

MOSCOW

Moscow, once the epicentre of the Soviet Union, is a surprisingly charming and picturesque city. Modern architecture is mixed with Stalinist buildings of the bygone era of the USSR. The natural centre of town, the Red Square is surrounded by the cities main attractions, such as the Kremlin and the onion domes of the Vasilij Cathedral.

The best way of getting around in Moscow is by metro, which main city stations impress with grandiose ornaments and beautiful murals. Wherever you are heading, spending a couple of days in Moscow is well worth the time. This is a metropolis of the Russian empire and still a world city.



FROM THE AIRPORT

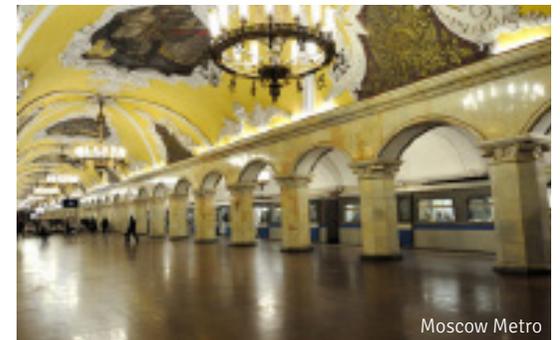
Moscow is serviced by three international airports: Sheremetyevo - 29 km from the city centre, Domodedovo - 42 km from the city centre and Vnukovo - 28 km from the city centre.

Majority of our tours to Moscow include a private transfer directly from the airport to your hotel. Your driver will be waiting for you at the airport after customs, holding a sign with your name in it. The drivers are easy to spot at the airport, they are all wearing black suits and ties and they will be waiting in the arrivals hall ready to escort you through the busy airport. Going through the customs at the airport might take a long time. Be prepared to wait in the line and remember to bring a bottle of water with you. It also good to use a restroom before entering the customs area - you don't want to leave your spot in the line and queue up again!

GOOD TO KNOW

On arrival, you won't need money until you get to your hotel - most likely, they will have an ATM in their foyer to use.

You will most likely have the same driver and guide for your complete stay so you can tip at the end.



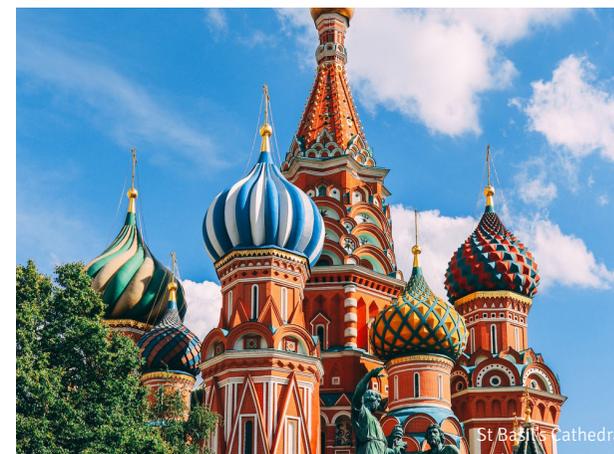
SOUVENIR SHOPPING

GUM - Russia's most famous department store and arguably the most beautiful too.

Izmailovo Estate and Souvenir market – souvenir mecca, you can get just about anything here from handmade items to Soviet antiques. Remember to bargain for prices!

Arbat Street – elegant historic street with lots of cafes and restaurants, as well as souvenir shops and monuments.

Museum of Moscow - If you're looking for something else to bring back home, than kitschy souvenirs and ushanka-hats, head straight to Moscow Museum. You can find rare books of Moscow's history, designer stationery and jewellery, and tasteful Moscow inspired posters, maps, totes and fridge magnets.



CULTURE FASCINATIONS

Red Square, Kremlin, St Basil's Cathedral, Lenin's Mausoleum, all in one. The Kremlin and Red Square – residence and the surroundings of Russian president. Most of the Kremlin area is closed to public, but there are lots of treasured attractions that are accessible for visit.

Moscow Metro – even if the main purpose is to get people from one place to another, many of Moscow's stations are worth visiting for other reasons as well. They are beautifully designed works of art with for example marble columns, bronze sculptures and stained glass. Definitely get a guided tour as everything is in Russian and not really accessible for foreigners.

