



MOSCOW

**“All you’ve got to do is decide to go
and the hardest part is over.**

So go!”

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET

**Mara Vorhees,
Leonid Ragozin**

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Welcome to Moscow

During any season, at any hour of the day, Moscow thrills visitors with its artistry, history and majesty.

Kremlin & Red Square

The very founding site of the city (and arguably, the country), the Kremlin and Red Square are still at the heart of Moscow – historically, geographically and spiritually. Feel the weight of this significance as you wander within the walls of the ancient fortress, marvel at the mind-boggling magnificence of St Basil's Cathedral and pay your respects to the revered leader of a now-defunct state. Moscow will move you. It will tantalise your senses, soothe your spirit and boggle your mind – and it all starts right here at the Kremlin and Red Square.

Communist History

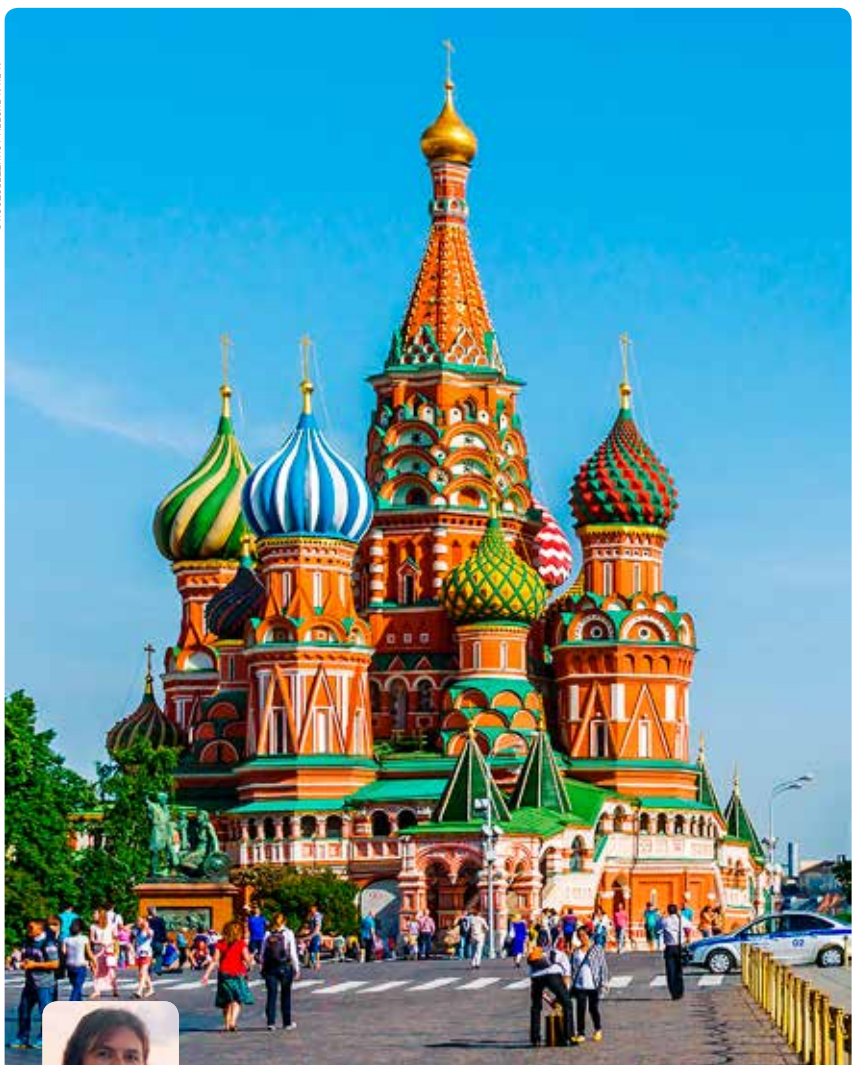
The remains of the Soviet state are scattered all around the city. Monuments remember fallen heroes and victorious battles, while museums attempt to analyse and synthesise the past. See Lenin and Stalin – off their pedestals – at the whimsical Art Muzeon. Step into the socialist-realist fantasy at VDNKh. Descend into the depths of the Soviet system at Bunker-42 Cold War Museum. Ride the museum-like metro and remember the millions who suffered at the Gulag History Museum. Nowadays, retro clubs and cafes give their guests a taste of the Soviet experience. You can even try your hand at Soviet-era arcade games.

Performing Arts

What is more thrilling than watching a ballerina defy gravity, leaping across the stage at the glittering Bolshoi Theatre? Or feeling the force of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, just a few blocks away from where it premiered more than a century ago? Or oohing and aahing as circus performers soar under the big tent? The classical performing arts in Moscow are still among the best in the world. Nowadays, even the most traditional theatres are experimenting with innovative arrangements, reviving lost favourites and hosting world premieres. Whether you appreciate the classics or prefer the contemporary, the capital's performing arts will impress.

Orthodoxy & Architecture

At nearly every turn in Moscow, you'll see golden domes peeking out over rooftops and hear church bells peeling through the streets, which are dotted with some 600 churches. There are colourful hidden gems, historic fortresses and gargantuan cathedrals. The exteriors are adorned with stone carvings and glittering domes; interiors are packed with ancient icons, swirling incense and faithful worshippers. For more than a millennium, Orthodoxy has helped to define the Russian nation, a significance that is palpable in these atmospheric spiritual places.



