballet at an early age although it did not come easily to her. Her great success is largely due to her extreme dedication to the art – receiving the nickname La petite sauvage from her peers, she took additional private lessons with the leading dance teachers of her day to overcome her difficulties in learning ballet. However, her unique, expressive style thrilled audiences all over the world. No dancer, before or since, has travelled as extensively: 350,000 miles in 15 years – long before air travel was accessible! She invented the first modern Pointe shoe and no ballerina today would even attempt toe work without it. In 1931 she contracted pleurisy. Doctors could have saved her life with an operation that would have left her unable to perform. She chose to die rather than give up dancing.



### Marina Tsvetaeva - Poet

Famous across Russia, Tsvetaeva left behind an incredible body of work that broke ground for women poets. One of her innumerable themes was the tension between women's private lives and their public roles and she wrote vividly about the external and internal battles she lived through. Anna Akhmatova was her strongest literary influence. Tsvetaeva lived through

the 1917 revolution and the Moscow famine – in which her daughter died. Tsvetaeva went into exile in 1922 because of her political views and lived in poverty in the 1920s and 30s in Paris, Berlin and then Prague. During this time she supported her family through her writings alone. In 1939 she returned to the Soviet Union where her husband Sergei Efron and her daughter Ariadna Efron were arrested as spies. Her husband was executed in 1941 and she committed suicide not long afterwards. As Boris Pasternak said: 'The greatest recognition and reevaluation of all awaits Tsvetaeva, an outstanding twentieth century poet.'



### Marina Raskova – Pilot

In September 1938, Raskova became the first person to fly from Moscow to the Russian Far East. She did it in a non-stop flight with a completely female crew and was made Hero of the Soviet Union. She was also the first woman to be appointed as an instructor in the Soviet Union. During WWII she formed three air regiments consisting of women. They are thought to be the first women in history to take part in military action and they fought fanatically. Known for hitting their targets the three regiments flew over 30,000 sorties, of the 240 'Witches of the Night' (as the Germans called them), 32 were burned. Raskova died in 1943 on the return run following a raid. She was the first Soviet combatant of the war to be given a state funeral. She was interred in the Wall of the Kremlin.



### Valentina Tereshkova – Cosmonaut, first woman in space

Born in 1937 in a farming village, Tereshkova received a technical education after the war and she learned how to parachute jump, which ignited her passion for space flight. Tereshkova was chosen for the women's cosmonaut corps out of 400 applicants. Her solid proletarian background and a father who died a hero during the Winter War gave her an excellent background in addition to her other skills. On 16 June 1963, Tereshkova, aged 26, was launched into space aboard Vostok 6 and became the first woman to travel in space, making 48 orbits round Earth. After this feat, she became Chairwoman of the Committee of Soviet Women in 1968, was made Vice-President of the International Democratic Women Confederation (for world peace) in 1969. In 1971 she became a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. A moon crater is named after Tereshkova.



### Raisa Gorbachova – First Lady

Raisa Gorbachova was a philosophy teacher before becoming the First Lady of the USSR in 1985. She was her husband's principal advisor behind closed doors. Unlike previous leaders' wives, she attended public functions in designer clothes and jewellery. Her 'bold' behaviour and active role promoting equality shocked the Soviet people, but

in the West it helped to give the Soviet Union a more human face. Diagnosed with leukaemia in 1999, she began to get appraisals from the Russian people and fundraised for children's leukaemia hospitals. She was also involved in fundraising for Russia's cultural heritage and fostering new talent. She died in 1999 and was given a public funeral.



### Galina Starovoitova – Politician

Starovoitova was popular among Russians as she was one of the few politicians who worked to help others. She was popular in the West because she consistently expressed her political ideals of democracy, freedom of press and respect for human rights. In 1989-91 she was a member of Congress of People's Deputies, the prominent democratic opposition to the Communist Party. In 1990 she co-founded the Democratic Russia party and 1991-1992 was an advisor to president Yeltsin. In 1995 she became a member of the Duma, the Russian parliament. Here she opposed the anti-Semitic statements of Albert Makashov and became a vocal defender of the rights of ethnic communities and supporting the right of minorities to self determination. In 1996 the Election Committee refused her nomination as candidate for president because she was a woman. Starovoitova planned to run for the presidency elections in 2000, but in 1998 she was shot in her house in St. Petersburg. Her murder remains unsolved.



Photo by Pavel Hellsing

We've selected a range of accommodation options from some of the top end wallet-busters down to the frugal and friendly options. Prices include VAT (18%) and breakfast unless otherwise indicated. **All prices listed are according to the information received by us from hotels for the period February - March 2014.** In Your Pocket assumes no responsibility for discrepancies and changes in pricing.

## 5 stars

**Hilton Moscow Leningradskaya E-1, Ul. Kalanchevskaya 21/40, M Krasnye Vorota, tel. (+7) 495 627 55 50, www.moscow.hilton.com.** Pre-Hilton, the Leningradskaya was the city's first hotel. The newly renovated, 273-room palatial hotel is a winning marriage of heritage and modern elegance. Rooms, as one might expect, are of an exceptional standard and have all the elegant trimmings. Soft furnishings and understated glamour abound. Highlights include majestic skyline views, a six-story long brass chandelier (listed in the Guinness Book of World Records) and a stately lobby. The huge marble pillared ballroom doubles as a conference hall, while the second smaller hall houses the Janus restaurant. ▶ 273 rooms (Room prices start at 6,000Rbl). VAT and breakfast (1,350Rbl) are not included. ★★★★★

**Hotel Baltshug Kempinski Moscow D-4, Ul. Baltshug 1, M Novokuznetskaya, tel. (+7) 495 287 20 00, www.kempinski.com/moscow.** Without actually being the President, it would be hard to live closer to the Kremlin than this. Moscow's first five star hotel is just across the river and has a stunning view of the Kremlin. The lobby is home to more business men than tourists. Rooms bear the mark of royalty and some suites literally have been designed by minor members of the British royal family. Suites also have the most sensational bathrooms, sure to one day grace the pages of design magazines. Brunch is served on Sundays and in-house dining options include the restaurant Baltshug Grill and the European-style Cafe Kranzler. ▶ 230 rooms (Room prices start at 16,000Rbl). Breakfast (1,900Rbl) and VAT are not included. ★★★★★

## Symbol Key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Child friendly	Conference facilities
Restaurant	Facilities for the disabled
Fitness centre	Guarded parking
Swimming pool	Non-smoking rooms
Sauna	Nearest metro station
Animal friendly	Wi-Fi connection

For hundreds more reviews of hotels  
check [www.moscow.inyourpocket.com](http://www.moscow.inyourpocket.com)

**Lotte Hotel Moscow A-3, Novinsky bul. 8, bldg. 2, M Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 495 745 10 00, www.lottehotel.ru.** This sparkling hotel offers top-class Asian standard service right in the centre of Moscow. The lobby is an opulent feast of specially commissioned blown glass chandeliers and real marble pillars, while the restaurant options are some of the hippest and most exciting in town. Upstairs you could drive a car in the gigantic ballroom whilst the spacious and luxurious bedrooms with discreet state-of-the-art extras all feature the kind of bathrooms you would expect to see in a very expensive spa. Due to the specially designed glass facade the noise of the street is completely inaudible throughout the hotel and we've rarely seen a better thought-out club lounge. ▶ 300 rooms (Room prices start at 15,000Rbl). Extra bed 2,000Rbl. VAT and Breakfast (1,800Rbl) not included. ★★★★★

**Mamaison All-Suites Spa Hotel Pokrovka E-2, Ul. Pokrovka 40, bldg. 2, M Kurskaya, tel. (+7) 495 229 57 77, www.mamaison.com.** Boutique design hotel - there is a fine line being walked here in the loud design, but in the end the purple, red and black-coloured interior makes the grade. The cigar lounge and the restaurant are stellar, created from the excitable minds of Russia's best designers. Indeed, the abundance of French furniture turns the hotel into a gallery. The Mamaison Pokrovka has only suites and apartments (no standard rooms) and all are filled with hip 1930s and 1950s design features and modern kitchenettes. The small foreign literature library suffices, should you get bored with the state-of-the-art televisions, wireless internet and luxury spa complex with hydromassage pool. ▶ 84 rooms (Room prices start at 11,000Rbl). Extra bed 1,800Rbl. VAT and breakfast (1,200Rbl) not included. ★★★★★

**Marriott Moscow Grand Hotel C-3, Tverskaya ul. 26/1, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 937 00 00, www.marriottmoscowgrand.com.** Situated conveniently on Tverskaya ulitsa, the Marriott Grand boasts luxurious rooms with modern stylings, fitness and health facilities, and European restaurants. The Grand is co-managed with two other Marriott hotels in Moscow, which ensures flexible booking. The rooms themselves offer a generous amount of space and freshness. Twin rooms come with two king-size beds that you could swim in. Natural light shines abundantly in their conference rooms and trademark foyer atrium and there are quality buffet lunches in the restaurant. ▶ 386 rooms (Room prices start at 15,000Rbl). Extra bed free of charge. Breakfast 1,450Rbl. ★★★★★

**Metropol C-2, Teatrainy proezd 2, M Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 499 501 78 00, www.metropol-moscow.ru.** A marvel of history, the Metropol has kept its original art nouveau exterior that stood witness to the revolution of 1917. The story of its famous founder, Savva Mamontov, and the hotel's decorative mosaics can fill a book. Get ready to breathe in the atmosphere as most rooms are filled with early twentieth century furniture and original lamps. ▶ 362 rooms (Room prices start at 15,000Rbl). Extra bed 1,500Rbl. VAT and Breakfast (1,100Rbl) not included. ★★★★★

**Hotel Nikol'skaya Kempinski Moscow C-2, Nikolskaya ul. 12, M Lubyanka, tel. (+7) 495 967 77 76, www.kempinski.com.** This five star hotel from the Kempinski group looks out over Lubyanka Square in the heart of the city, a stone's throw away from Red Square. The hotel's grand Art-Deco style echoes the turn of the century, when this former residence of Count Orlov became a luxury perfumer's. Degas and Klimt style paintings adorn the walls of the rooms which are furnished with fine fabrics, gilded oak, marble and crystal. An original 1907 mosaic frames the windows looking out onto Nikolskaya street in the Mosaik restaurant, which serves Russian-European cuisine. The conference facilities are ultra-modern from ballroom to board room, and the hotel offers plenty of places to relax too, with several bars, an Italian restaurant, a French bistro and a spa. ▶ 211 rooms (Prices start at 16,000Rbl). ★★★★★

**Radisson Royal Hotel A-3, Kutuzovskiy pr. 2/1, bldg. 1, M Kievskaya, tel. (+7) 495 221 55 55, www.radisson.ru/royalhotel-moscow.** An absolutely monumental hotel, which with its 505 rooms and 29 floors, is easily the biggest luxury hotel in Moscow. The lobby takes in not only the reception, but also a huge interactive scale model of Moscow as it was back in the 1970s and the chance to buy a Rolls Royce. The rooms vary in colour schemes and size, but all benefit from huge beds that you almost need a step ladder to mount and original Socialist realist art. The bathrooms with panoramic views of the city in the ambassador suites are particularly inviting. Dining options take in a wealth of options including an outstanding Iranian restaurant. Not a place to do things by halves, the Royal has a full Olympic sized pool as well as a gigantic fitness centre in the basement. ▶ 497 rooms (38 apartments, Room prices start at 11,000Rbl). Extra bed 1,500Rbl. Breakfast 1,500Rbl. ★★★★★

**Sheraton Moscow Sheremetyevo Airport Hotel Mezhdunarodnoye shosse 28B, bldg. 5, M Planemaya, tel. (+7) 495 229 00 10, www.sheratonmoscowairport.com.** Few Moscow hotels can boast the surroundings that Sheraton has, almost in the midst of the forest, quiet and brand new. Located a short (complimentary) drive from the Sheremetyevo Airport it is the perfect choice for those who appreciate an early morning stroll through nature and a rest away from the busy streets of central Moscow. The hotel boasts spacious rooms with large windows as well as a top-notch conference room, two restaurants, a top-floor area where breakfast and refreshments are served throughout the day and a very relaxed lobby bar. ▶ 342 Rooms (Room prices start at 7,000Rbl). Extra bed 1,650Rbl. ★★★★★

**The Ritz-Carlton C-2, Ul. Tverskaya 3, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 225 88 88, www.ritzcarlton.com.** Luscious decor and furnishings abound in this modern palace. The architects and designers paid close attention to detail and endowed sophisticated rooms with luxury utilities and utmost comfort. The service here is so complete it borders on aristocratic. Where else would you be able to call upon a bath or technology butler or to recharge your laptop while it was locked away in the room safe? Draw your curtains or switch off the lights using the touch panel by your bed? ▶ 334 rooms (Room prices start at 15,000Rbl). Extra bed 1,500Rbl. VAT and Breakfast (1,850Rbl) not included. ★★★★★

## 4 stars

**Aquamarine Hotel D-4, Ozerkovskaya nab. 26, M Novokuznetskaya, tel. (+7) 495 580 28 28, www.aquamarinemoscow.com.** This sparkling bright boutique hotel is perfect for business travelers coming to Moscow to take part in smaller meetings - their conference rooms catering for up to 12 people are superb, with not a stray wire or dodgy curtain in sight - everything here is discreet and done at the touch of a button. Up in the spacious rooms it's also gadgets a-go-go, they even have phones in the toilets, just in case. The executive floor is the real attraction with full length windows and to die for roof terraces. ▶ 159 rooms (Room prices start at 6,500Rbl). Extra bed 1,500Rbl. Breakfast 1,000Rbl. ★★★★★



**Best Western Vega Hotel & Convention Center Izmailovskoe shosse 71, bldg. 3V, M Partizanskaya, tel. (+7) 495 956 05 06, www.hotel-vega.ru.** The Izmailovo Hotel Vega is the biggest in the Best Western chain of hotels, with over 1,000 rooms, 4 restaurants, banquet halls, conference rooms, a sauna and a gym, all situated just a few minutes walk away from Partizanskaya metro station. The rooms are all comfortable and convenient, catering for all your needs, offering shoe shining services, tea and coffee and TVs and DVD players. The bedroom views look over the stunning, brightly coloured turrets of Izmailovsky Kremlin and the expansive grounds of Izmailovsky Park. Right next to the Kremlin is the Izmailovsky market, where you can purchase traditional handmade Russian products from matryoshka dolls to shawls. ▶ 966 rooms (Room prices start at 3,300Rbl). Extra bed 700Rbl. Breakfast 550Rbl. ★★★★★

**Registrations:** all foreign visitors to Russia are obliged to register within seven working days (this excludes weekends and public holidays). If a hotel refuses to register you make sure you complain - the registrations is their responsibility, not yours!



## Ask the Concierge

**Interview with Ekaterina  
Kozyreva – concierge at  
Radisson Royal Hotel.**

**Please tell us something about yourself.**

My name is Ekaterina Kozyreva and I was born in Moscow. I graduated from the faculty of the hotel and restaurant management at the Russian State Trade and Economy University. I started my career in 2007 as a concierge in the Baltshug Kempinski hotel and I recently moved to the Radisson Royal hotel to the position of Chief Concierge.

**What are some of the hidden winter treasures in and around Moscow?**

A rather exotic and exciting type of the outdoor activity in Russia is a dog sled safari. The dog sled is a traditional means of transport for the Thule peoples and Siberia. Now the dog sleds tours are provided by many tour operators in different regions of Russia. The participants of the long tours spend two days learning to drive near the base before the trip. Of course, the tourists are escorted by the instructor and his assistant. The tour can take from one day to ten days. All such tours require a good health and physical endurance: the tourists spend the winter days outdoors and sleep in tents with a portable oven.

**What are the advantages of travelling to Moscow in winter as opposed to summer?**

As we have winter weather for almost five to six months per year there are many things to do in the winter time in Moscow. There are a lot of the skating-rinks throughout the city. The most famous are on the Red Square and Gorky park. One can also ski - not on the Red Square - but in Novo-Peredelkino. The ski track is outside Moscow, but it's equipped with the tubing track, snowboard track, rope way and chairlift. The museum of ice in Sokolniki is also great!

**Tell us about the spectacular river cruise that leaves from the Radisson Royal Ukraina hotel.**

The Radisson Royal Flotilla yachts are state-of-the-art river yacht-restaurants meant for excursions and entertainment cruises along the Moskva River. This is very special as nobody in the world provides this service 365 days a year in summer and in winter. There is an audio tour in different languages and very informative colourful route map. There are tourist packages and family weekend trips as well as special thematic evenings. On the way you may enjoy not only the landscape but also try tasty dishes created by Mr. Lorenzo Strappato, our Italian Chef. The yachts are designed to easily pass through the ice and provide comfort for passengers even in the harshest of Russian winters.

**What is a must-do for visitors in winter time in Russia?**

Every single visitor who comes to Russia in winter must: skate on the Red Square or Gorky park skating rink; take a tour on the Radisson boat breaking the ice on Moskva river; drive in a sledge with "Troika" (with three horses); to drive in a sledge with dogs; to ski in one of our beautiful parks; to enjoy the beautiful Russian winter landscape.



**Garden Ring Hotel** D-1, Prospekt Mira 14, bldg. 2,  Sukharevskaya, tel. (+7) 495 988 34 60, [www.gardenringhotel.ru](http://www.gardenringhotel.ru). This brand spanning new business hotel has everything that the seasoned business traveller would expect – rooms with huge soft beds decorated in neutral colours, excellent spa facilities and sauna/pool complex, professional event management staff and two lovely dining choices with great views from the French windows. With its tasteful 19th century theme, the hotel safely crosses the line into elegant rather than overdone and the gadgets that you can spot all over the place remind you that this place was purpose built for those who expect modernity. Being close to the garden ring road it's great for transport, but the powerful double glazing ensures the traffic is completely inaudible. ► 85 rooms (Room prices start at 8,000Rbly).           ★★★★★

**N**ovotel Moscow City Hotel Presnenskaya nab. 2,  
M) Mezhdunarodnaya, tel. (+7) 495 664 89 89, www.  
[novotel-moscow-city.com](http://novotel-moscow-city.com). Novotel's latest addition to the  
Moscow scene is ideally placed amongst the glittering sky-  
scrapers of the new Moscow City business district for those  
who like to work hard and relax just as hard as well. The flexible  
conference facilities leave nothing to be desired, whilst the suite  
category of rooms could host small meetings in themselves  
and come with a large sofa, separate bathroom for guests,  
and a Nespresso brand coffee machine for the caffeine-fuelled  
businessman. To relax after a hard day's business there's  
a spa with sauna and Turkish baths, a large restaurant, a free-  
standing fireplace in the bar for sitting down with the paper,  
calm minimalist design and beds of impressive proportions.

▶ 360 rooms (Room prices start at 6,000Rbl). Extra bed  
1,200Rbl.  \*\*\*\*\*

3 stars

**Azimut Moscow Tulskeya Hotel** Varshavskoye shosse 9,  Tulskeya, tel. (+7) 495 987 22 22, [www.azimut-hotels.com](http://www.azimut-hotels.com). A stellar mid-range option with much more style and verve than Moscow's usual offerings. The clever ex-industrial 'loft' design perfectly incorporates its 19th century factory building's historic details like vaulted ceilings, brick walls and cast-iron columns with hip lighting and modern minimalist chic. Rooms vary in size, but all are remarkable for their clever use of space and abundance of nifty gadgets and super rain showers. Numerous trams stop directly in front heading to the metro station which is a ten minute walk away. ► (Room prices start at 4,700Rbl). Extra bed 800Rbl. Breakfast (600Rbl) not included.

**Ibis Paveletskaya** Ul. Shchipok 22, bldg.1,  **Paveletskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 661 85 00, [www.ibishotel.com](http://www.ibishotel.com). Budget hotels like this are few and far between in Moscow. A completely new building, with brand new rooms and facilities just ten minutes from the train station and a short distance from the very heart of Moscow. Those concerned about their carbon footprint as well as their wallets are welcomed with open arms as are disabled travellers. Rooms are bright and functional and the ones facing north are particularly large. With the appearance and service attitude of an upmarket hotel, this is a great budget option. ▶ 147 rooms (Room prices start at 3,900Rbl). Extra bed (1,000Rbl). Breakfast (720Rbl) not included.

**U menya zabranirovan nomer -**  
I have a reservation



Within the same Moscow city block you can find both good and bad service, five-star fine dining and hot dog snack vans. Muscovites love going out, so most restaurants tend to fill up quickly. To be sure of getting a table, make sure to book in advance. Be aware that many restaurants morph into bars and clubs in the later hours of the evening, so make early reservations if you want some peace and quiet. Tipping is one Western tradition that Russians are making their own. Tip for good service only - around ten percent is considered fair.

**Our price guide is based on the average price of**

**a main course:**

€ - 0 - 400Rbl	€€ 400 - 800Rbl
€€€ 800 - 1.200Rbl	€€€€ 1.200Rbl plus

## Russian and Ukrainian

**Cafe Pushkin** B-2, Tverskoy bul. 26a,  Tverskaya, tel. (+7) 495 739 00 33, [www.cafe-pushkin.ru](http://www.cafe-pushkin.ru). This aristocratic restaurant is extremely famous and popular with local business men and passing tourists. Diplomats, bankers and Moscow's rich and famous now frequent it, but it used to be known as the city's only upper class restaurant where you could eat European standard food and talk freely without being disturbed by the roaming ears of KGB men. The Russian and French cuisine recalls Tsarist times and on the first floor there is a sophisticated 24-hour café and a restaurant called the Library Room, which has a splendid view of Tverskoy Bulvar. ► The first floor open 24hrs, the second floor 12:00 - 02:00.       

**Chemodan B-3**, Gogolevsky bul. 25, bldg. 1,  **Arbatskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 695 38 19, [www.chemodan-msk.ru](http://www.chemodan-msk.ru). This is the place to come for real Russian hunter's fare. The menu is based around numerous old recipes found in a 19th Century Siberian cookbook - resulting in stag, bear, arctic goose and unusual Siberian fish such as white salmon and muksun holding court across the menu accompanied by other treats of the Taiga and homemade Russian vodka and other liquors. Portions are hefty and hearty and the warm and inviting 19th Century parlour interiors, discreetly lit by candles and old lamps, add to the feeling of shelter from a snowstorm, even in summer. Chemodan's helpful staff, convivial atmosphere and satisfying food all make for a wonderful experience for fans of historic references and kitsch-free Russian cuisine.

► Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€.       

**Club Petrovich** D-2, Ul. Myasnit'skaya 24, bldg. 3, **M**Chistye Prudy, tel. (+7) 495 623 00 82, [www.clubpetrovich.ru](http://www.clubpetrovich.ru). Step back into the Soviet 50s and 60s. This club is high on the nostalgia factor with everything from traditional home made drinks like the tart berry *mors*, to thick Russian *bliny*, big soups, meatballs and *shashlik*. Real Stalin-era cutlery, bowls and lamps litter the place which is crammed with authentic Soviet memorabilia. It gets really

busy and the atmosphere is fun in here in the evenings - especially at the weekends when people get up dancing to the live music. Petrovich is officially a 'members only' club, so the best way to guarantee you get in is to make a table reservation in advance. ► Open 12:00 - 05:00, Sat, Sun 02:00 - 05:00. Open 14:00 - 05:00. After 17:00 entrance only with a club card or prior reservation. €€      

**Dacha na Pokrovke E-2**, Pokrovsky bul. 16-18 bldg. 4 (entrance on Podkolokolny per.), ☑ Kitay Gorod, tel. (+7) 499 764 99 95, [www.dacha-napokrovke.ru](http://www.dacha-napokrovke.ru). The Dacha on Pokrovka is the place if you are looking for simple Russian fare in original and quirky surroundings. Spread over the upper floor of a crumbling medieval mansion this café/restaurant with its collection of Soviet and pre-Soviet armchairs, radios, telephones and crockery of the type you'd usually find at a flea market, certainly has a special kind of charm. The menu focuses on simple Russian classics while in the summer months a barbecue grill kicks off in the leafy garden out front with succulent *shashlik*. Live music most evenings. ▶ Open 12:00 - 06:00. €€ ☎ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖

## American and Latin American

**American Bar and Grill** A-1, 1-ya Tverskaya-Yamskaya ul. 2, bldg. 1,  Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 499 250 95 25, [ambar.rosinter.com](http://ambar.rosinter.com). You know how tourists travelling to America often talk about how big the servings are there? How they had to split a salad between two people? This is like this place. The casual easygoing atmosphere, country music soundtrack and big servings are American dining staples. Here they do American style and Tex-Mex (which is American as well). The interior is mostly wooden but not the waitresses. Also at ul. Zemlyanoy val 59 (metro Taganskaya) and ul. Kirovogradskaya 14 (Shopping center Global City, metro Yuzhnyaya).  
► Open 08:00 - 01:00. Fri, Sat 24hrs. €€,  

**Beverly Hills Diner** D-2, Ul. Sretenka 1,  Sretensky bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 625 42 21, [www.thediner.ru](http://www.thediner.ru). A fat slice of American kitsch straight out of the movie Grease complete with a chrome bar, red vinyl seats and impossibly cute and friendly Sandra Dee waitresses in their little 1950s outfits. Burgers are two hand, ten napkin affairs which do have the tendency to crumble under the weight of the burger, bacon, cheese, pickles, mustard, pineapple...etc. The whole atmosphere, complete with the half-broken jukebox, neon lights and smokey booths makes this place seem very over-the-worldy. Also at ul. Nikolskaya 10 (metro Lybyanka). ▶ Open 24hrs. €€.    