Tretyakov Gallery – national treasury of Russian fine art. The gallery's history dates back to 1856, when the Moscow merchant Pavel Tretyakov acquired works by Russian artists of his day with the aim of creating a collection, which might later grow into a museum of national art.

Gorky Park – premier green space in Moscow, offering entertainment for every taste all year round. In summer

you can rent boats or watch movies in outdoor cinema, and in winter you can go ice skating here. You can also just enjoy a meal at a restaurant or marvel around in the park.

Bolshoi theatre – the place to be for an evening of entertainment. The resident opera and ballet performances rate among the finest in the world.

Near the Kashevskaya Hotel, if you are interested in churches, you can find quite a few smaller Russian orthodox churches to enter. You need to wear a scarf and suitable clothing but they are very interesting to see.

Right out the front of the Kadashevskaya Hotel, you can get on a canal boat for a sightseeing tour. It takes an hour or so and there is English explanations as you board. You can also hire bikes from the hotel for an hour or so, remembering that the Kremlin is only a five-minute bike ride away.

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Russian cuisine is very unique and distinctive, and its known for using a variety of local produce in cooking. The culinary palette is rich in meat, poultry and fish dishes. However, perhaps the most known for travellers are different dishes made out of dough - blini, pierogi and pelmeni, just to name a few. Pelmeni are so popular in Russia, that people have even raised monuments for this famous dish. Other staples in Russian cooking are different kind of soups, borsch being the most famous. Moscow has a variety of restaurants where you'll surely find different variations of these dishes.

Russia uses local produce and reinvents traditional dishes by giving them a fresh twist. Moscow's restaurants are very diverse—you'll find Soviet-themed canteens, glamorous upmarket establishments, and family-owned eateries.

Try also one of our destination specialists' favourite Russian street foods - shashlik - a meat skewer.



Pelmeni - Russian dumplings



RESTAURANTS

White Rabbit - White Rabbit undoubtedly offers one of, if not the, most spectacular views in Moscow. From its stylish interior rooftop location, diners can experience a breathtaking full panoramic vision of the city. Some of the culinary highlights include roast suckling pig, foie gras stuffed quail, beef tartare and fried octopus. Address: 3 Smolenskaya square, 16th floor, Moscow
Web: <http://whiterabbitmoscow.ru/en/>

Aragvi - Moscow's Aragvi restaurant, once the legendary haunt of KGB spies and cosmonauts, has reopened with its Soviet-era grandeur restored. The new menu includes the classic Georgian dishes that made its reputation such as khinkali (dumplings full of meat and bouillon) and khachapuri, bread topped with cheese, as well as non-Georgian specialities such as borscht and Black Sea herring pate. Address: Tverskaya 6/2

Café Pushkin - We recommend a visit to Café Pushkin for cakes and coffee, lunch or dinner. You can even just pop your head in to see what the fuss is about. It has an amazing old world charm about it and you can dine in the library upstairs. There is a less formal café next door with wonderful cakes. Worth it for the Instagrammable cake shots!
Address: Tverskoy Boulevard, 26
Web: <https://cafe-pushkin.ru/en/>



Uzbekistan - One of Moscow's oldest restaurants, Uzbekistan is an extravagant, opulent palace of oriental decor and cuisine. Dating back to 1951, it is furnished with colorful divans and gilded mirrors, patterned tables and rich woven rugs that transport you to a different time. Specializing in Uzbek cuisine, expect plenty of manty, mutton, chuchvara and pilaf as well as various sweets and preserves, although it also offers Azerbaijani, Chinese and Arabic cuisine. Address: Neglinnaya str., 29

Close to the Kadashevskaya Hotel, you can turn to the right out of the entrance and after five minutes or so, find a restaurant street to wander down. There are lots of local, good and cheap restaurant options. Many have photo menus so you can pick from the menu if it isn't in English.

A taxi ride away is the Sky Lounge, which is a wonderful roof top bar, or a short walk towards the Kremlin will get you to a fun themed Siberian restaurant decorated with helicopters and real trees called Expedicia Restaurant!