Why I Love Moscow

By Mara Vorhees, Writer

Moscow lives and breathes Russian history, from the ancient Kremlin on the city's founding site to the ubiquitous legacy of the Soviet period. Yet the history is not staid: on every visit I witness it unfolding in the here and now. The metro expands in every direction. Old factories and power plants are converted into art centres and nightlife hubs. Bans on imported food inspire an innovative locavore movement. The biggest hotel in the world gives way to a 'wild urbanism' park. Moscow is unstoppable – and it never ceases to inspire me in some unexpected way.

For more about our writers, see p288

Arbat & Khamovniki

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts** (p123) Perusing the collections of the museum's three branches, especially the incredible array of Impressionist and post-Impressionist art in the 19th and 20th Century Art Gallery.
- 2 Novodevichy Convent** (p120) Soaking up five centuries of artistry and history and paying respects to Russian cultural greats at the adjacent cemetery.
- 3 Varenichnaya No 1** (p133) Eating the Soviet-throwback way (dumplings at Cold War-era prices) after strolling and shopping on ul Arbat.
- 4 Cathedral of Christ the Saviour** (p127) Marvelling at the ostentation and sheer size of the capital's largest church.
- 5 Park Pobedy** (p125) Recalling WWII, Russia's greatest tragedy and triumph of the 20th century, at this huge memorial complex.



For more detail of this area see Map p276 and p281 →

Explore Arbat & Khamovniki

These two adjacent districts are an art-lover's dream. The Arbat district is packed with world-class art museums and smaller artist-dedicated galleries, not to mention the elaborate Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. One might spend an entire day wandering the area, starting at the top-notch Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, then strolling up ul Prechistenka in the afternoon and dropping into various sights along the way.

Evening is also a wonderful time to wander the storied cobblestone streets around the old Arbat, the historic haunt of artists, musicians and street performers. Though Arbat today has been taken over by souvenir stands and is often packed with tourists, it still evokes the free-thinking artistic spirit of yesteryear.

In Khamovniki, the Unesco-recognised Novodevichy Convent and Cemetery is a worthwhile half-day destination. Further away from the city centre, the roads become wider, the traffic faster and the distances greater. As such, Dorogomilovo and Sparrow Hills are not great for wandering. But it's worth making a special trip for a few choice destinations, such as Park Pobedy and the forested hillsides of Vorobyovy Gory Nature Preserve.

Local Life

➔ **Yandexification** In Khamovniki, ul Lva Tolstogo is home to the headquarters of Yandex (the Google of Russia, by some accounts), which has transformed this old industrial area. Hipsters and computer nerds buzz around on scooters and hang out at local cafes.

➔ **Student City** The area southwest of Moscow State University (known as Yuzozapadnaya, or 'southwest') is the city's academic area, populated by students and other energetic young people.

➔ **River Walk** Vorobyovy Gory attracts students, families and other active people who walk, run, skate and cycle along the riverside path.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Arbat** Lines 3 and 4 (dark blue and light blue respectively) run in parallel across the Arbat district. They both have stations called Arbatskaya, with the entrance near Arbatskaya pl; and they both have stations called Smolenskaya, with the entrance near Smolenskaya pl. Make sure you know which line you are getting on.

➔ **Khamovniki** Line 1 (red) traverses the Khamovniki district, from Kropotkinskaya station at pl Prechistenskie Vorota (near the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour); to Park Kultury station along the Garden Ring; and to Sportivnaya station.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

All of the neighbourhood art museums stay open late on Thursdays (till 9pm), but beware that ticket sales often stop 30 minutes or even one hour before closing.

Best Art Galleries

- ➔ 19th and 20th Century Art Gallery (p124)
- ➔ Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts main building (p123)
- ➔ Multimedia Art Museum (p130)
- ➔ Burganov House (p129)

For reviews, see p128. ➔

Best Places to Eat

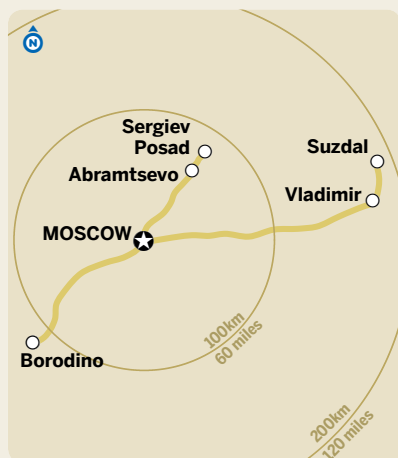
- ➔ Elardzhi (p133)
- ➔ Chemozan (p134)
- ➔ Varenichnaya No 1 (p133)
- ➔ Voronezh (p134)

For reviews, see p133. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Dom 12 (p136)
- ➔ Balalaechnaya (p136)
- ➔ Rhythm Blues Cafe (p137)
- ➔ Zhiguli Beer Hall (p136)
- ➔ Arbat 13 (p137)

For reviews, see p135. ➔



Day Trips from Moscow

Sergiev Posad p171

Home to the Trinity Monastery of St Sergius, Sergiev Posad's easy distance from Moscow and historic atmosphere ensure it's the most visited destination in the Golden Ring.

