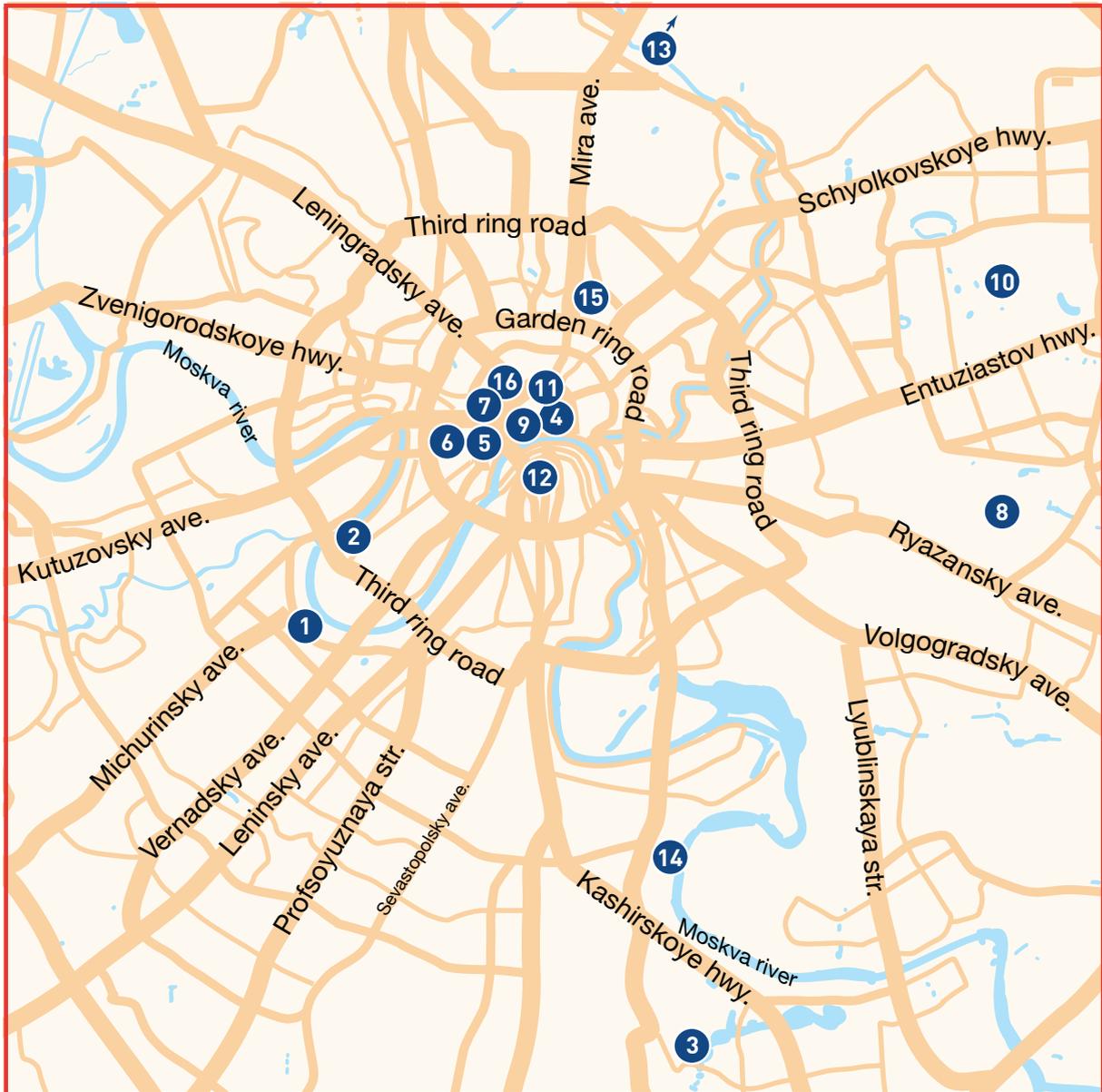


MAP



EXCURSIONS AND SIGHTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sparrow Hills 2. Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery 3. Tsaritsyno Estate 4. St. Basil's Cathedral, Red Square 5. The Cathedral of Christ the Savior 6. Old Arbat str. 7. The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts,
The Museum of Chocolate 8. Kuskovo Estate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. The Moscow Kremlin, Armoury Chamber,
Diamond Fund 10. Russian Handicraft Center Izmailovo 11. Luxury Restaurant Boyarsky in Metropol htl 12. The State Tretyakov Gallery 13. Sergiev Posad 14. Kolomenskoye Estate 15. Fashion House of V. Zaytsev 16. Manezh Square |
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MOSCOW CITY TOUR AND NOVODEVICHY CONVENT



Moscow sightseeing tour covers all the remarkable places, famous Moscow sights and monuments. We start with Red Square, Kremlin, St. Basil's cathedral, GUM, Lenin's Mausoleum and other sights of this area. As we move along the Moscow River embankment we enjoy the views of Cathedral of the Christ the Savior and arrive to Novodevichy Convent. After the convent we continue with Sparrow hills observation spot. On our way back we pass many other famous landmarks of Moscow.

RED SQUARE



Red Square is the heart not only of Moscow, but of the whole Russia. Originally a commercial centre, Red Square has been at the centre of Russian history since the 15th century, from Ivan the Terrible's confession of his misdeeds to the people in 1550, to great demonstrations, executions and the