**Stopka** – Small vodka glass

## Russian Cuisine



Traditional Russian food is rich and stodgy peasant-fare with a dash of French inspired creamy sauces and other scrumptious flavours. If you are wondering what that green grass stuff is, it's dill (ukrop) and it usually finds its way into everything.

## Bliny and snacks

Snacks (zakuski) are very popular and include all manner of pickled things as well as small open sandwiches (buterbrod). Pancakes (bliny) are very popular and may come with savoury fillings such as ham (vetchina), caviar (ikra), cheese (syr), mushrooms (griby) or sour cream (smetana) or with sweet filling such as honey (myod) or condensed milk (sgushchionka).

## Soups and salads

Russians are big on soup and there are literally hundreds of different kinds. The quintessential Russian soup is of course the beetroot and beef based borsch. Ukha a fish soup often made with salmon or trout is another favourite as is the heavy meaty 'hunters' soup Solyanka. Russian salads invariably have mayonnaise in them and are a permanent feature on any menu. The classic Russian salad is Olivye - boiled potatoes, carrots, peas and eggs, pickled Cucumbers with either cheap spam ham or something luxurious like lobster, sturgeon or crayfish. Selyodka pod shuboy which translates as 'herring under a fur coat' is another popular salad consisting of layers of pickled herring, boiled potatoes and beetroot.

## Main dishes

Pelmeni - boiled dumplings stuffed with meat and served with sour cream. Varenki are the same but stuffed with vegetables or sweet fillings. Uzbek versions (manty) are slightly bigger and often steamed, while the Georgian versions (khinkali) are huge and eaten with the hands. Beef stroganoff - a Russian classic, famous across the world. Kotlety - little meat patties usually made with minced beef (govyadina) or pork (svinina). Frikadelki are meatballs and similar in taste but made with rice and meat and usually served with a sauce.

## Symbol Key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Live music	Take away
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Non-smoking areas	Guarded parking
Home delivery	Wi-Fi connection

**Starlite Diner C-2, Strastnoy bul. 8a, Chekhovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 989 44 61, [www.starlite.ru](http://www.starlite.ru).** It's most certainly American and those red booths are the real thing - the only Russian elements here are the electric sockets. You'll hear more English spoken in this diner than anywhere else in Moscow, which adds to the otherworldly home-away-from-home experience. The menu spins out all the classics in authentic style, including huge waffles, burgers and giant milkshakes made with oreo cookies, massive breakfast and huge filter coffees from the pot. American diners are now de rigueur in Moscow but Starlite are still the original and best. They now have five 24 hour venues, with the original being the giant silver truck in a leafy garden near Mayakovskaya metro (Bol. Sadovaya 16), although our favourite is the latest spacious venue on Stastnoy bulvar. ▶ Open 24hrs. €€€

## Asian and Indian

**Koryo North Korean Ul. Ordzhonikidze 11, bldg. 9, Leninsky prospekt, tel. (+7) 495 232 43 52.** Longing for a time and place where things were more...simple? Picture classic retro Asian decor and staff uniforms, complete with disco ball, tinsel, and flashing string lights - and you're at Koryo. Highly recommended on the Japanese expat housewives' gourmet blog, Koryo delivers excellent value for money and professional service, while offering the same quality as restaurants in the center. Specialising in Pyongyang cuisine, perhaps the only anomaly was the usual array of side dishes you associate with Korean restaurants. A unique opportunity to experience North Korean culture in Moscow awaits you. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. €

**MEGU A-3, Lotte Hotel Moscow, Novinsky bul. 8, bldg. 2, Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 495 745 10 00, [www.lottehotel.ru](http://www.lottehotel.ru).** Popular in New York's fine dining circles MEGU brings its flair for finding the finest ingredients with it to Moscow and is quite simply the premier Japanese restaurant in town. Finally here's the chance to find out what Japanese service standards and fine dining are really about. Signature dishes such as the irresistible Kanzuri shrimp or the premium Wagyu Kagero Yaki (stone grilled wagyu steak) are emblematic of just how much dedication goes into this food. The volcanic hot stones are taken from remote mountain rivers in Japan, the kanzuri chili is specially preserved in snow - and don't even get us started on the fish! ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 23:00. €€€€

**Menza C-2, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 32, bldg.1, Chekhovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 650 32 40, [www.menza-lapsha.ru](http://www.menza-lapsha.ru).** Japanese noodles for those on a budget. Order your meal by ticking the boxes on the order forms and then handing them into the waiter. Disco tunes play, and your food arrives in minutes. Warehouse loft location, friendly service and Japanese beer which is light on the fizz and the roubles makes this place even more democratic. Also at ul. Rusakovskaya 22 (metro Sokolniki). ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 06:00. €

**Turandot B-2, Tverskoy bul. 26/5, Tverskaya, tel. (+7) 495 739 00 11, [www.turandot-palace.ru](http://www.turandot-palace.ru).** This is as chic as it gets. Exquisite wines, live classical music on a revolving podium, hand painted furniture and a fireplace makes this a place for all those who need or want to impress their company. The service is remarkably good (they even bring separate tables for the ladies handbags), and professional. The bigger main room has high ceilings and is surrounded by arches where separate tables can be booked. If you don't get a light feeling in your head from the wine, you'll surely get one from the orchestra playing on a rotating stage. Rumour has it that the cost of building Turandot exceeded 25US\$ million. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€€€

## Caucasian and Central Asian

**Cafe Khinkalnaya C-2, Ul. Neglinaya 15, Kuznetsky Most, tel. (+7) 495 276 15 00, [www.kafekhinkalnaya.ru](http://www.kafekhinkalnaya.ru).** Legendary amongst the local Georgian community this restaurant is always full and the food is super authentic. Entertainment comes from an excruciatingly loud Georgian band and later on in the evening traditional dancing (courtesy of the guests). You can expect to see men showing off their high-kicking moves in spontaneous displays of typical Caucasian bravado, whilst their womenfolk natter over carafes of homemade wine and the kids chase each other around the tables. ▶ Open 24hrs. €€€

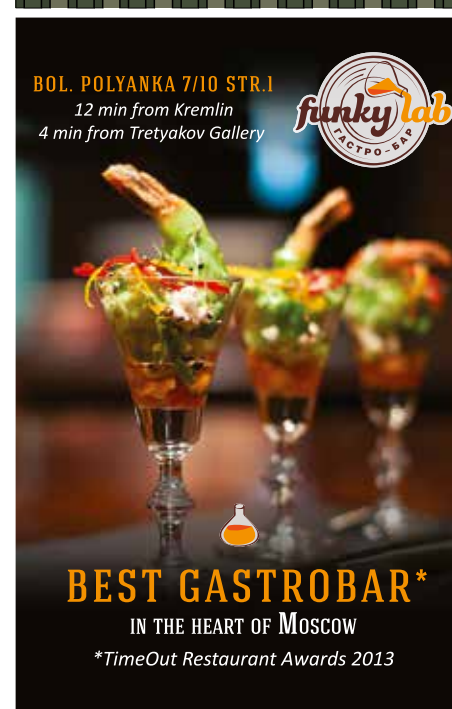
**Elardgy B-4, Gagarinsky per. 15a, Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 627 78 97, [glnzaproject.ru](http://glnzaproject.ru).** This sophisticated and elegant concept promises home-style Georgian food. Looking through the menu you'll find some unusual dishes made with offal and various other animal bits plus the usual *khachapuri* (cheese bread), *shashliks* (kebabs) and spiced vegetable starters. The food is hearty enough without swimming in grease although why the drinks cost almost as much as the meat is baffling. Nevertheless, the real reason to come here is to soak up the atmosphere, which is akin to being on a posh southern country estate. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€

**Noev Kovcheg D-3, Maly Ivanovsky per. 9, Kitai Gorod, tel. (+7) 495 917 07 17, [www.noevkovcheg.ru](http://www.noevkovcheg.ru).** Inviting and relaxing, after ten years this Ark is still a refuge Noah never envisaged. With an elaborate and traditional wooden interior and subtly lit with warm lighting, the seating is cosy while allowing enjoyment of the space. The menu offers some interesting traditional dishes as well as some exciting twists: try the grilled aubergine mousse. There are plenty of meat and fish options, and enough vegetarian options to please alternative tastes. All in all this is a full cultural as well as culinary experience. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€

## European

**Cafe Tchaikovsky B-1, Triumfalnaya pl. 4/31, Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 699 91 14, [novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/chaykovskiy/](http://novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/chaykovskiy/).** A sprawling café and restaurant understandably popular with theatre and classical music enthusiasts as it is located right in the centre of Moscow theatre land and literally underneath the Moscow Conservatory. Dark lighting, leather and mahogany furniture and elegantly dressed waiters create a pleasantly grand atmosphere although a bit more classical music on the stereo would perhaps better suit the surroundings. Regardless the menu is packed with well-made Russian classics and a wide selection of pizza, pasta, grilled fish and the like meaning there's something for everyone. Tchaikovsky also has an extensive selection of great cakes, pastries and other desserts to sample if you decide just to pop in for a coffee and a snack. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. €€

**El Basco Tapas Bar D-1, Pankratyevsky per. 2, Sukharevskaya, tel. (+7) 499 271 6110.** The El Basco Tapas Bar is an unlikely addition to the slightly down-at-heel cluster of eateries around Sukharevskaya metro. Setting up not far from Moscow's best-known Spanish restaurant, Tapa de Comida, it faces strong local competition. However, a combination of competitive prices and some well-presented dishes (the pulpo de Galicia went down especially well) give it a fighting chance, as does friendly and efficient service. There are some oddities - despite its Iberian accent it dabbles with a few unnecessary Italian extras, for example. But as a convenient and spacious haunt, it's a safe enough bet. ▶ Open Mon, Thu, Sun 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. €€





**Funky Lab C-4, Ul. Bolshaya Polyanka 7/10, bldg 1, M Polyanka, tel. (+7) 495 951 06 07, www.funkylab-bar.com.** Popcorn with hot chili sauce might sound like a strange combo, but not at Funky Lab. What's really in a name? This restaurant serves food in a funky way, with a lot of attention being placed on how it is presented to you. Why read from a menu when there is a tablet available with pictures of all dishes? Don't be surprised when you pick out a dish here just because of the way it looks. But the best thing about Funky is that while presenting it all in a beautiful and funny way, the food is just plain good, with a relaxed atmosphere, friendly service and with very reasonable prices in a down-to-earth location. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Les Menus B-2, Lotte Hotel Moscow, Novinsky bul. 8, bldg. 2, M Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 495 287 05 15, www.lottehotel.ru.** With a regularly changing and innovative French menu from three Michelin starred superstar chef Pierre Gagnaire, Les Menus is possibly the most exciting haute cuisine French restaurant in the city. The atmosphere and impeccable service is focused on enjoyment rather than snooty dress codes. The menu, which is packed with innovative French delights made from a fine balance of interesting ingredients not often seen in Moscow, changes all the time with Gagnaire frequently visiting Moscow to update the dishes to reflect his current inspirations. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:30. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Lucien C-1, Ul. Gilyarovskogo 65, bldg. 1, M Rizhskaya, tel. (+7) 495 997 76 65, www.lucienrest.ru.** Lucien recreates the style, sophistication and tastes of the Russian nobility in the 19th and early 20th Century. The story starts as soon as you enter the door and are greeted by elegantly dressed waiters who lead you into a gorgeous Victorian style parlour scattered with palm trees and pristine white table-clothed tables.

Opening the menu you are met by classic French, Russian and Jewish inspired cuisine. Don't miss out on the signature Olivier salad with smoked fish for starters and then follow it up with quail, duck confit, sturgeon, veal, beef tenderloin or a classic Stroganoff... the mouthwatering list goes on. All the mains are matched with exquisite garnishes depending on the dish such as warm beetroot-apple pie or Russian pancakes stuffed with porcini mushrooms. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Prostye Veshchi B-3, Bol. Nikitskaya ul. 14/2, bldg. 7, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 629 34 94, www.gastroteka.ru.** Prostye veshchi - simple things - is the motto by which this great little wine bar runs. The low vaulted brick walls are painted white and only the odd bottle of wine on display here and there provides any kind of decoration. The excellent food - including fantastic sandwiches, luscious salads, risottos, homemade sausages, tapas and other goodies - is all sparklingly fresh, organic (for the most part) and beautifully presented. They have an excellent wine cellar and in warm weather their small courtyard terrace makes for a more visually exciting and sunny place to sit and sip. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri - Sun 10:00 - 03:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Tapa de Comida C-1, Ul. Trubnaya 20/2, bldg. 3, M Trubnaya, tel. (+7) 495 608 20 07, www.tapadecomida.ru.** Viva l'espana! Step off the mean streets of Moscow and say hola to the enchanting Tapa de Comida. Set up like a real Valencian cantina, this place looks and feels Spanish inside and out, complete with beautiful tiling, roughly painted mustard walls, football scarves, happy locals sipping wine at the bar and long Mediterranean style windows. This was the first tapas bar to open in Moscow and is still probably the best. ▶ Open 24hrs. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Tapa' Rillas C-1, Strastnoi Bulvar 4/3 (entrance in the yard), M Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 989 41 59, www.taparillas.ru.** This brightly decorated tapas bar hidden in a grungy courtyard just off Pushkinskaya square is a super laidback venue for an informal dinner and drinks, especially at the weekends when Spanish guitarists wander the tables and diners get involved in the inevitable Gypsy Kings sing-a-long. For once the wine is more than reasonably priced, although it is easy to rack up a bill by over ordering on the generously portioned tapas plates. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## International

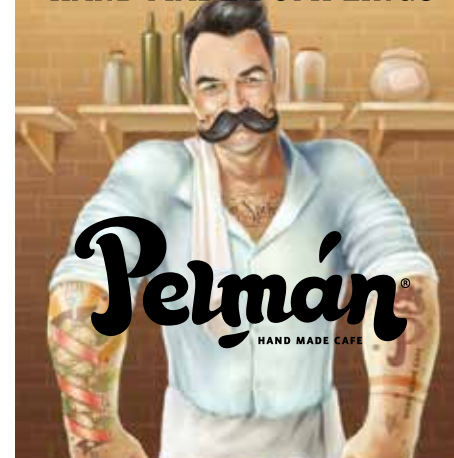
**Kon-Tiki C-2, Ul. Rozhdestvenka 5/7, bldg. 2, M Kuznetsky Most, tel. (+7) 495 767 87 20, www.kontiki-cafe.ru.** The younger sister of the Tiki Bar (the first Hawaiian bar in Moscow), although Kon-Tiki is more of a restaurant than a bar, it is still definitely one of the more exotic places in Moscow. So if you are looking for a bite to eat and a bit of fun, look no further than Kon-Tiki and it's island grill. Guests are surrounded by typical Hawaiian wooden carvings and an impressive aquarium that runs the length of the wall - this is truly Hawaii in Moscow. During the weekend the restaurant is always buzzing with the music and energy from Caribbean and Latino themed parties. The authentic Hawaiian style cocktails are moderately priced, so forget your worries and enjoy the rhythm of a salsa or rumba, whilst sipping on the Aztec Surfboard or Ginger Mango Punch, delicious! ▶ Open 24hrs. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**MC Traders Restaurant & Bar Novotel Moscow City, Presnenskaya nab. 2, M Mezhdunarodnaya, tel. (+7) 495 664 89 99, www.novotel-moscow-city.com.** On the ground floor of the brand new Novotel in Moscow City, the MC Traders restaurant has a great buffet with hot and cold meals ranging from French bread and cheeses to sushi to crème brûlée. It also serves international cuisine, business lunches, and their own irresistible bitesized Novotel-branded French macaroons. The large open plan space is divided into rounded white booth-like settings which complement the unusual bright minimalist design of the bar. ▶ Open 06:30 - 23:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Neskuchny Sad B-5, Frunzenskaya nab. 18D, M Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 495 363 64 64, www.nesad.ru.** This restaurant is in a truly stunning location-set atop a renovated barge at Frunzenskaya Naberezhnaya opposite Gorky Park, the rooftop veranda has views of the parks on the other side of the river and down to the Kremlin. The cool river breeze and cane armchairs add to the air of being on a luxury cruise. Neskuchny Sad serves classic dishes as well as Italian cuisine, with large pizzas. ▶ Open 12:00 - 06:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Pelman Hand Made Café B-2, Tverskaya ul. 20/1, M Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 650 68 83, www.pel-man.ru.** Filled dumplings in all their forms have got to be the world's ultimate comfort food, and if that's your formula for making a restaurant you would have to try pretty hard to be anything other than just great. Pelman offers more than just pelmeni - there's also vareniki and international variations on the theme such as dim sum, gyoza, ravioli and profiteroles. Whilst 200Rbl will only get you 10 or so pelmeni here, they're doused in butter and full of wonderful calorific things so you hopefully won't feel cheated. You can opt to take them away or eat in, where the jukebox will serenade you with some lively tunes. This could be because the restaurant's mascot is the tattooed strongman Pelman, who judging by the photos was born with a moustache, and handy rolling pins decorate the café's interior, presumably for dealing with dissatisfied customers. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

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## Cruising the Moscow

**Flotilla Radisson Royal Moscow A-3, Tarasa Shevchenko nab., Hotel Ukraina pier, M Kievskaya, tel. (+7) 495 228 55 55, www.radisson-cruise.ru.** One of the easiest and most appetizing ways to get to know Moscow is to take a dinner cruise with Flotilla Radisson Royal. Whatever the weather, this fleet of comfortable vessels offers an attractive menu with a slight Italian accent as it plies a route along the Moskva River, taking in a series of key city sights. Having invited many guests to Moscow to join us on the route, it's regularly got the thumbs-up and in winter months you can break the ice - literally and figuratively - over a tasty risotto on the water. ▶ It is advisable to book tickets well in advance (tickets can also be bought online). Boats leave 13:00 - 21:00. Boats are sometimes hired out for private parties so check the departure times in advance. Tickets for adults 650Rbl, children 450Rbl, first class 2,000Rbl. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎



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**Sky Lounge** Leninsky pr. 32a, 22nd floor, [M] Leninsky prospekt, tel. (+7) 495 781 57 75, [www.skylounge.ru](http://www.skylounge.ru). Fantastic! This restaurant is worth visiting just to experience the view alone. Perched up on the 22nd floor you can gaze over the whole of Moscow and admire the iconic seven sisters skyscrapers spreading out into the distance. Sky Lounge really has the monopoly on the one-of-a-kind panorama. The menu meets up to the general experience by being filled with well-crafted dishes covering a wide range of cuisines expertly. Many of the dishes are truly delightful and the portions are more generous than you will see almost anywhere else. The wine list is long and filled with all kinds of treasures. The White Room is available to hire for private parties. ▶ Open 13:00 - 24:00, Thu - Sat 13:00 - 01:00. €€€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**The Sad** C-4, Yakimanskaya nab. 4, bldg. 1, [M] Polyanka, tel. (+7) 495 783 81 08, [www.glna.ru](http://www.glna.ru). The Sad is the perfect place for a romantic dinner for two or a big social supper with friends. With the low "sit, back and relax" sofas, exotic plants and flowers that reach the ceiling, each table feels private but not claustrophobic, with the various songbirds dotted around the place adding to the garden-like atmosphere. The food is beautifully presented and in keeping with the theme of the restaurant, the menu features several exotic twists, including melt in the mouth deserts, caviar of all different sorts and oil to dress your food infused with everything from pomegranate to kaffir lime. ▶ Open 12:00 until last guest. €€€. [S] [A] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Vanil** B-4, Ul. Ostozhenka 1/9, [M] Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 637 10 82, [www.eatout.ru](http://www.eatout.ru). Vanil has been around a while and has a faithful following of Moscow's rich, powerful and good looking set, plus the odd minor celebrity here and there. Once inside sink into one of the plushy designer chairs and be cocooned against the hustle of the busy streets outside. For the price, the food is not always as outstanding as you may hope, but here you are paying to see and to be seen and soak in the glamour. Most people head towards the more exciting Asian section of the menu, while there are also classic European steaks etc on offer too. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. €€€€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

## Italian

**Mamina Pasta** B-2, Spiridonovskiy per. 12/9, [M] Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 730 56 00, [www.pasta-mamma.ru](http://www.pasta-mamma.ru). Large Italian chain serving up a reliable selection of Italian favourites. Most people choose either from the pasta or pizza menus, from which you can combine toppings as you wish, and usually what comes out is more than generous. They don't mess around here with too many exotic items, although their seasonal menus do try to fill things out with some more unusual tastes. Families are welcomed with open arms and there's usually a special kiddies area with toys and crayons to keep them occupied and shows on Sundays. Also at Novinsky bulvar 31 (metro Barrikadnaya) and Zemlyanoy val 9 (metro Kurskaya). ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri - Sun 12:00 - 01:00. €€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Pane&Olio** D-2, Ul. Timura Frunze 22, [M] Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 499 246 26 22, [www.paneolio.ru](http://www.paneolio.ru). Tricky to find but worth the effort, Pane&Olio is a cosy, warm and inviting place to dine slowly and take a break over quality Italian food. Although the business lunch looks tempting, it is disappointing - better opt from the main menu to see what they really can do. Apparently their fresh pasta is handmade and it does indeed show, the tagliatelle in a creamy porcini sauce for example is divine and incredibly rich. Service is satisfactory; some waiters even know a bit of English and are happy to give suggestions. Don't miss a trip to the bathroom to marvel at the incongruous disco ball in action. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. €€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Sorriso Osteria and Pizzeria** C-2, Tverskaya ul. 7, [M] Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 506 24 44, [www.piz-zasorriso.ru](http://www.piz-zasorriso.ru). The real winner here is the pizza - it's long and incredibly thin and arrives at your table straight after being cooked to a crispy delight in a stone wood-fired oven. There are also other Italian favourites on offer, but we are always tempted by the pizza. The smart staff and a soundtrack that for once does not include songs by Eros Ramazzotti adds yet more fresh air to the usual formula. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

## Seafood

**Filimonova and Yankel Fish House** B-1, Ul. Tverskaya 23, [M] Tverskaya, tel. (+7) 495 223 07 07, [www.fish-house.ru](http://www.fish-house.ru). Splendid everything. From the welcome, to the service, from the selection of fresh fish to the decor and choice of music. Just watch the waiters skillfully debone the fish for you. The divine tasting fish is the star here. No special sauces or other gimmicks. The menu changes daily and boasts several specials and if you come on a week day lunch time you can get an excellent value lunch deal. Also at ul. Zemlyanoy val 9 (metro Kurskaya). ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Porto Maltese** Leninsky pr. 11, [M] Oktyabrskaya, tel. (+7) 499 236 45 12, [www.portomaltese.ru](http://www.portomaltese.ru). The popular Porto Maltese chain has opened a new venue, continuing the traditions of excellent seafood which have seen it pick up regular awards from the city's influential publications and websites. The new site is in the Monarch Business Center on Leningradsky Prospekt, and the restaurant adds a touch of maritime derring-do to the slightly formal surroundings. The décor has a strong sea-faring flavor, matching a menu which offers more than 20 different types of fish and seafood - all of which are regularly flown in direct from the Med. The 'buzare' fish soup is regarded as classic winter warmer, while exotic offerings include swordfish and skate wings as well as all the usual fishy favorites. Also at Bol. Spasskaya ul. 8, bldg. 1A (metro Sukharevskaya), ul. Pravdy 21 (metro Belorusskaya) and Leningradsky pr. 31 bldg. 1 (metro Dinamo). ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Sirena** D-1, Ul. Bol. Spasskaya 15, [M] Sukharevskaya, tel. (+7) 495 608 14 12, [www.novikovgroup.ru](http://www.novikovgroup.ru). Ahoj there matey - welcome aboard Moscow's most established seafood restaurant, serving wealthy Moscow diners since 1992 and still maintaining a high reputation for flying in some of the freshest fish available. The interior is very much new Russian opulence with a fish tank floor, a wood paneled interior resembling a ship's cabin and staff dressed in naval outfits. Admire the day's catches in the ice beds before the chef grills them up to perfection or pick out a live lobster for the pot. Sirena's menu also features a long list of top quality European dishes made from fabulous crab, sturgeon and scallop and more as well fresh oysters. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

## Steak Houses

**Chicago Prime Steakhouse** C-2, Strastnoy bul. 8a, [M] Chekhovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 988 17 17, [www.chicagoprime.ru](http://www.chicagoprime.ru). Everyone may tell you it's the best, and we are going to too, after a visit to Chicago Prime you will be left with no doubt that you have just eaten a very memorable piece of meat. The rest of the things on the menu like the large salads, lobster consume and blue fin tuna steak are just as accomplished and the portions are huge. If you can't afford to keep up your steak habit, you can also order cheaper yet similarly delectable steak sandwiches and burgers at the bar. A discreet yet friendly atmosphere complete the winning combination. ▶ Open 12:00 - 05:00. €€€€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Goodman** B-1/2, Ul. Tverskaya 23, [M] Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 775 98 88, [www.goodman.ru](http://www.goodman.ru). The good in Goodman says it all. This stylish steak house chain is informal, relaxed, and the food is to be savoured. Great care is put into your meal and how it is served. The wood interior plays host to soft leather couches and all the waiters wear chef's whites. The lavatories are five star, just like the service. Their menu, although predominantly meat oriented, has a hefty chunk of salads and seafood. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€€€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Torro Grill** A-1, Ul. Lesnaya 5b, [M] Belorusskaya, tel. (+7) 495 640 10 20, [www.torrogrii.ru](http://www.torrogrii.ru). This lively mid-range Iberian grill's rustic feel is counterbalanced by its sophisticated menu and tasteful wine selection. Of course there is a wide selection of steaks, but you can also order grilled calamari with asparagus or lamb coriander and pine nut sausages. All grill dishes come with mashed potatoes, fries or a vegetable side dish and a choice of two sauces. Service can be a bit here and there and the atmosphere gets hectic when the after work crowd pile in. Has 4 more locations. ▶ Open 24hrs. €€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

