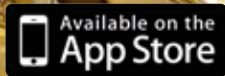
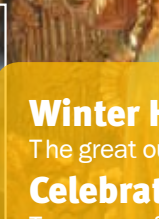


# MOSCOW

## inyourpocket

December 2013 - January 2014



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CONTENTS

3

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

## Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	4
A word from our publisher	
<b>News</b>	5
What's new in the city	
<b>Basics and Language</b>	6
Some useful information	
<b>Culture and Events</b>	8
The season is in full swing	
<b>Features</b>	
10 Years Russia In Your Pocket	16
Winter Holidays	19
<b>Hotels</b>	22
A fine selection of places to spend the night	
<b>Restaurants</b>	25
Russian, Italian, Caucasian and more	

<b>Nightlife</b>	32
Bars and clubs – how to stay out till 6 am	
<b>Sightseeing</b>	
The Kremlin & Red Square	36
Russia's fascinating history	39
<b>Shopping</b>	44
What to buy and where	
<b>Business directory</b>	46
Accountants and business clubs	
<b>Expat and Lifestyle</b>	48
Expat Experience and Religious Services	
<b>Getting around</b>	
Transport, tickets and more	49
Maps	52
<b>Russia</b>	56
St. Petersburg	57
Kostroma	60
Veliky Novgorod	61
Petrozavodsk	62
Sochi	64
Nizhny Novgorod	66



Happy faces on the cover surrounded by a selection of the best pictures of Moscow we have used for our covers over the past five years. This way we want to share our party mood with you. Ten years ago the very first Russian In Your Pocket was born and that's reason for celebration!

Our publication started in the capital's northern sister St. Petersburg. With the growing influx of foreigners coming to Russia we understood we needed to expand to the capital and in 2008 Moscow In Your Pocket joined the family. The 2008 crisis hit right after Moscow In Your Pocket was released and made for a tough time but we are here and we are here to stay! When we first started talking about a Moscow In Your Pocket I was a bit afraid to enter this giant city but when I came here, it was love at first sight. My standard reply to the standard question about which city I prefer is that I love both cities just the way they are.

One cannot but love St. Petersburg's beauty, it is unique because of its grandeur and the history that surrounds you on every corner. Moscow is a completely different beast, and is crazy. It's all about business but trust me if you take the effort to become friends with Moscow, it will surprise you how much beauty and variety there is to see. So I do really hope that the plans to make visiting Russia easier do work out. It is my personal opinion that a city like Moscow should have at least the same number of visitors as any other megapolis.

Regardless of what happens with visas, we promise that we will continue doing what we are good at; providing visitors to the city with the most up to date information they need to discover the real Moscow, whether it is a great exhibition, a local Pirog House or the best Indian restaurant, we've got it covered.

In this issue we highlight some of the many options to enjoy the cold December-January months. My advice is to go out and explore! Go skating, cross country skiing or ramble through the city and run into Ded Moroz and Snegurochka doing their rounds at the city's parks and theatres in the run up to New Year.

Happy holidays and see you in 2014!

Bonnie van der Velde, *Russia In Your Pocket*

## Europe In Your Pocket



It's now nearly 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 **75** cities across the continent, and we will be expanding even further in 2014 with the publication of a guide to **Johannesburg** in South Africa: our first guide outside Europe.

What's more, early in 2014 our already terrific guides will be getting a fresh new look, designed to offer our readers a better experience. The roll-out of this new look begins in February. To keep up to date with all that's new at *In Your Pocket*, like us on **Facebook** ([facebook.com/inyourpocket](http://facebook.com/inyourpocket)) or follow us on **Twitter** ([twitter.com/inyourpocket](http://twitter.com/inyourpocket)).

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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### Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors. The publisher does not bear responsibility for the accuracy of advertising information.

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## New Accor Hotel complex



Ideally placed for passengers arriving on the train from Domodedovo Airport, Accor Hotels' new Moscow site is due to open its doors in the beginning of December. The complex combines two hotels, the 4-star Mercure and the 3-star IBIS, with the first Adagio aparthotel in Russia. 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. Rates and availability are still unknown at the time of going to press, but more details are expected on Accor's website, [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com), in due course.

## From Russia to Africa



The latest addition to the In Your Pocket world is a new guide to Johannesburg, South Africa with the first issue due on February 01, 2014. South Africa In Your Pocket's publisher Laurice Taitz says she was inspired to bring the essential city guide to Johannesburg after finding a copy of our guide in her hotel during a holiday in the Russian capital in 2011. Much like Moscow, Johannesburg is also seeing steady increase in business travellers and tourists looking for reliable information and Laurice decided that In Your Pocket is exactly what Africa's business capital needs. What's more, the South African publisher also managed to find a former Russia In Your Pocket editor, Louise Whitworth, to join the South African team. We wish them every success in this exciting new venture! [www.inyourpocket.com/southafrica/johannesburg](http://www.inyourpocket.com/southafrica/johannesburg)

## Long Russian holidays

In Russia you don't just get one day off work to nurse your New Year hangover - you get a whole week! Russia, the land of plenty, has for many years traditionally taken ten days of national holiday directly after New Year for the country to get some rest and generally hibernate as the temperatures drop. Critics of the incredibly long holidays point out that the tradition costs the country millions of dollars in lost business every year and that it ensures that workers have a doubly challenging workload when they finally make it back to their desks in mid-January. This year the national holidays will continue to be plentiful, but will stretch only from 01 - 08 January, with a short week back in the office starting on Thursday 09. As per the Russian Orthodox calendar, Russians celebrate Christmas on January 07, meaning 25 December will be a normal working day.

## In Your Pocket Is The Best!



We are proud to announce that **St. Petersburg In Your Pocket** has been awarded first place for the Best Periodical Publication in Tourism by the St. Petersburg Hospitality Awards 2013! Travelling is always better if you have a guide to point out interesting places, explains the culture to you, the historical context surrounding what you are seeing and of course, tells you about the best cultural performances and exhibitions. This is the task In Your Pocket in Russia has been doing and the chances are that if you are reading this you are likely to agree that In Your Pocket is a great guide. On behalf of the entire team at In Your Pocket we would like to thank everyone who plays a part in making this publication the best in St. Petersburg. We live in a great city surrounded by great people, without the ongoing cultural events, the active nightlife, the history we couldn't make this magazine as good as it is. Finally, without YOU, the reader, we couldn't do it. In Your Pocket would like to thank you for your support and wish you a fantastic festive season and happy travels.

## 120 years of GUM

There's been a brisk trade taking place down one side of Red Square for centuries – but this winter marks the 120th anniversary of the opening of GUM. The elegant shopping arcades have undergone plenty of changes in that time, from a Tsarist-era bazaar to a showcase for the fruits of Socialism, before re-emerging as a swanky spot for modern-day shoppers. The start of winter marks the start of the anniversary celebrations, with a display of high fashions taking over the trading lines. In total, 350 mannequins show off the various looks that have been sold here over the decades, each image carefully researched by fashion historian Alexander Vasiliev. [www.gum.ru](http://www.gum.ru)



## 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.



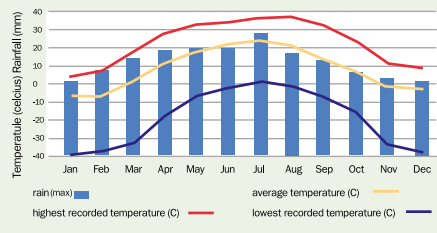
If you are a Master Card PayPass or VISA PayWave holder, you can easily pay for the fare directly at the turnstiles Aeroexpress.

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



## Climate

Winters in Russia are notorious – they've defeated both the armies of Hitler and Napoleon. In December the temperatures begin to drop, but there can still be wet days, whereas January is usually the coldest month and the city will be blanketed in snow. Time to wrap up warm!



## 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 Mendeleev – 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. *Sovietskoye shampanskoye* (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	Р	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	YO	Н	Н	Х	KH	Я	YA
Ж	ZH	О	О	Ц	TS	Ъ,ь	no sound

## Language schools

**Liden and Denz Language Centre A-1, Gruzinsky pr. 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 pr. 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: Vatrushka

A *vatrushka* is sweet doughnut shaped Russian pastry which typically is filled in the middle with sweet cottage cheese (*tvorog*) or jam. Their western equivalent is often said to be the Danish pastry, although Russian *vatrushki* are made with a yeastier bread dough and can also be found with savoury fillings. In honour of their resemblance to the sweet treat, those giant inflatable rubber rings which kids and adults like to bound down snowy hillsides on are also called *vatrushka*.



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## Numbers

1 adin	12 dvinatsat	50 pyatdesyat
2 dva	13 trinatsat	60 shesdesyat
3 tri	14 chetyrnatsat	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 tysyacha
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.**  
**Crocus City Hall MKAD 65-66 Km, M Myakinino, tel. (+7) 499 550 00 55, www.crocus-hall.ru.**  
**SK Olimpisky C-1, Olimpisky pr. 16, M Pr. Mira, tel. (+7) 495 786 33 33, 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.**  
**Moscow Conservatory, the Great Hall B-3, Bol. Nikitskaya ul. 13/6, M Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 629 94 01, www.mosconsrv.ru.**  
**State Kremlin Palace C-3, Ul. Vozdvizhenka 1, M Biblioteka im. Lenina, tel. (+7) 495 628 52 32, gkd-kremlin.ru.**  
**Orkestrion Concert Hall Ul. Garibaldi 19, M Novye Cheryomushki, tel. (+7) 495 504 07 85, 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.**  
**Bolshoi Theatre C-2, Teatralnaya pl. 1, M Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 499 455 55 55, www.bolshoi.ru.**  
**Helikon Opera B-3, Ul. Novy Arbat 11, bldg. 2, M Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 695 65 84, 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.**  
**Maly Theatre C-2, Teatralny proezd 1, M Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 495 625 48 59, www.maly.ru.**  
**Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theatre C-2, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 17, M Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 629 28 35, stanmus.ru.**  
**Vakhtangov Theatre B-3, Ul. Arbat 26, M Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 499 241 16 79, 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.**

## December events

**13.12 Friday**  
**17:00 Kinozvuk festival**

**B-1, Glinka museum of musical culture, ul. Fadeeva 4, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 739 62 26, noirmusic.ru.** Elsewhere, orchestras and ensembles have long been keen to attract audiences by devoting themselves to movie soundtracks - whether it's the London Symphony Orchestra doing the Imperial March from Star Wars, or a Korean group putting on a symphonic version of computer game sounds. Now the concept is coming to Russia, lights and fireworks and all, with the Noir Quartet giving its take of some Hollywood classics - and a few numbers from the likes of Angry Birds and Super Mario Bros to boot. It's something of a departure from the Glinka Museum's usual highbrow fare, and some local listeners may raise an eyebrow at the absence of any of the much-loved Soviet cinema songs, but it promises a fun evening. ▶ Tickets 600 - 2,000Rbl.