great parades of the Soviet Union's military might. In the old days, krasny originally meant beautiful and came to mean red only in the last century. From the time of Ivan the Great the square was used as a huge gathering place for public events, markets, fairs and festivals. Encompassing an area of over 70,000 sq metres it is bounded by the Kremlin, the Historical museum and GUM department store, the shopping arcade that was completed in 1893.

MOSCOW KREMLIN

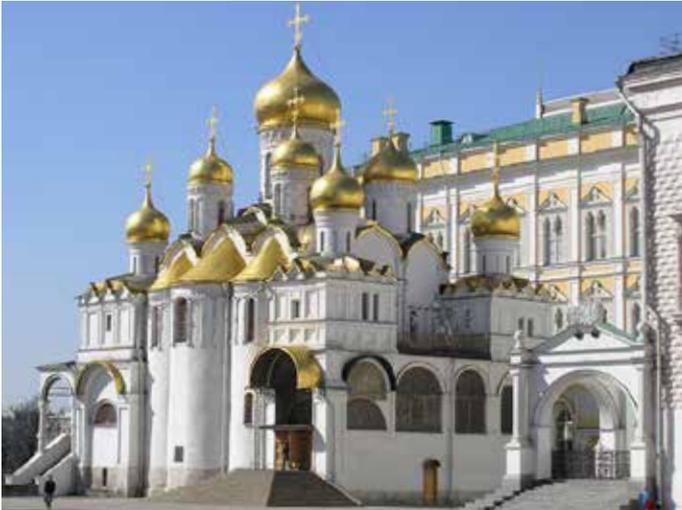


Kremlin is worldwide known as the main sightseeing of Moscow, a foundation of Russia's political power with a great historical importance. The Kremlin is the heart of a huge country, a place of residence of numerous kings, patriarchs and communists.

The Moscow Kremlin is the chief architectural ensemble of the city. From the 13th century the Moscow Kremlin was directly and tangibly associated with every major event in Russian history. Along the South wall of the Kremlin, overlooking the Moscow River, you will find the Grand Kremlin Palace. Within the Kremlin there is a Cathedral Square, the so-called "City of God". The famous Tsar Bell and Tsar Cannon are there, too. Six buildings, including three enormous cathedrals edge the square. Most of them belong to the work of well-known Italian architects of the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

Today, the Kremlin is not only one of the largest and most interesting museums in the world, but also the official residence of the President of the Russian Federation. Also, the Kremlin is the perfect place to begin your tour of Moscow.