Abramtsevo p174

An artists colony and country estate, Abramtsevo was a font of artistic inspiration during the 19th-century renaissance of traditional Russian painting, sculpture, architecture and arts.

Vladimir p175

The 12th-century capital of medieval Rus was formative in establishing a distinctively Russian architectural style. Ancient Vladimir still shows off several remarkable structures that date back to its heyday.

Suzdal p180

Dating to the 11th century, Suzdal was a medieval capital and a spiritual centre. The village is still ringed with monasteries and peppered with merchant churches, making for an idyllic fairy-tale setting.

Borodino p184

The site of turning-point battles in the Napoleonic War of 1812 as well as the Great Patriotic War (WWII), Borodino battlefield is also an idyllic destination far from the crowds, traffic and smog.



TOP SIGHT SERGIEV POSAD

Blue-and-gold cupolas offset by snow-white walls – this colour scheme lies at the heart of the Russian perception of divinity and Sergiev Posad's monastery is a textbook example. It doesn't get any holier than this in Russia, for the place was founded in 1340 by the country's most revered saint, St Sergius of Radonezh. Since the 14th century, pilgrims have been journeying here to pay homage to him.

History

In 1340 St Sergei of Radonezh founded the Trinity Monastery of St Sergius, which soon became the spiritual centre of Russian Orthodoxy. St Sergei is credited with providing mystic support to Prince Dmitry Donskoy during his improbable victory over the Tatars in the battle of Kulikovo Pole in 1380. Soon after his death at the age of 78, Sergei was named Russia's patron saint.

Although the Bolsheviks closed the monastery, it was reopened following WWII as a museum, residence of the patriarch and a working monastery. The patriarch and the church's administrative centre moved to the Danilovsky Monastery in Moscow in 1988, but the Trinity Monastery of St Sergius remains one of the most important spiritual sites in Russia.

Spruced up on the occasion of St Sergius' 700-year anniversary in 2014, the monastery is an active religious centre with a visible population of monks in residence. This mystical place is a window into the age-old belief system that has provided Russia with centuries of spiritual sustenance.

DON'T MISS

- ♦ Trinity Cathedral
- ♦ Tomb of Boris Godunov
- ♦ Chapel-at-the-Well

PRACTICALITIES

- ♦ Свято-Троицкая Сергиева Лавра
- ♦ ☎ info 496-544 5334, tours 496-540 5721
- ♦ www.stsl.ru
- ♦ admission free
- ♦ 🕒 5am-9pm

Behind the Scenes

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Lonely Planet

THIS BOOK

This 7th edition of Lonely Planet's *Moscow* guidebook was researched and written by Mara Vorhees and Leonid Ragozin. The previous two editions were also written by them. This guidebook was produced by the following:

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Kremlin & Kitay Gorod

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Kremlin (p60)

Wandering around the grounds and exploring 500 years of artistic mastery, political power and spiritual devotion; and gawking at the royal treasures in the Armoury.

2 St Basil's Cathedral (p76)

Marvelling at the multicoloured, multidomed spectacle that is the icon of Russia.

3 Lenin's Mausoleum (p75)

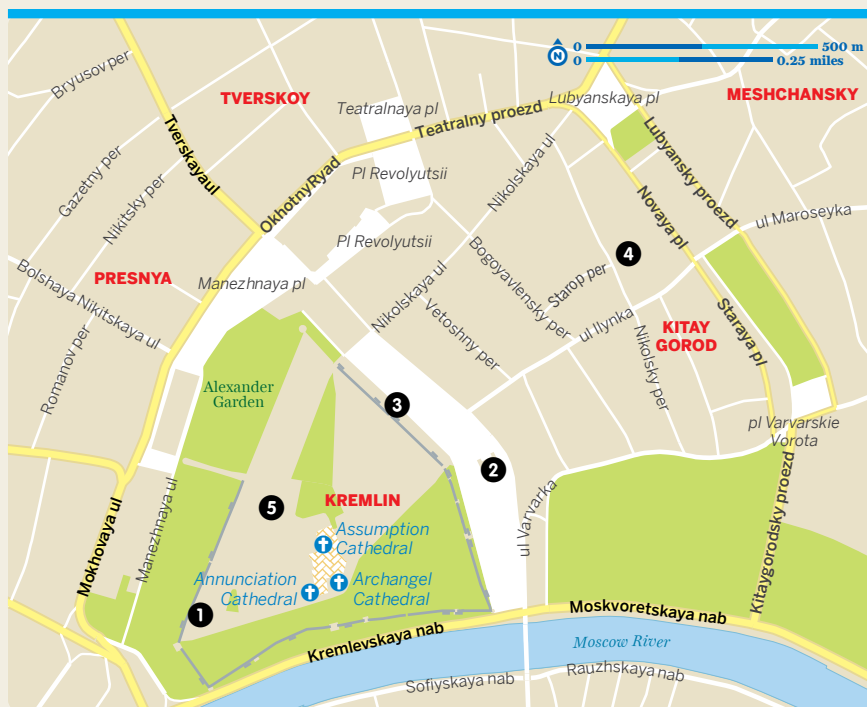
Paying your respects to embalmed Vladimir Ilych and other communist heavy hitters.