**13.12 Friday - 31.12 Tuesday**  
**Klass Quartet: Tapyor Show**

**Pl. Zhuravleva 1, M Elektrozavodskaya, tel. (+7) 495 933 58 59, www.teatrntp.ru.** Moscow's Independent Theater Project is set to unleash a new kind of performance on audiences in the city with a genre-defying show full of music and dance. Dialogue 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.



**15.12 Sunday**  
**Princess Anastasia**

**C-3, State Kremlin Palace (SKP), ul. Vozdvizhenka 1, M Biblioteka im. Lenina, tel. (+7) 495 628 52 32, gkd-kremlin.ru.** A glittering array of ice-dancing stars is taking to the stage for a luxurious new production from St. Petersburg. The National Ice Theatre commemorates the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty with its portrayal of the life of Princess Anastasia, daughter of the last Tsar. The company is led by Olympic champion skaters Elena Berezhnaya and Alexei Urmanov, with fellow Olympic medalist Irina Slutskaya also involved. The show premiered in Petersburg in November at a gala event visited by guests from the International Olympic Committee and comes to Kremlin Palace for the first time in mid-December. ▶ Tickets 800 - 4,000Rbl.

**17.12 Tuesday - 17.04 Thursday**

**The sound of Guarneri**

**B-1, The Central Museum of Musical Culture, ul. Fadeeva 4, M Mayakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 739 62 26, www.glinka.museum.** Moscow's Glinka Museum of Musical Culture is a treasure trove of fascinating instruments, from Russian folk traditions to the great workshops of Europe. But music is a living genre, best experienced in concert rather than seen in a display case. Which is why this season the museum is running a series of recitals to show off some of the most valuable instruments in its collection, while giving audiences a chance to look more closely at the craftsmanship behind the music. December's concert showcases a violin from the workshop of Giuseppe Guarneri, a member of a renowned dynasty of instrument makers from Cremona, Italy. Works by Beethoven and Franck will be performed by Lena Semenova on the early 18th-century violin. ▶ Tickets 250 - 300Rbl.



**20.12 Friday - 29.12 Sunday**

**Die Fledermaus**

**B-3, Helikon-Opera, ul. Novy Arbat 11, M Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 695 65 84, www.helikon.ru.** The music of Vienna's Waltz King, Johann Strauss, is synonymous with the festive season in Central Europe, where a string of glamorous balls tends to mark the occasion. So what better way to get into the spirit of the season than to check out Helikon Opera's production of Strauss's opera Die Fledermaus? It might not have the grandeur of the New Year Concert at the Vienna Philharmonic, but this tuneful confection is as frothy an evening out as the opera world can offer - perfect for those dark December evenings. The production runs from Dec. 20-29. ▶ Tickets 400 - 2,700Rbl.

**Through 23.12 Monday**

**19:00 Spirit of Japan**

**C-3, Rakhmaninov Hall of Moscow Conservatory, ul. Bolshaya Nikitskaya 11, M Biblioteka Imeni Lenina, tel. (+7) 495 629 94 01, www.mosconsrv.ru.** In Moscow it might not feel like it, but Russia is, geographically speaking, Japan's nearest neighbour. The countries are separated by just 40km of water between Sakhalin and Hokkaido and the island nation has been supporting the annual "Spirit of Japan" music festival here since 1999 to help cement links between the two cultures. This year's festival, which runs at the Moscow Conservatory until Dec. 23, combines ancient and modern music for traditional Japanese instruments, performances by Japanese musicians and ensembles, works by Japanese composers in the European classical tradition and music by Russian and European composers on Japanese themes. Highlights include a shamisen recital on Oct. 27 and a performance of traditional music from the Gagaku court on Nov. 13. ▶ Tickets 100 - 350Rbl.



## Russian Rock

**05.12 Thursday - 07.12 Saturday**  
**21:00 Boris Grebenshchikov**

**Arena Moscow, Leningradsky pr. 31, bldg. 4, M Dinamo, tel. (+7) 495 665 99 99, www.aquariumband.com.** For many, the history of Russian rock can be summed up as the BG era. Boris Grebenshchikov bestrides the scene as a guru-like colossus and has done for four decades. In Soviet times he was an oracle of the underground: frontman of the legendary Akvarium, co-founder of the Leningrad Rock Factory which dragged electric guitars from the darkest recesses of the Politburo's nightmares and put them into the national musical consciousness. Following the collapse of the USSR, BG remained a talismanic figure and Akvarium's rootsy rock continued to be the soundtrack of the restrained rebellion of the mainstream. While some today question his relevance, there's no question of his influence. ▶ Tickets 1,500 - 15,000Rbl.

**06.12 Friday**

**20:30 Mumiy Troll**

**Stadium Live, Leningradsky pr. 80, bldg. 17, M Sokol, tel. (+7) 495 540 55 40, mumiytroll.co.** Mumiy Troll is perhaps the best-loved Russian rock band, having gone from edgy outsiders via frustrated Eurovision contenders to cultural ambassadors in the space of a 30-year career. This year's album, SOS Sailor, represents something of a summing up of three decades of creating an indie-rock sound with a determinedly Russian feel. But a strong accent of the band's native Vladivostok has not limited its appeal. Unusually among Russian acts, Mumiy Troll's international tours reach beyond the Russian diaspora to cultivate a global fan-base. ▶ Tickets 1,890 - 15,000Rbl.

**13.12 Friday - 14.12 Saturday**  
**19:00 Zemfira**

**Concert hall Russia, Luzhniki 24, M Sportivnaya, tel. (+7) 495 637 06 35, www.zemfira.ru.** Zemfira's long-awaited studio album 'Zhit v tvooy golovye' finally came out earlier this year - to reviews that were perhaps more relieved than ecstatic - and the singer-songwriter is wrapping up a busy gig and festival program with a December show here in Moscow. For the uninitiated, this is typically lo-fi rock ballads, often with an edgy subtext, but with a good ear for a catchy melody. For her fans, she's something of a siren of Russian alternative rock, a status which makes her a provocative presence in the tabloids even when she's far from the recording studio. Her shows tend to be intense, emotional experiences, punctuated by word-perfect sing-alongs from a crowd which knows exactly what it likes.



## Ballet

Ballet is the quintessence of Russian performance, and with so many fairytales of dance on offer, Christmas and New Year is the perfect time to catch a show.

**The Bolshoi** is the city's big hitter, and its annual New Year production of Tchaikovsky's **'Nutcracker'** is always one of the hottest tickets in town. Performances this year are on between Dec. 24 and Jan. 8. If you can't get to that one, the dancers also show off their moves in performances of **'Coppelia'** (Dec. 18-22) and the Balanchine triple-bill **'Jewelry'** (Jan. 15-19). Ticket information can be found at [www.bolshoi.ru](http://www.bolshoi.ru).

Elsewhere the **Kremlin Palace Ballet Troupe** offers its own quartet of productions in January. The company formed as an off-shoot from the Bolshoi in the 1990s and has since carved out a good reputation of its own. It's **'Nutcracker'**, on Dec. 16, sold out early, but in the New Year there are other shows to check out. Two shows take music more commonly associated with opera and use it as the inspiration for a dance – **'The Marriage of Figaro'** combines the works of Rossini and Mozart on Jan. 24, while Glinka's adaptation of Pushkin's fantasy **'Ruslan and Lyudmila'** takes the stage as a ballet on Jan. 29. There are also two traditional ballets – Pugni's **'Esmeralda'** on Jan. 22 and Adam's **'Giselle'** on Jan. 31. For the addresses of the venues see page 8.



## Russian Orthodox Epiphany

Ice swimming has been a practiced in Russia for centuries although there are no clear details of how exactly the tradition began. The most common form of ice swimming, is the religious ice baptism. Every year on the epiphany (January 19th in the Russian Orthodox calendar) Russian Orthodox believers are plunged into a blessed section of frozen water three times in honour of Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan by John the Baptist. During the time of communism the ice baptism tradition all but disappeared, but in recent years this way of marking the Kreschenie (epiphany) has again become popular. Last year more than 30,000 thousand people in Moscow alone took the plunge. If you are hoping to watch the spectacle it is best to either get up very early in the morning or arrive around midnight - as with many Orthodox religious ceremonies, the Kreschenie usually takes place during the night. Icy baptisms take place across Moscow although one of the most accessible river plunging areas is at the river port at metro **Strogino**.

## January events



**24.01 Friday - 31.05 Saturday**  
**Monte Cristo**

**C-2, Academic Theater of Operetta, ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 6, [M]Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 495 925 50 50, www.mosoperetta.ru.** Russia's biggest stage musical is back in January - but chances to see the golden cast of 'Monte Cristo' reprise their starring

roles are limited. The blockbuster returns to the Operetta Theatre on Jan. 24, and there will be 25 further performances in the following five months. It's a chance to reprise the triumphant staging of Alexandre Dumas's famous novel, a show which has held a much-loved place on the city's stage since it opened in 2008. Having reinvigorated the entire Russian musical genre, the show now shares the stage with its theatrical cousin 'Count Orlov', a follow-up hit from the same team which is also running in the upcoming season. ▶ Tickets 800 - 3,200Rbl.

**31.01 Friday**  
**20:30 OneRepublic**

**Stadium Live, Leningradsky pr. 80, bldg. 17, [M]Sokol, tel. (+7) 495 540 55 40, www.stadium-live.ru.** OneRepublic got rave reviews to its previous Russian tour, and the band's return is likely to be one of the first red letter dates for pop pickers in 2014. Admittedly, there are plenty who would sneer at the boyband's rampant commercial success, seeing this as evidence of slick marketing triumphing over musical substance. But there's no question that frontman Ryan Tedder delivers a compelling live spectacle ideally geared to get his legion of teeny fans squealing with delight. The show is part of the on-going 'Native' tour, in support of the release of the band's third studio album in early 2013. ▶ Tickets 1,890 - 12,000Rbl.