KREMLIN CATHEDRALS



If the heart of Russia is the Kremlin, then its soul is the Cathedral Square (also called as "The City of God"), the oldest area within the Kremlin territory. Its six buildings, including three enormous cathedrals (the Assumption's, Annunciation's and Archangel's Cathedral), edge the square. Most of them belong to the work of Italian well-known architects of the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

For six centuries the Assumption Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin remained the main church of Russia, where heirs of the throne were crowned, state actions were disclosed, metropolitans and patriarchs were elected. The cathedral was the burial place of the Moscow patriarchs and metropolitans.

In the southwestern part of the cathedral square the nine-golden domes of the elegant Cathedral of the Annunciation rises. The Cathedral was built during 1484-1489 by Pskov craftsmen as the house-fortress of the great prince of Moscow. Wedding ceremonies and christening of children took place there. The Cathedral was built in tradition of Moscow old style architecture.

The Archangel's Cathedral was built in the XVI century. It was the burial place of the Moscow princes and tsars. This tradition continued until the end of the XVII century. In the old days there was a custom before any campaigns and after successful battles: Moscow princes and tsars came to the cemetery, and worshiped the ashes of their ancestors. The cathedral's pillars and walls are covered with portraits of Moscow leaders and their glorious ancestors.

ARMOURY CHAMBER



The Armory Chamber, the treasure-house, is a part of the Grand Kremlin Palace's complex. It is situated in the building constructed in 1851 by architect Konstantin Ton. The Armory has a fascinating collection of the Imperial insignia including precious clothes, ceremonial harness and the unique collection of carriages. Some of the exhibits were made in the Kremlin's workshops, others were accepted as ambassadorial gifts. The museum was named after one of the oldest Kremlin's treasury stores. The Armory Chamber preserves ancient state regalia, ceremonial Tsar's vestments and coronation dress, vestments of the Russian Orthodox Church hierarchy, the largest collection of gold and silverware from Russian craftsmen, West European artistic silver, ceremonial weapons and arms, carriages, horse ceremonial harness, and of course the famous Faberge eggs.

THE DIAMOND FUND



Housed in the building of the Armory, on display are the most precious items of the Russian treasury: unique diamonds, antique jewelry, one of the world's biggest gold nuggets – the so called “Triangle,” weighing 3.6 kg. You will definitely admire the world-famous 190-carat Orlov Diamond and the Coronation Crown of Catherine the Great, adorned with more than 5,000 diamonds. The collection features marvelous jeweled necklaces and earrings, as well as the world's largest sapphire and other precious jewelry.

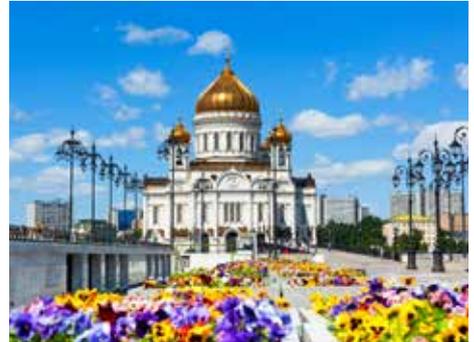
THE PUSHKIN STATE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS



The Museum has been created as an educational and public institution where the most important periods of art history from the ancient times to the New Age are represented. The Museum became the first institution of this type in Russia. Opened on May 31, 1912, it was named The State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in 1937, in honor of Alexander Pushkin, one of the greatest Russian poets. Today the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts contains over 560 thousand pieces of paintings, sculptures, drawings, applied art works, archeological and numismatics items.

In the museum you can find one of the best world collection of French impressionists: (Monee, Picasso, Renoir, Matisse, Gogen); Ancient Egyptian works of art, antique pieces, European paintings of the 8th-18th centuries, Ancient Greece, Rome, Middle Ages and the Renaissance masterpieces.