## Cafes and Coffee houses

**Madame Boulanger** B-3, Nikitsky bul. 12, [M] Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 690 19 01, [www.madame-boulanger.ru](http://www.madame-boulanger.ru). This quaint little French-style bakery and cake shop sells all manner of fresh baked breads and savoury snacks such as quiches, sandwiches, salads and pies. On the sweet side there's plenty to tickle your fancy with the classic French éclairs, handmade chocolates, macaroons and of course obvious favourites croissants. If you choose to eat in you'll have the extra delight of dining from gorgeous mismatched antique fine china crockery and admire the charming interior, or opt to sit out on the summer terrace with views of the boulevard, and musicians are welcome to serenade the other guests on their piano. Drinks are also available to go; cakes and other tasty treats can be made to order and delivered to your door. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. €. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Paul** A-3, Ul. Arbat 54/2, bldg. 1 (entrance on Garden Ring), [M] Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 495 783 16 38, [www.paul-russia.ru](http://www.paul-russia.ru). This inviting and cosy café, part of French bakery and patisserie chain Paul, has fast become a favourite in Moscow. At the counter as you enter you can pick up breads, sandwiches, pastries and the like to go, or alternatively you may opt to squeeze yourself into the petite café area and enjoy a meal. Paul has a huge breakfast menu and is great for light lunches such as quiche or the irresistible croque-madame. On the sweet side Paul's pastries are scrumptious authentic French bites - we especially love the strawberry tarts, chaussons aux pommes and custard pies, whilst their refreshing iced frappuccinos are a great pick-me-up. Also at ul. Tverskaya 23/12 bldg. 1, ul. Gruzinsky Val 28/45, ul. Pyatnitskaya 20, ul. Sadovnicheskaya 82, ul. Lesnaya 27. ▶ Open 07:30 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 08:30 - 23:00. €. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

**Schastye** E-2, Ul. Pokrovka 15/16, [M] Chistye Prudy, tel. (+7) 495 624 64 21, [www.schastye.com](http://www.schastye.com). A decidedly girly place (the signature cherub design motif pops up everywhere) to enjoy a big mug of hot chocolate and some cake whilst snuggled into a comfy booth. Schastye, which means happiness in Russian, also has an elaborate dinner menu of seasonally changing and daily specials, as well as a long wine list and cocktail menu, although there is something about the cute cupid themed interior which made us plump for defining this as a 'café' over 'bar' or 'restaurant'. Now also has a location on Kamergersky pereulok (metro Teatralnaya). ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri 08:00 - 06:00, Sat 10:00 - 06:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. €€. [S] [C] [P] [F] [W]

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- [M] Belorusskaya, Gruzinsky Val str, 28/45
- [M] Tret'yakovskaya, Pyatnitskaya str, 20
- [M] Paveletskaya, Sadovnicheskaya str, 82
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## Alternative and live music

**Art Garbage D-2, Starosadsky per. 5, [M] Kitai Gorod, tel. (+7) 495 628 87 45, www.art-garbage.ru.** A hidden courtyard with a very silly name, that really comes into its own in the summer. In the yard itself tables nestle under fairy light covered tress and canopies in the warmer months whilst doors lead off in all directions to the bar and the dining rooms. It's a good choice for a value lunch, quiet weekday drink or the chance to listen to a cheesy band at the weekend. The dance floor is unfortunately a little unappealing - too loud and tucked away in a barn in the back it very rarely fills up and the odd techno music doesn't help much. ▶ Open 12:00 - 06:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**B2 Club B-2, Ul. Bol. Sadovaya 8/1, [M] Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 650 99 18, www.b2club.ru.** One of Moscow's biggest live music clubs, B2 offers live jazz, latino, rock and ska music and more. With five floors holding seven bars, a courtyard and a capacity of 2000 people it's quite possible that you will hear every kind of music imaginable in just one night - if you can manage to figure your way around the labyrinthine interior that is. Students and older locals alike flock to the place to hear some of Russia's best and newest bands play at low prices. As well as the jazz club, disco club, latino music, lounge, rock concerts and football screenings, there's karaoke, billiards, sushi, a cinema and a summer courtyard - a veritable one stop shop for a busy night out. ▶ Open 12:00 - 06:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**Krisis Zhanra E-2, Ul. Pokrovka 16/16, bldg. 1, [M] Chistye Prudy, tel. (+7) 495 623 25 94, www.kriziszhnra.ru.** Krisis Zhanra is a longtime favorite in the centre that never ceases to get old - or popular! Known for its popular lunch specials, Krisis Zhanra is also an excellent selection for dinner, before it then turns into a nightclub (could be best described as a hipster disco) starting at about 22:00. This is where the "crisis of genre" comes in: this place changes its format multiple times throughout the day. It is absurdly affordable for its location. The soups, steaks and seafood dishes our table enjoyed were all of great value and the alcohol selection was fairly priced. When feeling unsure about what you want to enjoy this is a safe bet: just make sure to come early or book a table in advance. ▶ Open 11:30 - 05:00, Sat 11:00 - 06:00, Sun 11:00 - 05:00. [S] [F] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**Masterskaya C-2, Teatralny proezd 3, bldg. 3, [M] Lubyanka, tel. (+7) 495 625 68 36, www.mstrsk.ru.** Masterskaya is a hippy inhabited ex-banya that looks part Viennese coffee house and part bohemian artist's studio. There's live concerts most evenings and dancing later on, while during the day dreadlocked student types sit and ponder the eccentric bric-a-brac cluttering the tiled room from their seclusion of their laptops. On the ground floor you will also find their sister establishment Lady Jane which serves excellent international food early in the evenings and incredibly loud house music later on. To find it go down the alley between Ul. Neglinaya and Ul. Rozhdestvenka and head up to the first floor. ▶ Open 12:00 - 06:00. [S] [F] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**Squat Cafe C-2, Ul. Rozhdestvenka 12/1 (entrance from Varsonofyevsky per. 1), [M] Kuznetsky Most, tel. (+7) 495 625 69 90, www.squatcafe.ru.** This place does indeed have the feeling of a Squat to it - tatty furniture, graffiti covered walls, a lot of cigarette smoke and local hippies pop up everywhere you look. The music should please indie fans, it's rock all the way here and they often have loud live music from rowdy young bands. If the weather is good head out to the covered courtyard out back, otherwise head up stairs to the main bar area. The service is friendly, but slow - one can only assume it's also part of the squat theme. ▶ Open 12:00 until last guest. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

## Bars

**Cafe Tantsy C-3, Ul. Nikolskaya 11/13, [M] Ploschad Revolutsii, tel. (+7) 495 698 42 25.** Little hole-in-the-wall sized joint which is popular for warm-up drinks before a big night out, or some happy hour cocktails after work. Expect loud bar chatter, ice cold cocktails and high stools and tables propping up the drinkers who don't seem to mind at all that they have to shout to be heard above the music. The name Café Dance is misleading, this bar has very little to do with dancing, in fact the floor space is so small it's a wonder the staff can even get their trays through. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 04:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**GlavPivTrest D-2, Ul. Myasnitskaya 46/2, [M] Krasnie Vorota, tel. (+7) 495 625 97 97, www.pivtrest.ru.** There's something about the friendly staff and insanely eclectic decoration that gives this beer house a lot more atmosphere than other more expensive try-hard places on the same street. It looks like some kind of crazy Russian barn house crossed with an old ship with a lot of Soviet nostalgia thrown in for good measure. Re-runs of the popular Soviet cartoon 'Nu pogodi' run on a big screen in the middle of the room while gangs of widely varying Russians sup on beers and beer related snacks. The friendly staff do their best to make up for the at times annoying Russian retro soundtrack. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 02:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**Hard Rock Cafe B-3, Ul. Arbat 44/1, [M] Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 499 241 43 42, www.hardrockcafe.ru.** This is the mac-daddy of American style food and fun. Three levels of rock memorabilia, a bar downstairs and a central dancefloor on the second floor with a DJ booth above. Food here is a bit disappointing (this is guacamole?) and their long island iced tea was closer to actual tea than to any long island tea we remember drinking. They play rock music, and after 9pm on weekends, there's a cover charge. The place is pretty popular so get in early and eat before you go. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Thu 09:00 until last guest, Fri - Sun 24hrs. [S] [F] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**La Bottega Wine Bar and Cafe A-1, Ul. Lesnaya 5B, [M] Belorusskaya, tel. (+7) 495 213 30 88, www.labottega.ru.** Located in amongst the big banks and consultants of the White Square skyscraper cluster, the market for this upscale wine bar is obvious. The wine selection is extensive, albeit mostly European in focus and prices cross the whole gamut from 1,500 a bottle to 15,000 for the most exclusive vintages from the cellar. The lighting is dim and the combination of floor-to-ceiling windows, aged leather sofas and bare brick walls certainly add the right kind of understated atmosphere to those sophisticated deal-breaking drinks. La Bottega also serves various French and Italian snacks to accompany the wine. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Thu - Sat 09:00 - 02:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**Mayak B-3, Ul. Bol. Nikitskaya 19, [M] Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 691 74 49, www.clubmayak.ru.** Located on top of the Mayakovsky Theater, no wonder it is known for attracting the Moscow intelligentsia. Frequented by journalists, actors and writers, it's the type of place where 'just a quiet' drink can go on for hours and include numerous vodka shots and the occasional sing-along. Tables are filled almost every night of the week lending it an energetic crowded coffee house buzz, but luckily the service is not affected by the large clientele volume. Sometimes professional musicians passing through for a drink on a weekend tinkle the ivories of the ancient piano, but otherwise there's no background music only lively chatter. Confusingly the entrance to the toilets is hidden in a cupboard to the left of the bar. ▶ Open 12:00 - 06:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**MyBar C-2, Ul. Kuznetsky Most 3, bldg. 2, [M] Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 916 583 52 79.** This is not another 'elitny' hangout with generic Moscow cocktails and pounding music. MyBar's philosophy is to create a welcoming venue for friendly people who are looking for a relaxed hangout and down-to-earth staff. MyBar is well and truly a dive bar; especially popular with expats and local office workers looking for a post-work drink and some fun, it offers a refreshingly laid-back alternative to Moscow's glamour dominated nightlife scene. The music selection varies vastly, but is usually a good mix of golden oldies, with some great pop and rock classics to dance to at the weekend. Thursdays and Sundays are now live music nights with free concerts from rock and blues bands. The happy hours, charismatic owner and relaxed opening hours (stay as long as you like) have made it a hit with both locals and stars such as the Crazy Horse cabaret, and Wes Borland of Limp Bizkit fame with his band Black Light Burns. Be prepared to queue a little to get in later on at the weekend as the dancefloor fills up and the crowd gets lively. ▶ Open 18:00 until last guest. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**MyBar**

DOORS OPEN @ 6 P.M.

**EVERY DAY!**

Kuznetsky most, 3/2\*\*  
tel.: +7 (916) 583 5279  
www.mybarmoscow.com

\*открыто ежедневно с 18:00 \*\*Кухонный дом 3/2

РЕКЛАМА / ADVERTISEMENT

**Pivbar Kamchatka C-2, Ul. Kuznetsky Most 7, [M] Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 495 624 88 25, www.novikovgroup.ru.** Despite its very authentic perestroika era design and proletarian outlook, Kamchatka is in fact the 2012 brainchild of one of Moscow's most famous restaurateurs who is best known for his luxury restaurants. Being quite the novelty in terms of design and price Kamchatka is currently popular with the city's new breed of ironically bearded 'khipsters' who were probably too young to remember the bars of the early 1990s anyway. Unfortunately the canteen-style queuing system for the bar and a lack of space mean that after 20:00 you will be waiting an impossibly long time for your refreshments. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri 10:00 - 03:00, Sat 12:00 - 03:00, Sun 12:00 - 01:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

**The Hudson Bar Ul. Butyrskiy val 10, [M] Belorusskaya, tel. (+7) 495 212 04 54, www.hudsonbar.ru.** This smart American bar brings some much needed attention to the after work drinks crowd of the big money White Square business centre. The expat owner has thankfully held back from hiking up the prices and trying to instill some elitism and instead has created a bar that's great for those arriving alone to perch at the long bar or with a gang to colonise one of the booths - regardless of their budget and dress code. This 'democratic' approach spurs great results. A myriad of sports channels and happy hour deals are yet more bonuses, although unfortunately for inexplicable reasons the sports channels sadly don't always work. ▶ Open 11:00 - 06:00. [S] [CC] [F] [T] [W] [M]

To read about hundreds more cafes, restaurants, clubs and bars in Moscow and keep up to date with all our latest listings, check out our website  
**moscow.inyourpocket.com**



## Pub Crawl



Moscow, as the song goes, never sleeps. Which is great if you want to party all night. But arriving in a new city can often feel like you've been left out of a party which everyone else is invited to: unknown venues, unfamiliar faces...

That's where Pub Crawl Moscow comes in. Like all the best ideas, it's a simple one. Gather a group of like-minded revelers under the guidance of locals who are in-the-know, get everyone dressed up in their finest dancing shoes, and lead them out for a night on the town. It's the only English-language service of its kind in town, making it an ideal way to meet fellow visitors to the city and make new friends over a drink or two. For new arrivals, it's a great chance to get to know Moscow a bit better, for old hands it's a chance to explore new bars. For everyone, it's a great opportunity to freshen up your social circle, let your hair down and party the night away. The nitty-gritty: tours run twice a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, starting from 9pm. The group meets at a central location, usually on or near Okhotny Ryad metro station. Advance booking is essential. Saturday's tour includes three bars and a club, Tuesdays offer four bars with two dance locations. Nightclub dress code – no sportswear, no sneakers, no baseball caps – applies. Tours cost 600r per person, which includes free entry and a welcome drink at each venue as well as the services of the English-speaking group leader, security and a photographer. Guests must be 18 or over, and bringing ID is recommended – especially for the young and beautiful. [www.moscowpubcrawl.com](http://www.moscowpubcrawl.com)

## Beer Pubs

**British Queen** C-2, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 5/6, [MTeatralnaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 226 23 23. British Queen wears its monarchist tendencies on its sleeve – from the Beefeater doorman to the snug of the Queen Victoria bar, and on into the Queen Mary dining room. But while it looks like a reconstruction of a typical British boozer, it also boasts the welcome sight of beers from Cornwall's St. Austell Brewery among the usual suspects on tap, closer inspection reveals it to be surprisingly Russian. Not only is the menu monolingual, it also steers away from typical pub grub in favor of the soups, salads and zakusky of a "Pivnoi Restoran". Nothing wrong with that, but an odd decision given the Brit branding. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**Chertovka** D-2, Ul. Sretenka 16/2, [MSukharevskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 621 29 27, [shertovka.ru](#). Amid the city's many beer bars, Chertovka stands out for one thing alone – trains. Whether it's a simple gimmick, or a means of easing the strain on the waiting staff, the Sretenka bar's USP is a model railway which joins most of its tables to the bar and means your beer arrives to the accompaniment of whistles and electronic chuffing noises. It sounds daft, but it's a rare group which resists that temptation to whip out cameras and snap away. The beer selection isn't bad either, drawing heavily on the Fuller's range from England and adding in a couple of seldom-seen Belgian brews. The food is rather more ordinary – it's a place for pints and snacks, not serious dining. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri 12:00 - 02:00, Sat 14:00 - 02:00, Sun 14:00 - 12:00.

**John Donne Pub** B-3, Nikitsky bul.12, [MArbatskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 627 69 07, [www.john-donne.ru](#). Exactly how it happened nobody knows, but John Donne is now one of the most popular expat pubs in Moscow – you'll hear more English spoken here than Russian. On match days it can be almost impossible to even get in the door, although the fact that seating is universally on high bar stools nobody will mind you standing. What's more the huge mixed crowd only tends to add to the atmosphere (and clouds of smoke). Also at Verkhnyaya Radishhevskaya 15 (metro Taganskaya) and ul. Lva Tolstogo 18b (metro Park Kultury). ▶ Open 11:00 - 06:00. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**Liga Pap** C-1, Ul. Bol. Lubyanka 24, [m.Turgenevskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 624 36 36, [www.ligapap.ru](#). This sports pub is more like an upscale bar – the TVs showing sports are mounted into gold picture frames which are set into the plush velvet walls, while the vaulted brick ceilings are lit by trendy lights. Regardless the atmosphere is still more the loose ties and jeans of the average Moscow pub fan. It can really fill up later on in the evenings, so reservations are a good idea – especially if you want to grab a space in the massively popular theatre-style sports viewing room in the back, which has great big match atmosphere. ▶ Open 24hrs. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**Sally O'Brien's** C-4, Bol. Polyanka ul.1/3, [MPolyanka](#), tel. (+7) 495 959 01 75, [www.sallyobriens.ru](#). The green lights, scattered Irish memorabilia, football scarves and gothic wooden booths couldn't help this pub recreate even a lick of authenticity, which happens to be the reason why people go to "Irish" pubs outside of Ireland. From the super high Soviet ceilings and massive rooms, to the service and the clientele, this is clearly a Russian joint. On the upside, the pubs serves decent food and drink including Irish stew, and if you are getting together with a large group of friends, the Russian atmosphere and the techno are likely to fade into the background. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

## Clubs

**Club Garage** C-4/5, Brodnikov per. 8, [MPolyanka](#), tel. (+7) 499 238 70 75, [www.garageclub.ru](#). One of Moscow's longest-running clubs (open since 1998), Garage packs in the crowds for its legendary Wednesday / Sunday R'nB nights, and Friday / Saturday after parties. Open 24 hours with a full bar, restaurant and hookah menu, Garage has something going on at all hours. The crowd tends to be young and Russian (although some of the fashion tastes can be a little extreme), but the friendly atmosphere and relaxed "face control" makes it a fun night out for those who don't want to deal with the attitude of Moscow's glamour clubs. ▶ Open 24hrs. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**Gogol Club** C-2, Stolesnikov per. 11, bldg.1, [MTeatralnaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 514 09 44, [www.gogolclubs.ru](#). Something is surely going to happen here, any minute now in any one of the three connecting spaces – its got that backstage energy. From the stage under the circus tent out the front, the cosy Parisian style restaurant and the beer kiosk that wouldn't be out of place at an outdoor festival of rock, Gogol is a great place for any amount of time, be it long or short, day or night. Bouncers keep everything sane and there are plenty of quiet nooks to escape to if things get too hectic near the dancefloor. The music is bohemian European stuff you probably won't remember the next day but you'll enjoy it while you're here. ▶ Open 12:00 - 05:00. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**Club Roxbury** Ul. Butyrsky Val 5, [MBeloruskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 532 79 52, [www.clubroxbury.ru](#). In this newly-opened Moscow outpost of the mega-successful Los Angeles chain, you'll be amazed by the luxury and scope, unlike any gentleman's club in Europe! Guests sink into the comfortable sofas surrounded by the most beautiful girls in Moscow in this classy environment. International DJ's, amazing costumes, arial acrobatics, and sensory overdrive. ▶ Open 18:00 - 06:00. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**For People by People** C-4, Yakimanskaya nab. 4, bldg. 1, [MPolyanka](#), tel. (+7) 495 737 80 08, [www.pblmoscow.ru](#). For People By People is situated in one of Moscow's prime spots on the Yakimanskaya embankment, with just the river Moskva separating it from Krasny Otkyabr. Although surrounded by trendy restaurants, night clubs and galleries, For People by People has still managed to carve it's own niche with a colourfully decorated interior and lighting, serving a special gastronomic, conceptual menu and featuring popular European music and some of the best DJs Moscow has to offer. ▶ Open Tue - Sat 17:00 until last guest. €€€. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**Tiki-Bar** A-2, Sadovaya-Kudrinskaya ul. 3a, [MBarrikadnaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 767 87 02, [www.tiki-bar.ru](#). In Maori mythology, Tiki was the first man, and in Moscow Tiki is the very first real Hawaiian themed bar. The inspiration for the hip interior, complete with palm trees, rotan furniture, masks and of course boats, has been taken directly from the popular Tiki bars, which originated in the Americas at the beginning of the 20th century. For those who want a true taste of Hawaii, there are over 100 choices of rum as well as an exotic choice of cocktails – definitely a tropical menu! Tiki is a good party place, especially for those who love to dance, hosting many Latin American themed parties along with masterclasses in Latin American, Brazilian and salsa dancing. ▶ Open 24hrs. €€. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

So Idom – With Ice



## Cocktail Bars

**BottleBar** D-4, Shopping Centre Pyatnitsky, Pyatnitsky per. 2, [MNovokuznetskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 646 49 25, [www.bottlebar.ru](#). Surely a place for people on the move. As its straightforward name suggests, BottleBar isn't trying to be a flashy high-end bar, not a hip dive bar, nothing special. What it does do is sell good, inexpensive drinks. The cocktails are some generally quite tasty and original concoctions which during their happy hours (16:00-19:00 Monday to Thursday) are definitely at 'go on then I'll have another one' prices. Large groups (or foolhardy individuals) can also order sharing cocktails in giant martini glasses. Those in a desperate hurry to down as much alcohol as they can in a short space of time might find it's not the place for them, as the service runs as what might be termed a 'laid-back' pace. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Thu 12:00 until last guest, Fri - Sat 12:00 - 05:30. Closed Sun. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)

**Secret Bar** C-2, Stolesnikov per. 6, bldg. 3 (down alley behind Jean Jacques), [MTverskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 921 07 50, [www.secretbar.ru](#). Who would guess that a discreet door down an alley off one of Moscow's fanciest shopping streets hides one of Moscow's most popular cocktail bars? They would be even more surprised by the democratic door policy and cheap prices! These factors may help explain why Secret Bar (hence the name) is packed with a hip and fun-loving crowd on the weekends, and those looking to savour a well-crafted cocktail or hookah during the weeknights. On the busy nights it can take a while to get a drink, but the cocktails are worth the wait, and with these prices, you can order a few at a time! The best DJ's perform at Secret Bar and you will stay on the dancefloor no matter what. ▶ Open 18:00 - 06:00. [☎](#) [📍](#) [📱](#) [📺](#)





## The Kremlin

**The Kremlin C-3, Alexandrovsky sad, M Alexandrovsky Sad, tel. (+7) 495 697 03 49, www.kreml.ru.** The street plan of central Moscow forms an impressively ordered pattern of concentric circles, clearly marking the city's development outwards over the centuries. In the middle of this great Catherine wheel is the Kremlin, the fortified hill which formed the heart of the ancient city, and which to this day houses the political HQ of the planet's largest nation. Within the world-famous red walls nestles a collection of buildings of various architectural styles, ranging from ancient Russian ecclesiastical, through Romanov imperial classicism, to 1960s Soviet modernism. While much is out of bounds to tourists, being part of the Government and Presidential estate, there are easily enough treasures open to the public to make the citadel an essential conquest.

Unlike Napoleon, who stayed here after his forces took Moscow in 1812, you will need a ticket to enter. There are a number of ticket booths, the most important being located in Alexandrovsky Sad (on the west side of the Kremlin), which in itself is a great people watching place. Having bought your tickets, leave any large bags in the cloakroom located near the ticket office, under the gate.

A 'Kremlin Territory' ticket gets you into the site itself, along with all of the cathedrals and the more ancient buildings. To visit the **Kremlin Armoury** (where all the sparkly diamonds, jewels and so on are stored) you must buy a separate - and considerably more expensive - ticket, which will have an entrance time on it. This ticket can only be purchased *before* you enter the Kremlin.

### Inside the Kremlin

**Cathedral of the Archangel Michael.** A relative youngster on the Kremlin church scene, this cathedral was erected in 1505 and holds the tombs of Russian rulers from Ivan I to Tsar Ivan V. It also has more of an Italian renaissance feel to it with its Corinthian gables and turrets and white stonework.

**Annunciation Cathedral.** This imposing cathedral, where Russia's Tsars were christened and married, was built by Pskov architects in 1482. The frescoes inside are considered to be some of the most valuable in Moscow given that prominent artists of the time including Andrey Rublyev (also buried here), Theophanes the Greek and Prokhor of Gorodetz all worked on them.

**Church of the Deposition of the Robes.** Taking its name from an ancient festival where the Virgin's robes are transferred from Palestine to Constantinople (now Istanbul), this is a more modest cathedral nestled in a corner. Built in 1484-1485 by artists from Pskov, this church notably has stained glass windows. Along with some fine icons, inside you can also find wooden sculptures from the 15th century.

**Cathedral of the Assumption.** The grandfather of all the Kremlin churches, the Assumption Cathedral is the oldest and the biggest. Built in 1475 by Italian architect Aristotle Fioravanti, this is where Ivan the Terrible was crowned Emperor in 1547 before becoming a stable for Napoleon's horses in 1812. Their soldiers made off with the chandeliers now hanging overhead, some weighing over 5 tonnes. The Cossacks brought them back after they caught up with the light-fingered Frenchmen. In 1918 the last Easter service was held here. Services resumed in 1990.

**The Patriarch's Palace.** Once the home of the Moscow Patriarch, this grand medieval building is now a museum where ecclesiastical treasures of the Orthodox church are on display as well as various precious tableware, furniture, jewellery and clothing used in the court of the medieval Tsars. The building also often houses temporary exhibitions.