**31.01 Friday - 01.02 Saturday**  
**Mozart & Salieri. Requiem.**

**B-3, Helikon-Opera, ul. Novy Arbat 11, [M]Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 695 65 84, www.helikon.ru.** The rivalry between the brash upstart Mozart and the established but mediocre Salieri is the stuff of cinema legend following the

massive success of Amadeus. While the lurid legend may be livelier than the true-life history of musical jealousy in classical Vienna, there's no denying that the tale resonates down the ages and continues to intrigue modern audiences. Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, best known for his role in establishing a Russian national style of orchestral and operatic music, was no less fascinated than the rest, and on a rare excursion away from folkloric themes he produced a one-act opera retelling the familiar story. Helikon pairs that work with a staged performance of Mozart's Requiem, unfinished at his death ... and perhaps written in the knowledge that Salieri was plotting his demise. Tickets 250 - 850Rbl.

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## Exhibitions

**02.12 Monday - 26.01 Sunday**  
**Fashion with a Russian flavour**

**B-4, MMAM (Moscow Multimedia Art Museum), ul. Ostozhenka 16, [M]Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 637 11 00, www.mamm-mdf.ru.** Haute Couture has always had a strong Russian accent - handed down from the fashions of elegant émigrés fleeing the revolution, colored by the ideas of Diaghilev or inspired by the constructivist fervor of the early USSR. For Viktoria Davydova, editor of Vogue Russia, this is a source of huge pride - and the starting point for an exhibition marking the 15th anniversary of the Russian edition of the fashion bible. From supermodels to Soviet imagery, from creativity at home to influence throughout the world, this collection of about 100 images tells the story of fashion à la Russe at the Multimedia Art Center. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon.



**03.12 Tuesday - 16.02 Sunday**  
**Above the barriers**

**C-3, Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, Ul. Volkhonka 12, [M]Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 697 95 78, www.artsmuseum.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.



**09.12 Monday - 16.02 Sunday**  
**Modern-day fairy tales**

**Grinberg gallery, Winzavod, 4-y Syromyatnichesky per. 1, bldg. 6, [M]Kurskaya, tel. (+7) 495 228 11 70, grinbergphotos.com.** Snow White is the inspiration for contemporary photographic duo Mark and Sonia Whitesnow, a couple from Kirov in central Russia. In a world which sometimes seems to replace the fantastical with the humdrum, these two train their lens on the everyday world and transform it into something extraordinary. It creates a kind of hyper-reality, where scenes from real life take on the unreal sheen of a computer game. It's the logical conclusion of Marshall McLuhan's famous conclusion that the medium is the message: what isn't naturally perfect can be artificially improved at the will of the artist. Challenging, yet intriguing.



**10.12 Tuesday - 31.01 Friday**  
**Solzhenitsyn remembered**

**C-3, Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, Ul. Volkhonka 12, [M]Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 697 95 78, www.artsmuseum.ru.** Five years after the death of Soviet dissident writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Pushkin Gallery features an exhibition about his work and beliefs. For many, his 'Gulag Archipelago' and 'Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich' served as searing indictments of the injustices of the Soviet era; for others his embrace of socially conservative Orthodox values raised the specter of an outdated chauvinism. This show is likely to focus more on Solzhenitsyn's place as a spokesman for Russia's collective conscience in the closing decades of the 20th century, and draws on the writer's original manuscripts and personal effects. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon.

## Formula Kino Gorizont

**Big-screen Bolshoi**

**A-6, Formula Kino Gorizont, Komsomolsky pr. 21, bldg. 10, [M]Frunzenskaya, tel. (+7) 800 250 80 25, www.theatrehd.ru/ru/schedule.** The Bolshoi ballet is one of Russia's artistic calling cards - and a combination of pricey tickets and high demand can make it difficult for even the most dedicated culture vulture to get into the theatre's lavish halls. Happily, though, help is at hand. A recent initiative has seen the theatre organize live cinema screenings of selected performances, bringing the skills of the stars to a wider audience. Upcoming live screenings include Tchaikovsky's fairytale 'Sleeping Beauty' on Dec. 22 and 'Jewels' on Jan. 19, a compilation of three great pieces of choreography by Georges Balanchin to the music of Stravinsky, Faure and Tchaikovsky. The Formula Kino chain is showing the screen versions.

**Russian classic, New York accent**

**A-6, Formula Kino Gorizont, Komsomolsky pr. 21, bldg. 10, [M]Frunzenskaya, tel. (+7) 800 250 80 25, www.theatrehd.ru/ru/schedule.** New York's Met Opera has long been the professional home of top Russian singers, with Anna Netrebko and Dmitry Khvorostovsky among those who are currently performing there. But now, thanks to a global cinema feed, it's possible for audiences back in the motherland to catch them in action. Netrebko's interpretation of Tatyana in 'Eugene Onegin' is on screen twice in December (7 and 28) as Moscow cinemas re-show the live broadcast taken earlier this year. There's also live action from the celebrated theatre on Dec. 14, when Verdi's Shakespearian comedy 'Falstaff' is the production on offer. Screenings are organized by the Formula Kino chain.



10.12 Tuesday - 20.01 Monday

### Traditional toys

**C-1, All-Russia Decorative Art Museum, Delegatskaya ul. 3, [M]Tsvetnoy Bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 609 01 46, www.vmdpni.ru.** In the days before computers, iPhones and hi-tech gadgets, kids' Christmas wish lists looked very different. Recalling that era, the Museum of Decorative Arts is hosting a special exhibition of traditional wooden toys linked to the Bogorodsky craftsmen in the town of Sergeys Posad. These intricate carved wooden toys have a long history - one exhibit, 'Chickens', is believed to date back to Pushkin's days. The exhibition includes many of the trademark Bogorodsky toys, and represents a look back at a simpler age. But it's not all rustic nostalgia: while the firm began by producing representations of animals or country scenes, it developed to incorporate the industrial achievements of the USSR, the triumphs of the Space Race and the Moscow Olympics in its repertoire. For many Soviet children, it promises to be a show steeped in nostalgia; for visitors it's a rare glimpse of the daily life of the recent past.



14.12 Saturday - 20.01 Monday

### The art of Dance

**C-1, All-Russia Decorative Art Museum, Delegatskaya ul. 3, [M]Tsvetnoy Bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 609 01 46, www.vmdpni.ru.** Throughout history artists have risen to the challenge of capturing the speed and elegant motion of dance on static paper or canvas. That combination of music, movement, colour and emotion has been irresistible for centuries, and the extensive collections of the Museum of Decorative Art features a wide range of work inspired by dancers. Some of the highlights of that collection will go on display in a special exhibition dedicated to the fine art of dance, a show which brings together items from the Bolshoi Theatre and leading European collections as well. As well as the regular exhibition, there is also a children's charity program including works by seriously ill children and fund-raising auction.



Through 15.12 Sunday

### The art of fashion

**C-3, Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, Ul. Volkhonka 12, [M]Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 697 95 78, www.arts-museum.ru.** Valentin Yudashkin is one of Russia's most renowned designers, and after 25 years in the business his greatest creations are on display at a special exhibition. Over the 50 collections he has produced, the artisan traditions of top-quality needle-

work are a consistent theme, which is why he often draws on the works of great artists, sculptors and architects to inspire his own designs. The modern pieces, with their echoes of the past, find a new home away from the catwalk and among the Pushkin Gallery's collection of fine arts from the Ancient World or Renaissance Italy. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon.



is the city's Metro. Those marbled halls represent more than just a transport network: it's a treasure trove of public art and a powerful embodiment of the ideals of an earlier age. For a bit more background, the Pron Gallery at Winzavod is hosting a special exhibition devoted to the artists who shaped the network - specifically Alexander Deyneka, Alexei Shchushev and Alexander Dushkin. The display explores sketches and designs of stations familiar to commuters today, and also shows some of the ambitious schemes which were never completed. Anyone who has traveled around Moscow is sure to be fascinated by this collection.



Through 12.01 Sunday

### Russian and Dutch art of the first part of the 19th century

**C-4, Tretyakov State Gallery, Lavrushinsky per. 12, [M]Tretyakovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 951 13 62, www.tretyakovgallery.ru.** The great Dutch masters - Rembrandt, Hals and others - are well represented in Russia's museums. But at the Tretyakov Gallery in November art lovers have a chance to get acquainted with a series of lesser-

known works dating from the early 19th century. As artistic fashions shifted towards Romanticism, Dutch artists followed suit, even if their works have tended to be known only to a small circle of specialists. The Tretyakov exhibition, part of the on-going year of the Netherlands in Russia, will include portraits by Cornelius Kruszman, still lives by Johannes van Osa and Landscapes by Barend Cornelius Kulkula. These works are to be shown alongside important Russian artists of the same period such as Troponin, Kiprensky and early works of Aivazovsky. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu, Fri 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 200Rbl.

Through 19.01 Sunday

### Performance Now

**Jewish museum & Tolerance centre, ul. Obratsova 11, bldg. 1A, [M]Dostoyevskaya, tel. (+7) 495 645 05 50, www.jewish-museum.ru.** Performance art has become one of the most powerful new trends in the contemporary art world, and the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center explores some of the highlights of the genre's short history in its latest exhibition. Curated by RoseLee Goldberg, one of the leading theorists of this strand of visual expression, Performance Now focuses on the rise of performance art in the first decade of this century, looking at some of the key artists who have led its development. Bringing together video footage, objects, drawings and photos, the exhibition shows off some of the iconic moments of the past 10 years. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Fri 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat. Admission 300Rbl.

Through 25.12

### Wednesday

### Metro Marvels

**Proun Gallery, Winzavod, 4-y Siromyatnicheskyy per.1, bldg.6, [M]Chkalovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 917 46 46, www.winzavod.ru/galleries/proun.** No visitor to Moscow manages to escape the seductive subterranean labyrinth that

Through 19.01 Sunday

### More Dutch delights

**C-3, Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, Ul. Volkhonka 12, [M]Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 697 95 78, www.arts-museum.ru.** The great Dutch tradition of formal group portraits - a forerunner of the group photos beloved of modern-day companies, teams and societies - comes to Moscow in the form of 10 large-scale works loaned from the Amsterdam Museum. The selected pictures rarely leave their homeland, so this is rare opportunity for Moscow culture vultures to see some of these monumental works at close quarters. The centerpiece of the exhibition of Govert Flink's massive portrayal of the riflemen of the company of Lt Heydekoper; Dirk Jacobs, Nicholas Elias Picken and Bartolomeus van der Helst are among the other artists represented in another show which forms part of the 2013 year of Russian and Dutch cultural collaboration. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon.