4 Kitay Gorod (p80)

Discovering the ancient churches hidden among the narrow streets of this 13th-century neighbourhood.

5 Alexander Garden (p72)

Visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and catching the changing of the guard.



For more detail of this area see Map p271 →

Explore Kremlin & Kitay Gorod

If you have only one day in Moscow, you will probably spend it here. With more time, you might spend more than a day here, exploring the churches and museums, and viewing the trappings of power.

The neighbourhood's key attractions are clustered around Red Square and within the walls of the Kremlin. It doesn't matter which of these two you take in first, but try to leave time for both. Your visit to the Kremlin should be planned around admission to the Armoury: it requires advance purchase of tickets, which specify the admission times.

Besides being a major tourist attraction, Red Square hosts concerts, festivals, parades and other official events. As a result, the place is sometimes closed to the public and it's almost always packed with people. Come early in the morning or late in the evening to catch a glimpse of the square when it is sparsely populated, vast and majestic. Travellers with some extra time will enjoy wandering the medieval streets of Kitay Gorod, discovering ancient hidden churches and popping into shops and cafes. It is a welcome change from the hustle and bustle that characterises the Kremlin and Red Square.

Local Life

- ➔ **Parks** Muscovites don't often hang out on Red Square, but they do enjoy Alexander Garden, where they stroll among the flower beds, snap photos and (gasp) lounge on the grass.
- ➔ **Wedding Parties** The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is Moscow's top destination for wedding parties, who snap photos and drink champagne while the bride and groom pay their respects by laying flowers on the grave site.
- ➔ **Shopping Malls** It may be too expensive for most Muscovites to shop at the stores in GUM, but it's affordable to eat at the mall's Stolovaya No 57 – as evidenced by the lines of locals out the door at lunchtime.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Red Square** Three metro lines converge at Red Square. Okhotny Ryad station is on line 1 (red); Teatralnaya station is on line 2 (dark green); and Ploshchad Revolyutsii is on line 3 (dark blue).
- ➔ **Kitay Gorod** Lines 6 and 7 (orange and purple) intersect in Kitay Gorod, with both stations sharing the name of the neighbourhood. Line 1 (red) has an eponymous station at Lubyanka, which is also useful for Kitay Gorod.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you think Red Square is impressive by day, come back at night, when the crowds are gone and the lights cast a magical glow on the historic buildings.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Stolovaya No 57 (p83)
- ➔ Grand Coffee Mania (p83)
- ➔ Bosco Cafe (p83)
- ➔ Ryby Net (p83)

For reviews, see p83. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ciderella (p84)
- ➔ Mandarin Combustible (p84)
- ➔ Jawsspot Msk (p84)

For reviews, see p84. ➔

Best for Fashion

- ➔ GUM (p74)
- ➔ Lnyanaya Lavka (p85)
- ➔ Alena Akhmadullina Boutique (p85)

For reviews, see p85. ➔

Meshchansky & Basmanny

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Winzavod** (p158) Contemplating Moscow's hot contemporary art scene at one of the gentrified old factories.
- 2 Bunker-42** (p161) Descending 60m underground to explore the Cold War communications centre.
- 3 Izmaylovsky Market** (p161) Stocking up on junk souvenirs and Soviet paraphernalia.
- 4 Aptekarsky Ogorod** (p159) Escaping from the urban jungle into the dense vegetation of Moscow's quaintest gardens.
- 5 Ukuleleshnaya** (p166) Sampling craft beer with a fair chance of witnessing a ukulele jam.



For more detail of this area see Map p286 →

Explore Meshchansky & Basmanny

Begin acquainting yourself with the area from Lubyanskaya pl, where the former KGB building looks over a modest stone that marks the millions of people who perished in the infamous Gulag camps. Before you start exploring, head up to the roof of Detsky Mir department store for a view over the neighbourhood.

Elegant ul Myasnitskaya leads to the Boulevard Ring, which creates a leafy pedestrian belt that runs all the way down to the Moscow River. With a beautiful pond that becomes a skating rink in winter, Chistoprudny bul is one of the loveliest parts of Moscow.

A short walk will take you to ul Pokrovka, which – together with ul Maroseyka – has in recent years transformed into one of the city's best restaurant rows. This a great place to sit back with a cup of coffee and indulge in some people-watching.

From here, make your way towards Kursky railway station through the quieter lanes between Chistoprudny bul and the Garden Ring, where you'll see some nice churches and early-20th-century houses.

Cross the Garden Ring and go around the station area before walking down ul Nizhnyaya Syromyatnicheskaya. Two passages under the railway track lead to a belt of centenarian factories that are becoming one of Moscow's hottest art, shopping and start-up scenes. The flagship Winzavod (accessed via the first passage), a former winery, is packed with galleries, while the nearby ArtPlay area specialises in modern design.