**The Ivan the Great Bell Tower.** The impressive 60 metre high tower was built between 1505 and 1508. The adjoining belfry was built 15 years later and contains some 20 bells. The biggest bell (the world's largest no less) however was too big to remain in its place and sits to the rear of the tower with a huge crack in it. In recent years the belfry has become home to a new high-tech exhibition which illustrates the history of the Kremlin's changing architectural styles. It is also now possible to climb up the tower (that's 137 steps to be exact) to admire the view over central Moscow and get a close up look at the bells. You must buy a separate ticket for the Ivan's Bell Tower excursion at the excursion office *before* you enter the Kremlin and you can only go up the tower at the time indicated on your ticket.

► Open 10:00 - 17:00, closed Thu. Admission to the Kremlin Cathedral Square (5 museums-cathedrals, the Patriarch's Palace) 100-350Rbl. Excursions 2,000-2,500Rbl + admission. Ticket for Ivan the Great Bell Tower 500Rbl. Tickets for the Kremlin Armoury 700Rbl (seances at 10.00, 12.00, 14.30, 16.30). All tickets must be bought at the ticket offices outside the Kremlin walls.

## Red Square

**Lenin Mausoleum C-3, Red Square, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 623 55 27, www.lenin.ru.** On display in various incarnations of his mausoleum since 1924, this is where the waxy, bald and embalmed body of the founder of the Communist Party is. Visiting here is a no-nonsense event with guards posted at each corner to prod you forward should you halt at any stage during the viewing. Join the super-long queue at the entrance to Red Square nearest to the Alexandrovsky Gardens. No bags. No cameras. They'll search your pockets to make sure you don't sneak anything. Leave bags in the storage lockers before going through the metal detectors, he may be dead but you can't mess with him. ► Open 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Mon, Fri, Sun. Entrance is free.



**St. Basil's Cathedral (Pokrovsky Sobor) C-3, Red Square, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 698 33 04, www.saintbasil.ru.** Standing magnificent at the head of Red Square is St. Basil's Cathedral. Russia's most recognisable building was built in 1561 to celebrate Ivan the Terrible's crucial defeat of the Khan of Kazan, a victory which secured Moscow's position as the region's dominant city. While the view from outside is spectacular and rightly famed, it is certainly also worth a visit inside. Visitors used to the vast open spaces of Western European cathedrals will be shocked to find a stone warren of small, intimate chapels, each decorated with countless icons and engravings and soaring in one direction only: upwards, to the height of the onion domes above. Russia's history is all about a country being simultaneously tugged towards the west and the east. A visit inside St Basil's gives an invaluable lesson on the importance and undoubted attractions of the latter. ► Open 11:00 - 17:00. Admission 50-250Rbl.

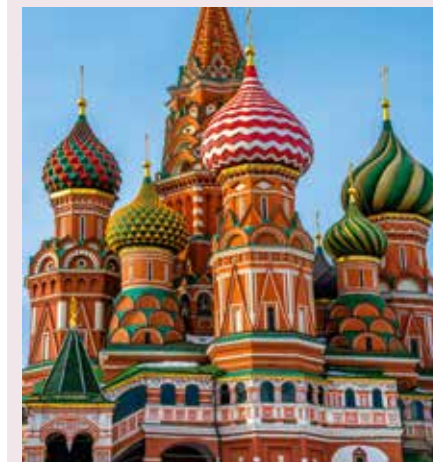
**State History Museum C-3, Red Square 1, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 692 37 31, www.shm.ru.** Right on Red Square, this museum consists of two floors offering an extensive foray into Russian history from the ice ages of the mammoths right up to the 19th century. The first floor which runs up to the beginning of Peter the Great, and the 17th century holds many relics and artifacts of historical interest. Not just the exhibits are of interest, each individual hall complements its in-house exhibition, such as the Novgorod and Vladimir Halls with their vivid reconstructions. Upstairs while it lacks any English explanation, has an abundance of cool historical tit bits. Like the boots big enough to hide a small child which are worn to get through a swamp and were worn in Peter the Great's. The elegant side of Russian life is given slightly more space than the peasantry but their role in history garners them several rooms toward the end demonstrating Russian customs and revolutionary activists such as the Decembrists. There are English leaflets that you can request from the counter as you enter that cover the first floor, but not unfortunately the second. There is a 2hr audio guide (one hour for each floor) at a cost of 300Rbl. ► Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Tue. Admission 60-440Rbl. Guided tours for up to 15 people by prior arrangement.

## Must See Moscow

The obvious starting point of any sightseeing trip to Moscow is **Red Square**, the heart of the city with the iconic domes of the magnificent **St. Basil's Cathedral** at its helm. Browse the shops and gourmet supermarket of the historic **GUM department store**, queue up early to catch a glimpse of mummified **Lenin** and explore the long and turbulent history of Russians in the **State Historical Museum**. After watching the guards at the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** pass through the imposing **Kremlin** walls in the **Alexandrovsky gardens** and explore the Kremlin's numerous historic churches. If you are feeling flush splash out on a ticket to see the **Kremlin armory** filled with the crown jewels of the Tsars.

**Art and literature.** For Russian art head straight to the **Tretyakov Galleries**. The older of the two buildings houses a stunning collection of medieval to nineteenth Century paintings, while the equally impressive collection at the modern building on Krymsky val covers Russian art through the 20th Century. The **Pushkin Fine Arts Museum** is the city's largest collection of medieval, renaissance and early 20th Century European art and tucked in behind the building is the fantastic **Roerich Museum** filled with the Russian painter's mystical works. Many of Russia's best writers have been inspired by Moscow and the homes of **Chekhov**, **Tolstoy**, **Mayakovskiy** and **Bulgakov** - to name but a few - have been preserved as museums.

**Enjoy the city's parks.** Moscow may be a bustling metropolis, but it also one of the greenest cities in Europe. In the south of the city you can enjoy the medieval architecture of the well cared for **Kolomenskoye Museum Estate** or the crumbling charm of Catherine the Great's **Tsaritsino**. Stretching along the Moscow river **Gorky Park** and the **Neskuchnyy sad** was always the people's park and is especially loved by families, if your feet can take it the latter is also a good jumping point for a climb up the **Sparrow Hills** to enjoy a panoramic view over Moscow. To the north the stately palaces of **Kuskovo** and **Arkhangelskoe** offer a glimpse into how Moscow's nobility used to live in the days before communism.





## Churches and Monasteries



**Cathedral of Christ the Saviour B-3, Ul. Volkhonka 15, [M] Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 637 28 47, www.xc.ru.** This is what a new Russian Orthodox church ought to look like. It is so immense you'll be wondering how many blocks of dynamite the Soviets needed to get rid of the thing the first time around. That was in 1931. This newly restored example came into being

from 1994 until 2000 and is a shiny beacon for the Russian Orthodox Church at home and a close replica of the original 19th Century cathedral built in honour of the victory over Napoleon. The sprawling cathedral houses a museum on the history of the site where you can see pictures of the giant swimming pool the Soviets built here and the huge Lenin topped skyscraper they had originally planned for. During excursions (minimum 10 people) you can see the cathedral, museum and the view from the colonnade. As it is a working place of worship women are expected to cover their heads and everyone should dress conservatively. No cameras or mobile phones should be used. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Mon 13:00 - 18:00. Admission free. Guided tours in English for groups for up to 10 people 6,000Rbl (pre-booking by phone).

**Church of Pope Clement D-3, Ul. Pyatnitskaya 26, bldg. 1, [M] Tretyakovskaya, www.pcm.nichost.ru.** Contrary to what the name might suggest this is actually a Russian Orthodox church, one of two in the city named for a Roman pope and the main church of Zamoskvoreche. Nowadays the church's five domes and two stories are bright and gleaming, its baroque exterior an iconic pinkish red. But like many other such historical buildings, it found itself hanging on by the skin of its teeth during the Soviet years when authorities had it earmarked for demolition and transformation into a kindergarten. After escaping that fate it was then used to store books for the Lenin State Library; only in 2008 did it return to the Orthodox Church. The church's glittering outside appearance is matched by its renowned and beautifully decorated interior that contains a number of icons and an especially good example of an iconostasis. ▶ Open 08:30 - 19:30.



**Novodevichy Cemetery Luznetsky proezd 2, [M] Sportivnaya, novodevichye.com.** This is the Who's Who of Russia. Anyone who was anyone is here. Given the Russian adoration for statues and immense monuments, it is a fascinating place and hunting around for the famous graves is almost as much fun as actually finding them. Chekhov's simple and modest memorial is in

stark contrast to the many Soviet megaplins. Notable graves include Stalin's wife, Mayakovsky, Gogol, Eisenstein, Khrushchev and Yeltsin. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Admission free.

**Novodevichy Monastery Novodevichy proezd 1, [M] Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 499 246 85 26.** Monastery or convent, this place occupies a very specific place in Russian history. On the grounds surrounded by the Kremlin's walls, which were built to act as a fortress, are four cathedrals including the majestic four-onion globes of Smolensky Cathedral which dates back to 1524. It was at Novodevichy that Peter the Great imprisoned his sister Sophia and executed her supporters from the Streltsy rebellion. Today it is a magnificent and peaceful cloister with an impressive icon collection. Be sure to look at the fascinating nearby cemetery too while you are here and take a stroll around the picturesque pond beyond the walls. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00. Admission 250Rbl.



**Pokrovsky Monastery E-3, Ul. Taganskaya 58, [M] Marksistskaya, tel. (+7) 495 911 49 20, www.pokrov-monastir.ru.** This humble 17th Century monastery, which was extensively reconstructed during the 19th Century, derives most of its fame from Matryona of Moscow, the local saint who is buried here. Born in 1885, Matryona, although born blind was blessed from an early age with remarkable prophecy and healing powers. During the communist years she was an important figure in the clandestine Christian movement and is said to have performed many miracles. In 1952 she predicted her own death and died soon after. Her final wishes were that all who needed her should come to visit her even when she was gone and she would strive even in death to offer solace to those in need. She is now interred in the Pokrovsky convent and to this day people arrive in their hundreds to queue up to visit her tomb and ask for help from 'the Blessed Elder of Moscow'. ▶ Open 07:00 - 20:00. Admission free.

**Vysoko-Petrovsky Monastery C-2, Ul. Petrovka 28/2, [M] Chekhovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 624 17 78, www.obitelpetrova.ru.** Founded in the 1380s, in the same century as Moscow itself, this early medieval monastery was part of the original fortifications of the city. Today, the several churches inside have marvellous paintings and icons inside yet the exterior is really quite rundown. Today there is a friendly colony of cats, fed by the monastery faithful. ▶ Open 08:30 - 20:00. Admission free.



## Museums

**All-Russia Decorative Art Museum C-1, Delegatskaya ul. 3, [M] Tsvetnoy Bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 609 01 46, www.vmdpni.ru.** Hidden in a courtyard, this museum maintains more than 200 000 pieces of decorative and folk art from all over the Russia. There are several beautifully decorated tea sets, plates and figurines - the porcelain from the post-revolutionary Soviet period is especially interesting. Also featured are some traditional Russian clothes, toys, intricate wood baskets, embroidery and linens. The wood figurine carvings are diverse and mind-blowingly detailed. The museum also displays interiors and antique furniture taken from the apartments of the old Russian nobility in the 18th to 20th centuries. Various workshops for children and excursions in English are also available. The museum's frequent temporary exhibitions are also worth checking out. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Tue. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Tue and last Mon of the month. Admission 20 - 200Rbl.

**Borodino Battle Panorama Museum Kutuzovsky pr. 38, [M] Park Pobedy, tel. (+7) 499 148 19 27, www.1812panorama.ru.** Founded 150 years after one of the most famous battles in human history the Borodino Battle museum is not to be missed. It has a collection of weapons, ammunition, uniforms and graphics, but the main feature is the round canvas painting, 115m wide and 15m high. Standing in the middle of this panorama you experience up close the heroic (and bloody) battle during the 1812 war between Russia and Napoleon's Grand Army in the days before CNN. The epic battle, which took place September 07, 1812, west of Moscow, was one of the war's decisive encounters. 250,000 soldiers took part, of which a minimum of 67,000 perished. After Borodino Napoleon took Moscow, the city he left soon after it was set on fire. The Russian army led by General Kutuzov then chased the French all the way to Paris. Interactive displays shed more light on the progress of the brutal battle although sadly they are only in Russian. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Fri, last Thu of the month. Admission 20 - 400Rbl.



**Calligraphy Museum Park Sokolniki, 5-y Luchevoy pr. 2, bldg. 1, [M] Sokolniki, tel. (+7) 495 728 77 58, www.calligraphy-museum.com.** This small museum in Sokolniki Park takes visitors on a global journey of this little-publicised art and shows that it is still alive and well in the days of Times New Roman and Comic Sans. Words in themselves have long held an almost sacred place in cultures throughout the world, and there's something very mesmerising about watching calligraphy masters at work in the museum's video display. In this exhibition we see better-known examples of calligraphy from the bold brush strokes of Chinese characters to the ornate golden free-flowing threads of Arabic, as well as Old Church Slavonic icons and modern interpretations and more obscure scripts such as the curly forms of Georgian and the neat rounded hills of Armenian letters. Commentaries from modern calligraphers accompany their works and give an insight into why the art of writing beautifully still holds such a fascination for them. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 100 - 150Rbl.

## Modern Art Centres

**Garage Centre for Contemporary Culture B-5, Gorky Park, ul. Krymsky Val 9, [M] Oktyabrskaya, tel. (+7) 495 645 05 20, www.garagecc.com.** Founded by Russian socialite Daria Zhukova, Garage is one of the most successful contemporary art spaces in Moscow. Currently in a temporary premises in the fashionable Gorky Park, the gallery now focuses on smaller yet cutting edge exhibitions from both home and abroad while work is underway on a permanent building also in the park. There are also regular lectures, film screenings and art performances, master classes in their new education centre and an excellent cheap café and bookshop. ▶ Open 11:00 - 21:00, Fri - Sun 11:00 - 22:00. Admission 100 - 200Rbl. Excursions in English, French, German by prior arrangement.

**Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA) C-2, Ul. Petrovka 25, [M] Chekhovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 694 28 90, www.mmoma.ru.** Based in three locations, this building is the main hub of the MMOMA and its great garden of witty sculptures by Tsereteli (Moscow's contemporary art guardian and self-promoter) offers an impressive introduction to the contemporary Moscow art scene on the way in. The museum's aim is to preserve Russia's avant-garde tradition and they are constantly adding to their collection of Malevichs, Filonovs and the like. Moving closer to the present day the permanent collection also carries much non-conformist art from the late Soviet period, as well as new stars of the Russian art scene. ▶ Open 12:00 - 20:00. Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed third Mon of the month. Admission 150Rbl. Entrance may cost more for special exhibitions.



**Moscow Multimedia Art Museum (MMAM) B-4, Ul. Ostozhenka 16, [M] Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 637 11 22, www.mdf.ru.** This new contemporary space focuses exclusively on photography and video art and regularly hosts great exhibitions many of which make particularly good use of the cleverly designed video exhibition rooms. The central hallway and staircase is one of a kind for Moscow with its clean white lines and staircases, vaguely reminiscent of New York's Guggenheim or the MOMA. A great addition to Moscow's burgeoning contemporary art scene. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:00. Admission 150-300Rbl.

**Great Patriotic War Museum 1941-1945 Ul. Brat'yev Fonchenko 10, [M] Park Pobedy, tel. (+7) 499 142 41 85, www.poklonnayagora.ru.** Dedicated to the Great Patriotic War or World War II as it is known in the west, this museum opened in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory. The museum houses a set of evocative battle dioramas on the ground floor, with excellent explanations of the scenes in English. Immediately as you enter, you see the Commanders Hall and Grand Staircase leading up to the Hall of Glory, a solemn memorial space. Further along there is the exhibition hall with exhibits about the different battles and parties involved. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Thu 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon, last Thu of the month. Admission 100Rbl.



## Bulgakov's Moscow



In Mikhail Bulgakov's most celebrated masterpiece the Master and Margarita, Moscow and its streets and buildings feature prominently and fans of the writer and his eponymous novel can still find many of the locations described in the book have survived to this day.

## Patriarch's Ponds

"At the hour of the hot spring sunset two citizens appeared at the Patriarch's Ponds". Thus opens the book's first chapter titled 'Don't talk to strangers'. The pleasant Patriarch's Ponds area (B-1, [Pushkinskaya](#)) remains to this day the number one pilgrimage destination for Bulgakov fans and recently a street sign picturing the devil's evil entourage has appeared in homage with the warning 'Don't talk to strangers' written on it in Russian.

## The Mikhail Bulgakov Museum

**B-1 Bolshaya Sadovaya 10, flat 50, [Mayakovskaya](#), [www.bulgakovmuseum.ru](#).** Bulgakov's Moscow flat where he wrote most of his works became one of the unofficial alternative artistic centres of Moscow during the perestroika era and the stairwell and the flat itself was constantly plastered in graffiti and unusual drawings. Nowadays 'the odd flat' has been cleaned up and turned into a small museum where you can catch occasional concerts and discussion groups as well as see some of Bulgakov's original belongings. What would have been the Variety Theatre (where Satan stages his magic show) can be found nearby in the garden at Bolshaya Sadovaya 16. Note that the original theatre building underwent a complete remodeling since the novel was written.

## Bulgakov's grave

**Luzhnetsky proezd 2, [Sportivnaya](#), [novodevichye.com](#).** Bulgakov died in 1940 shortly after completing the Master and Margarita which despite his best efforts he failed to get past the oppressive Soviet publishers. He was buried in Moscow's Novodevichy cemetery and to this day his fans regularly tend to his grave and leave fresh flowers in his memory. Be sure to ask someone for directions to his grave as it is not obviously sign posted - if in doubt Chekov's gravestone is also in the same area of the cemetery.



**GULAG History Museum C-2, Ul. Petrovka 16, [Kuznetsky Most](#), tel. (+7) 495 621 73 46, [www.gmlg.ru](#).** The full comprehension of the GULAG is a discomforting experience to say the least and the lack of English will do little to prevent you from being thoroughly chilled by the tragic story this museum has to tell. There are three parts; a documentary part showing the repression of different groups such as the church and the kulak peasants. Artistic responses to the GULAG from ex-prisoners adorn the walls, entrance and staircase and there is a reproduction of a GULAG barracks, punishment cell and officers rooms downstairs. The fact that this part is sealed off and the guide has to escort you here adds sobriety and realism to the exhibit. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00, Thu 11:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon, last Fri of the month. Admission 150Rbl. Guided tours for up to 20 people 300 - 600Rbl per person plus admission, should be booked in advance by phone (+7) 495 621 73 46.

**Nikolay Roerich Museum B-3, Maly Znamensky per. 3/5, [Kropotkinskaya](#), tel. (+7) 499 271 34 17, [www.icr.su](#).** Nikolai Roerich and his family are possibly some of the most important Russian anthropologists of the past 100 years. Travelling all over Asia for years on end in the early 20th Century, Nikolai and his clan recorded the beliefs, life and art of various different nationalities hoping to preserve their way of life, describe it to the world and also learn from it. This fantastic museum is dedicated not only to Nikolai's priceless paintings, but also the people he met during his many years of tough travel. Music, lights and themed exhibits add great atmosphere to the huge collection of artworks and artifacts from the Roerich family, whilst extensive English descriptions add depth to the work on display. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 100 - 220Rbl.



**Pushkin Fine Arts Museum C-3, Ul. Volkhonka 12, [Kropotkinskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 697 95 78, [www.arts-museum.ru](#).** Opened to the public in 1912, this museum was primarily intended as an educational facility. Coming from the fashion of that time, it houses a lot of the world's art in the form of plaster casts. It also has works by the Old Masters and representatives of various European schools of painting. 1924 saw the first addition of a picture gallery, to be followed in 1948 by the addition of many works from the 19th century. It's a manageable museum, but be sure to know which section you are heading. Two buildings sit side by side - the first grandiose structure houses the old plaster cast bit, the impressionists are held in a separate wing for which there is a separate admission charge. The temperamental audio guides provide the only English available. Watch out for long queues at the weekends when locals pour in to admire the latest exhibitions. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 300 - 400Rbl. Admission may vary according to the exhibition.

Take note that most museum ticket offices close one hour before the official closing time



**State Central Museum of Contemporary Russian History B-2, Ul. Tverskaya 21, [Tverskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 699 67 24, [www.sovr.ru](#).** Start early in the day with this one. There's a whole century of the most turbulent, convoluted, well documented

history to be seen and absorbed. Housed in a 1780s mansion and former premises of the Moscow English Club, this grand dame was also the former Museum of Revolution. Now that history has moved on, so has the museum, covering all aspects of Russia's recent history. English texts are sporadically situated in the rooms to make more of the experience. Don't linger too much in the Revolutionary phase or you'll be too tired by the time the Space Race starts, and Perestroika and the great music section dedicated to Russia's answer to the Beatles. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 70 - 250Rbl.

**The Central Museum of Musical Culture B-1, Ul. Fadeeva 4, [Mayakovskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 739 62 26, [www.glinka-museum](#).** The Central Museum of Music's permanent exhibition is an impressive journey through musical instruments of the past and from all corners of the world in all their weird and wonderful diversity. Take a trip through Russian musical history from giant balalaikas to the famous and eerie theremin, passing on the way hefty early record players and novelty music boxes. The global collection includes crazy-looking instruments from Cuba to Korea - who knew you could make guitars from armadillos? We recommend going for a guided tour as they're equipped with recordings from many of the strange inhabitants of the exhibition, which makes the experience a lot richer. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00, Thu 12:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 75 - 150Rbl.

**Tret'yakov Gallery C-4, Lavrushinsky per. 10, [Tret'yakovskaya](#), tel. (+7) 495 951 13 62, [www.tret'yakovgal-lery.ru](#).** For visitors anxious to uncover the mysteries of the famous 'Russian soul', the Tret'yakov Gallery is the place to start. Founded in 1856 by influential merchant and collector Pavel Tret'yakov and presented as a gift to the city in 1892, it is the world's number one museum of Russian art. Ranging from exquisite and mysterious 12th century icons to the politically charged and prescient canvases of Russia's favourite realist master, Ilya Repin, the collection is a rich and revealing insight into the history and attitudes of this long suffering yet inspired people. All pictures are labeled in English. Be sure to make use of the A3-size laminated information sheets found throughout the museum; there is always at least one English version hidden amongst the Russian ones. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu, Fri 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 100 - 360Rbl. English audio guide 250Rbl.



## Your Passport to Moscow



Tourism in Moscow is getting more and more user-friendly with every passing year, and the newly-unveiled Moscow Pass scheme is the latest step towards making Russia's capital easier to explore. Borrowing a model familiar from many European capitals, the Moscow Pass offers free entry to 13 museums and two city tours, making it the perfect passport to get to know the place for first-time visitors.

From the Red Square show-stoppers of St. Basil's Cathedral and the State Historical Museum to the intriguing contemporary exhibitions at the Multimedia Art Museum, via on obligatory tipple at the Museum of the History of Vodka, there's something for everyone. And the special pass - which is available for one, three or five days - also enables visitors to fast-track to the front of Moscow's infamous lines to get into the top attractions.

For an introduction to Moscow, visitors can explore by road or river: the card includes free trips on the Moscow City Sightseeing Bus Tour and the Flotilla Radisson Royal River Cruise (three- and five-day cards only). Both trips make it easy to get a feel for the city's highlights and history while someone else does the navigation.

Art lovers can gain enjoy a rare chance to explore the subtleties of Socialist Realist art, so beloved of Soviet commissars and finally getting a long-overdue reassessment at the Institute of Russian Realist Art, while the Schushev State Museum of Architecture - long one of In Your Pocket's favorites - mixes exhibitions of the grand designs of the 20th century with photo displays from around the world, all housed in a pre-revolutionary mansion with an atmospheric ruined attic extension. Older art is also represented by the Museum of Russian Icons, featuring examples of some of the earliest religious paintings of the Orthodox Church.

Meanwhile, if all that history and culture is getting a bit heavy, there's plenty of hands-on relief to be found at the Museum of Soviet Arcade Machines where gamers can check out where it all began and try their hand at veterans of the USSR's video gaming scene such as 'Morskoi Boi' (Sea Battle) or the unique 'Gorodki', a computerized take on an ancient form of Slavic skittles. It's a retro treat.

As well as sightseeing, the pass also offers discounts at several restaurants around town and cut price places on an assortment of walking tours adapted to match the interests of any visitor. These include exploring the palatial Moscow metro and learning about the history and symbolism of the subterranean cathedrals of the city center, a night-life tour with a difference or even a chance to commission your own guide to tailor a trip for your personal passions.

Cards can be ordered online at [www.moscowpass.com](#), and delivered anywhere in the city. They are also on sale at Sheremetyevo Airport, the 'I Love Moscow' outlet in GUM and at dozens of hotels and hostels around the city. A one-day pass is 999Rbl, three days costs 1499Rbl and five days is 2499Rbl. Full details of offers and availability can be found at the website.





**Winter calls - enjoy the ice!**

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- M** Trubnaya Pushkinskaya Okhotnyy Ryad Teatralnaya ul. Petrovka, 26
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- M** Shosse Entuziastov shosse Entuziastov, 33
- M** Bratislavskaya Myachkovskiy bul., 33
- M** Bulvar Dmitriya Donskogo ul. Starokachalovskaya, 22
- M** Kuntsevskaya Mozhayskoye shosse, 7
- M** Vykhino city of Lyubertsy, Oktyabrskiy pr, 202

**8 (495) 72-72-72-6**  
**www.ruszima.ru**

## Parks and Gardens

**Elk Island** Poperechny prosek 1G, **M**Sokolniki, tel. (+7) 499 268 60 45, [www.elkisland.ru](http://www.elkisland.ru). Elk Island - so named because of - you guessed it - the elks inhabiting the north-eastern forested part of the city, was once the hunting ground of Tsars such as Ivan the Terrible. The skinny, but densely packed, silver birches of the enormous nature reserve drown the surrounding city noise right out, and are home to a variety of other creatures, looking as beautiful in summer as they do in winter when they blend into the surrounding snow. Although a great deal of it remains closed to the public, and it is little difficult to locate from the furthest stop on the red metro line, it's easily visible after a boarding the number 75 bus for a few stops (from the supermarket side), and is worth every second of the trip. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Fri 09:00 - 16:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 16:00.