Through 22.01 Wednesday

### Coronation in the Moscow Kremlin

**C-3, the Kremlin, [M]Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 495 697 03 49, www.kreml.ru.** A new exhibition at the Kremlin revels in the pomp and pageantry of Russia's Imperial age. From the splendor of the crown of Monomakh to the recently-discovered original of Tsar Pavel I's 'Act of Succession', it's a tour of the highlights of royal Russian history. Amid all the magnificence - and there's plenty of that, with jewel-encrusted accoutrements and lavish coronation outfits to the fore - there is also an explanation of the symbolism of the entire ceremony as wedded the ruler to the country and its people - for better or worse. Many of the exhibits are making their first public appearance after painstaking restoration, adding to the excitement around one of the blockbuster shows of the year. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Thu.



## Art Salon on Starosadsky



**D-3, Starosadsky per. 10, [M]Kitay Gorod, tel. (+7) 495 624 15 83, 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.



Through 30.01

### Thursday

### The Romanovs - Portrait of a Dynasty

**C-3, Historical museum, Ploshchad Revolutsii 2/3, [M]Teatralnaya, tel. (+7) 495 692 40 19, www.1812shm.ru.** 2013 marks the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty, tsars of Russia for more than 300 years until the 1917 revolution. To celebrate, the State Historical

Museum is holding an exhibition of portraits of the men and women who shaped Russia's destiny across the centuries. For much of the Romanov era, the Royal Family was the predominant subject of Russian secular art. Portraits of the royals, and depictions of their lives, was an essential way of ensuring that the country's rulers - and national symbols - became familiar to every Russian. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 11:00 - 21:00. Closed Tue. Admission 200Rbl.

Odin bilet - One ticket  
Dva bileta - Two tickets

**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.** 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. Since October 17 the exhibition is open until 22:00 on Thursdays. Box office is open until 21:30 Admission 250Rbl.

**Through 10.02 Monday****Transforming traditions**

**C-3, State History Museum, Red Square 1, [M]Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 692 37 31, www.shm.ru.** The troubled Russian region of Dagestan usually only hits the headlines when it's bad news - but the mountainous Southern republic also has a proud tradition in crafts. Manaba Magomedova, who died earlier this year at the age of 85, is a unique representative of those traditions: the first, and so far only woman to specialize in intricate handcrafted metalwork. Eleven generations of her family had passed the family business from father to son in the village of Kubachi, but fate decreed that the 12th generation would see the craftsman's tools pass to the daughter, Manaba. Celebrating her life, the State History Museum displays some of her finest items, ranging from jewelry to daggers, musical instruments to ornate book covers, all rendered in silver and precious metals.

**Through 30.03 Sunday**  
**Soviet Family Life**

**B-5, Tretyakov Gallery, Krymsky Val 10, [M]Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 499 238 13 78, www.tretyakovgallery.ru.** In parallel with the exhibition about work and industry, this sister display launched as part of the 2013 Biennale explores the inner world of childhood and family life in the USSR. Many of the works on display are consciously separate from the 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.



sciously separate from the 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.

**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 labor, 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 labor lauded by the Soviets with modern-day interpretations of the world of work.

**Stanislavsky Music Theatre**

These days many discerning opera lovers and balletomanes are opting to go to the Stanislavsky Music Theatre. After a successful renovation the theatre on Bol. Dmitrovka has gone from strength to strength, gaining a reputation for beautiful productions which match the elegant surroundings. These winter months you can enjoy such classics as 'the Nutcracker', 'Swan Lake', 'Evgeny Onegin' and many others.

**Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theatre C-2, Ul. Bol.Dmitrovka 17, [M]Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 629 28 35.**

**Last chance for Olympic hopefuls**

Once the Games get underway, the hockey tournament is likely to be the hottest ticket in town. Team Russia is always expected to put up a strong show and after an embarrassing quarter-final exit in Vancouver last time the pressure is greater than ever on home ice. Much of the roster for the main event will be drawn from Russia's regiment of NHL stars, but head coach Zinetula Bilyaletdinov will also be looking to the top players from the KHL to stake their claims for a shot at gold. That's why the Channel 1 Cup, played Dec. 19-22, is so important. It's the final competitive outing prior to the Olympics, and pits Russia against Finland, Sweden and the Czechs in a four-team mini-tournament as part of the Euro Tour. Last year, in Moscow, a Russian roster studded with locked out NHL stars proved far too strong for its Euro rivals, but this time things are a bit different. It's a local line-up, with many playing for their place at the main event two months later. Earlier rounds of the Euro Tour have seen coach Bill select some experimental line-ups, but on home ice he's likely to have a final look at the likes of Ilya Kovalchuk, Evgeni Kuznetsov, Sergei Mozyakin and Denis Kokarev as he reviews his options before going into the Olympics. It's also the first time the Olympic Hockey Arena - the 'Bolshoi' will host senior international action. Previously it was used for the World U18 Championship in April, with Russia eventually finishing fourth, in front of large and enthusiastic crowds. Now, much like Russia's players, the stadium management faces its final test before the arena becomes the focus of the sporting world in February.

**The behemoths of basketball**

CSKA Moscow plays host to two of the top Euro League basketball contenders at the start of December - and urgently needs to pick up some good results after a mixed start in this season's competition. On Dec. 6 Istanbul's Fenebahce Ulker, leading Group A at the time of writing, arrives in Moscow full of confidence after a convincing 86-60 win at the end of October - CSKA's heaviest defeat of the season so far. Then on Dec. 12 Barcelona is the visitor, with CSKA looking to avenge a 70-79 reverse in Catalunya early in the tournament. Both games are scheduled to start at 8 pm, and tickets are available online at www.cskabasket.com. Although Russian domestic basketball has been restructured this season, with the top clubs no longer contesting the national championship, local rivalry continues in the VTB League. The latest chapter in the on-going battle between CSKA and Khimki unfolds in Moscow on Dec. 15.

**A hunger for hockey**

Moscow hockey fans are deprived of their usual pre-Christmas treat, since the international Channel 1 Cup is relocating to Sochi. But the KHL season continues, and all three of the capital's clubs have plenty to play for as the race for the play-off places takes shape. Early December brings two big games on successive nights, with defending KHL champ Dynamo Moscow facing off against Eastern Conference high flier Ak Bars Kazan on Dec. 5 (7:30 pm). A long injury list hasn't stopped Dynamo setting the pace in the West, helped by the emergence of Latvian forward Martins Karsums and the rapidly maturing defensive duo of Andrei Mironov and Denis Barantsev, both thrust into the spotlight following injuries to Janne Jallasvaara and Filip Novak. The following night unpredictable CSKA takes on Ilya Kovalchuk's SKA St. Petersburg in the clash of the two Army Clubs. Kovalchuk's summer move home from New Jersey Devils made him the hottest property in the KHL, but so far his team has relied just as heavily on Czech sharp-shooter Roman Cervenka and Viktor Tikhonov, grandson of the celebrated Soviet coach. For the home side, former Team Russia captain Alexei Morozov and current offense leader Alexander Radulov are the key figures. Other fixtures to look out for include Spartak's Dec. 25 meeting with Mike Keenan's Metallurg Magnitogorsk, a team which currently boasts the KHL's leading individual performers, and the Spartak-Dynamo derby on Dec. 29. There's also a Dynamo-CSKA clash on Jan. 22 before the season heads into a pause for the Olympics.

By Andy Potts





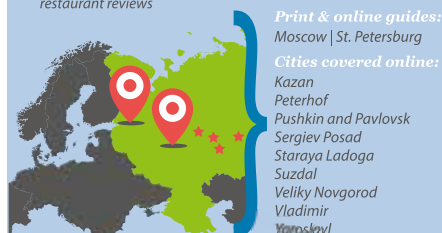
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When we launched Russia In Your Pocket in 2003, tourism in the country was still undeveloped. There were great places to visit; incredible museums, quirky bars, nice cafés - but to find them you needed to know about them and this knowledge only came by speaking Russian, having local friends - that and opening every random door you came across! "Often great little bars would be hidden away in the basement of some yard", explains founder Bonnie van der Velde. "There was so much interesting and great stuff going on in Russia but people just didn't know about it."

Ten years ago Russia was a country with great tourism potential, but many big changes and major industry growth still lay ahead. Dutch expats Bonnie and Charles decided this was the perfect moment to use their local knowledge and passion for the country to create Russia's first In Your Pocket guide. Their decision helped change how tourists, foreign students and expatriates experienced Russia, giving them the tools to get out and enjoy all those little hidden gems that only the locals seemed to know about. "It is so rewarding seeing people using the guide in the street and using it the way it was intended," says Bonnie.

Things have certainly changed a lot over the last ten years, but despite it all life in Russia can still be unpredictable, chaotic and highly addictive. This is a strange yet beautiful land, a wonderful place full of culture, excitement, and of course, soul. We're the kind of people who love this country and what it has to offer and we want every reader who arrives here to fall in love with Russia too. Putting the information together to make In Your Pocket what it is, isn't always easy - but it is always interesting! We asked a few of our former editors to tell us about some of their favourite memories of working for In Your Pocket, embracing the local culture and generally living the Russian life.

## Russia Is Expanding



This December, Russia In Your Pocket is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Over the past 10 years we have delved into the Russia's rich cultural history, giving foreigners tips to survive the winter, and revealed the best places to dine and wine, and the best concerts and exhibitions to see. Back in 2003, this information was hard to find even if you knew Russian, and in English the information just didn't exist.

But having revealed the best kept secrets of the two capitals, we realised that we had barely touched Russia's broad expanse. Over the past few years Russia In Your Pocket has added another 15 cities to our website, giving you basic information for travelling to some of Russia's most attractive and little known locations. This year we have been busy filling the void and added Kostroma, Petrozavodsk, Sochi, Samara, Kolonna to our ever expanding web presence. Each location has something uniquely different which helps explain the variation and the richness of Russia's culture. Russia In Your Pocket's website is the perfect starting place when you want to venture a little further a field and discover the breadth of Russia for yourself.



## Louise Whitworth



One of my most memorable experiences of working in Russia was the insane two month long heat wave which struck in the summer of 2010. Temperatures hovered in the mid-30s for weeks on end and there was no escape from the oppressive heat and humidity. Even the usually stoic Russians couldn't cope and it felt like we were all going a bit mad.