Local Life

- ➔ **New Moscow** Watch the city's game changers plot new projects and start-ups at Winzavod and ArtPlay.
- ➔ **Anticafe** A cafe but not as you know it – you pay for time, and the coffee (and cookies) are free.
- ➔ **Outdoors** Whatever the weather, locals stroll and socialise around Chistye Prudy.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Meshchansky** Several metro lines pass through Meshchansky. Both the purple Tagansko-Krasnopresnenskaya line and the orange Kaluzhsko-Rizhskaya line have stops at Kitay-Gorod. Along the Boulevard Ring, Chistye Prudy is on the red Sokolnicheskaya line; Turgenevskaya is on the orange Kaluzhsko-Rizhskaya line; and Sretensky Bulvar is on the light green Lyublinskaya line.
- ➔ **Basmanny** The converted factories are best accessed from Kurskaya where the Ring line links with the dark blue Arbatsko-Pokrovskaya line and the light green Lyublinskaya line.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Trams departing from Chistye Prudy metro station are a nice way of touring this section of the Boulevard Ring. All of them go down to the river and across the bridge to Novokuznetskaya metro in Zamoskvorechie.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Darbazi (p166)
- ➔ Kitayskaya Gramota (p163)
- ➔ Odessa-Mama (p165)
- ➔ Levon's Highland Cuisine (p164)
- ➔ Yuzhane (p163)

For reviews, see p163. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ukuleleshnaya (p166)
- ➔ Solyanka (p167)
- ➔ Chaynaya Vysota (p167)
- ➔ Tsurtsum Cafe (p166)
- ➔ Sisters Cafe (p166)

For reviews, see p166. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Naivno? Ochen! (p168)
- ➔ Khokhlovka Original (p168)
- ➔ Russkaya Usadba (p169)

For reviews, see p168. ➔

Presnya

Neighbourhood Top Five

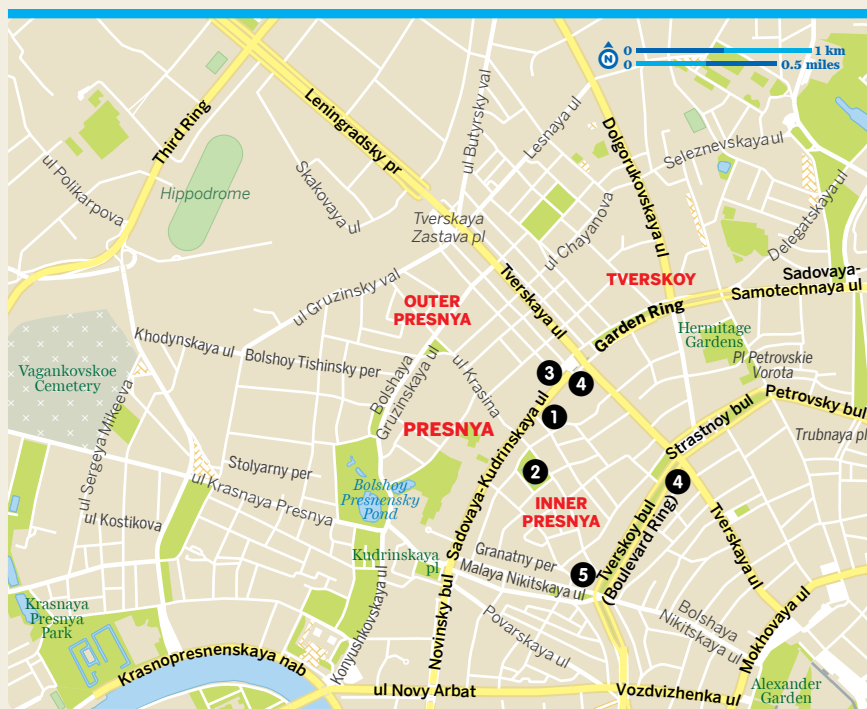
- 1 Mikhail Bulgakov Museum** (p107) Retracing the footsteps and flight patterns of the characters of the Russian literary classic *The Master and Margarita*, following up with a visit to the author's home.
- 2 Cafe Pushkin** (p111) Dining in *haute-russe* style and experiencing the cuisine


of the tsars in a lovely 19th-century building.

- 3 Time-Out Rooftop Bar** (p115) Hitting this trendy top-floor bar for top-shelf cocktails and top-notch city views.
- 4 Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory** (p116) Listening to a world-class concert by the up-and-coming

Moscow Symphony Orchestra in the conservatory's grandiose Great Hall.

- 5 Ryabushinsky Mansion** (p106) Admiring the unique collection of architecture along Bolshaya Nikitskaya ul, including this 1906 art nouveau visual fantasy.



For more detail of this area see Map p278 

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

In the backstreets around Bolshaya Nikitskaya ul, many old mansions have survived – some renovated, others dilapidated. Most of those on the streets closest to the Kremlin were built by the 18th-century aristocracy, while those further away were built by rising 19th-century industrialists. Nowadays many of these buildings are occupied by embassies and cultural institutions. With little traffic, Bolshaya Nikitskaya ul is excellent for a quiet ramble.