**Filyovsky Park** Ul. Bol. Filyovskaya, **M**Bagrationovskaya, [www.park-fili.ru](http://www.park-fili.ru). Fili Park is the ideal place for a peaceful stroll in a forested haven, away from the bustle of the city. Dotted with small play-areas for children alongside the shady paths, the park attracts families rather than the well-heeled promenaders of Gorky Park. The park is also great for those who prefer "active relaxation", with a skate park, bike hire, and "Panda Park," a high ropes course for adults and children.

**Gorky Park** B-5, Ul. Krymsky Val 9, **M**Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 499 237 35 24, [www.park-gorkogo.com](http://www.park-gorkogo.com). The immortal Gorky Park has had a complete makeover in 2011. Gorky Park boasts the largest ice pad in Europe, and as well as the public circuits there are separate areas designated for hockey and figure skating. In addition to all that you'll find regular open-air concerts and cinema, flea markets, yoga classes, great places to eat and drink, ping pong tables and the contemporary art space Garage CCC. There's usually something special happening every weekend, with many events especially marketed at kids. ▶ Open 24hrs. Free wi fi available throughout the park.



**Muzeon Sculpture Park** B/C-5, Krymsky Val 10, **M**Oktyabrskaya, tel. (+7) 499 238 36 96, [www.muzeon.ru](http://www.muzeon.ru). This fascinating park is the dumping ground for statues from the Soviet Union that lost their places in Russia's parks and squares following the collapse of Communism. Highlights include the huge steel sculpture of the Soviet world, the many giant pedestal-less Lenins, monuments to the Red Army and Joseph Stalin with his nose cut off. The park has over 700 sculptures although the majority are small cute replicas of children, clowns, poets and workers. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. Admission free. Guided tours should be booked in advance (+7) 499 238 33 96.



**Park Kuzminki** MKAD 12 km, **M**Kuzminki, tel. (+7) 499 175 33 69, [www.kuzminki.ru](http://www.kuzminki.ru). Park Kuzminki is closely entwined with the large Stroganov estate, and was supposedly used as a hunting ground in the 17th century. Now the estate of which it was part of includes the white Church of the Blachernae Icon of Theotokos which like many others - was closed in the first half of the 20th century. Locals are noticeably friendlier than in the city centre and numerous ducks and birds populate the area - there are even bird-spotting boards dotted around for Russian speakers. In the winter, the four connecting lakes are used for ice fishing, and in the spring and summer, are perfect to relax beside with a loved one. Kuzminskaya Ulitsa even has a signpost towards Ded Moroz (Russian Father Christmas)'s house, and the park has recently played host to an animated cartoon factory, to celebrate 100 years of Russia's legendary industry. ▶ Open 24hrs



**Park Pobedy** Ul. Brat'yev Fonchenko 7, **Poklonnaya gora**, **M**Park Pobedy. Constructed in honour of Russia's victory in the Great Patriotic War (World War II), park pobedy (victory) offers powerful reminders of Russia's suffering during the war as well as providing views over the skyscrapers of Moscow. The entrance to the park is marked by a long promenade surrounded by fountains, which leads up to a 142 metre high obelisk covered in representations of scenes from the war. Behind the obelisk there's also a war memorial museum and further on down the hill an exhibition of tanks, war planes and other heavy weaponry. Beyond that the park stretches on into forest and down towards a tributary of the Moscow river. ▶ Open 24hrs.

## River Cruises



**Flotilla Radisson Royal Moscow** A-3, Tarasa Shevchenko nab., Hotel Ukraina pier, **M**Kievskaya, tel. (+7) 495 228 55 55, [www.radisson-cruise.ru](http://www.radisson-cruise.ru). The round trip journey takes two and a half hours and floats past all the big sights like the White House, Novodevichy monastery and the Kremlin. There's a large open air observation deck up top, while the main body of the ship houses a restaurant with a dance floor for a romantic post dinner dance. For a particularly romantic experience take one of the evening boats and admire the bright lights of the city skyline at night. Note that you can also join and depart the cruise from the pier in Gorky Park (metro Park Kultury). ▶ It is advisable to book tickets well in advance (tickets can also be bought online). Boats leave 13:00 - 21:00. Boats are sometimes hired out for private parties so check the departure times in advance. Tickets for adults 650Rbl, children 450Rbl, first class 2,000Rbl. 

**Vorobyevy Gory (Sparrow Hills)** Michurinsky pr. 13, **M**Vorobyevy Gory, tel. (+7) 499 739 27 07, [www.vorobyovy-gory.ru](http://www.vorobyovy-gory.ru). Stand and survey over 1000 years of history. It might be hard to imagine the footprints of Napoleon when you are surrounded by kiosks and fast food vendors, not to mention the souvenir touts. Still, you can get an idea of the length and breadth of the capital from here, as well as seeing which of Stalin's Seven Sisters skyscrapers you can make out or play at counting the golden onion globes. Turn around for a glimpse of the great promise of education for the people; Moscow State University (MGU) directly behind you. This building is grand, the rest behind it are frightfully unspectacular. The parks on the way up from Vorobyevy Gory provide an excursion into treachery come winter (ice on wooden steps is always going to be tricky) but there's also a chairlift which is occasionally running. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon.





## Raketa Factory

Raketa is not only the oldest factory in Russia, but also the only watch factory in the whole country. Additionally, it is one of the only watch factories in the world, the only others being Rolex and Swatch, that manufactures its own movements; including the hair spring and escapement. It was founded as a stone carving factory in 1721 by Peter the Great, producing items for the Russian royal family. After the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War of 1812, what had become the Petrodvorets watch factory was reorganised to supply the Russian army with equipment. The factory also provided the stones of Lenin's Mausoleum, and the famous red stars which you can see on top of the Kremlin's towers.

The factory began producing watches in 1949 under the name Zvezda (star) and Pobeda (victory). In 1961, Yuri Gagarin made the first flight in history into outer space; the factory renamed the brand Raketa (rocket) to commemorate this.

With the help of Swiss engineers, the factory began to be reorganised in 2009. The factory purchased modern equipment from the Swatch group in 2011, which improved the watch quality; although a range of Soviet machines indispensable to the watch-making process are still in use. Raketa manufactures watches to commemorate special occasions. In 2012, the 'Borodino' watch, featuring an eagle, a symbol of the Russian Empire, was created to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War. The factory also designed a watch for the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014, with a different sport represented at each hour. [www.raketa.com](http://www.raketa.com)

## Ballerina Watch

The 'Ballerina' watch's design was inspired by the world famous Russian ballet and theatre. The red stars on the 'Ballerina' watch's face refer to the ruby stars that were



produced at the factory in 1934, and which adorn the tops of the Kremlin's towers. Raketa watches have different designs on the back, and the 'Ballerina' watch features a unique bird and floral design. There are six strap options for the watch, including a genuine leather red strap, which matches the red stars, a white

genuine leather strap to match the white dial option, a black genuine leather strap to match the black dial option, and a gold coloured stainless steel bracelet strap, which will delight everyone who loves timeless style. The 'Ballerina' watch is the epitome of the reliability of Raketa watches, the beauty of Russian women, and the glory of the Russian ballet.

## Where to Buy

**Podium Concept Store C-2, Ul. Kuznetsky most. 14, M Kuznetsky most, tel. (+7) 495 926 15 35, [www.podiumfashion.com](http://www.podiumfashion.com).** ▶ Open 12:00 – 23:00.

**TSUM 4th Floor, C-2, Ul. Petrovka 2, M Teatralnaya, (+7) 495 933 73 00, [www.tsum.ru](http://www.tsum.ru).** ▶ Open 10:00 – 22:00, Sun 11:00 – 22:00.

**Tsvetnoy Central Market 4th Floor C-1, Tsvetnoy bul. 15, M Tsvetnoy bulvar, (+7) 495 737 77 73, [www.tsvetnoy.com](http://www.tsvetnoy.com).** ▶ Open 10:00 – 22:00, Sun 11:00 – 22:00.

## Shopping Centres

**Evropeysky Shopping Centre A-4, Pl. Kievskogo Vokzala 2, M Kievskaya, tel. (+7) 495 921 34 44, [www.europe-tc.ru](http://www.europe-tc.ru).** Initially the layout can be disorienting but after you've adjusted it is well possible that you could spend whole days here. Quality restaurants and bars, saunas and health treatments and all the European brand shops that gave the centre its very name. Bliss! The perfect hideout when you're in need of that injection of Western culture. ▶ Open 10:00 – 22:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 – 23:00.

**GUM C-3, Red Square, M Pl. Revolutsy, tel. +7 495 788 43 43, [www.gum.ru](http://www.gum.ru).** A trip here is essential - this elaborate three arcade structure with three tiers is constructed from limestone, marble and granite and was first built in the 1890s. Stalin took over the shopping arcade in 1928 to use as office space, and this was the place where the body of his wife Svetlana was displayed after her suicide, which is where the legend of her ghost wandering the halls comes from. In 1958 it became a shopping arcade again and is today one of Moscow's most popular tourist sights. Toilets for those in need are on the third level of the third arcade and in the basement (enter from the first arcade closest to Red Square). ▶ Open 10:00 – 22:00.

**Metropolis shopping center Leningradskoye shosse 16A bldg 4, M Voykovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 660 88 88, [www.metropolis-center.ru](http://www.metropolis-center.ru).** The western style mall to beat all other western style malls that are dotted around across Moscow. What makes this one so great? It's filled with high street brands, a massive supermarket, has a bowling alley, pool hall and cinema on the top floor and, best of all, it is right next to the metro. ▶ Open 10:00 – 23:00.

**Okhotny Ryad C-3, Manezhnaya pl.1/2, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 737 84 49, [www.ok-r.ru](http://www.ok-r.ru).** If you can find your way around in here, you've made it in this town. Confusion central, this is a sprawling place that has everything you need - it just takes a long time to find it! Maybe that is part of the plan so that all customers stay and shop longer. There is a food court on the ground floor with a range of ready food options from sushi to fried chicken to sandwiches, perfect for when you've done the Kremlin and want a snack. There's also a small Sedmoy Kontinent supermarket on the ground floor (entrance from Alexandrovsky garden). ▶ Open 10:00 – 22:00.

## Art Salon on Starosadsky

**D-3, Starosadsky per. 10, M Kitay Gorod, tel. (+7) 495 624 15 83, [www.gemsart.ru](http://www.gemsart.ru).** This small gift shop is a veritable Aladdin's cave of semi-precious stones, minerals and amber handcrafted into unique jewellery, ornaments and decorative items by talented local craftsmen. If you are looking to take away a unique little piece of Russia, rather another item from the usual tourist conveyor belt then look no further than these cabinets filled with items made from gleaming Russian malachite, agate, jasper, the purest Baltic amber and other lustrous precious stones. For something even more exotic they're also selling fragments of the Sikhote-Alin meteorite that fell in Far Eastern Russia in 1947 and of the one that made the headlines in February in Chelyabinsk. In addition there's a large selection of paintings to be found, hand-painted lacquer boxes, pottery, traditional scarves and of course Russian dolls. ▶ Open Mon – Sat 11:00 – 20:00, Sun 11:00 – 19:00.

**Tsvetnoy Central Market C-1, Tsvetnoy bul. 15, bldg. 1, M Tsvetnoy Bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 737 77 73, [www.tsvetnoy.com](http://www.tsvetnoy.com).** This plush shopping centre is a hipster's paradise with high street brands like Mango and All Saints dominating the central floors and more unique boutiques and 'pop-up' stores occupying the upper levels and the basement level. One of the biggest draws of this shopping centre is the pricey organic market on the fifth floor. Smartly dressed market vendors deal out top quality fish, meat, baked goods and fruit and veg from their immaculate stalls while the aisles are filled with luxury imported foodstuffs. Sushi, salads, ice-cream and fresh juices can also be picked up if you want a snack on the go, while up on the roof there's a smart restaurant and bar. ▶ Open 10:00 – 22:00, Sun 11:00 – 22:00.

## Gourmet shops

**Bakhetle A-1, 1-ya Tverskaya-Yamskaya, 21, M Belorusskaya, tel. (+7) 495 781 73 80, [www.bakhetle.com](http://www.bakhetle.com).** Also at ul. Tverskaya 22 (metro Tverskaya). ▶ Open 24hrs.

**Globus Gourmet D-2, Ul. Pokrovka 2/1 bldg. 1, M Kitay-gorod, tel. (+7) 495 662 66 03, [www.globusgume.ru](http://www.globusgume.ru).** Also at ul. Petrovka 2 (in Tsum). ▶ Open 24hrs.

**Gum Gastronom No1 C-3, Red Square, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 788 43 43, [www.gum.ru/shop/410](http://www.gum.ru/shop/410).** ▶ Open 24hrs.

**Hediard C-2, Ul. Bolshaya Dmitrovka 23 bldg. 1, M Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 692 81 66, [www.hediard.ru](http://www.hediard.ru).** ▶ Open 08:00 – 23:00.

**Yeliseevsky C-2, Ul. Tverskaya 14, M Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 650 46 43, [www.eliseevskiy.ru](http://www.eliseevskiy.ru).** ▶ Open 24hrs.

## Vernisazh

**Vernissazh in Izmailovo Izmailovskoye shosse 73zh, M Partizanskaya, tel. (+7) 499 166 55 80, [www.moscow-vernissage.com](http://www.moscow-vernissage.com).** This flea market is the place to go for your Soviet kitsch souvenirs and a little bit of everything else. It's huge and rambling, filled with Russia's best and worst salespeople. Here you'll find matryoshki (nesting dolls), the lacquer boxes, carpets, Soviet posters, badges, tea towels and so on. There's also a large flea market on weekends. Bargain hard and be friendly, some of your encounters here have the potential to be the most memorable. Follow the crowds from the Partizanskaya metro station towards the kitsch Russian village. ▶ Open 09:00 – 18:00.



## Russian Souvenirs

Russia is full of beautiful souvenirs – and we are not just talking about Russian dolls and Lenin badges. If you are looking to take some extra special winter gifts home with you we recommend you consider buying some of the following:



### Platok

A perfect present for any female friend or relative. These beautifully designed and colourful scarves can either spruce up the outfit of a young lady by being worn around the neck or serve to make your grandma look even cuter

than usual by being worn around the head. Orenburgsky platok is another highly desirable type of scarf made from the down hair of goats. The real hand spun ones are very warm and yet also so delicate and silk-like that the whole scarf can be pulled through a woman's wedding ring.



### Shapka ushanka

If you want to look as much a tourist as possible during your time in Russia, but cool beyond belief back home, then of course you need to get a Russian fur hat or shapka

ushanka with ear flaps. Anything with red stars on earns you double spot-the-tourist points. Most of the things you can get in markets are made from fake fur, but real fur hats (which are exceedingly warm) can also be found in fur shops for a hefty price.



### Valenki

Valenki are a unique piece of Russian footwear that are specially designed for walking in deep snow. They usually have no firm rubber soles (just the basic shape of a boot) so if you want to wear them

about town you will need to buy some rubber kaloshes to cover them with to ensure that they don't get damaged. Made from sheep's wool, it is said that they are so warm and well insulated that you can wear them with no socks on. In fact wearing them without socks is said to be good for you as the rough wool exfoliates the skin.



### Vodka and Caviar

They compliment each other as perfectly as beer and crisps or strawberries and cream. The better vodka brands come out under the Russky standart label although ladoga and berozka are

also good. For something more kitsch look out for Kalashnikov or matrioshka vodka. Black beluga caviar is still one of the most expensive foods on the planet and a small jar can set you back more than \$100 if you buy it in the market. Never buy caviar from street touts, more often than not it is fake and/or illegal.

## Is outstaffing outdated?

The employment agreement may be considered by some as a too tight pre-fabricated arrangement. Originated in the nineteenth (in Europe) and twentieth (in Russia) century, the employment agreement granted some level of protection to the proletariat.

This has resulted in a not-so-flexible labour law system: in Russia, it is not possible to conclude contracts for a fixed period of time, only if the work to be carried out has a project or seasonal character. And there are no clear guidelines with regard to compensations to be paid in case of dismissal. The notion that an employment relationship may, at some point, terminate is simply ignored in Russian law. Maintaining an employment relationship requires a lot of paperwork which, if not meticulously filled out and filed, will result in audits and penalties from a state organ called the Labour Inspectorate. If the employee is a foreigner, the administrative burden increases even more with work permits, work visa registrations and notifications and absolutely draconian penalties.

Russia is a bit of everything and large parts of its economy are built on outright exploitation and shameless evasion of even the most elementary safety precautions. Journalist Yulia Latynina has described today's Russia as a feudal system ruled by a small elite, administered by a bureaucratic proletariat holding all the desk jobs and an underclass of migrant slave workers who do all the manual work. When it comes to the lower paid workers, one will find out that many are "on a contract": meaning it can be terminated whenever the customer (read: employer) wants and the worker is responsible for his own labour conditions. This has all gotten a bit out of hand. Large classes of migrant workers living on the brink of poverty are now considered a risk for the stability of Russian society.

In this light, the new law "On the special evaluation of labour conditions" should be seen. It targets the "actual" employer as the one responsible for compliance with health and safety regulations. Those "actual" employers are the construction companies, hotels, restaurants and factories and with this new law it is no longer possible to hide behind sham companies operated by shady labour brokers.

Simply changing the name of an employment agreement into a consultancy or a service agreement will therefore no longer work: the new law simply determines that such agreements "are not allowed". In other words, the higher paid consultant may now take the position that he is actually employed. Meaning: my customer must pay me even if he has no work for me.

Flexible labour contracts are a nevertheless a necessary element of the new economy. A "consultant" is perceived as more focused to the business needs of his customer than an employee, exactly because he can be dismissed more easily. In order to be able to focus on getting the work done, many foreign and Russian companies working in the "new" economy have resorted to the services of companies making staff available (outstaffing). It remains to be seen how the new law affects outstaffing companies and their employees. Any arrangement in which the burden of an employment agreement is avoided or shifted to another party will have to be reviewed carefully.

**Written in collaboration with BVDM Tax and Legal Services. For legal advice visit their website [www.bvdmnlaw.nl](http://www.bvdmnlaw.nl) or call (+7) 495 935 76 21.**

## Accountants and Consultants

**Bauke van der Meer Tax & Legal Services** C-5, Ul. Bol. Yakimovskaya 31/18, off. 203b, [M.Polyanka](mailto:M.Polyanka), tel. (+7) 495 935 76 21, [www.bvdmeer.nl](http://www.bvdmeer.nl). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Beiten Burkhardt** B-5, Turchaninov Per. 6, bldg. 2, [M.Park Kultury](mailto:M.Park Kultury), tel. (+7) 495 232 96 35, [www.bbllaw.com](http://www.bbllaw.com).

**Deloitte** A-1, Ul. Lesnaya 5b, [M.Belorussskaya](mailto:M.Belorussskaya), tel. (+7) 495 787 06 00, [www.deloitte.com](http://www.deloitte.com). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Ernst and Young** D-4, Sadovnicheskaya nab. 77, bldg. 1, [M.Paveletskaya](mailto:M.Paveletskaya), tel. (+7) 495 705 97 00, [www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**KPMG** Presnenskaya nab. 10, [M.Mezhdunarodnaya](mailto:M.Mezhdunarodnaya), tel. (+7) 495 937 44 77, [www.kpmg.ru](http://www.kpmg.ru). ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Mega-Intel** 1-y Shchepkovsky per. 4, [M.Serpukhovskaya](mailto:M.Serpukhovskaya), tel. (+7) 495 737 00 22, [www.mega-intell.ru](http://www.mega-intell.ru). ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Fri 10:00 - 17:00.

**PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)** A-1, Business Centre Belaya Ploschad (White Square), ul. Butyrsky val. 10, [M.Belorussskaya](mailto:M.Belorussskaya), tel. (+7) 495 967 60 00, [www.pwc.ru](http://www.pwc.ru). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**SHR Consulting** E-4, Ul. Lva Tolstogo 23/7 bldg. 3, [M.Park Kultury](mailto:M.Park Kultury), tel. (+7) 495 748 55 50, [www.senatorcompany.com](http://www.senatorcompany.com). ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**The Lighthouse Group** Ul. Mytnaya 3, entr. 2, office 41, [M.Oktyabrskaya](mailto:M.Oktyabrskaya), tel. (+7) 495 980 09 79, [thelighthousegroup.ru](http://thelighthousegroup.ru). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

## Opening a Bank Account

For most people working in Russia having a Russian bank account is essential. Opening a bank account is thankfully fairly straightforward. Some banks may require you to have an official Russian translation made of your passport whilst others may be happy to accept your foreign passport as it stands. If you do get a translation of your passport made, make sure that the notaries transliterate your name in Cyrillic letters in the same manner that it is transliterated on your visa. At the bank you will then need to ask for a form to open a bank account (otkryvaet schyet). Usually it's fine if you fill in the form in Latin letters. Accompanying your passport you will also need to show your visa and registration, which should be valid for more than three months. Some banks may also ask you for a copy of your work contract too. With all the right documents, they can then open the account for you within the same day and usually within a week you'll receive your bank debit card. Foreign banks operating in Russia such as Raiffeisen bank do often have English speaking staff, while Russian banks such as VTB also offer special services for those wanting to open foreign currency accounts.

**Citibank** [www.citibank.ru](http://www.citibank.ru).  
**Raiffeisen Bank** [www.raiffeisen.ru](http://www.raiffeisen.ru).



## Business Clubs and associations

**Association of European Businesses** tel. (+7) 495 234 27 64, [www.aeburus.ru](http://www.aeburus.ru).

**Finnish-Russian Chamber of Commerce** tel. (+7) 495 917 90 37, [www.svkk.ru](http://www.svkk.ru).

**Hospitality Ideas and Trends Club (HIT Club)** tel. (+7) 495 623 59 46, [www.club-hit.ru](http://www.club-hit.ru).

**Russian-German Chamber of Commerce (Deutsch-Russische Auslandshandelskammer)** tel. (+7) 495 234 49 50, [www.vdw.ru](http://www.vdw.ru).

**The American Chamber of Commerce** tel. (+7) 495 961 21 41, [www.amcham.ru](http://www.amcham.ru).

**The British Business Club** [www.britishclub.ru](http://www.britishclub.ru).

**The Moscow Irish Business Club** [www.moscow-irishclub.ru](http://www.moscow-irishclub.ru).

**The Russo-British Chamber of Commerce** tel. (+7) 495 961 21 60, [www.rbcc.com](http://www.rbcc.com).

## Real Estate

**At Home Moscow** tel. (+7) 495 950 57 58, [www.moscow.athome-network.com/eng](http://www.moscow.athome-network.com/eng).

**Beatrix** tel. (+7) 495 232 32 22, [www.beatrix.ru](http://www.beatrix.ru).

**Eurohome Relocation Services BV** tel. (+7) 495 937 69 09, [www.eurohome-relocation.com](http://www.eurohome-relocation.com).

**Evans** tel. (+7) 495 232 67 03, [www.evans.ru](http://www.evans.ru).

**Four Squares** tel. (+7) 495 937 55 72, [www.four-squares.com](http://www.four-squares.com).

**Intermark Relocation** tel. (+7) 495 502 95 53, [www.intermarkrelocation.ru](http://www.intermarkrelocation.ru).

## Recruitment

**Antal Russia** B-2, Tryokhpudny per. 9, bldg. 1B, off. 104, [M.Tverskaya](mailto:M.Tverskaya), tel. (+7) 962 367 68 55, [www.antalrussia.com](http://www.antalrussia.com). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**G-Nius Russia - Recruitment & Executive search** E-3, Khokhlovsky per. 13/1, [M.Taganskaya](mailto:M.Taganskaya), tel. (+7) 495 665 71 10, [www.g-nius.ru](http://www.g-nius.ru). ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



## Business Dictionary

accountant	бухгалтер	bugalter
round table	круглый стол	krugly stol
meeting	встреча	vstrecha
traffic jam	пробка	probka
weekday lunch	бизнес-ланч	biznes lanch
pass	пропуск	propusk
declaration/ application	заявление	zayavlenie
reference/ certificate	справка	spravka
business trip	командировка	komandirovka
contract/ agreement	договор	dogovor

## The life of a Trailing Spouse



Multinational corporations go to great lengths to stress how they benefit the country that they operate in, and whilst this could stir up lengthy debate in itself, the firms do offer employment to their local staff with generally good rates of pay. Nevertheless the majority like to maintain a modicum of control by sending in expatriates in for a few, key roles (usually the General Manager and/ or the Finance Director).

If this person is married, then the family tend to accompany him (and to Russia/CIS it's almost always a 'he') as his assignments take him from country to country, with the wife known as a trailing spouse – although some firms prefer the more politically correct term, a 'supporting spouse'. There doesn't seem to be an equivalent expression in Russian; the closest analogy seems to be 'Zhena Dekabrista' (the wife of a Decembrist), a term coined following the exile of the Decembrists involved in the failed uprising against the Tsar in 1825, as the wives followed their husbands on the long journey to Siberia. Many Expat wives are comfortable with this arrangement as it allows them the opportunity to experience living amongst different cultures although it does have the downside of having to uproot and move on very few years, sometimes when you just feel as though you've found your feet!