MOSCOW FAMOUS CATHEDRALS AND MONASTERIES



St. Basil's Cathedral or the Cathedral of the Intercession, as it is called officially, was constructed in 1560 by the order of Ivan the Terrible to commemorate the liberation from the Tatar-Mongol domination. Its original design belongs to the two architects from Pskov – Barma and Postnik. The composition of the cathedral- 9 chapels placed on a single foundation – symbolizes Russia's victory in the struggle against Tatar-Mongols. Today cathedral is a museum containing an exhibition dedicated to the history of its construction. It contains the icon stand of the Trinity Church and the famous icon “Entry into Jerusalem”.

The ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent is situated in the most picturesque place in the southwest of Moscow, in a bend of the Moscow River. Founded in 1524 to mark the reunion of Smolensk and Moscow, Novodevichy Convent is one of the finest examples of the 16th-17th century architecture. Expressive complex of convent structures built in 12 turrets, Gate Transfiguration and Intercession Churches with adjacent Lopukhin's and Maria's Chambers, the bell tower, and the refectory with the Church of Assumption, and other structures built at the time. The convent is connected with the Church major events in the Russian history, such as the coronation of Boris Godunov, the fight over the Russian throne between Peter the Great and his troublesome sister Princess Sophia, and the events of the war of 1812.

By 1926 the Convent had been transformed into a historic and art museum. Its collection includes old Russian paintings, works of decorative and applied art. Today the convent is the residence of Moscow Metropolitan.

The old **Novodevichy cemetery** within the convent walls is a burial place of eminent Russian artists, actors, scientists and politicians: Chekhov, Gogol, Bulgakov, Mayakovsky, Eisenstein, Shostakovich, Scriabin, Khrushchev, Stalin's wife, the first Russian president B. Eltsin, well-known Russian clown Y. Nikulin are among them.

The Cathedral of Christ the Savior

The main religious attraction of Moscow is the Cathedral of Christ the Savior. The history of the Cathedral begins on December 25, 1812. This was the day when the last soldiers of Napoleons' 600,000 man army were driven out of Russia. Emperor Alexander I signed a Manifesto ordering the construction of a magnificent Cathedral in honor of Christ the Savior in Moscow as a thanksgiving to God and to honor the victorious Russian army.

After the Revolution, the prominent site of the cathedral called out for redevelopment by the Soviets, who planned to replace the church with a monument to socialism, known as the Palace of Soviets. It would rise in modernistic buttressed tiers to support a gigantic sculpture of Lenin, arm raised in blessing, perched atop a dome. On December 5, 1931, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior was dynamited and reduced to rubble.

With the end of the Soviet rule, the Russian Orthodox Church received permission to rebuild the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour (February 1990). In 1996 the Cathedral of Christ the Savior was completed and in August 19, 2000 it was consecrated.

TSARITSYNO ESTATE: HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, ART AND LANDSCAPE MUSEUM RESERVE



Among the extensive residential areas in the South of Moscow is one of the most remarkable places of the capital. About two hundred years ago the witness A. F. Raevsky wrote: «All that the nature of the fine that the art of the beautiful is all you will find in Tsaritsyno».

The earth, which now the Museum-reserve «Tsaritsyno» occupies is fraught with deep historical memory, rooted in ancient times by the Vyatichi, connected with names of noble knights and princely families Knyaz Golitsyn, Kantemirov. Tsaritsyno, the glory of the beautiful estate of the Moscow region, was visited by many men of culture and art, who left admiring description of what he saw, M. Karamzin, P. A. Vyazemsky, I. S. Turgenev, I. A. Bunin and many others. There is a delightful beauty of the natural landscape: the greatest architectural works created by the genius Russian architects I. Bazhenov and M. F. Kazakov are here.

In our time, the revival of failed residence of Catherine the Great was almost unbelievable. And today it is one of the most popular places in Moscow.

RUSSIAN HANDICRAFT CENTRE IZMAILOVO AND THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN VODKA



Russian handicraft centre Izmaylovo is famous for its open air souvenir market. Izmaylovo - one of the oldest part of Moscow, where the second Romanov Tzar Alexey Mikhailovich had his summer residence, where his son Peter the Great was brought up. One of the main highlight of the tour is Izmailovo Kremlin where you will be presented a short story about its history with common features of Russian architecture of the XVII century.