Best Kids' Outings

- ➔ Moscow Planetarium (p106)
- ➔ Moscow Zoo (p109)
- ➔ Patriarch's Ponds (p106)
- ➔ Tsereteli Studio-Museum (p109)

For reviews, see p105. ➔

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cafe Pushkin (p111)
- ➔ Volkonsky (p110)
- ➔ Khachapuri (p110)
- ➔ AQ Kitchen (p113)
- ➔ Twins (p110)

For reviews, see p109. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Time-Out Rooftop Bar (p115)
- ➔ Jagger (p115)
- ➔ Art Lebedev Cafe Studio (p113)
- ➔ Bar Klava (p114)
- ➔ Nikuda ne edem (p115)

For reviews, see p113. ➔

Explore Presnya

Presnya encompasses some of the capital's oldest neighbourhoods as well as its newest developments. Start by exploring the lovely residential areas of Inner Presnya, chock-full of evocative architecture, historic parks and fantastic drinking and dining spots. The whole neighbourhood is a wonderful place for a wander, especially with a copy of Mikhail Bulgakov's Presnya-set novel *The Master and Margarita* in hand. Come in the late afternoon, then stay for dinner – the area around Patriarch's Ponds has emerged as a dining hotspot, with restaurants lined up along Spiridonovsky per.

The more traditional sights – the state-of-the-art planetarium and the newly renovated zoo – are set on the busy Garden Ring (ring road 3km from the Kremlin). Further out, the metallic spires of the Moscow International Business Centre are the symbol of the 21st-century capital.

In Outer Presnya, the wide roads, heavy traffic and ongoing construction mean this part of the district is not particularly user-friendly. Make the trip only if you have your heart set on a particular destination.

Local Life

- ➔ **Parks** Packs of teens, grandmothers with wee ones and starry-eyed couples all congregate at Patriarch's Ponds to sit on the shady benches and feed the ducks.
- ➔ **Bakery** The queue often runs out the door as loyal patrons wait their turn for the city's best freshly baked breads, pastries and pies at Volkonsky.
- ➔ **Brunch** Weekends at Scramble are an expat institution.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Inner Presnya** Inner Presnya is most easily accessed from Mayakovskaya station on line 2 (green) or Pushkinskaya station on line 7 (purple).
- ➔ **Outer Presnya** For the more western parts of the district, the most useful metro stations are at Kudrinskaya pl: Barrikadnaya on line 7 and Krasnopresnenskaya on line 5 (Ring line).
- ➔ **International Business Centre** The new development around the International Business Centre has its own mini metro spur branching off from Kievskaya station, with convenient stops at Vystavochnaya and Mezhdunarodnaya.

Tverskoy

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Bolshoi Theatre (p88)
Spending an evening at one of the world's grandest opera and ballet venues.

2 Hermitage Gardens (p90)
Eating, drinking, dancing and otherwise frolicking at one of Moscow's liveliest parks, where art,

culinary or musical festivals take place almost weekly.

3 Jewish Museum & Centre of Tolerance (p90)
Learning about daily life for Jews in Russia from the partition of Poland to the late USSR times at this ultramodern museum.

4 Sanduny Baths (p102)
Sweating away your city stresses amid ultimate architectural opulence.

5 Delicatessen (p95)
Enjoying delicious food and award-winning cocktails at a gastrobar that regularly makes it into world's best lists.



For more detail of this area see Map p274 →

Explore Tverskoy

Start your exploration at the majestic Teatralnaya pl (Theatre Sq), home to the world-famous Bolshoi Theatre. This glittering jewel of a theatre is a sight to behold.

Several commercial streets, most filled with boutiques and cafes, radiate from Teatralnaya pl towards the Boulevard Ring. Car-free Kamergersky per connects to Tverskaya ul, Moscow's main thoroughfare, lined with stately pre-Soviet and Stalin-era buildings. This is the best area in Moscow for people-watching, where government officials and business people mingle with domestic tourists and Moscow hipsters. Many cafes accommodate this activity, some with sidewalk seating.

Further up, trendy Stoleshnikov per connects ul Bolshaya Dmitrovka with quaint ul Petrovka, which leads past the Moscow Museum of Modern Art to the charming Hermitage Gardens. Outside the Garden Ring, Novoslobodsky is a pleasant part of town with several important museums scattered around a fairly large area. Two metro stops away, Flakon and Khlebozavod 9 form a single area of former factories converted into attractive shopping and entertainment spaces.

Local Life

- **Parks** Hermitage Gardens is one of the city's liveliest places, with fresh air, greenery and cocktails at 32.05.
- **Gathering point** The Pushkin monument in the centre of Pushkinskaya pl (Pushkin Sq) is the city's most popular meeting point and political protest venue.
- **Student life** The proximity of a major university makes the cluster of bars around Mendeleyevskaya station especially lively.

Getting There & Away

- **Teatralnaya pl** Take the green Zamoskvoretskaya metro line to Teatralnaya station.
- **Tverskaya ul** Manezhnaya pl, at the bottom of Tverskaya ul, is accessible from the Okhotny Ryad metro station on the red Sokolnicheskaya line. The green Zamoskvoretskaya metro line provides easy access to Pushkinskaya pl (at Tverskaya station), Triumfalnaya pl (at Mayakovskaya station) and pl Tverskaya Zastava (at Belorusskaya station).
- **Beyond the Garden Ring** The green Zamoskvoretskaya metro line follows Tverskaya ul (which becomes 1-ya Tverskaya-Yamskaya ul, then Leningradsky pr and eventually Leningradskoe sh) almost all the way to the MKAD ring road, terminating at Rechnoy Vokzal. Novoslobodsky district is accessible via the connecting metro stations at Novoslobodskaya or Mendeleyevskaya.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

While the Bolshoi is Russia's most famous theatre, it is not the only one. Several other opera and ballet theatres in Moscow offer the same level of professionalism and panache in their performances at a fraction of the price. If you have your heart set on going to the opera, consider the Novaya Opera (p100) – a gorgeous theatre set in charming gardens.