The difficulty comes when the husband is on a one-off assignment and his better half – who may well have a career of her own back home, has to give everything up to join him. Employment opportunities are limited in Russia, largely due to lack of relevant experience and language skills, although many such ladies have kept themselves busy through a combination of charity and volunteer work. There are a surprising number of networks, information on which can be found via Embassies and the relevant Business Associations – there's much more to do than purely attending coffee mornings to bitch about all the beautiful, slim secretaries in your husband's office! Whilst Moscow might appear as heaven on earth for single, (straight) guys, relocating with your wife and children in tow presents considerable challenges. Granted there are some trailing spouses who have accompanied their husbands across the globe and rate Moscow as one of their best experiences amongst their various assignments, but it's not a city for the faint-hearted as it can be bitterly cold for six months of the year – and then there's the language barrier! Larger companies however often have someone in the Human Resources department who assists with such moves, helping you to get settled in, as there is a world of a difference between spending a few nights a month in a top-end hotel and being ferried around by the company driver to actually living in Moscow in an apartment, buying food in a supermarket, riding on the metro and having to handle other day-to-day issues that may arise – from the landlord showing up unannounced to waking up in the winter to find your car blocked in by a snowdrift!

**Written in collaboration with Antal Russia/Luc Jones. For more information: [www.antalrussia.com](http://www.antalrussia.com)**



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## The Expat Experience



**Interview with Mr. Thierry Brinte, General Manager of the Mercure-Ibis-Adagio Moscow Pavletskaya Hotel complex.**

**Tell us something about yourself.**

I have worked with ACCOR for more than 22 years, first in Europe (Novotel Paris La Defense), Martinique (Novotel), then Latin America (Sofitel La Havana Cuba), Asia (Sofitel Hanoi, Novotel Xinqiao Beijing), Middle East (Novotel, Ibis World Trade Center Dubai). I am glad that I was able to visit different parts of the World.

It is my second project in Russia. I had already been General Manager of the Novotel Moscow Sheremetyevo Airport hotel, which I opened as Food & Beverage Manager 21 years ago.

**You work in a brand-new and very special hotel complex; tell us some more about it.**

We are the first complex of three different hotel brands in Russia (Mercure, Ibis, Adagio). We can satisfy all needs of our clients. We are suitable for short and long staying guests. Our new hotel complex is ideally located in the Heart of historical Zamoskorechye district in the center of Moscow is meant to become the point of attraction for both leisure and business tourists as well as Muscovites. We offer the hotel collection in one place to meet any taste. Sophisticated and unique four-star Mercure, modern and friendly three-star Ibis and four-star cozy Adagio, the first apart-hotel in Russia.

**What has been your best experience yet in Russia?**

For me it is to see the difference between my first work experience in Russia 21 years ago and now. I see and I like the changes in Russia.

**Which bar/restaurant do you like best in Moscow?**

I like "Hédiard" Cafe on Bolshaya Dmitrovka street. You can really feel the French touch in this unique place.

**How would you compare Russia with your home country?**

Russia is colder (smiling). The more especially as I came to Moscow from Dubai. To be honest I really enjoy Russia, the culture everywhere, I like city walks with my family along the Moscow boulevards and parks.

## The Expat Card

THE EXPAT CARD is a special lifestyle card allowing its holders to benefit from a wide range of services and discounts. Designed by EXPATinRUSSIA to help and support all foreigners living or traveling to Moscow. Services range from accommodation rentals, expat insurance programs, a 24/7/365 concierge call center, online booking a table in restaurants, sport clubs and beauty salons, to taxi and car services, legal and visa support, and off course participating in the Moscow EXPAT Lifestyle Club events. Owners of THE VIP EXPAT CARD benefit from even more exclusive offers, bigger discounts and an accident insurance (for 1mln Rbl). For short term visitors there is the opportunity to buy THE Virtual EXPAT CARD, which is valid from 24hrs. To find out more about THE EXPAT CARD check their website: [www.expatinrussia.com](http://www.expatinrussia.com)

## IWC Moscow

The International Women's Club of Moscow is currently celebrating its 35th anniversary season with its usual fare of General Meetings, Coffee Mornings and special events. To welcome the new year of 2014, the IWC presents its 18th annual IWC Embassies of the World Dinner and Ball. Set aside March 1st for an evening of "Dance and Romance around the World" at Hotel Metropol. Treat yourself and your partner to a unique night out with an exclusive dinner at one of Moscow's foreign embassies, followed by an evening of dance with live music and international performances. Visit their website [iwcmoscow.ru](http://iwcmoscow.ru) or Facebook page [facebook.com/IWCMoscow](https://www.facebook.com/IWCMoscow) to learn more! Buy tickets by contacting: [iwcdeb@gmail.com](mailto:iwcdeb@gmail.com)



## Expat Contacts

**American Women's Organisation**, [www.awomoscow.org](http://www.awomoscow.org).  
**Australian and New Zealand Social Group (AUS-KI)**, tel. +7 903 112 70 46, [www.gdaymoscow.com](http://www.gdaymoscow.com).  
**British Women's Club** [www.bwcmoscow.org.uk](http://www.bwcmoscow.org.uk).  
**InterNations**, [www.internations.org](http://www.internations.org).  
**Moscow Accueil** [www.site-moskva-accueil.org](http://www.site-moskva-accueil.org).  
**Moscow Hash House Harriers**, tel. (+7) 985 364 99 36, [moscowharriers.itgo.com](http://moscowharriers.itgo.com).  
**Moscow International Choir**, [moscow-international-choir.com](http://moscow-international-choir.com).  
**Nederlandse Club Moskou** [www.nlclubmoskou.nl](http://www.nlclubmoskou.nl).  
**Rotary Club Moscow International** tel. (+7) 495 749 87 13, [www.rcmi.ru](http://www.rcmi.ru).  
**SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Association)** [www.swea.org/moskva](http://www.swea.org/moskva).

## Religious Services

**Big Choral Synagogue D-3**, Bol. Spasoglinischevsky per. 10, [www.kitaygorod.ru](http://www.kitaygorod.ru).  
**Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception A-2**, Ul. Malaya Gruzinskaya 27/13, [www.krasnopresnenskaya.ru](http://www.krasnopresnenskaya.ru), tel. (+7) 499 252 39 11, [www.catedra.ru](http://www.catedra.ru).  
**Moscow Buddhist Centre** Petrovsky bul. 17/1, app.35 (entrance code 35k), [www.trubnaya.ru](http://www.trubnaya.ru), tel. (+7) 495 956 61 46, [www.mantra.ru](http://www.mantra.ru).  
**Moscow Congregation for Progressive Judaism** Ul. Volochayevskaya 14/1, [www.pli.lyicha.ru](http://www.pli.lyicha.ru), tel. (+7) 495 632 57 98, [www.meodom.ru](http://www.meodom.ru).  
**St. Andrew's Anglican Church B-2**, Voznesensky per. 8, [www.okhotnyryad.ru](http://www.okhotnyryad.ru), tel. (+7) 495 629 09 90, [www.standrewsmoscow.org](http://www.standrewsmoscow.org).

## Russian for Expats: Blin

*Blin* literally means "Pancake" but also slang for "Damn". The week of February 24 till March 2, 2014 is marked by the Christian celebration of Maslentsa. This week celebrates the end of winter and also the last week before Great Lent. So, it's the last chance to pig out on delicious butter, cheese and of course, Russian Blini! Blin is not only a type of pancake, but also one of the most widely spoken slang words in the Russian language. Often translated into English as "damn" or "Crap", it is uttered by people of all ages and used to express dissatisfaction with something.



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**US Dental Care**  
C-2, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 7/5, bld. 2, [www.teatralnaya.ru](http://www.teatralnaya.ru), tel. (+7) 495 933 86 86, [www.usdentalcare.com](http://www.usdentalcare.com). Well-established and long-respected American Board-certified dentists and hygienists. They speak English and Russian, have a full range of general, specialised and children's services and extensive cosmetic services and emergency care. The clinic itself is spotless, high-tech and very centrally located. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 18:00.

Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 933 86 86, [www.usdentalcare.com](http://www.usdentalcare.com). Well-established and long-respected American Board-certified dentists and hygienists. They speak English and Russian, have a full range of general, specialised and children's services and extensive cosmetic services and emergency care. The clinic itself is spotless, high-tech and very centrally located. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 18:00.



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# Going to Tallinn?

## Take the train!

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### Public Transport

Moscow's system of buses, trams and trolleybuses, as well as its world-famous metro, can now all be used with just one united ticket that is valid for all forms of transport and which can be bought in the metro ticket offices. It's definitely worth getting a multi-journey ticket (you can get 11 journeys for 300Rbl) as it both saves money and is simple and convenient. If you need to buy single journeys you can get them once on the bus or tram and it costs 30Rbl. Make sure you get on the bus/tram/trolleybus from the front so you can pass the ticket-operated turnstile. The metro is fast and efficient and is the second busiest in the world after Tokyo - you'll rarely have to wait long for a train. Operating hours are from 05:30/06:00 until 01:00. To enter, swipe the metro card then go through (the barriers will hit you if you don't swipe the card first!) Plan your trip in advance on [www.metro.ru](http://www.metro.ru) (interactive) or [www.mosmetro.ru](http://www.mosmetro.ru).

### Taxis

The powers that be are now hard at work trying to better regulate the taxi industry and make the service better for you the passenger. However, as can be true anywhere in the world, taxi drivers can sometimes be unscrupulous and over charge you so to avoid conflicts over taxi meters etc try to agree on a price before hand. It is also a good idea to book a taxi in advance to ensure you get a reasonable price.

**Taxi Shanson**  
tel. (+7) 495 925 75 13, [www.tshanson.ru](http://www.tshanson.ru).

**Angel Taxi**  
tel. (+7) 495 956 08 00, [www.angel-taxi.com](http://www.angel-taxi.com)

**XXL taxi**  
tel. (+7) 495 995 82 94, [www.xlxtaxi.ru](http://www.xlxtaxi.ru)

**Taxi city**  
tel. (+7) 499 644 58 59, [www.taxicity.ru](http://www.taxicity.ru)

### Buying Train Tickets

For the full blooded Russian experience, line up to buy a train ticket at one of the *kassi* (Ticket offices) at any train station. If you don't speak Russian, it is a good idea to find out the number of the train you want. This is where the Russian Railways website [www.rzd.ru](http://www.rzd.ru) can come in handy. If you can read Russian or get a friend to help, you can view timetables, buy tickets online and then just print them out at the ticket machines in the station. Their English version doesn't allow purchases yet. Other options are to buy through a ticket or travel agency in Moscow. Remember that if you are buying a ticket for anything other than a local train you will need to show your passport details, so that they can be printed on the ticket.

### Train Stations

**Railway information hotline**, [www.rzd.ru](http://www.rzd.ru), (+7) 800 775 00 00. (Russian only)

**Belorussky Station A-1**, Tverskaya Zastava pl. 7, **Belorusskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 251 60 93, [www.belorusskiy.railclent.ru](http://www.belorusskiy.railclent.ru). Trains go from here to Berlin, Warsaw, Minsk, Vilnius and Kaliningrad. This station sends trains to Sheremetyevo Airport via the Aeroexpress train.

**Kazansky Station E-1**, Komsomolskaya pl. 2, **Komsomolskaya**, tel. (+7) 499 266 31 81, [www.kazanskiy.railclent.ru](http://www.kazanskiy.railclent.ru). Gateway to the East, trains run to Kazan, Tashkent, Samara, Ulan-Ude and beyond.

**Kievsky Station A-4**, Kievskogo Vokzala pl. 1, **Kievskaya**, tel. (+7) 499 240 04 15, [www.kievskiy.railclent.ru](http://www.kievskiy.railclent.ru). As well as to Kiev, trains leave to Odessa, Budapest, Bucharest and Kishenev. This station sends trains to Vnukovo Airport via the Aeroexpress train.

**Kursky Station E-2/3**, Ul. Zemlyanoy Val 29, **Kurskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 266 53 10, [www.kurskiy-vokzal.ru](http://www.kurskiy-vokzal.ru). Local trains depart from the right hand side of the station (first floor).

**Leningradsky Station E-1**, Komsomolskaya pl. 3, **Komsomolskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 262 91 43, [www.leningradskiy.railclent.ru](http://www.leningradskiy.railclent.ru). Hub for trains going north to Helsinki, Tallinn and St. Petersburg.

**Paveletsky Station D-5**, Paveletskaya pl. 1, **Paveletskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 235 05 22, [www.paveletskiy.railclent.ru](http://www.paveletskiy.railclent.ru). This station sends trains to Domodedovo Airport via the Aeroexpress train.

**Rizhsky Station E-1**, Komsomolskaya pl. 5, **Rizhskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 631 15 88, [www.rizhskiy.railclent.ru](http://www.rizhskiy.railclent.ru). You'll come here if you are heading to Riga or elsewhere in Latvia.

**Yaroslavsky Station E-1**, Komsomolskaya pl. 5, **Komsomolskaya**, tel. (+7) 800 775 00 00. To the Golden Ring and beyond - all the way to Vladivostok.



### Car Rental

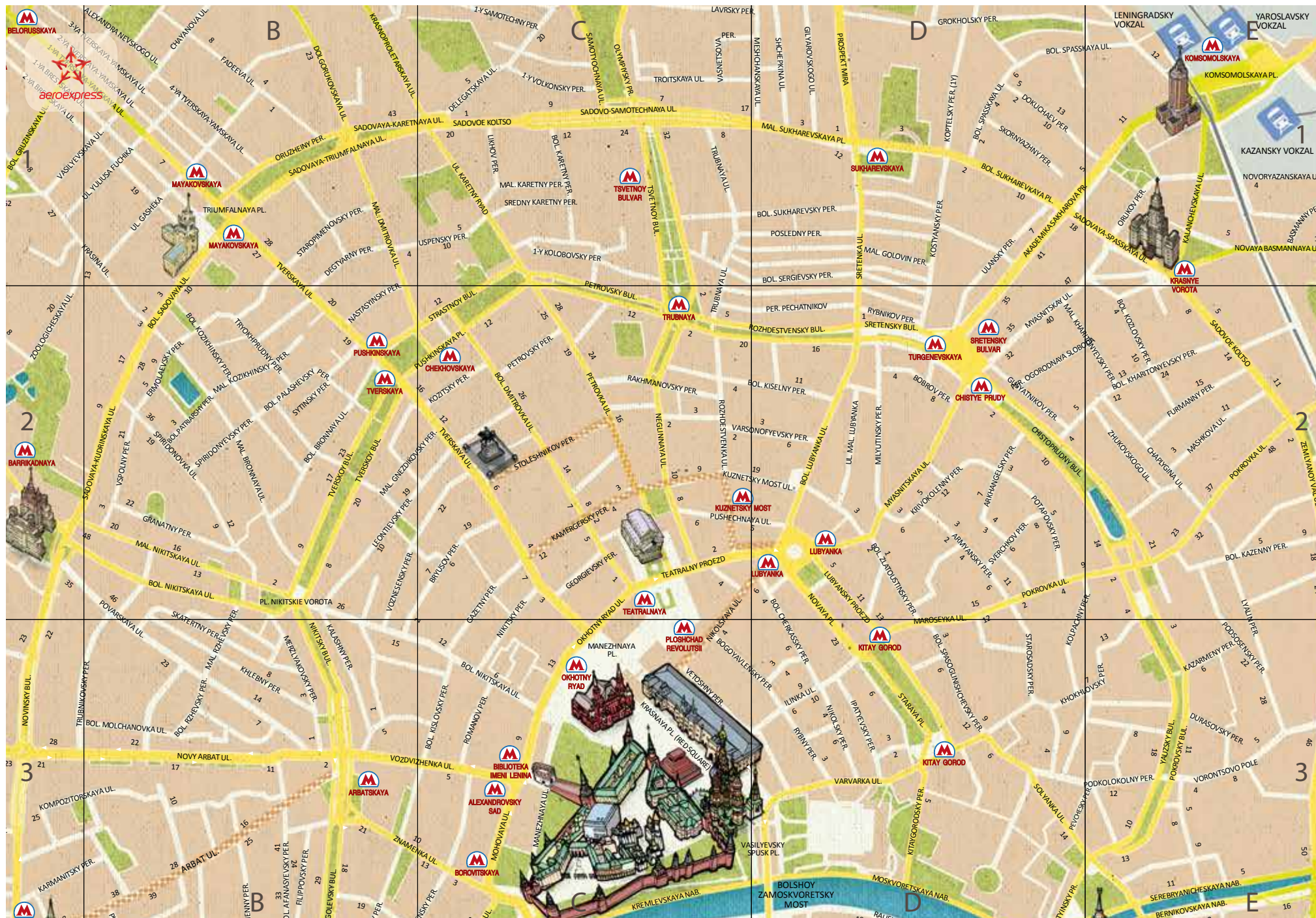
**RentaCarMoscow** Ul. Zorge 5, bldg. 2, **Polezhaevskaya**, tel. (+7) 963 710 70 99, [www.rentcarmoscow.ru](http://www.rentcarmoscow.ru). Online reservation and the vehicle can be delivered to you. There's a deposit of course.

**Sixt** Ul. Novoslobodskaya 20, **Mendelevskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 589 11 11, [www.sixt-rent.ru](http://www.sixt-rent.ru). This is their city centre location and they also have two airport outlets; Sheremetyevo-2 and Domodedovo. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00.



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## Street Register

1905 Goda ul.	A-1/2	Golutvinsky per. (1y)	C-4	Merzlyakovskiy per.	B-3	Shchepkina ul.	D-1
<b>A</b>		Goncharnaya nab.	E-4	Milyutinsky per.	D-2	Sivtsev Vrazhek per.	B-3
Akademika Sakharova pr.	D-1/2	Goncharnaya ul.	E-4	Miuskaya pl.	B-1	Skatertny per.	B-2/3
Alexandra Nevskogo ul.	A/B-1	Goncharny per. (2y)	E-4	Mohovaya ul.	C-3	Smolensky bul.	A-4
Alexandra Solzhenitsina ul.	E-4	Gorokhovskiy per.	E-2	Molochny per.	B-4	Smolenskaya ul.	A-4
Apakova pr.	C-4	Granatny per.	B-2	Monetchikovskiy per. (2y)	D-5	Sofyiskaya nab.	C-3
Arbat ul.	D-1	Grokholskiy per.	D-1	Monetchikovskiy per. (3y)	D-5	Soymonovskiy proezd	B-4
Armyansky per.	D-2	Gusyatnikov per.	D-2	Monetchikovskiy per. (5y)	D-5	Solyanka ul.	D-3
<b>B</b>		<b>I</b>		Monetchikovskiy per. (6y)	D-5	Spasovalivkovskiy per. (1y)	C-5
Bakhrushina ul.	D-5	Il'inka ul.	C-3	Moskvoretzskaya nab.	D-3	Spiridonovka ul.	B-2
Balchug ul.	D-3/4	Ipatyevskiy per.	D-3	Myasnitkaya ul.	D-2	Spiridonevskiy per.	B-2
Bernikovskaya nab.	E-3	<b>K</b>		Mytnaya ul.	C-5	Sretenska ul.	D-1
Bersenevskaya nab.	C-4	Kadashevskaya nab.	C-4	<b>N</b>		Sretenskiy bul.	C-1
Bobrov per.	D-2	Kadashevskiy per. (1y)	C-4	Neglinnaya ul.	C-2	Stanislavskogo ul.	C-2
Bogoyavlenskiy per.	C/D-3	Kalanchevskaya ul.	E-1	Nikitskiy bul.	B-3	Staraya pl.	C-3
Bol. Afanasyevskiy per.	B-3/4	Kalashny per.	B-3	Nikitskiy per.	C-2/3	Starokonyushenny per.	B-3/4
Bol. Balkanskiy per.	D-1	Kazachy per. (1y)	C-5	Nikoloyamskaya ul.	E-3/4	Staromonetny per.	C-4
Bol. Bronnaya ul.	B-2	Kazachy per. (2y)	C-5	Nikolskaya ul.	C-2/3	Starosadskiy per.	D-2/3
Bol. Dmitrovka ul.	C-2	Kazakova ul.	E-2	Nikolskiy per.	D-3	Stary Tolmachevskiy per.	D-4
Bol. Dorogomilovskaya ul.	A-4	Kazanskoy per.	C-5	Nizhnaya Krasnokholmskaya ul.	E-4/5	Stoleshnikov per.	C-2
Bol. Gruzinskaya ul.	A-1/2	Kazarmen per.	E-3	Nizhnaya Krasnoselskaya ul.	E-1	Stolyarny per.	A-2
Bol. Karetny per.	C-1	Khilkov per.	B-4	Novaya Basmannaya ul.	E-1	Strastnoy bul.	C-1/2
Bol. Kazenny per.	E-2	Khlebnyy per.	B-3	Novaya pl.	D-2	Sushchevskaya ul.	B-1
Bol. Kharitonovskiy per.	E-2	Khokhlovskiy per.	D/E-3	Novinskiy bul.	A-2/3	Sytinskiy per.	B-2
Bol. Kiselny per.	C/D-2	Khvostov per. (1y)	C-5	Novokrymskiy pr.	B-5	<b>T</b>	
Bol. Kislovskiy per.	C-3	Kievskaya ul.	A-4	Novokuznetskaya ul.	D-4/5	Taras Shevchenko nab.	A-3
Bol. Kozhikhinskiy per.	B-2	Klementovskiy per.	D-4	Novokuznetskiy per. (1y)	D-5	Tatarskaya ul.	D-5
Bol. Kozlovskiy per.	E-2	Kolpachny per.	D-2/3	Novokuznetskiy per. (2y)	D-5	Teatralny proezd	C-2
Bol. Levshinskiy per.	B-4	Kompozitorskaya ul.	A/B-3	Novoryazanskaya ul.	E-1	Teterinskiy per.	E-4
Bol. Lubyanka ul.	D-2	Komsomolskaya pl.	F-6	Novy Arbat ul.	A/B-3	Triumfalnaya pl.	B-1
Bol. Molchanovka ul.	B-3	Komsomolskiy pr.	F-6	<b>O</b>		Trubnaya ul.	C-1
Bol. Nikitskaya ul.	B/C-3	Konyushkovskaya ul.	A-2/3	Obyedenskiy per. (2y)	B-4	Trubnikovskiy per.	A/B-3
Bol. Ordynka ul.	D-4/5	Koptelskiy per. (1y)	D-1	Okhotny ryad ul.	C-2/3	Tryokhpudny per.	B-2
Bol. Palashevskiy per.	B-2	Korobeynikov per.	B-4	Olimpiyskiy pr.	C-1	Tsvetnoy bul.	C-1
Bol. Patriarshi per.	B-2	Korovy Val ul.	C-5	Ostozhenka ul.	B-4/5	Tverskaya-Yamskaya ul. (1ya)	B-1/2
Bol. Polyanka ul.	C-4/5	Kosmodamianskaya nab.	D/E-4	Ovchinnikovskaya nab.	D-4	Tverskaya-Yamskaya ul. (2ya)	A/B-1
Bol. Sadovaya ul.	B-1/2	Kostyanskiy per.	D-1	Ozerkovskaya nab.	D-4	Tverskaya-Yamskaya ul. (3ya)	A/B-1
Bol. Serpukhovskaya ul.	C/D-5	Kotelicheskaya nab.	D/E-4	Ozerkovskiy per.	D-4	<b>U</b>	
Bol. Spasskaya ul.	E-1	Kotelicheskoy per. (1y)	D-4	<b>P</b>		Usacheva ul.	F-6
Bol. Staromonetny per.	C-4	Kozitskiy per.	C-2	Paveletskaya pl.	D-5	Ustyinsky pr.	D-3/4
Bol. Strochnevskiy per.	D-5	Krasina ul.	A/B-1	Petrovka ul.	C-2	<b>V</b>	
Bol. Sukharevskaya pl.	D-1	Krasnaya pl. (Red Square)	C-3	Petrovskiy bul.	C-1/2	Valovaya ul.	D-5
Bol. Sukharevskiy per.	D-1	Krasnaya presnya ul.	A-2	Petrovskiy per.	C-2	Varsonofyevskiy per.	C/D-2
Bol. Tatarskaya ul.	D-4/5	Krasnopresnenskaya nab.	A-3	Pyzhevskiy per.	C-4	Varvarka ul.	C-3
Bol. Tatarskiy per.	D-5	Krasnoprolerskaya ul.	B-1	Pl. Nikitskie Vorota	B-2	Vasilyevskiy spusk pl.	D-3
Bol. Tishinskiy per.	A-1	Krasnoprudnaya ul.	E-1	Plotnikov per.	B-3	Vasilyevskaya ul.	A/B-1
Bol. Vlashevskiy per.	B-4	Kremlevskaya nab.	C-3	Plyushchikha ul.	A-4	Vasnetsova per.	C-1
Bol. Yakimanka ul.	C-5	Krivokolenny per.	D-2	Podkolokolny per.	E-3	Verkhnyaya Radishchevskaya ul.	E-4
Bol. Znamenskoy per.	B-3/4	Kropotkinskiy per.	B-4	Podsolosenskiy per.	E-5	Verkhnyaya Syromyatnicheskaya ul.	E-4
Bolotnaya nab.	C-4	Krutitskiy per. (3y)	E-5	Pogorelskiy per.	D/E-2	Volhonka ul.	C-3/4
Bolotnaya pl.	C-4	Krutitskaya nab.	B-5	Pokrovskiy bul.	B-4	Vorontsovo pole	E-3
Borodinskaya ul. (1ya)	A-3/4	Krymskay nab.	B-5	Pomerantsev per.	D-1	Vorontsovskaya ul.	E-4/5
Borodinskaya ul. (2ya)	A-3	Krymskiy proezd	B/C-5	Posledny per.	D-2	Vozdvizhenka ul.	B/C-3
Brestskaya ul. (1ya)	A/B-1	Krymskiy Val.	B/C-4	Potapovskiy per.	B-2/3	Voznesenskiy per.	B-2
Brestskaya ul. (2ya)	A/B-1	Kursovoy per.	A-3	Povarskaya ul.	B-3/4	Vspolny per.	B-2
Brodnikov per.	C-4/5	Kutuzovskiy pr.	C/D-2	Pozharskiy per.	B-4	<b>Y</b>	
Butikovskiy per.	B-4	Kuznetskiy most ul.	C/D-2	Prechistenskaya nab.	C-4	Yakimanskaya nab.	C-4
<b>C</b>		<b>L</b>		Prechistenskiy per.	A-1/2	Yakimanskiy proezd	C-4
Chayanova ul.	B-1	Lavrskiy per.	C-1	Presnenskiy val ul.	D-1	Yauzskiy bul.	E-3
Chistoprudny bul.	D/E-2	Lavrushinskiy per.	C-4	Prospekt Mira	C/D-2	Zemlyanoy Val ul.	E-2/3/4
Chisty per.	B-4	Leontievskiy per.	B-2	Pushchennaya ul.	B-5	Zhitnaya ul.	C-5
<b>D</b>		Lesnaya ul.	A-1	Pushkinskaya nab.	C-2	Zhukovskogo ul.	E-2
Delegatskaya ul.	C-1	Lubyanskiy proezd	E-2/3	Pushkinskaya pl.	D-4	Znamenka ul.	B/C-3
Dobryninskiy per. (1y)	C-5	Lyalin per.	B-2	Pyatnitskaya ul.	D-3	Zoologicheskaya ul.	A-1/2
Dokuchaev per.	D-1	<b>M</b>		Pevcheskiy per.	B-1/2	<b>Abbreviations</b>	
Dolgoukovskaya ul.	B-1	Mal. Bronnaya ul.	B-2	<b>R</b>		Ul. - Ulitsa	
Dubinskaya ul.	D-5	Mal. Dmitrovka ul.	B-1/2	Raushskaya nab.	D-3	Per. - Pereulok	
Durasovskiy per.	E-3	Mal. Karetny per.	C-1	Romanov per.	C-3	Pr. - Prospekt	
Durova ul.	C-1	Mal. Kozikhinskiy per.	B-2	Rozhdestvenka ul.	C-2	Pl. - Ploshchad	
<b>E</b>		Mal. Nikitskaya ul.	B-2	Rozhdestvenskiy bul.	C/D-2	Bul. - Bulvar	
Ermolaevskiy per.	B-2	Mal. Ordynka ul.	D-4/5	Runovskiy per.	D-4	Nab. - Naberezhnaya	
Eropkinskiy per.	B-4	Mal. Polyanka ul.	C-5	Rybnyy per.	C-3	Bol. - Bolshaya	
<b>F</b>		Mal. Filippovskiy per.	B-3	<b>S</b>		Mal. - Malaya	
Fadeeva ul.	B-1	Mal. Sukharevskaya pl.	E-2	Sadovaya-Karetnaya ul.	B/C-1		
Filippovskiy per.	B-3	Mal. Yakimanka ul.	C-4	Sadovaya-Kudrinskaya ul.	A/B-2		
Furmanny per.	E-2	Mal. Znamenskoy per.	B/C-3	Sadovaya-Spasskaya ul.	E-1/2		
<b>G</b>		Manezhnaya pl.	C-3	Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya ul.	B-1		
Gagarinskiy per.	B-4	Manezhnaya pl.	C-3	Sadovnicheskaya ul.	D-3/4		
Gazetny per.	C-2/3	Markistskaya ul.	E-4	Sadovnicheskoy proezd	D-3		
Gilyarovskogo ul.	D-1	Maronovskiy per.	C-5	Samotyochnaya ul.	C-1		
Glazovskiy per.	A/B-4	Maroseyka ul.	D-2/3	Serebryanicheskaya nab.	E-3		
Gogolevskiy bul.	B-3/4	Mashkova ul.	E-2				
Golikovskiy per.	D-4						