The collection of the museum of Russian Vodka counts over 600 exhibits: various brands of vodka, XVIIIth century vodka recipes, vodka posters, vodka labels and vodka bottles of different sizes, from shkalik (or ko-sushka) to shtof and quarter. You will get acquainted with the centuries-long history of Russian vodka, from its invention to the present day. You will see the first distillation unit, by means of which “burning wine” was produced in the XVth century. You will learn the secrets of vodka production process as well as the main ingredients of the Russian national drink.

THE MUSEUM OF CHOCOLATE



The Museum of Chocolate is an exciting museum which showcases the products of Russia's most renowned chocolate factories such as Red October, Babaevsky Concern and Rot Front.

The products of the contemporary Russian chocolatiers enjoy high demand and have won appreciation all over the world, which is easily confirmed by numerous awards and prizes from Russian and international exhibitions for the high quality and vast product range.

You will be acquainted with the existing chocolate types, learn about the features of each type and find out more about a production cycle. You will be impressed by elaborated chocolate sculptures truly defined as masterpieces of chocolate art. The excursion is accompanied with an interesting documentary film about the chocolate production process and a guided visit to the factory itself which exhibits a wide range of instruments for producing the most delicious chocolate ever.

And, of course, you can taste all the sweets you see!

SERGIEV POSAD TOUR



Sergiev Posad is situated 70 km from Moscow. You will enjoy the city tour to Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, which is one of the most important architectural and historical monuments of medieval Russia and also a centre of Russian Orthodoxy today. The monastery, which is operating now, is known by its unique architectural ensemble that was taking shape for centuries.

Nowadays the Tzar's Palace built in the 17th century combines Theological College and Ecclesiastical Academy.

Trinity cathedral founded in 1427 is famous for frescoes and icons executed by great masters of the past Andrey Rublyev and Daniil Cherny. There are Dukhovskaya church established in 1477, Assumption cathedral founded in 1559, Refectory and St. Sergius church established in 1692 year on the territory of Lavra. Painting class of Russian wooden nesting doll Matreshka is offered in the local Toy factory.

KOLOMENSKOYE ESTATE: MUSEUM, PARK AND PARTICIPATION IN FOLKLORE SHOW



Kolomenskoye is a beautiful royal country estate in outer Moscow on the bend of the river. The guests enjoy a walk in century-old oak-trees grove, visit small but interesting museums containing Russian wood-carving and tiles, the beautiful Kazan Church (1649), see the stunning Church of Ascension – built by Tzar Vasily III to celebrate the birth of Ivan the Terrible, the first stone tent-roofed church in Russia.

Kolomenskoye is used to be the place of holding traditional Russian wedding ceremonies. It is possible to attend a traditional Russian wedding ceremony where a folklore group dressed in national costumes represents a traditional ceremony of Russian hospitality. Afterwards the guests are treated to delicious pancakes with honey. The meal is accompanied by folklore group performance.

RUSSIAN COOKING CLASS IN THE LUXURY RESTAURANT BOYARSKY



Russia offers many fantastic national dishes from Blini and Borsch to Beef Stroganoff and Black Bread.

Moscow Metropol hotel's luxury restaurant Boyarsky serves excellent traditional Russian cuisine, prepared from ancient recipes, in sumptuously elegant furnishings.

This is a unique opportunity to experience traditional Russian hospitality. The restaurant offers an exciting cooking class which concentrates on authentic Russian recipes and taught by great local chefs of the restaurant. It gives a unique opportunity to learn how to prepare and serve a good sampling of Russia's world-renowned dishes such as Borsch, Pelmeni, Pirozhki, Beef Stroganoff.