Best Soviet History

- Contemporary History Museum (p90)
- Gulag History Museum (p92)
- Central Museum of the Armed Forces (p92)

For reviews, see p89. ➔

Best Places to Eat

- Delicatessen (p95)
- Brasserie Most (p97)
- Lavka-Lavka (p95)
- Seven (p96)
- Golodny-Zloy (p95)

For reviews, see p94. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- Noor / Electro (p98)
- Enthusiast (p98)
- Cafe Mart (p98)
- 32.05 (p98)
- Svoboda (p100)

For reviews, see p98. ➔

Zamoskvorechie

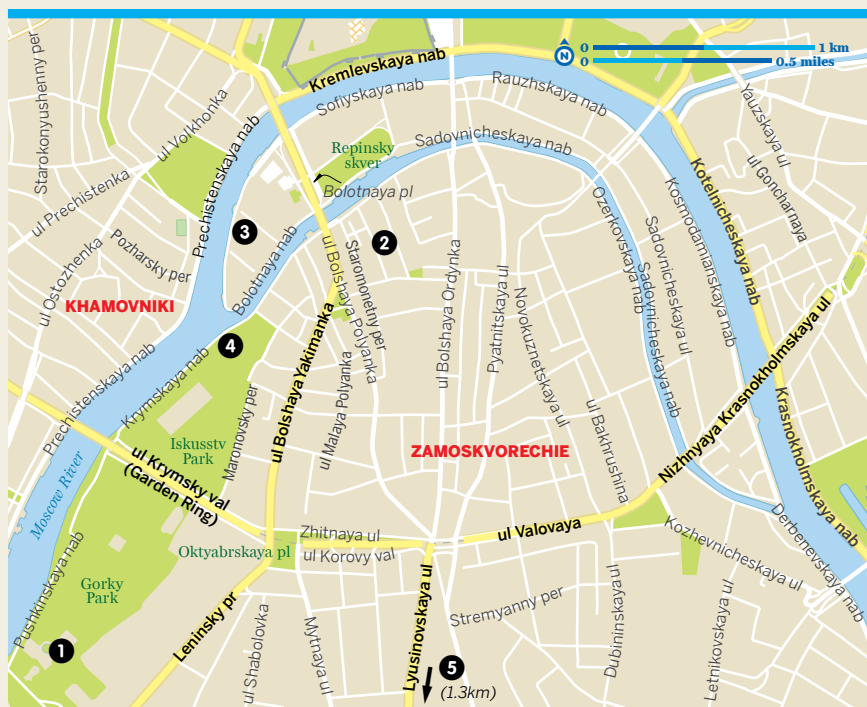
Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Gorky Park** (p143)
Strolling, cycling, roller-blading, dancing, drinking, playing pétanque – being as active or as lazy as you wish in this wonderfully gentrified and iconic park.
- 2 State Tretyakov Gallery** (p141) Admiring the Tretyakov's superb

collection of Russian icons, the cutting social commentary of the Peredvizhniki (Wanderers) and the pre-revolutionary decadence of the Symbolists.

- 3 Bar Strelka** (p152)
Watching the day and short summer night go by at the city's best open-terrace bar.

- 4 Art Muzeon** (p145)
Walking through the park's forest of sculptures, including fallen Soviet idols.
- 5 Danilovsky Market** (p151) Gorging on delicious food at an old Soviet market converted into a gourmet paradise.



For more detail of this area see Map p282 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The northern part of Zamoskvorechie – including the Red October complex on Bolotny Island – is easiest to access by walking over the Bolshoy Moskvoretsky most (bridge) from the Kremlin or walking over the Patriarshy most from the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Mizandari (p148)
- ➔ Björn (p152)
- ➔ Chugunny most (p151)
- ➔ Danilovsky Market (p151)
- ➔ Bardeli (p151)

For reviews, see p148. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bar Strelka (p152)
- ➔ Le Boule (p152)
- ➔ Parka (p153)
- ➔ Underdog (p152)
- ➔ MOJO (p153)

For reviews, see p152. ➔

Best Sweet Shops

- ➔ Alyonka (p154)
- ➔ RotFront (p154)

For reviews, see p154. ➔

Explore Zamoskvorechie

Novokuznetskaya and Tretyakovskaya metro stations provide the best access to the core parts of Zamoskvorechie. A scenic way to access the area is by walking across one of two bridges on both sides of the Kremlin or the pedestrian bridge near the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

The core of Zamoskvorechie is squeezed between ul Pyatnitskaya and ul Bolshaya Polyanka, with the district's crown gem – the Tretyakov Gallery – positioned in the very middle. North of the Tretyakov Gallery, a pedestrian bridge across the canal connects historical Zamoskvorechie with Bolotny Island, home to the fledgling hipster cluster of Red October. The latter serves as a starting point for exploring a chain of beautifully renovated parks filled with modern art spaces, cool eateries and sport facilities. Travelling south you can explore several important fortified monasteries and palaces, stopping for a meal at Danilovsky Market.