## Introduction

Russia is undisputedly the world's biggest country. Its sheer size guarantees that no other country even comes in at a close second. While most visitors primarily make visits to the two capitals – Moscow and St. Petersburg – the country has much more to offer.

Bordering 16 countries, it is 17,075,400 square kilometres large with a population of 143 million and a territory that encompasses nine time zones and 83 regions, so one naturally can sometimes feel overwhelmed by the sheer choice of sites on offer in such an enormous country. But, it goes without saying that while many of the most exciting events in any given country occur in their capital cities, its soul often lies elsewhere. This is especially true in Russia. Russia features ancient towns filled with architectural ensembles and churches completing visually fantastic landscapes, quaint and calm towns located on the banks of enormous rivers, and enough natural beauty – forests, lakes, and mountains – to satisfy anyone looking for a break from the hustle and bustle of city life.

While much of the major investment – and attention – in the last decade has poured into Moscow and St. Petersburg, capital has trickled into the provinces as well at a considerable clip. Although the level of development in provincial towns is still not on pace with the largest cities, but that is also part of the adventure. It is here that one can experience how average Russians live and imagine the past, present, and future of their country. Winter is a magical time of year as the ice covers rivers and lakes and snow falls down on the cupolas of Russia's ancient churches. It is also the time of ice-swimming, ice-fishing and warming up in banyas (Russian sauna).

In each subsequent issue we will select a few destinations within striking distance of the city's capitals that make excellent detours into the beauty and wonder of provincial Russia. Some can be enjoyed as one-day getaways, while others are full weekend trips. We would argue that no trip to Russia is fully complete without a visit to a provincial city, whether it be one of the wonders of the Golden Ring cities, or one of the ancient Russian settlements, such as Pskov or Veliky Novgorod. It was in these towns that the idea of Russia was first enunciated and enacted. Of course, a wider selection of cities can be found on our website.

In this issue we have selected many interesting cities. St. Petersburg, of course, needs no introduction as the cultural capital of Russia. The other cities are: Veliky Novgorod, one of Russia's early trading settlements and Nizhny Novgorod, Russia's fifth largest city located on the banks of the Volga River. We include Sochi, the host city for the 2014 Winter Olympics and two of our latest online additions, Petrozavodsk, a quiet city located in the beauty of Karelia's wilderness about 500km north of St. Petersburg and Kostroma, a city of contrasts filled with ancient monasteries. In St. Petersburg please look for our print guide in hotels or check us out online and download our free iPhone app. at: [www.inyourpocket.com/russia/st-petersburg](http://www.inyourpocket.com/russia/st-petersburg)

## History

**9th Century:** Slavic people from Ukraine and Belarus migrate into Russia, founding Veliky Novgorod, converting to Christianity, and adopting the Cyrillic alphabet.

**10th – 15th Centuries:** Golden Age of Kievan Rus continues until the Mongol descendants of Genghis Khan invade. Ivan the Great comes to power in 1462.

**17th Century:** Times of Troubles 1603-1613: the Swedes and Poles invade. Russia acquires new Siberian territory. First Romanov is elected Tsar.

**1703:** Peter the Great founds St. Petersburg, which becomes the new Russian capital in 1712

**1762 – 1796:** German princess Catherine the Great marries her way into the Russian royal family and launches a program of legislative and educational reform.

**1812:** Alexander I defeats Napoleon on Russian soil.

**1861:** Alexander II emancipates Russia's serfs.

**1914:** WWI begins; there are enormous losses, food shortages and widespread unrest. St. Petersburg is quickly renamed Petrograd to sound less German.

**1917 – 1924:** Following the February and October Revolutions of 1917, Lenin's Bolshevik Party takes control of Russia. Tsar Nicholas II and his family are murdered in 1918. Moscow becomes the capital again. Russia is plunged into a bloody civil war. St. Petersburg is renamed Petrograd and after Lenin dies in 1924, Leningrad.

**1934:** The worst period of Stalin's terror begins; it lasts until 1941.

**1941 – 1945:** Germany attacks Russia on June 22 and the Great Patriotic War begins. After sustaining heavy losses, Russia begins to push German-forces back in 1943. Germany surrenders in 1945.

**1953:** Stalin dies. It's estimated that 20 million people died as a result of his purges, camps and forced famines. In 1954, Krushchev succeeds him.

**1961:** Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space.

**1979:** The Soviets invade Afghanistan, and in opposition, 64 countries boycott the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics.

**1985:** Gorbachev becomes General Secretary of the Communist Party and calls for reforms including perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness).

**1991 – 1999:** Yeltsin becomes the first elected president of the Russian Federation in June. Economic crisis and instability ensues with rampant inflation and privatization shaking the country.

**1999 – 2008:** Native Petersburger, Vladimir Putin becomes President in March 2000. Russia becomes more stable and prosperous, thanks to gas and oil exports.

**2008 – present:** Medvedev becomes the third President of the Russian Federation in May, but after 4 years Vladimir Putin once more takes the Presidential seat.





Russia's capital city Moscow may be buzzing with business and pleasure, but sometimes it's worth escaping for a few days and a visit to St. Petersburg, Peter the Great's Window on the West, is an ideal place to go if you are looking for a city easily navigated on foot and filled with history and beauty. Bursting with world class museums, stunning waterside panoramas, tranquil canals, beautiful neo-classical architecture and brimming with culture, there's more than enough to enjoy at any time of year.

## Getting to St. Petersburg

There are dozens of night trains travelling every day between Moscow and St. Petersburg, some of them modern and upscale like the Megapolis, and others more suitable for those on a small budget. In addition there are also many super-fast trains (called the 'Sapsan') which make the journey in just over 4 hours and travel daily during the morning, afternoon and early evening. There are also of course frequent flight connections between Moscow's main airports and St. Petersburg's Pulkovo airport.

## Luxury Train to St. Petersburg

If you are looking for a comfortable night train to the Northern Capital it is worth considering taking a private train. The cheerful Megapolis train leaves for St. Petersburg every night and offers a more hotel-like travel experience. After being shown to your cabin you will find your beds have already been made up with real duvets rather than blankets, and all round the carriages are spotless. Hungry? Lucky you! Every cabin has a pile of complimentary snacks such as bread, pate and cheese, fruits, yoghurts and waffles for when you get the midnight munchies. Hot breakfast and coffee is brought to your room in the morning and if at any moment during the trip you experience some problems you can call the train attendant from the comfort of your bed and they will come to you! If you want to wake up in Moscow truly fresh in the morning, it's worth the money. Trains leave Leningradsky vokzal (metro Komsomolskaya) at 00:54 and arrive in St. Petersburg at 09:00. For reservations call (+7) 495 35 44 11 or book online at [www.megapolis-te.ru](http://www.megapolis-te.ru)



Москва - Санкт-Петербург - Москва



## Sightseeing

**Church of the Saviour on the Spilt Blood** Nab. kan. Griboedova 2b, [M]Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 315 16 36, [www.cathedral.ru](http://www.cathedral.ru). ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00 Closed Wed. Admission 50-250Rbl.

**Hermitage** Dvortsovaya nab. 34 (entrance from Dvortsovaya pl.), [M]Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 710 90 79, [www.hermitagemuseum.org](http://www.hermitagemuseum.org). ▶ Open 10:30 - 18:00, Sun 10:30 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission 400Rbl. Audioguide 350Rbl.

**Kazan Cathedral** Kazanskaya pl. 2, [M]Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 314 46 63, [www.kazanskyspb.ru](http://www.kazanskyspb.ru). ▶ Open 08:30 - 20:00. Daily services 07:00, 10:00 and 18:00. Admission to the church is free. Guided tours should be booked in advance by phone (+7) 812 570 45 28.

**Peter and Paul Fortress (State Museum of history of St. Petersburg)** Petropavlovskaya krepost 3, [M]Gorkovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 230 64 31, [www.spbmuseum.ru](http://www.spbmuseum.ru). ▶ The fortress is open 06:00 - 22:00. Museums open 11:00 - 18:00, Tue 11:00 - 17:00, closed Wed. Entrance to fortress is free.

**Russian Museum** D-2, Ul. Inzhenernaya 4/2, [M]Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 595 42 48, [www.rusmuseum.ru](http://www.rusmuseum.ru). ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Tue. Admission 150-350Rbl. All inclusive ticket 300-600Rbl.

**St. Isaac's Cathedral** Isaakiyevskaya pl. 4, [M]Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 315 97 32, [www.cathedral.ru](http://www.cathedral.ru). ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:30. Closed Wed. Colonnade open 10:00 - 18:00. Tickets for the cathedral and the colonnade are sold separately. Admission Cathedral 250-350Rbl. Colonnade 150-300Rbl.

## Further Afield

**Oranienbaum** (+7) 812 450 52 87 [www.orianenbaum.org](http://www.orianenbaum.org). ▶ Park open daily 09:00 - 20:00. Palaces open 10:30 - 18:00, closed Mon. Admission to park and palaces 70 - 140Rbl.

**Pavlovsk** (+7) 812 452 21 55, [www.pavlovskmuseum.ru](http://www.pavlovskmuseum.ru). ▶ Palace open 10:00 - 18:00, closed first Mon of the month. Admission 200 - 450Rbl. Park open daily 10:00 - 18:00. Admission to park 80 - 150Rbl.

**Peterhof** (+7) 812 450 52 87, [www.peterhofmuseum.ru](http://www.peterhofmuseum.ru). ▶ Park open daily 09:00 - 20:00. Admission to park 50 - 450Rbl. Visiting of palaces: 10:30 - 12:00, 14:30 - 16:15, closed Mon and last Tue of the month. Admission to palaces 300 - 550Rbl. Find more information online.

**Pushkin** (+7) 812 466 66 69, [www.tzar.ru](http://www.tzar.ru). ▶ Catherine park open 07:00 - 23:00. Admission to park 50 - 100Rbl. Catherine palace open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 10:00 - 21:00, closed Tue. Admission 100 - 320Rbl. Visiting of the palace: 10:00 - 12:00, 16:00 - 19:00 for guided groups, 12:00 - 16:00 for individual tourists.

**Strelna** (+7) 812 438 53 60, [www.konstantinpalace.ru](http://www.konstantinpalace.ru). ▶ You can book tickets and guided tours online or by phone. Tickets from 170Rbl. Palace open 10:00 - 17:00, closed Wed.

## Hotels

**Corinthia Hotel St. Petersburg** E-3, Nevsky pr. 57, [M]Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 380 20 01, [www.corinthia.com](http://www.corinthia.com). ★★★★★

**Grand Hotel Europe** D-3, Mikhailovskaya ul. 1/7, [M]Nevsky pr., tel. (+7) 812 329 60 00, [www.grandhotелеurope.com](http://www.grandhotелеurope.com). ★★★★★

**Hotel Astoria** D-3, Bol. Morskaya ul. 39, [M]Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 494 57 57, [www.thehotelastoria.com](http://www.thehotelastoria.com). ★★★★★

**Sokos Hotel Palace Bridge** C-2, Birzhevoy per. 4, [M]Vasileostrovskaya, tel. (+7) 812 335 22 00, [www.sokoshotels.com](http://www.sokoshotels.com). ★★★★★

**Taleon Imperial Hotel** D-3, Nevsky pr. 15, [M]Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 324 99 11, [www.taleonimperialhotel.com](http://www.taleonimperialhotel.com). ★★★★★

**W St. Petersburg** D-3, Voznesensky pr. 6, [M]Admiralteiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 610 61 61, [www.wstpetersburg.com](http://www.wstpetersburg.com). ★★★★★

**Courtyard by Marriott St. Petersburg Center West Pushkin Hotel** Nab. kan. Griboedova 166 (entrance via Kanonerskaya ul. 33), [M]Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 610 5000, [www.courtyardstpetersburgpushkin.ru](http://www.courtyardstpetersburgpushkin.ru). ★★★★★

**Crowne Plaza St. Petersburg - Ligovsky** Ligovsky pr. 61, [M]Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 244 00 01, [www.crowneplaza.com/ligovsky](http://www.crowneplaza.com/ligovsky). ★★★★★

**Courtyard by Marriott St. Petersburg Center West Pushkin Hotel** C-4, Nab. kan. Griboedova 166 (entrance via Kanonerskaya ul. 33), [M]Sennaya pl., tel. (+7) 812 610 50 00, [www.courtyardstpetersburgpushkin.ru](http://www.courtyardstpetersburgpushkin.ru). ★★★★★

**AZIMUT Hotel St. Petersburg** C-4, Lermontovskiy pr. 43/1, [M]Baltiskaya, tel. (+7) 812 740 26 40, [www.azimuthotels.com](http://www.azimuthotels.com). ★★★★★

**IBIS St. Petersburg Centre** E-3, Ligovsky pr. 54, [M]Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 622 01 00, [www.ibishotel.com/6157](http://www.ibishotel.com/6157). ★★★★★

## Galeria

**Galeria** Ligovsky pr. 30A, [M]Pl. Vosstaniya, tel. (+7) 812 643 31 72, [www.galeria-spb.ru](http://www.galeria-spb.ru). The largest shopping mall in the centre of the city and a stone's throw away from the Moscow Railway Station, Galeria cannot be missed. The huge beautiful new building fits remarkably well here. Inside, it's everything you would expect from your modern shopping mall and more. It boasts the largest selection of brands in St. Petersburg, from high street brands like Topshop, Levis, Mexx and French Connection to some Russian designer clothes as well. It also features a huge supermarket, food court, movie theatre, bowling alley and some very good restaurants. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. [M] [A] [P] [I]



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## Kostroma

Kostroma is a city of contrasts: a mere six hours from Moscow it is filled with ancient monasteries, hip bars and unusual museums. Kostroma has something for everyone looking for the Russia of new and old. The three main figures of Kostroma that the visitor will constantly encounter are Ostrovsky, Susanin and Snegurochka, the ice maiden whose ubiquitous presence ensures that the little ones will be entertained.

Kostroma supposedly takes its name from an ancient Slavic goddess associated with spring and fertility and the worship of this deity was a major festival in ancient Russia. Once upon a time it was the name for a linen doll, the history of which can be found at the Museum of Linen and Birchbark. Kostroma is most famous as being the city where Mikhail Romanov set out to Moscow from to claim his throne, ending the Time of Troubles and ushering in the Romanov Dynasty.

## Hotels

**Golden Ring Hotel** Ul. Nizhnaya Debrya 104, tel. (+7) 494 262 24 44, [kostroma-goldenring.ru](http://kostroma-goldenring.ru). ▶ 33 rooms (Room prices start at 2,700Rbl). Extra bed 700Rbl.

**Ipatievskaya Sloboda** Beregovaya ul. 3a, tel. (+7) 494 237 12 24, [i-sloboda.ru](http://i-sloboda.ru). ▶ 19 rooms (Room prices start at 1,600Rbl). Extra bed 500Rbl. Breakfast 200Rbl.

**Verba Rabochy** pr. 7, tel. (+7) 494 255 28 91. ▶ 13 rooms (Room prices start at 1,000Rbl).

**Volga Yunosheskaya** ul. 1, tel. (+7) 494 239 42 41, [www.gkvolga.ru](http://www.gkvolga.ru). ▶ 209 rooms (Room prices start at 1,800Rbl). Extra bed 780Rbl.

## Getting There

**By train:** From **St. Petersburg** there is the daily train 95 at 17:40 from Moskovsky train station that gets in at 09:02 the next morning. Coming back take train 95 leaving at 18:22 and getting in at 11:15 the following morning. Tickets run 2,200 - 3,900Rbl each way.

**By plain:** There is a tiny airport called Sokerkino which has flights leaving from **St. Petersburg** on Friday and Sunday at 18:50 and leaving from Kostroma on Fridays and Sundays at 15:30. There are also flights to St. Petersburg at 08:05 and to Kostroma at 12:00 on Wednesdays. For more information see [kostroma-avia.ru/services/timetable/](http://kostroma-avia.ru/services/timetable/).

## Sightseeing

**Ipatievsky Monastery** Ul. Prosveshcheniya 1, tel. (+7) 494 231 75 91, [www.ipatievsky-monastery.ru](http://www.ipatievsky-monastery.ru). Kostroma's main attraction, this is where a young Mikhail Romanov was holed up before going to Moscow to ascend the throne of Tsar. Founded around 1330, over the years the monastery has played host to Catherine the Great and Nicholas II. Unlike most monasteries, the Ipatievsky is no nonsense being centred on two main exhibits: the Troitsky Cathedral and The Romanov Chambers. We have seen many churches in our day, but the Troitsky is impressive, extraordinarily well preserved in a mid-17th century Moscow style and doused in gold, its walls covered in frescoes and holy depictions and covered by a five-domed roof. The young Mikhail Romanov lived with his mother in the Chambers until 1613. ▶ Admission 80Rbl.

**Museum of Wooden Architecture** Ul. Prosveshcheniya 1, tel. (+7) 494 237 38 72, [www.kmntn.ru/~kossloboda](http://www.kmntn.ru/~kossloboda). Just down the road from the Ipatievsky Monastery is another unique museum, officially called the Komstromskaya Sloboda. Designed to recreate a Kostroma area village from the 19th century, this open-air museum features 30 wooden buildings, brought in from around the Kostroma region. It features various structures including homes of the rich and poor, as well as religious buildings and astonishingly, none of the buildings used a nail in their construction. ▶ Admission 80Rbl.

**The Museum of Linen and Birchbark** Ul. Tereshkovoi 38, tel. (+7) 494 231 05 89, [www.linenmuseum.ru](http://www.linenmuseum.ru). Most tour groups will make a stop here to see this museum dedicated to traditional Russian handicrafts. When we went we were treated to a wonderful excursion led by a teenager attired in traditional peasant dress. There are three halls, although the third one is a basement shop. The halls show the wonder that is Russian handicrafts made of birchbark and linens. The local favorite, Snegurochka, is on prominent display as are many creations featuring the likenesses of heroes and villains from Russian folktales. ▶ Open 09:30 - 18:00. Admission 70Rbl.

**Moose Farm** Kostroma Oblast, Sumarokovo village, tel. (7) 494 235 94 33, [www.joseferma.ru](http://www.joseferma.ru). One of Kostroma's quirkiest exhibits is located about 20 km from the centre. An experimental farm founded in the Soviet times where the moose has been domesticated (as much as that is possible). Way back in Tsarist times there were moose domestication advocates, yet it was not until 1963 that this moose farm was founded. Today the moose wander the grounds of the farm and produce milk and antler velvet.



## Veliky Novgorod

Founded in 859, Veliky or Great Novgorod is generally touted as 'the birthplace of Russia'. It is by modern standards a very small town. After its heyday in the Middle Ages, Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kyiv took over as the leading cities in Russian culture and Novgorod became somewhat a backwater. This is no bad thing however as it has meant that much of the town and surrounding countryside has been saved from the blight of industrialisation and communist construction. Veliky Novgorod is now a world heritage listed site and alongside its famous Kremlin there are also more than 50 churches and monasteries in the region to be explored.

## Sightseeing

### Veliky Novgorod Kremlin

The heart of Novgorod has always been the Kremlin, which is known locally by its ancient name 'Detinets'. The first records of fortifications on this site date back to 1044, although back then most of the Kremlin was probably made of wood. The current walls and towers of the Kremlin were completed between 1484 and 1490, after the previous ones had collapsed into the river. In recent years, the whole of the fortifications, as well as most of the buildings inside the Kremlin walls, have been completely restored. Inside the Kremlin the most noteworthy sights include the impressive St. Sophia Cathedral, the Novgorod history museum and the huge Millennium of Russia monument. If you are not afraid of heights it's also worth climbing up the Kukui tower for a view over the town and surrounding countryside. ▶ Entrance to the Kremlin is free as is entrance to the Cathedral. Entrance to the museum and tower costs extra.

### Ilmen lake

It is well worth making the short journey out of town to visit the open-air Vitoslavlitsy wooden architecture museum and the neighbouring Yurievsky monastery which has an enviable position right on the banks of the Ilmen lake. ▶ To get there take bus number 7 or 7a and get off at the monastery. The journey should take about 20 minutes. Entrance to the monastery is free.

## Getting There

There is just one daily long distance train to Veliky Novgorod from Moscow. It leaves from Leningradsky station at 21:50 arriving in Veliky Novgorod at 06:10. Trains return to Moscow at 21:20 arriving at 05:30.

### Krasnaya Izba Tourist Information Office

The lovely girls at Krasnaya Izba can provide you with advice on just about everything to do in Novgorod. They have a 24hrs. hotline that you can call if you still find that you are constantly lost. Tel. (+7) 8162 998 686. Central office at Sennaya pl. 5. [www.visitnovgorod.ru](http://www.visitnovgorod.ru)

## Hotels

**Park Inn Veliky Novgorod** Ul. Studencheskaya 2, tel. (+7) 816 294 09 10, [www.parkinn.com/hotel-velikynovgorod](http://www.parkinn.com/hotel-velikynovgorod). Novgorod's only four star hotel is run by the Park Inn brand and it's a definite step above the rest. Rooms are spacious, staff meet the professional Park Inn standard and the Beer restaurant down in the basement is one of the only good places to eat in this sleepy town and there's also an 'art nightclub'. To get there from the city centre take bus No4, 8a or 20. ▶ 225 rooms (Prices start at 4,200Rbl). Extra bed 1,000Rbl.