As editor of this highly-respected city guide, I knew exactly what I had to do. I had to get out and write an extensive run-down of all the city's coolest late-night, open-air bars, so we could finally start enjoying these freakishly hot St. Petersburg White Nights properly! Every single beer garden or street terrace was rammed, youngsters with their beers thronged the embankments and suddenly all these grungy little make-shift bars began to appear in bizarre outdoor locations. That summer I drank at bars in derelict building sites, on pocket-sized city centre roofs, amongst old warehouses and in disused car parks, on boat jetties, on broken sofas under trees in historic courtyards and one hot night we partied at a 'club' in the ruins of an old building just off Nevsky Prospekt - the lack of windows and doors proved great ventilation. Of course by the time the heatwave finally ended, most of these places were usurped by much higher quality bars boasting cold draught beer, health and safety standards and the joys of real flushing toilets. But for those few weeks, when we treated our one and only office fan as sacred (literally all the shops had sold out), these were the most carefree, fun and friendly joints in the whole city. I've probably been to literally hundreds of hip, posh, pretty, historic, grungy and glamorous bars in Russia before and since, but nowhere sticks in my mind more than the crazy places we visited that summer.

### About me:

I came to Russia from the UK in late 2005 to work in a kindergarten as part of a one year AIESEC exchange programme. I stayed for more than six years, four of which I spent working for Russia In Your Pocket. In early 2013 I moved to South Africa and I am now writing for the new Johannesburg In Your Pocket which will be launched in February 2014.

## Peter Morley



When I first visited St Petersburg, despite having completed the first year of an undergraduate degree in Russian, I was so ignorant I'd never even heard of the Hermitage. On that first trip I learned two words: ashtray (pepelnitsa) and hangover (pokhmelye). It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Like any friendship it has been tested over the years. The apparently Narnian winters, perennial visa issues and other bureaucratic frustrations, the moments of sheer "what the \*\*\*\*?" that colour daily life... a certain weary fatalism, often delivered with a knowing smile, is an identifying feature of inostrantsy (foreigners) who make their home in Russia for any length of time. But there is something ineluctable too. The spectacular white nights of summer, just made for long walks along the

river; a rich history and inexhaustible culture to explore, from Musorgsky's operas and Shostakovich's symphonies to Bulgakov's prose and so much more... and at the root of it all the great and mysterious russkaya dusha (Russian soul). Russia has given me more than my fair share of good memories. It was here that I had my first proper job, here I obtained my master's degree, and here I made some lifelong friendships rooted in shared experience of and fascination with this great and baffling country.

Most importantly, Russia for me is where I fell in love. In late 2002 I met Alena, and in 2006, just before leaving Russia, we got married at the ZAGS on the English Embankment. This summer saw a new chapter begin with the birth of our son. Gabriel (Gavrill Petrovich) makes his first visit to Russia next year.

### About me:

I first travelled to Russia just before the default, and later lived in St Petersburg for six years. I translated, edited and wrote for IYP for some time. Now I live in London and work at a Russia/CIS-focused PR consultancy that I helped establish this summer.

## Jennifer Fell



Thanks to so many lovely kind babushkas and dedushkas who helped me get out of the marshrutkas when I was still shy about yelling out my bad Russian in public. Thanks again to those babushkas who gave me instructions on my inadequate (of course) winter clothing (boots, hat, gloves). I am still very grateful to the gypsy cab driver who

brought back my hat and scarf to my friends at Dacha (on a Monday night!) after I had left them in his car. He did try and give them back to me but I ran away because I thought he was attacking me. That's what you get for drinking on a Monday... Other things that I particular remember: watching the headstone engraver in the dvor of the Ligovsky YIP office chisel headstones while wearing high heels; when the G20 came to St. Pete and the streets were full of police and OMON, when we go out for the night, of course they lean out the windows of their barracks on Ul. Lomonosova to get us to come and party with them... yes we were so tempted by you guys in your singlets; in Moscow, going to the bar around the corner from Red Square and seeing the Lenin lookalike having lunch. "I'll have what Lenin's having."; going backstage with Mike, the Mariinsky translator, and seeing behind-the-scenes - checking out the ballet dancers, the technicians and meeting Flora the goat; climbing onto rooftops above Ligovsky Pr.; dancing in the snow on Elagin Ostrov; sitting on the all night barge near the Anichkov bridge during the White Nights; walking through the Hermitage and looking out the windows and seeing the frozen, cracked Neva River.

### About me:

I was supposed to stay in St. Petersburg for three months to teach English but my return ticket to Australia went in the bin so pretty soon after arriving I decided to stay. I ended up staying for three years. I moved on from teaching English to working for In Your Pocket. I met my English boyfriend Joe and we rescued a cat, Aleksandar Glebovich from the unpronounceable Vsevolozhsk, somewhere in the north of St. Pete where he'd been dumped on a doorstep. This beautiful but rather common moggy has come all the way to Australia - via Japan. Nowadays I'm back in Australia in a small town called Moe, Australia. I work on my writing and look after my two boys: Bertie who is 3 years and Henry who is 7 months.

## Joe Crescente



I have had the opportunity to work as an editor with In Your Pocket Russia on two occasions, the initial opportunity being in its first year of existence and the second one much more recently. I am definitely impressed with how far IYP has come in Russia, and correspondingly how much the Russian tourism market has matured and grown. Every

time something new pops up in Moscow or St. Pete I rush to tell IYP, but in most cases they have already covered it. Back in 2003 when I first starting working for IYP in St. Petersburg, one of my first assignments was to visit hotels, drop off some materials, and write reviews. I remember covering 26 in just three weeks. That doesn't sound terribly ambitious, but 10 years ago, the hotels were not all clustered near Nevsky as they are now, and the ones that were had already been covered. To this day, more than half of the ground I have covered in St. Petersburg was probably covered in visiting those hotels, some in absurd locations due to inheritance or the legacy of Soviet industry. More than one hotel was located adjacent to a defunct or partially operating factory. That year was a learning experience for everyone. There still really was only a fledgling tourist industry, dominated by officialdom, and there were no guidelines, no roadmap, very little even in the way of guidebooks, and they were very sparse at that. I remember Jerke Verschoor having such a hard time selling advertisements, because business owners still didn't understand the subtleties of niche markets. Well, needless to say that a lot has changed, and IYP has had much to do with it!

**About me:**

I first came to Russia to study in 2001 and have spent a total of four years in Russia. I now live in Moscow and work as an area director for an educational programme funded by the US government.

## Rosa Weber



*Stories from an email sent to close friends on 19th February 2006:*

I can't wait to actually see this city in the sunshine!!! How can I express the coldness I have experienced? Frozen hands under gloves, blue hair, seven layers, shivering every night, day, morning. Minus 30 was the coldest winter for decades apparently. I feel shocked and amazed that the body can withstand it, that is if you have a roof over your head. It was painful to breathe in outside, but everyone keeps going, no one complains apart from the foreigners. On New Year's Eve we danced around Palace Square. Some guys suddenly picked us up on their shoulders and ran across the square through the crowds and we nearly went flying for the ice. Went to a lock in bar and danced on tables and chairs and everywhere and drank too much vodka. Went to a friend's flat by the dock and woke up in 2006 to the view of the frozen white ocean spreading as far as the eye can see with an orange sun smiling over it.

The magazine is getting more popular and busier by the month as the tourism industry is growing so fast here. Going to all these weird promotions for events for work. Couple of

weeks ago went to a fashion show of men in suits which was really funny and very eventful. They had bikini clad women painted in white glitter chopping up an ice wall in the middle of the catwalk and it was flying into the audience in chunks! It was in the five star Astoria hotel and afterwards there was a dinner in the beautiful dining hall, with plush tables and live orchestra and all the well dressed VIP Russians. There was gourmet food and all you can drink alcohol, really good French wine. They put us on a table with the rest of the press. Now the Russian press are quite different to the UK... there were three men who looked like 19th century intellectuals, with web beards and glasses and green suits and fountain pens in their top pockets.

My brother came to visit me two weeks ago and we went to a Blues club and Russian sauna and old taverns and opera and this day called Pushkin Day on 10 Feb. I don't know any other country who could worship a poet so much! Pushkin has an almost religious status here. The public, young and old, gathered in the courtyard of his old apartment, the place where he died after he was shot in a duel over the woman he loved. People threw flowers onto his statue, the Governor of St. Petersburg made a speech and an actor read Pushkin's poetry. There was a one minute silence at 14:45, the moment Pushkin's heart stopped beating in the 19th century. Men removed their hats, some of the older women were weeping and crossing themselves. It was a poignant and full of poetry, drama; holding the captive memory of bygone days that seem to dance always in the Russian air.

**About me:**

After having interned for three months at In Your Pocket, they offered me the permanent paid editorial position. It was music to my ears and I then lived in St. Petersburg for about a year and a half. I am now a freelance creative consultant and writer. I am also writing a feature film at the moment which has had some interest from production companies - it's a psychological drama/thriller. As a citizen journalist I also make documentary films with a voluntary team that explore ideas to create a more equal and fair society and system.

## Congratulations!

I sincerely congratulate you on your 10th anniversary. In Your Pocket is one of the most professional publications in the tourism industry. Your experience over many years, individual approach and original ideas have enabled you to strengthen your position as a highly qualified guide for St. Petersburg and an essential item for tourism lovers. Your professionalism has enabled visitors to see the multifaceted nature of St. Petersburg. You are able to evaluate the openness, accessibility, tolerance, safety and priceless intellectual and architectural soul of our city. I would like to wish you creative success, well deserved friends, new creative solutions and success in all your endeavours. Congratulations on your 10th anniversary, my friends!

*Nana Gvichia, General Director,  
St. Petersburg Tourist Information Bureau*

Dear friends!

From the bottom of our heart AdVita Charitable Foundation congratulates the wonderful team at Russia In Your Pocket on this notable occasion - your tenth anniversary! With all our soul would we thank you for your informational support and wish you and your company success and prosperity! In your representatives we have met noble people and reliable helpers. It is wonderful when a worthy heart beats within the breast of a true professional. Supporting those in need, we become better and stronger ourselves. You have shown this!

*AdVita Charitable Foundation*

## Moscow's winter wonderland

In winter time, which means Moscow steps out of its autumnal grey and transforms itself into a sparkling, snow-dappled wonderland. The centerpiece of the season, of course, is the extended New Year holiday which sees the entire country ditch work for the first 10 days of January. Even if recent times have made it fashionable to head to the airports - either chasing the sun or heading to the slopes - there's still plenty of festive fun to be found here in the city.