You'll need at least a full day to explore the core of Zamoskvorechie and the riverside parks.

Local Life

➔ **Eating at the market** A vestige of the Soviet era, the Danilovsky Market has jumped on the wave of gentrification and is now filled to the brim with little eateries representing all imaginable (and barely imaginable) cuisines. Worth the trek from the centre.

➔ **Outdoor activities** Closed to vehicles, but welcoming cyclists, rollerbladers and pedestrians, Moscow's answer to London's South Bank stretches 8km from Red October to Vorobyovy Gory via Gorky Park.

➔ **Gorging on art** Muscovites' hunger for artistic education manifests itself in weekend crowds pouring into Zamoskvorechie's large and famous galleries, especially when exhibitions are under way.

➔ **Pub crawling** The area between Tretyakovskaya and Novokuznetskaya metro stations is dotted with bars and craft-beer pubs.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Inner Zamoskvorechie** Three different metro lines cut through Zamoskvorechie in a north-south direction. The green Zamoskvoretskaya line and the orange Kaluzhsko-Rizhskaya line intersect at Novokuznetskaya. The grey Serpukhovsko-Timiryazevskaya line has a station at Polyanka.

➔ **Outer Zamoskvorechie** Along the Ring line, the green Zamoskvoretskaya line stops at Paveletskaya; the orange Kaluzhsko-Rizhskaya line stops at Oktyabrskaya; and the grey Serpukhovsko-Timiryazevskaya line stops at Serpukhovskaya.

Understand Moscow

MOSCOW TODAY 200

The Russian capital has become a kinder, gentler city – not to mention a lot more hip.

HISTORY 202

Travel through nearly 900 years of history, from medieval magic to imperial grandeur, from communist austerity to contemporary affluence.

PERFORMING ARTS..... 220

Moscow's stages are graced by symphony orchestras, bohemian bands, classical ballet and experimental theatre.

ART & ARCHITECTURE 228

Icons and onion domes, sculptures and skyscrapers: the Russian capital is something to see.

LITERATURE & CINEMA 237

Moscow features prominently in the Russian classics, as well as their contemporary counterparts.

Moscow Today

Nearly three decades into its reign as the capital of the Russian Federation, Moscow has proven itself. In this time the city has weathered economic crises and political transitions, building sprees and demolition derbies, terrorist attacks and festive celebrations. Now – with a stable middle class and a new look to boot – the city has settled into an upbeat but sustainable rhythm. Stalin's words ring true: 'Life has become better, comrades. Life has become more joyous.'

Best on Film

Elena (2011) Winner of a Jury Prize at Cannes, this drama examines the meaning of love, family and class in modern Moscow.

Hipsters (2008) A cult-classic musical about an underground Soviet youth movement.

Moscow Doesn't Believe in Tears (1980) Great chick flick that bagged an Oscar for best foreign-language film.

My Perestroika (2010) An insightful documentary about coming of age during the *perestroika* era and navigating life in contemporary Moscow.

Night Watch (2004) A fantasy thriller set in modern-day Moscow.

Best in Print

Anna Karenina (Leo Tolstoy; 1877) A legitimate alternative for readers who don't have time for *War and Peace*.

The Master and Margarita (Mikhail Bulgakov; 1967) The most telling fiction to come out of the Soviet Union.

The Big Green Tent (Ludmila Ulitskaya; 2015) An epic tale of three friends in post-Stalinist Moscow.

A Gentleman in Moscow (Amor Towles; 2016) A former count is placed under house arrest by the fledgling Soviet government, living out his years in the Hotel Metropol.

The Patriots (Sana Krasikov; 2017) A multigenerational family is caught between two countries.

Liveability

When Sergei Sobyenin became mayor of Moscow, he promised a shift in focus – away from big business and huge construction projects towards improving the city for regular-guy residents. Almost a decade down the line, the results are visible. Moscow is gradually but noticeably becoming an easier, cleaner, more pleasant place to live.

Recently, urban development in the centre has focused on parks and pedestrian ways, making it easier to navigate on foot – or even on bike. Indeed, hundreds of kilometres of bike lanes have been painted. The 'My Street' initiative has revitalised the city's pedestrian zones with wider pavements and more trees. Kitay Gorod is being transformed by the creation of Park Zaryadye and improvements to the surrounding streets. The same sort of metamorphosis is expected on ul Volkhonka with the creation of a 'Museum Quarter'.

In 2017 Sobyenin announced his grandest plan yet – the demolition of dilapidated *khrushchevki* (low-rise Soviet-era housing) and relocation of residents to modern blocks. The housing relocation program would affect some 5000 apartment buildings and 1.6 million people. Residents took to the streets in protest, fearing they would be forced to move to high-rise buildings in far-flung locations (although Sobyenin promised otherwise). The city administration responded by allowing tenants to vote on the fate of their own buildings, and residents of some 4000 blocks voted in favour of relocation. Hopefully this initial victory for the city administration will prove to be a long-term benefit for the many affected residents.

Social Mood

There's something to be said for political stability and financial security. That seems to be the conclusion that