**Volkhov Hotel** Ul. Predtechenskaya 24, tel. (+7) 8162 225 505, [www.hotel-volkhov.ru](http://www.hotel-volkhov.ru). A great option for a short sightseeing trip or longer business trip as it's one of the most central hotels in town and just 5 minutes walk from the Kremlin. The rooms, although a little frilly, look far more cared for than many other hotels in Novgorod and the whole place has a lot more of an international feel than you'd expect in a small Russian town. ▶ 129 rooms (Room prices start at 2,200Rbl). Extra bed 850Rbl.

## Restaurants and Cafes

**Khoroshye Lyudi** Ul. Meretskova-Volosova 1/1, tel. (+7) 8162 73 08 79, [www.gonicepeople.ru](http://www.gonicepeople.ru). Once you've been to this place you won't want to eat anywhere else - it's just streets ahead of the other more pedestrian dining options in sleepy Novgorod. You can see the Kremlin from wherever you choose. The menu is a pick and mix European selection of salads and grilled meats and fish. Staff are lovely. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. €

**Yurievskoe Podvorie** Yurievskoe shosse 6a, tel. (+7) 8162 946 066, [www.tk-podvorie.ru](http://www.tk-podvorie.ru). Seated inside what looks like a fairy tale Russian wooden hut, you'll be served excellent blini, pelmeni and borsch by angelic looking wait staff in traditional costume. They do offer a lot of Novgorodian specialities such as local soup recipes and sbiten (a hot drink with herbs) which are definitely worth making the effort for. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €



## Petrozavodsk

Known Known in Finnish as "Petroskoi", Petrozavodsk is the capital of the independent Republic of Karelia, a region with a unique Finno-Russian culture. It's location on Lake Onega, the second-largest lake in Europe, makes it the ideal stopping-off point for visits to Kizhi Island, a unique open-air museum, displaying the wonders of Northern Russian wooden architecture. The iconic wooden Transfiguration Church and other period log buildings are protected by UNESCO as objects of cultural importance. Lake Ladoga nearby is home to the Valaam Monastery, and the Solovetskie Islands in the White Sea, home to a tragic history as a monastery and then labour camp, are also accessible from Petrozavodsk. The city's name derives from Petrovsky Zavod (Peter's Factory), as it was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great as a location for his iron foundry at the time of the Great Northern War with Sweden. During the Occupation War (1941-44), the city was occupied by Finnish troops for three years before being won back by the Red Army. The neo-classical architecture and sculpture-lined embankment mean that the town is more than provincial, with plentiful opportunities to take advantage of the Karelian forests for real wilderness experiences, such as walking, hunting, fishing, cross country skiing and sledging with real huskies. You can also hire a helicopter and visit some of the more remote islands and become absorbed in this rare and beautiful world of ice and snow. Make sure you take a good camera with you. If you are really lucky you might even see an aurora borealis.

## Getting There

**By train:** You can reach Petrozavodsk by train from both Moscow and St. Petersburg. There are four everyday trains from the Moscow Lenigradsky railway station (Metro Komsomolskaya.)

The overnight trains are at 20:30, arriving 09:45, and 21:20, arriving at 12:18. Prices vary from 1,500 (third class) to 2,500Rbl (second class). From St. Petersburg here are three trains daily, with the best overnight option being 22:02 - 06:40 unless you want to arrive in the middle of the night or travel all day.

**By plane:** Petrozavodsk has an airport, although be warned that there have been recent fatal accidents in the Russian North.

### Petrozavodsk Tourist Information

Tourist Information Centre, Ul. Kuibysheva 5.

## Hotels

**Park Inn by Radisson Petrozavodsk Pl. Gagarina 1, tel. (+7) 814 271 70 70, [www.parkinn.com/hotel-petrozavodsk](http://www.parkinn.com/hotel-petrozavodsk).** This hotel complex blends Park Inn's "live well, sleep well" motto with the luxury knowledge of the Radisson group. Situated right next to the railway station, the hotel is perfect for business clientele, with six meeting rooms, including a large conference hall that seats 200, whose glass windows offer natural daylight and splendid views down to the lake. Rooms are ultra modern, with Swedish design to match the northern location. Munich's celebrated Paulaner brewers are opening a two-floor restaurant downstairs, with four types of beer brewed on site and live entertainment from local jazz and folk groups. The hotel's 24 hour gym and free high-speed WiFi ensure the high quality of this international brand. ▶ 180 rooms (Room prices start at 4,050Rbl).

**Petrozavodsk Hostel Krasnaya ul. 28, tel. (+7) 911 400 56 46, [www.petrohostel.ru](http://www.petrohostel.ru).** Just off the main street in town, this low-cost hostel is perfect for a budget stay in the centre of the city with quick access to restaurants, shops and the lake. The hostel has a 24 hour reception and registration, WiFi, and help with organizing trips to Kizhi, Valaam and other places of interest. Their beds come from 390Rbl for a bed in a room for 6 to 2,000Rbl for a room for two. Everything is very tidy and friendly, and they speak English at reception. ▶

## Restaurants and Cafes

**Café Kivach Pr. Lenina 28.** This café is unsurprisingly popular with students, being located opposite the university building. Decent pizza and pasta dishes.

**Deja-Vu Bistro Pr. Lenina 20, [www.dejavu.petrofood.ru](http://www.dejavu.petrofood.ru).** Opposite the Severnaya Hotel, this place is perfect to stop off at if you get tired on the long walk down Prospect Lenina to the lake. Essentially French-inspired, there is also classic beef stroganoff and pasta dishes.

**Fregat Restaurant-Club Pr. Karla Marxa 1, tel. (+7) 814 279 64 98.** This café is an ideal spot for breakfasting if you have an early boat trip to Kizhi, as from the veranda you can watch the terminal to make sure you don't miss your lime-green Kometa. A range of essentially French cuisine, they also have a range of local dishes, including deer with forest berries from 390Rbl.

**Karelskaya Gornitsa Ul. Engelsa 13, tel. (+7) (814) 278 53 00, [www.gornitsa.ru](http://www.gornitsa.ru).** The creation of Finnish head chef Tarmo Vasenius, this restaurant is unique in serving Karelian cuisine. The great Karelian lakes provide the menu with a lot of fish, as well as wild animal meat, such as bear and deer, mushrooms from the forest, and drinks made from cowberry (brusnika) and cloudberry (moroshka). Gornitsa is an attraction in itself, designed to look like a Karelian peasant izba (house) with wood, samovars, and the red and white embroidered cloth that is traditional in the area.

**Parizhanka Pr. Lenina 31, tel. (+7) 814 279 56 72, [paris.ptz-group.ru](http://paris.ptz-group.ru).** "The Parisienne" is ubiquitous in Petrozavodsk, with nine outlets (see the web for all addresses) of this popular café in the city. With a 24 hour opening, the café is perfect for a hot chocolate in plush surroundings, with tempting patisserie on offer. Very popular with wedding parties popping in in the midst of taking photographs at the local sights of interest, as is the custom.

## Sightseeing

While the excursions to the local islands are the main attraction, the city centre also has a lot to interest the tourist. The embankment is the first port of call, as you'll naturally want to see Lake Onega, but some architectural details are also not to be missed. The town still has some examples of old wooden town buildings, some of which are still inhabited.

**Embankment** A stroll on the embankment is a must. Lined with sculptures donated from Petrozavodsk's twinned towns, promenade along here to watch the boats and gaze at the misty hills on the other side of Lake Onega. On the eastern side, asculpture of Peter the Great eternally points towards the town, ordering it to be built. When we visited segways were available to rent.

**Lenin Square (Pl. Lenina)** Once named the 'Round Square,' which is only a paradox in the English language, this circular square was built in 1775 and is the centre of historical Petrozavodsk. The classical two-storey buildings, painted in the pale-yellow seen all over Russia, once housed the Gubernial Chancellery and other 18th century administrative buildings.

**Museum of Fine Art of the Republic of Karelia Pr. Karla Marxa 8, tel. (+7) 814 278 37 13, [artmuseum.karelia.ru](http://artmuseum.karelia.ru).** This wonderful art museum on Kirova Square has an outstanding collection, from icons displaying the Northern Russian tradition of painting, to their unique collection of twentieth-century local paintings, with some exquisite landscapes depicting the beauty of Karelian nature. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. 750Rbl for adults, 100Rbl for special exhibitions. Audioguides (100Rbl) are available in Russian, English, and Finnish.



## Kizhi Open-Air Museum



The highlight of any visit to Karelia, Kizhi open-air museum is a magical mix of architectural and ethnographic wonder. Russia is famed for the expansiveness of its forests, which gave rise to the inventiveness of the Northern craftsmen. They used their expertise at carving wood to build not only sheds, barns and cowsheds, but houses, chapels and churches. Kizhi island is the place where the varied marvels of Northern Russian wooden architecture have come to rest from villages and hamlets in the Onega Lake area, which numbers over 1650 islands. The iconic Transfiguration Church is famous for being built 'without a single nail', that is to say, the structure is entirely made from wood. The magnificent structure rises from the island like a lofty tree, its twenty-two onion domes seeming to crown it like pine cones. Culturally and architecturally unique, it was added to Unesco's World Heritage list in 1990. The art of Karelian wood-carving can also be seen upon visiting the peasant houses on the island. The 19th-century house of the peasant Oshenev has been called a house-complex, as its design perfectly matches the needs of the enormous web of a Russian peasant family, whose life was dictated by the seasons of the Russian North. During the harsh winter, the wife could feed the cattle in the cowshed by scattering grain through the floorboards of the workroom to the cowshed below, avoiding going into the freezing whiteness outside.

## Getting there

**By hydrofoil:** If you haven't arranged your ticket from a tour operator, you can buy a ticket from one of the kiosks at the boat terminal. Make sure to do this at least a day in advance. The journey to the island takes an hour and a half. The main office at the boat terminal is open 08.00 - 21.00 daily. [www.kareliaflot.ru](http://www.kareliaflot.ru)

**By helicopter:** In winter you can get a helicopter to the island. Contact Peski Airport, Borovaya ul. 4, tel. (+7) 814 274 74 66 or a Petrozavodsk travel agency.

### Tours

Tourist groups are formed upon arrival to the island if you want a guided tour, or you can visit the buildings by yourself. Admission for foreign citizens is 625Rbl, with another 100 for the excursion, which is professional and informative. Audioguides are available from the ticket office in English, Finnish, Russian for 150Rbl. [www.kizhi.karelia.ru](http://www.kizhi.karelia.ru)





## Sochi

Covered with palm trees and blessed with a subtropical climate, Sochi is one of the best places to stay in Russia - especially if you like warm climates. Furthermore, the Black Sea city is the host of the Winter Olympics in 2014.

However, foreigners should be aware that Sochi is still not used to flocks of foreign tourists. It is mainly Russians, and citizens of former Soviet republics, who populate the beaches and explore the Caucasus Mountains. With ten thousand residents, a small expat community is working hard to prepare Sochi for the Olympics.

During summer temperatures in Sochi vary between 25 and 30 degrees Celsius. For example, in the first week of May this year, the In Your Pocket staff enjoyed a temperature of 23 degrees.

The winters are mild: by the coast the temperatures are around 5-10 degrees, or even higher. In the mountains, where the ski resorts are located, temperatures are much lower in winter, and there you can enjoy a good ski holiday. Often there is snow and ice until May. However, mild winters, with a huge shortage of snow, can also happen.

## Getting There

Train or plane? A quick or slow journey? If you choose the Russian railway, make sure your train will travel along the 145km long Black Sea coast during the day, preferably in the morning. It is then that you will almost certainly spot dolphins swimming in the sea, whilst you have breakfast in your carriage. This is an amazing sight, as we can say from experience.

**By train:** At least 3 trains per day travel from Moscow to Sochi. In summer the number increases to 10 per day. The trains leave from different train stations (although most leave from Kazansky station) so check carefully. The fastest train - which is also the most expensive and luxurious - is the Sochi Premium which brings you to Sochi in exactly 24 hours. Other trains will take up to 38 hours. From St. Petersburg there are 3 direct trains to Sochi during summer, and one in winter. They leave from Moskovsky station or Ladozhsky station. The journey from St. Petersburg takes between 37 and 57 hours.

**By plane:** Russian airlines, such as Aeroflot, S7 and Transaero offer daily flights to Sochi. Flights from Moscow take around 2 hours 20 minutes, and flights from St. Petersburg take approximately 3 hours 30 minutes.

45km away from the Black Sea lies Krasnaya Polyana, a famous ski resort located at a height of 560 meters above sea level. The mountain tops have modern ski-facilities which reach heights of more than 2300 meters. Krasnaya Polyana will host the Olympic skiing, snowboarding and ski-jumping. Sochi and its surrounding region finally became part of Russia 150 years ago, in 1864, after decades of war with the Turkish (Ottoman) empire and tribes living in the Caucasus highlands. The royal nobility loved the region, with its healthy water springs, and the first Russian sanatoriums were built along the coast.

After the Russian revolution in 1917, the working class received rights for holidays, promoted by Lenin. Sochi became the favourite holiday destination of Stalin and he visited the Black Sea for a few weeks every year. You can visit his dacha in Sochi, which is located near many other Soviet sightseeing spots, such as the Lenin mosaic.

In the 1960s, Sochi, and the whole Black Sea coast, was developed in to one big holiday resort. Forbidden to travel abroad, 50 million Russians went to Sochi every year, and the region was known by then as the Russian Riviera. With the fall of the Soviet Union, and the possibility of cheap holidays to Egypt or Spain, Sochi decayed in the 1990's and the region's economy suffered hard.

When Putin, a sport enthusiast and big fan of skiing at Sochi's Krasnaya Polyana, became the president of Russia in 2000, the resurrection and face-lift of Sochi began. In 2007 the city won the bid to stage the Winter Olympics in 2014, and so far 50 billion Euros has been invested in new facilities, sport stadiums and high-speed railways.

## Hotels

Sochi has plenty of hotels, although many are under construction, especially in the city centre. The city and its region have a long tradition of locals offering private rooms, complete apartments and B&Bs for low prices. This was even allowed during Soviet times, and many Sochi citizens made a living out of it. However, if you don't understand Russian, it will be hard to find them on the internet.

**Grand hotel & SPA Rodina Vinogradnaya ul. 33, tel. (+7) (862) 253 90 00, [www.grandhotelrodina.ru](http://www.grandhotelrodina.ru).** At around 1000 Euros per night, this former sanatorium is the most expensive place to stay in Sochi. Complete with a great spa, it is bad for your wallet, but good for relaxation! Here you will meet Moscow's upper class. Indeed, it is very luxurious, and you will even have your own private Black Sea beach. ▶ 40 rooms (Room prices start at 37,000Rbl).

**Teremki Landyshevaya ul. 19, tel. (+7) 918 915 38 02, [www.teremki-sochi.ru](http://www.teremki-sochi.ru).** Staying in these wooden houses, which can accommodate either 4 or 6 people, is a pleasure. The owners are friendly and know what hospitality is (they speak English!). Located in the northern Mamayka district, it's a 15 minute bus drive from Sochi's train station (when there are no traffic jams). ▶ House for rent from 5,000Rbl depending on house type and the amount of guests. 5 days minimum.

**Tulip Inn Rosa Khutor Hotel Krasnaya Polyana, Estosadok, Rosa Khutor Alpine Ski Resort, tel. (+7) 862 243 00 00, [www.tulipinnrosakhutor.com](http://www.tulipinnrosakhutor.com).** Tulip Inn, unusually in Russia, manages to bat above its official ranking, for a three-star hotel it delivers service closer to four-star, and the helpful, obliging and multi-lingual staff do an excellent job in keeping guests happy. Part of an international chain, the hotel wears its Dutch influences lightly, with the Amsterdam restaurant offering a mixture of local and European cuisine. The company is planning to open a second hotel on-site under its Golden Tulip (4\*) branding in time for the Winter Olympics. ▶ 148 rooms (Room prices start at 3,800Rbl).

**Zhemchuzhina Hotel Complex Chemomorskaya ul. 3, tel. (+7) 862 266 11 88, [www.zhem.ru](http://www.zhem.ru).** Its name means pearl, and this giant one was inherited from the Soviet Union, but its appearance doesn't live up to its name. The plus side is that the beach is within walking distance. ▶ 956 rooms (Room prices start at 5,300Rbl).

## Restaurants

**Brigantina Neserbyskaya ul. 3, tel. (+7) 918 608 71 11, [www.sochicatering.com](http://www.sochicatering.com).** This is the best place for food, according to foreigners who frequently visit or live in Sochi. This French-owned restaurant overlooks the harbour, has outdoor tables, and the menu of seafood and grilled meats are irresistible. ▶ Open 08:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 24hrs..€€.

**Chaika Ul. Volkova 1, tel. (+7) 862 241 81 64.** The old port is going through a renovation and you can now dine and sip cappuccino in the former classic-style Sea Terminal. The Moscow prices are worth paying to experience the splendid view over the Black Sea and its port from the outdoor terrace. Don't forget to visit Chaika's toilet to get an inside look at the port building. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€.

**Tinkoff Primorskaya ul. 19, tel. (+7) 862 225 52 02, [www.tinkof.ru](http://www.tinkof.ru).** This Russian famous brewery restaurant has opened a three-storey hang-out at the beach - with excellent views over the Black Sea. Here you can watch sports or listen to live music on the top floor terrace, while enjoying food and drinks. This is an excellent place to pass days and nights. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. €€.

**Vostochny Kvartal Primorskaya ul. 7, tel. (+7) 862 266 10 99, [www.vkvartal-sochi.ru](http://www.vkvartal-sochi.ru).** According to locals, this is the best place in town to tuck in to Caucasian food, and we were not disappointed. This huge place offers all the well-known dishes; the ones unknown to the Caucasian kitchen, as well as the more addictive ones: khachapuri (cheese bread), shashliks (kebabs), lobio (kidney beans with onions and spices) and much more. There is also live music! ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00. €€.

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## Ski Resort Krasnaya Polyana



Sochi's summer charms have been the stuff of legend for generations of Soviet holidaymakers - but the challenge for 2014 has been to transform those beaches and sanatoriums into a year-round resort with top notch ski facilities. That process has put the name of Krasnaya Polyana (Red Meadow) firmly on the world's sporting map. The once unassuming town lies on the slower slopes of the Caucasus mountains, about 60km from Sochi's airport, set amid magnificent scenery.

It's a long way south, so the ski runs are high up on those slopes - a network of cable cars stretches its tentacles out of the Rosa Khutor resort complex and whisks skiers through a 20-minute botany class, starting in damp deciduous woodland before emerging into sparkling, snowy coniferous forest. During the ski season (relatively brief, from late December to April, but staff say the last two years have seen snow well into April) it can be a breathtaking transformation; in summer the whole region is home to walkers, hikers and other lovers of the great outdoors.

In the valley of the Mzymta river, Rosa Khutor is establishing itself as a resort with an alpine accent. Its cluster of hotels has a European look to it, while the town square's slightly Dutch architecture perhaps reflects the role of the Golden Tulip chain in developing the site. Off-piste entertainment is mostly confined to hotel bars, although there is a small ice-rink and a scattering of bars and restaurants available. A regular bus route (N°105) connects the resort with Krasnaya Polyana proper, the Aeroexpress terminal for trains to the airport, and downtown Sochi back on the coast. This autumn, the high-speed train will have daily services from Adler train station directly to the Krasnaya Polyana ski resort. The new railway is a fabulous route through the mountains.







It may not have Moscow's Red Square or St. Petersburg's Winter Palace, but Nizhny Novgorod still has some pretty fascinating places to visit. Nizhny's small but eclectic collection of museums and art galleries has something for everyone, and if you find yourself wanting more, there are plenty of interesting places to visit outside the city too. Check out more online at [nizhny-novgorod.inyourpocket.com](http://nizhny-novgorod.inyourpocket.com).

## Sightseeing

**The Kremlin**, tel. (+7) 831 422 10 80, [www.nglamz.ru](http://www.nglamz.ru).

Like any good Kremlin, Nizhny's red brick edifice overlooking the winding Volga would once have struck fear into the hearts of the baddies du jour. Even today, as it appears around the river bend to travellers arriving by boat, it is an impressive structure. Unlike Moscow's famous Kremlin it's no fortress and the public can wander at will through its territories. It currently houses municipal government centres, two galleries, a church and a war memorial, as well as small museums in some of the towers. But once, when cities were built on a different scale, it encircled the whole of Nizhny Novgorod and (on the whole) kept them safe from the scary world of medieval Russia. The original structure was made from wood, but the ill-advised combination of open fires and a wooden city came to a somewhat inevitable conclusion when it burnt down in 1513. It was then sensibly decided to make a stone version which when it was completed looked much as it does today. And that means: a two kilometre wall, four metres thick, thirteen towers and chock full of artillery points - not something you want to get on the wrong side of.

The wrong side, in fact, was the Khanate of Kazan, nowadays just the next city along the Volga, back then locked in a bloody and prolonged argument with Moscow. Nizhny's convenient position halfway between the two meant that it became Moscow's 'watch-city', a title that came with no small risk. It suffered its fair share of attacks and sieges over the years, but proved pretty much invincible. This could be thanks to the Kremlin, or it could be thanks to its fearsome inhabitants, as legend has it. With the fall of Kazan, the Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin lost its strategic importance and fell gradually into disrepair. A number of facelifts over the present decade have helped return it to something like its former glory. Nowadays you can stroll around on its grass, or take a walk inside its towering walls and enjoy the view. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission from 60Rbl.

## Hotels and Hostels

**Grand Hotel Oka Premium** (+7) 831 425 94 23, [www.en.hoteloka.ru](http://www.en.hoteloka.ru). ▶ Room prices start at 4,800Rbl.

**Ibis Nizhny Novgorod** (+7) 831 233 11 20, [www.ibis.com](http://www.ibis.com). Modern and comfortable, as one would expect from the Ibis chain, and only a short walk to the centre. ▶ Room prices start at 2,900Rbl. ★★

**Gorky Hostel** Bol. Pokrovskaya ul. 5/6, tel. (+7) 831 439 09 00, [www.gorkiy-hostel.ru/en](http://www.gorkiy-hostel.ru/en). ▶ (Room prices start at 490Rbl). ☹️

**Hostel Bugrov** Ul. Sovetskaya 20, ☑️ Moskovskaya, tel. (+7) 831 416 14 68, [www.bugrovhostel.ru/en/](http://www.bugrovhostel.ru/en/). ▶ (Room prices start at 400Rbl). ☹️

**Hostel Naberezhny** Nizhne-Volzhsкая nab. 7/2, tel. (+7) 831 230 13 15, [www.bereg-hostel.ru/en/](http://www.bereg-hostel.ru/en/). ▶ (Room prices start at 350Rbl).

## Eating and drinking

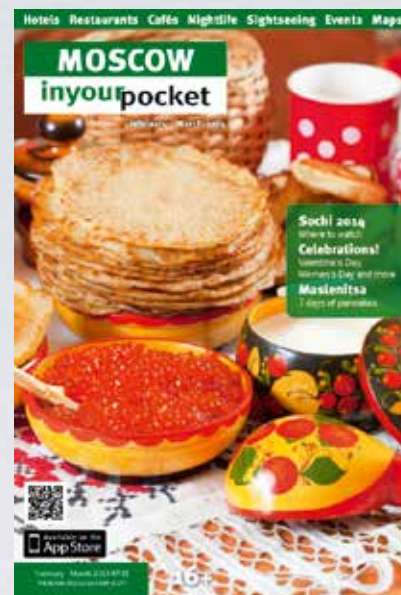
**Bocconcino** Alekseevskaya ul. 10/16 (in Lobachevsky Plaza shopping centre), tel. (+7) 831 296 55 75, [www.bocconcino.ru](http://www.bocconcino.ru). Not the place to eat with your hands, although the pizza tastes so good, you may really want to - the dough is magic: thin crispy and light. This classy pizzeria's decor screams Russia, e.g. the bone and cream coloured faux Tuscan interior, but the cuisine is pure Italy. The toppings are fresh and full of flavour. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. €€ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️

**Tiffani** Verkhnevolzhskaya nab. 8, tel. (+7) 831 419 41 01, [www.tiffanibar.ru](http://www.tiffanibar.ru). You can't say 'Nizhny Novgorod' without 'Volga' and this is one of the best places from which to enjoy Nizhny's enviable views of Russia's national river. The restaurant itself makes the most of this, with a plush crescent of seating offering a panorama of the Volga and countryside beyond. Fresh seafood, simply prepared, continues the aquatic theme, though be reassured, it's not actually sourced from the Volga's murky waters; in fact it's fresh from their aquarium. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00. €€. ☹️ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️

## Getting There

**By Plane:** There are several flights every day leaving from all three of Moscow's airports; they take just over an hour and prices start from around 3,000Rbl. **From St. Petersburg** there are typically two flights per day that take up to two hours and cost upwards of 3,500Rbl.

**By Train:** Trains typically take between four and eight hours and usually leave from Kurskiy Vokzal in Moscow. The **Sapsan** train that connects Moscow and St. Petersburg at high speed also extends to Nizhny Novgorod, stopping at Vladimir along the way, and takes just under four hours to make the journey (from 1,082Rbl). It'll set you back a bit but is the fastest and most convenient way to make it to Nizhny. One more new option is the **Lastochka** (Swallow) train which runs once a day in each direction, leaving Moscow at 14:15 and reaching the Volga city four hours later (850Rbl). Next fastest is the **Burevestnik** (from 330Rbl) train which is a little cheaper and takes 4h40mins.



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