## The great outdoors

Don't assume that freezing weather means Moscow stays indoors - even the most cryophobic residents is liable to struggle in the stuffy confines of the city's overheated apartments and offices, so there's plenty of outdoor entertainment on offer. Wrap up warm, keep a sharp eye out for the nearest coffee shop or glintwein stall, and try it out for yourself.

The city's parks continue to offer a wide range of wintry activities. In addition to their skating rinks, many of them have cross-country ski trails (at **Izmailovsky Park** there are 16 km of paths set aside for skiers). Izmailovsky also promises a snow slide this year, with visitors welcome to whiz down the track at high speed - and all free of charge.

That park also offers the romantic treat of a horse-drawn sleigh ride, something straight out of a Russian fairy tale, and at the height of the holidays there will be a series of concerts and performances for all the family between Jan. 1 and 9.

**Tsaritsyno**, to the south of the city, also features a tubing slope (80Rbl for 30 minutes) and skiing routes. The park's annual end-of-year show is a closely-guarded secret as always, but organizers promise a grand spectacle, called '12 Months' for visitors on Dec. 20-22, 25-29 and Jan. 2-8. There are also special guided tours of the palace and the so-called 'Bread Hall', drawing on the imperial heritage of the site which was originally commissioned by Catherine the Great as a rustic retreat from the hurly-burly of Moscow. There are also costume parades around the tree in the Grand Palace.



## Chainaya Vysota

**Pueroport Samovar Bar** is located in the lovely surroundings of **Gorky Park** on Pushkinskaya nab. This is a great place to sit with friends and warm up with an excellent selection of Chainaya Vysota's best teas. The focus of the café are three large samovars, each of a different size, the largest of which is Dakhun Palych - a real giant. As big as a man, Dakhun Palych is used for making tea, cocktails, honey and spice tea and mors (a traditional Russian fruit juice). In addition to great tea Pueroport has some delicious flavours to bring out exotic flavours including fir cone juice, berry syrups and ginger tea which will heat you up and keep you safe from any winter colds going round this year! This exquisite café is located a short walk from the Buran space shuttle. Chainaya Vysota is also at **ul. Pokrovka 27/1**, where it features as an ice-cream-cafe-cum-specialist-tea-shop, it features a big variety of berries and ice-cream tea mixes.



A different set of festive traditions is celebrated at the **Muzeon Art Park**, where a display of Soviet-era tree decorations is the star attraction. From 1919, when Russia shifted to the Gregorian calendar, Jan. 1 became the country's key celebration, outstripping the old Orthodox Christmas. And, like every Soviet holiday, there was propaganda to match - toys and decoration reflected the country's obsession with labor, technology and progress. Images of cooperative striving towards a common goal were of ten seen, as representatives of the peoples of the USSR jostled for position among spaceships and submarines, factory workers and athletes. The Muzeon exhibition runs from Dec. 24 to Feb. 2.

**Izmailovsky Park Alleya Bol. Kruga 7, [M]Partizanskaya, tel. (+7) 499 166 61 19, www.izmailovsky-park.ru.** ▶ Open 24hrs. Admission free.


**Muzeon Sculpture Park B/C-5, Krymsky Val 10, [M]Oktyabrskaya, tel. (+7) 499 238 36 96, www.muzeon.ru.** ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. Admission free. Guided tours should be booked in advance.

**Tsaritsyno Ul. Dolinskaya 1, [M]Tsaritsyno, tel. (+7) 495-321 63 66, www.tsaritsyno-museum.ru.** ▶ Park open 06:00 - 24:00. Museums 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission park free. Museums 20 - 250Rbl.



## St. Andrew's Christmas Bazaar

Whether you're planning to celebrate Western Christmas, Russian New Year or any of the host of festivities in between, it's worth getting a head start on your preparations. The annual Christmas Bazaar at **St. Andrew's Anglican Church** (Voznesensky per. 8, metro Tverskaya) on Dec. 7 is a perfect chance to collect gifts and tasty treats ahead of the party season. Gifts and decorations come with both English and Russian accents, while the market also offers a wide range of delicacies which are hard to source in local stores but which are essential for an English Christmas. Tickets are 100Rbl.

## Historic Skating Rink

**Russkaya Zima C-2, Ul. Petrovka 26/9**,  **Chekhovskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 727 27 26, [www.katoknapetrovke.ru](http://www.katoknapetrovke.ru). A medium-sized outdoor rink with a lot of history behind it. It was first built in the 19th century, making it one of the oldest rinks in Moscow. In 1812, Napoleon's command staff was stationed on its grounds and in 1889 it was host to Russia's first speed skating championship. Now the rink is a popular place with families as well as those having private lessons. There you can also play hockey and curling, and also take some ice-skating lessons. There are also nice cafes for a winter warm up. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 24:00.

## Ride An Icebreaker

**Flotilla Radisson Royal Moscow A-2, Taras Shevchenko nab., Hotel Ukraina pier**,  **Kievskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 228 55 55, [www.radisson-cruise.ru](http://www.radisson-cruise.ru). Equipped with ice-breaking technology, these huge fancy yachts are the only river cruisers running all year around. 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), although it is advisable to check the departure times first. ▶ It is advisable to book tickets well in advance (tickets can also be bought online). Boats leave Mon - Fri between 15:00 - 20:00, on Sat, Sun 13:00 - 21:00. Boats are sometimes hired out for private parties so check the departure times in advance. Tickets for adults 900Rbl, children 650Rbl, first class 2,000Rbl. 




## Getting your skates on


Russia has a proud ice-bound tradition, from figure-skating to hockey. And learning to skate here is a commonplace childhood achievement like learning to ride a bike in warmer climes. So it's not surprising that the city is quickly transformed into a wide range of outdoor skating rinks, each with its own character (and price tag) to match its surroundings.

The most glamorous of all is surely the **Red Square rink**. Operated in conjunction with Bosco, Russia's Olympic sportswear manufacturer, it opens up on Dec. 1 outside of the swanky shopping aisles of GUM and offers a chance for a breathless whirl beneath the Kremlin walls. If Red Square is the definitive Moscow site, then this is probably the definitive Moscow winter experience for tourists.

Locals, however, tend to shy away from the relatively expensive prices and pick out different places. **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. The only trouble can be that it sometimes feels like every skater in Europe has come along for the afternoon – weekend afternoons can feel like a slippery version of rush hour on the Metro. If the crowds get too much, Chainaya Vysota's huge 108-liter samovar – delivered specially for the season – offers a chance for some welcome refreshment.

Other parks with skating rinks include **Izmailovo**, **Baumansky Sad**, **Sokolniki**, **Tsaritsyno** and **VDNKh**. Other rinks to look out for include the one on Petrovka (it is called "Russkaya Zima"), or more accurately in a courtyard between Petrovka and Neglinnaya Ulitsa, which is one of the city's oldest. It's also among the most central. [www.katoknapetrovke.ru](http://www.katoknapetrovke.ru)

**Gorky Park Icerink B-5, Park Gorkogo, Krymsky Val 9**,  **Oktyabrskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 995 00 20, [www.park-gorkogo.com](http://www.park-gorkogo.com). ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon.

**Red Square Icerink C-3, Krasnaya pl.**,  **Okhotny Ryad**, tel. (+7) 495 788 43 43, [www.gum.ru/katok/](http://www.gum.ru/katok/). ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00.

**Hermitazh Garden C-1, Karetny Ryad 3**,  **Chekhovskaya**, tel. (+7) 495 699 08 49, [www.superkatok.ru](http://www.superkatok.ru). ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Mon 14:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 23:00.

**Sokolniki Icerink Sokolnichesky Val 1, bldg.1**,  **Sokolniki**, tel. (+7) 499 393 92 22, [www.park.sokolniki.com](http://www.park.sokolniki.com). ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00.

**Izmailovo Icerink Izmailovskiy park**,  **Partizanskaya**, tel. (+7) 499 166 61 19, [www.izmailovskiy-park.ru](http://www.izmailovskiy-park.ru). ▶ Open 14:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. Tickets 200Rbl.

## Kids

Keeping the youngest members of the family entertained during the holidays can sometimes be challenging, especially in a foreign language. But Moscow has plenty of options for kids of all ages.

The unique, ever popular **Moscow Cats Theater** (Kutuzovskiy pr. 25, metro Kutuzovskaya, [www.kuklachev.ru](http://www.kuklachev.ru)), puts on a crowd-pleasing festive performance. The venue, on Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, describes itself as a place which knows nothing of adult conflict and strife, and is instead a happy world where cats and dogs live and work peacefully together. The festive show is a dancing spectacle involving Vladimir Kuklachev's feline artists. Performances are on Dec. 26-30 and Jan. 2-9.

**The Teatrium on Serpukhovka** (Pavlovskaya ul. 6, metro Serpukhovskaya, [www.teatrium.ru](http://www.teatrium.ru)) also has a busy holiday program. The highlight is the premiere of its New Year show, '12 Months', a musical fairy-tale based on a traditional Slovak

story. That runs from Dec. 21 to Jan. 8 and is aimed at ages 4+. Also at the same venue, 'The Scarlet Flower' plays on Dec. 14-15. This is part of the theater's commitment to producing new works which draw on the best Russian stage traditions for family audiences. Meanwhile, the same enthusiasm for catchy songs and beguiling dance routines also crosses the Atlantic in an adaptation of 'The Prince and the Pauper', which is on Dec. 7-8.

Another option, at **Tsaritsyno**, is the "Christmas Story" program, which promises interactive entertainments to keep children busy during the holidays. Part of the activity has the litt'uns helping to make decorations to be hung on the park's festive tree. It's happening on Dec. 25 and 28, and Jan. 3 and 4. Younger children (aged 3-5) might prefer the regular holiday performances in the Bread Hall.

Two of Moscow top museums also get into the festive spirit: at the **Tretyakov Gallery** art comes to life with an interactive 'Exhibition of Wonders' for kids aged 5+, complete with a guest appearance from Ded Moroz.

Across town at the **Central Museum of Musical Culture** there are three separate entertainments for children of different ages. For primary school kids, there's a show drawn from Russian folk tales, for pre-schoolers the task is to help Ded Moroz find his way through a strange land of confused fairy-tale characters, while older children can explore New Year traditions around the world in the 'New Imaginarium'. The programs start from Dec. 28, and full details are on the museum website at [www.glinka.museum](http://www.glinka.museum).