FASHION HOUSE OF V. ZAITSEV WITH MASTER-CLASS “PAVLOVSKI SHAWL HANDMADE ATTIRE”



Russian fashion is closely associated with the name of a prominent Russian designer Slava Zaitsev. In 1988 he was the first Soviet designer who presented his collection at the Haute Couture Week in Paris. The fashion house of Slava Zaitsev was founded in 1982, so as his dream came true: fashion started to exist as an independent art in Russia.

Zaitsev was the first who started to demonstrate theatrical show of collections in the Theatre of Fashion, established on the basis of his fashion house.

The fashion house survey starts from the Salon-Boutique on the 1st floor. Here guests can see collections of brands, produced in the fashion house workshops, they are: Slava Zaitsev, Yez by Yegor Zaitsev, Maroussia Zaitseva и Nikolai Kyvyrzhik by Slava Zaitsev. Not only clothes, but also different accessories, books, souvenirs, bed linen and fabrics are sold here.

There is the Welcome Reception Room on the 5th floor of the Fashion House, which is designed & brightly decorated by Maestro Zaitsev himself.

It is very interesting to visit the main Pantry Room for the variety of unique fabrics which are kept there.

The survey continues with the Art-Gallery of Slava Zaitsev. The Gallery exposition includes exciting sketches of modern clothes and theatre costumes, pictorial masterpieces done in different styles – one of which called “Photo Painting” is contrived by Maestro.

The Fashion Lab of the Fashion House is the place where young students try their best to become professional well-known couturiers. The best specialists of the Fashion House and Slava Zaitsev himself help the students improve their skills and express their talents.

After excursion over the Fashion House guests are welcome to take part in one of the most interesting Master classes – ways to create the own attire out of Pavlovski Shawl (traditional Russian shawl) by method of Slava Zaitsev. Guests may buy a shawl as a souvenir after the master class!

KUSKOVO ESTATE AND THE CERAMICS MUSEUM



In 1919 Kuskovo Estate was used to be the summer residence of the first Russian Count Boris Petrovich Sheremetyev. The architectural ensemble of the estate had been formed by the middle of the 18th century. Magnificent constructions such as the Palace, Grotto, Hermitage, Great stone conservatory, old church, and Italian and Dutch houses survived until nowadays. The French park with ponds, pavilions and marble sculptures is one of Kuskovo Estate attractions.

The Ceramics museum possesses one of the largest collections of ceramics and glass from different countries dating from antiquity up to present days. In the museum's funds you can find more than 33.000 works of Russian and foreign art including specimens of Italian majolica, Venetian, English and Russian glass; Meissen, Sevres and Eastern porcelain.

MOSCOW METRO AND NIKOLSKAYA STREET



Moscow metro is Russia's pride and one of the main attractions of the city. The underground of Stalin's era was the USSR's largest construction project, with stations built as "people's palaces". The outstanding architects and artists were employed to implement the project. Major stations built in the 30s of the last century look like palaces richly decorated with marble, stained-glass windows and even sculptural groups. Stations were faced with marble, granite, and other various stones. The early stations form an amazing blend of Baroque, Classicism, Soviet Realism styles, etc.

Nikolskaya street is one of the main streets in Kitai Gorod goes from Red Square to Lubyanskaya Square and is known by its rich history and beautiful buildings.

One of the main sights of Nikolskaya Street is the Print Yard, which was built in 1553-1554. The famous Apostol was printed here in 1564 as well as the first Russian newspaper Vedomosti in 1703.

The stone building of the Print Yard with a tower was created in 1642 - 1643 by architects T. Sharutin and I. Neverov, after the fire in 1634. A Gothic-style tower appeared in 1844. Since 1721 until 1918, this building housed the Synodal Printing House and during the Soviet era it was owned by the Historical Archive Institute. All that remains from the 17th century is the stone two-storey chamber (1679).

By the early 19th century Nikolskaya Street became the center of the Moscow book trade as 26 out of 31 Moscow bookshops were located on Nikolskaya Street and on Novaya Square. Numerous second-hand bookshops were there until the early 20th century. The house of the Academy of Sciences with its academic bookshop was also located at the end of the street.