## Shows and events

As New Year approaches, most of the city's theaters and concert halls get into festive mood – and there's plenty of musical entertainment which comfortably clears the language barrier. For an introduction to Russian literature, the **Orkestrion Concert Hall** is putting on a musical journey inspired by Nikolai Gogol's "Christmas Eve". His famous fable is one of his most enduring works, and has inspired several musicians. The family interpretation staged by the **Moscow Philharmonia** promises to be a magical event for Gogol lovers, and those encountering his work for the first time. It runs on Dec. 28 and 29, and then Jan. 3-8.

At the **Moscow State Conservatory**, a New Year Musical Journey is about more than just listening to assorted gems of the classical and pop repertoire. Organizers promise that the Dec. 29 concert will also give young music lovers a chance to meet members of the orchestra and even get a close look at their instruments. On-stage, the program takes on a fairy-tale feel, from traditional favorites like The Nutcracker to Soviet-era children's classics like Cheburashka.

Count Orlov is perhaps the biggest Russian musical, and it's back on stage at the **Operetta Theater** from Dec. 17 to 31. The show transports audiences back to the glamor and intrigue of the court of Catherine the Great, combining a historical epic with show-stopping song and dance numbers. Demand for tickets is likely to be heavy, so book early to end the year on a high note.

**For the addresses of the venues see page 8.**

**SKATE RUSSIAN WINTER**

Winter calls - enjoy the ice!

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-  Trubnaya Pushkinskaya Okhotnyy Ryad Teatralnaya  
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ul. Zhivopisnaya, 21
-  Shosse Entuziastov  
shosse Entuziastov, 33
-  Bratislavskaya  
Myachkovskiy bul., 33
-  Bulvar Dmitriya Donskogo  
ul. Starokachalovskaya, 22
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Mozhayskoye shosse, 7
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## Italian

**Bontempi C-4, Red October Chocolate Factory, Ber-senevskaya nab. 12, bldg. 1, M Kropotkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 669 13 87, www.bontempirest.ru.** A great looking conversion of one of the smaller buildings of this former factory, Bontempi is simple with a stylish twist that is definitive for this happening area of the city and has many fans - including us. Aiming for a personal touch the staff make almost as much effort to explain the menu as the chef does to execute it, while the small tables are tucked in just close enough to give the place a satisfyingly communal feel. The pasta and bread is handmade, daily specials offer the best of the season's ingredients and classic dishes like the tiramisu and tortellini hold their fabulous own against new creations such as anchovy and pesto biscotti. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Thu - Sat 12:00 - 01:00. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Mi Piac B-2, Ul. Tverskaya 20, M Tverskaya, tel. (+7) 495 650 75 75, www.mipiace.ru.** This pizzeria and pasta house chain has a cute brat in pigtales as its mascot. Smart interior with little touches of Italy, including Sophia Loren photos and displays of pasta and preserves. Small portions perfectly suit ladies, but men will need much more than a handful of pasta to fill up. Thankfully they have mega dessert pizzas. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Osteria Montiroli B-2, Bol. Nikitskaya ul. 60, bldg. 2, M Barrikadnaya, tel. (+7) 495 799 55 90, www.restsindik.com.** Pizza chefs are shovelling dough into a stone oven, waiters are grating huge wheels of cheese and jams jars are weighing down the shelves in this rustic country house style trattoria. It feels so Mediterranean you can almost imagine that those succulent prawns have just been pulled up to the restaurant by a local fisherman... This is still Moscow though so drinks are expensive and the Italian film soundtrack can be a little loud, but they make up for it all with their al dente pasta and crispy pizzas. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Pane&Olio Ul. Timura Frunze 22, M Park Kultury, tel. (+7) 499 246 26 22, 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 until last guest. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎



## Seafood

**Clumba Club A-3, Novinsky passage, Novinsky bul. 31, M Barrikadnaya, tel. (+7) 495 644 96 69, www.clumba-club.ru.** Europe's largest oyster bar - and it's here in Moscow miles away from the sea! No need to fear though, high-tech fish tanks and specialist suppliers from the Russian Far East keep everything here fresh and the very accessible prices have already earned Clumba a secure following of oyster fans. The huge menu also takes in a wide range of international dishes, many inspired by fresh seafood, that are given a great spin by the head chef who is particularly strong in his sauces. We adored the baked scallop while the *muk sun* (a white Siberian fish) is one of a kind Russian experience. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. €€€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Gastronomica-Fish Leninsky pr. 57, M Leninsky prospect, tel. (+7) 495 641 11 43, www.gastronomicafish.ru.** If you love fish, once you've stepped off chaotic Leninsky prospekt and passed through the door of cool, calming Gastronomica you will be delighted you made the effort. This is definitely one of the best fish restaurants in Moscow. On the main menu there's things like Chilean sea bass, turbot and sole to choose from, as well as the closer to home trout and salmon, all of which can be cooked any number of ways from baked in a coal stove to steamed with wine - delicious! There's also a good range of seafood based salads, soups, pastas and risottos - we particularly liked the sterlet consommé - as well as mouthwatering mussels to start. As it is quite some way from the metro, it may be wise to come here by car. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Steak Houses

**Chicago Prime Steakhouse C-2, Strastnoy bul. 8a, M Chekhovskaya, tel. (+7) 495 988 17 17, 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 consommé 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. €€€€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Goodman B-1/2, Ul. Tverskaya 23, M Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 775 98 88, 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 - 24:00. €€€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Torro Grill A-1, Ul. Lesnaya 5b, M Belorusskaya, tel. (+7) 495 64010 20, 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. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

## Cafes houses and Bakeries

**Baskin Robbins B-3, Ul. Novy Arbat 17, M Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 695 61 86, www.baskinrobbins.ru.** It's never too cold for ice-cream especially when it comes to Baskin Robbins ice-cream. The world's leading American ice-cream parlour has all the flavours you can imagine and then some. American favourites such as the Reese's peanut butter cup or cookies and cream are reliably popular and anything with chocolate in it is another must. We personally love the cheesecakes ice-creams and the expert milkshakes. The Novy Arbat location is particularly large and has a correspondingly big choice. ▶ Open 24hrs. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Chainaya Vysota E-2, Ul. Pokrovka 27, M Chystye Prudy, tel. (+7) 495 225 59 96, www.cha108.ru.** We're finding it difficult to condense how exciting this place is into words! An ice-cream-café-cum-specialist-tea-shop, it features delicate mixes from the minds of local artists such as famous mime Slava Polunin. The available flavours include dandelion honey, elk milk, kvass and linseed, with more daring combinations such as the gorgonzola, bergamot and pear. There is an equally varied selection of granola, and seaweed-sheet snacks, all in the setting of a bookshop, furnished with clean, simple linen. When out and about don't miss their stand in Gorky Park opposite the Buran space shuttle (see page 19). ▶ Open 11:00 - 00:30, Sun 14:00 - 00:30. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Madame Boulanger B-3, Nikitsky bul. 12, M Arbatskaya, tel. (+7) 495 690 19 01, 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, macarons 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 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. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**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.** 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, Gruzinsky Val 28/45, and Ul. Pyatnitskaya 20. ▶ Open 07:30 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 08:30 - 23:00. €€. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

**Staryy Telegraf C-2, Ul. Tverskaya 7, M Okhotny Ryad, tel. (+7) 495 506 22 44, www.tverskaya7.com..** Open 24hrs, this café is good fix at any time of day. If you've just arrived from an early train, or you're on your way home after a night out you'll be pleased to hear that breakfast here starts at 06:00 and runs way on into lunch time. The menu is particularly strong in baked goods, pies, sandwiches, croissants and the like while larger mains are also available. Sweet and savoury topped waffles and unusual flavours of French macaroon such as white truffle are a particular highlight. ▶ Open 24hrs. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

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**Krisis Zhanra E-2, Ul. Pokrovka 16/16, bldg. 1, M Chistye Prudy, tel. (+7) 495 623 25 94, www.krisiszhnra.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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**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 for 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

## Bars

**Cafe Tantsy C-3, Ul. Nikolskaya 11/13, M Ploshad 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

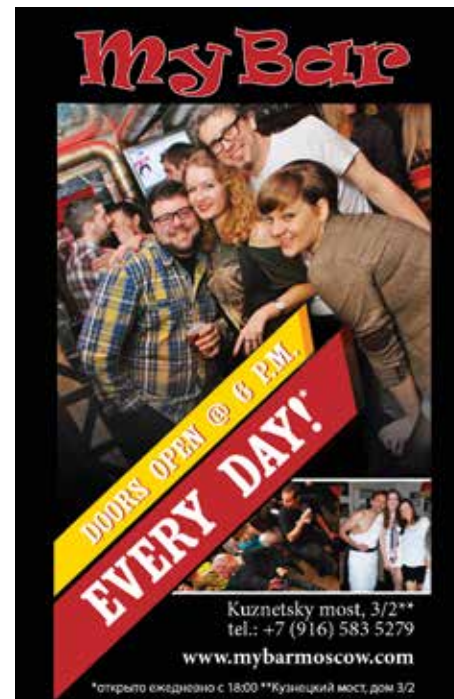
**GlavPivTrest D-2, Ul. Myasnitskaya 46/2, M Krasnie Vorota, tel. (+7) 495 625 97 97, www.pivtrest.ru.** There's something about the friendly staff and insanely eclectic decoration that gives this beer house a lot more atmosphere than other more expensive try-hard places on the same street. It looks 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**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. [i] [f] [t] [w]



**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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**The Hudson Bar Ul. Butyrsky 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

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## Beer Pubs

**British Queen C-2, Ul. Bol. Dmitrovka 5/6, [M]Teatralnaya, 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, and it 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**Chertovka D-2, Ul. Sretenka 16/2, [M]Sukharevskaya, tel. (+7) 495 621 29 27, www.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, [M]Arbatskaya, 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 Radishevskaya 15 (metro Taganskaya) and ul. Lva Tolstogo 18b (metro Park Kultury). ▶ Open 11:00 - 06:00. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**Sally O'Brien's C-4, Bol. Polyanka ul.1./3, [M]Polyanka, 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**Sixteen Tons A-1, Ul. Presnensky Val 6, bldg.1, [M]Ulitsa 1905 goda, tel. (+7) 499 253 53 00 / (+7) 499 253 15 50, www.16tons.ru.** Authentic feeling English pubs don't have to shout about it, you know when you walk in that something just feels right. Like here for instance. The 16 tonnes home brewed beer, a smooth tasting light ale, goes down sweetly and the stained glass windows and corrugated seating makes everything indubitably atmospheric. The place, which is already huge, has still got quite an intimate feeling and buzzes with actors, students, journalists and the odd passing tourist. Upstairs is a space devoted to large big name concerts which becomes a dancing club later on. ▶ Open 11:00 - 06:00. [i] [f] [t] [w]

## Clubs

**Club Garage C-4/5, Brodnikov per. 8, [M]Polyanka, 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**Club Roxbury Ul. Butyrsky Val 5, [M]Belorusskaya, 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**Gogol Club C-2, Stoleshnikov per. 11, bldg.1, [M]Teatralnaya, 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

## Cocktail Bars

**BottleBar D-4, Shopping Centre Pyatnitsky, Pyatnitsky per. 2, [M]Novokuznetskaya, tel. (+7) 495 646 49 25, www.bottlebar.ru.** 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. [i] [f] [t] [w]

**Secret Bar C-2, Stoleshnikov per. 6, bldg. 3 (down alley behind Jean Jacques), [M]Iverskaya, 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! ▶ Open 18:00 - 06:00. [i] [f] [t] [w]

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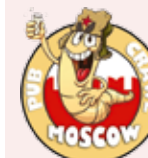
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## Pub Crawl



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)



## 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 Aristotile 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. 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, Mayakovsky** 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 **Neskuchny 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.xxc.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 Luzhnetsky 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 megaplths. 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 Kremlesque 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.

## Russia's fascinating history



The red colonnaded building just beyond the statue of Pushkin on Tverskaya ul. is now known as the State Museum of Contemporary Russian History. On display are many of the objects from when it was called the Revolutionary Museum, including some unique original artifacts

from this turbulent period. In a fascinating twist, the building was not originally built for this edifying purpose, but between 1831 and 1917 was home to the English Club, one of Russia's first gentlemen's clubs- proof that the expatriate life in Moscow is not the historical novelty we often assume it to be.

The beauty of the original interiors has been restored in a series of rooms which show the Club's intention to be a Temple of the Enlightenment, as images of the muses decorate the chandeliered ceilings. The Club was a place for members to dine, play cards and discuss the events of the day in an atmosphere of free-thinking not readily found elsewhere. The Club's library held a number of foreign books and newspapers, whose distribution was often strictly controlled by the tsars. Card games were played in the 'Infernal Room', so named because the fates of many of the serfs owned by these powerful aristocrats were often decided here as they placed bets on their estates.

The club was known by many literary giants of the day, including Tolstoy who described it in War and Peace: "The majority of those present were old, honored people with deep, self-assured faces, fat fingers, hard movements and voices." Another regular visitor was the famous poet Pushkin, who was more than once banned from the club for non-payment! An exhibition of memorabilia related to the club in a second room displays pictures of its members, some of whom took part in the Decembrist uprising in 1825. The club suffered from financial difficulties towards the end of the century, and had to lend out parts of its premises to other businesses. During World War One, the rooms looking out over Tverskaya Street became a military hospital. The club was finally disbanded in 1917 to make way for the 'Red Moscow' exhibition, whose loud red and black poster is also on display here. These rooms, which for a century had been an aristocratic haunt, were now visited by the Muscovite proletariat for a revolutionary education. Today the museum is open to all who are interested in Russia's fascinating history.

**State Central Museum of Contemporary Russian History B-2, Ul. Tverskaya 21, M 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.

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РЕКЛАМА / ADVERTISEMENT



**Borodino Battle Panorama Museum Kutuzovsky pr. 38, 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, 11.5m 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.

**GULAG History Museum C-2, Ul. Petrovka 16, Kuznetsky Most, tel. (+7) 495 621 73 46, www.gmig.ru.** The full comprehension of the GULAG is a disconcerting 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.

**Nikolai 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.



**Scriabin Museum B-3, Bol. Nikolopeskovsky per. 11, Smolenskaya, tel. (+7) 499 241 19 01, www.anscriabin.ru.** This tiny but well-preserved museum is a must-see for amateurs of the eccentric composer Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915). Most of the original furnishings have been retained and each seems to have a story to tell. By far the most interesting of these is an unusual device made by the man himself. Scriabin associated different musical tonalities with different colours. This led him to construct some unusual contraptions which allowed him to compose pieces for piano and coloured lights, one of which can be seen in the museum. For the early days of Russian electricity this was pretty futuristic, but Scriabin had grander plans: he dreamt of a spectacular multimedia concert in the Himalayas which he imagined would usher in a new age. Before his ideas could come to fruition, he died aged forty-three from septicaemia, probably from a shaving cut. The popularity he had enjoyed during his life suddenly vanished upon his death, but in recent years his music has enjoyed something of a revival and he is known today as a highly original and compelling composer. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Thu 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon and last Fri of the month. Admission 20 - 120Rbl.

**Tchaikovsky and Moscow A-2, Kudrinskaya pl. 46/54, Barrikadnaya, tel. (+7) 495 690 25 88/(+7) 495 691 15 14, www.glinka.museum.** Dedicated to the life, times and music of the man who brought the world Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty and the Nutcracker, the operas Eugene Onegin and The Queen of Spades and of course the 1812 Overture. It's kind of an endless list once you get going. This Moscow apartment where he lived briefly in the late nineteenth century is now home to a collection of photos and musical memorabilia, family photos, and Tchaikovsky's devoted guides. The guide and the tour are provided free of charge but in Russian so if you don't understand Russian, take along a translator. They do know more than you can read about not only about Tchaikovsky but the musical scene of Moscow at that time. Tchaikovsky's various friendships are also enumerated here. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission 100Rbl.



**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. As well as the permanent exhibition there's always another temporary one on a subject of Russian or international music, and a whole host of events throughout the year which you can find out about on their website. ▶ 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'yakovgalery.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. The gallery does not include the museum's 20th Century collection, which is kept at a separate site a kilometre away. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu, Fri 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission 100 - 360Rbl. English audio guide 250Rbl. [i] [a]



### 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.

## 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 an obligatory tittle 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](http://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.

## Parks and Gardens

**Elk Island Poperechny prosek 1G, M Sokolniki, tel. (+7) 499 268 60 45, 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-filli.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.** 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.** 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.kuzminky.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 (Russia's 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. Bratvey 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.

## Tours Around Moscow



**City Sightseeing Moscow Buses leave from 32 (Route 1) and 18 (Route 2) different stops in the city centre, tel. (+7) 495 227 79 96, www.hoponhopoff.ru.** Bright red double-decker tour buses are prowling Moscow's streets, giving visitors a great view of the city center. The Hop On-Hop Off tour offers excursions around town in eight languages, and guests can buy a 24-hour ticket and jump on and off the buses as often as they like, in theory using any stop on either of the two routes. In practice, it's usually easiest to gather at the main stops near the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum, the Tretyakov Gallery or the Bolshoi Theatre - this is where buses tend to wait longest. The shorter 'red route' takes just over an hour and circles the city center, staying close to the Kremlin walls and taking in a stretch of the leafy Boulevard Ring while the longer 'green route' also goes over the river for views of two of the Stalin-era Seven Sister skyscrapers. Both tours include the 'greatest hits' of Moscow's unique and unforgettable city center, with its distinctive architecture, intriguing museums and exciting cultural life. Buses usually run at 20-minute intervals, depending on the traffic situation. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:30, Sat, Sun and holidays 10:00 - 20:30. Tickets cost 600Rbl for adults, 500Rbl for children (those under 5 years old travel for free), senior citizens and students. Tickets are valid for 24hrs.



**Vorobyevy Gory (Sparrow Hills) Michurinsky pr. 13, M Vorobyevy Gory, tel. (+7) 499 739 27 07, 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.



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PEGANAMA / ADVERTISEMENT

## 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 Stor C-2, Ul. Kuznetsky most. 14, M Kuznetsky most, tel. (+7) 495 926 15 35, 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.** ▶ 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.** ▶ 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.** 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. Revolyutsy, tel. +7 495 788 43 43, 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.** 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.ox-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.

## Festive shopping



'Tis the season to spend money and the New Year sales start dead on January 1st. If you are looking to buy seasonal gifts before the big day then look out for the numerous festive markets which can be found on Ploshad Revolyutsii near Red Square, in Gorky Park, Muzeon Sculpture Park and in the Hermitage Gardens, while the year round market

at Izmailovo always does a good line in colourful traditional gifts too. Particularly nice winter gifts to look out for include carved wooden Father Frost figurines, Russian doll Christmas tree decorations, traditional Russian woollen boots (valenki) and thick handmade woollen socks.

**Tsvetnoy Central Market C-1, Tsvetnoy bul. 15, bldg. 1, M Tsvetnoy Bulvar, tel. (+7) 495 737 77 73, 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.** 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.globusgourmet.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.** ▶ Open 24hrs.

**Hediard C-2, Ul. Bolshaya Dmitrovka 23 bldg. 1, M Pushkinskaya, tel. (+7) 495 692 81 66, 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.** ▶ Open 24hrs.

## Vernisazh

**Vernisazh in Izmailovo Izmailovskoye shosse 73zh, M Partizanskaya, tel. (+7) 499 166 55 80, 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 laquer 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 Winter 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 ears 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 Rusky 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.



















## 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.** ▶ 33 rooms (Room prices start at 2,700Rbl). Extra bed 700Rbl.

**Ipatievskaya Sloboda Beregovaya ul. 3a, tel. (+7) 494 237 12 24, www.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.** ▶ 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.** 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.kmtn.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.** 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.ioseferma.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 Vitoslavitsy 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.** 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.** 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 other 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.** 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.** Seated inside what looks like a fairytale 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 in Finnish as "Petroskoi", Petrozavodsk is the capital of the independent Republic of Karelia, a region with a unique Finno-Russian culture. Its 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 sledding 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).

## Restaurants and Cafes

**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, a sculpture 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. 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. The remote beauty of the lakes and forests which surround the visitor here are undoubtedly the inspiration for the churches, and the whole of Karelian traditional life. ▶ 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)

### Getting there:

**By hydrofoil:** 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.

1<sup>st</sup> and only international hotel in Petrozavodsk

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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.gorkly-hostel.ru/en](http://www.gorkly-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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