

World66's guide to Russia

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Russia

Russia :: Bashkortostan Ekaterinburg Irkutsk Kazan Kizhi Krasnodar Moscow Murmansk Novgorod Novosibirsk Orel Ossetia Pyatigorsk, Siberia and the far east Ryazan St. Petersburg Suzdal Tula Ulyanovsk Vladimir Vladivostok Volgograd Yakutsk Magadan– so many things to do....

Russia has for many years been a land of mystery and intrigue to Westerners. For hundreds of years, depending on the direction of political winds, Russia has been an enigma, a friend, or an enemy of the West.

It is a miraculous country and still mysterious to many foreigners, with many cultural and historic treasures, unspoiled nature; and industrious, bright and hospitable people. Russia mothered Peter and Catherine the Great, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Pushkin, Tchaikowsky, Nabokov, among others, who have contributed to the rich cultural heritage.

Russia is geographically enormous, far larger than Canada or the United States. It is still the biggest country in the world, stretching from Poland to Korea and from the Polar Regions to the deserts of Central Asia. It is also the country with the most number of neighbors in the world.

On this huge landmass there are many of the worlds greatest sights to discover. St. Petersburg and Moscow are surely exciting places to start your sightseeing of Russia, with world class museums, churches and other historic centers well worth exploring.

Russia – People

Population:

Russia's total population in 2000 was estimated at 145,904,542, making the country the sixth most populous, after China, India, the United States, Indonesia, and Brazil.

The country is inhabited by one of the widest varieties of nationalities and ethnic groups in the world, and many of the country's national groups have their own administrative territories.

More than 100 nationalities inhabit Russia, making it one of the most multinational states in the world. The country contains 32 ethnic divisions that are scattered throughout its territory.

Three–quarters of the total population constitutes are concentrated in European Russia, while urban populations constitute over two–thirds of the total. Moscow, the capital, and St Petersburg are the two most populated cities, with 11 million and 5 million inhabitants respectively. They are major centres of business and political activities.

Ethnic groups:

Russian 51.5%

Tatar 30.8%

Ukrainian 3%

Chuvash 1.2%

Bashkir 0.9%

Byelorussian 0.8%

Moldavian 0.7%

other 8.1%

Age structure:

0–14 years: 20% (male 14 756 787; female 14 189

15–64 years: 68% (male 48 138 173; female 51 366 412)

65 years and over: 12% (male 5 699 334; female 12 710 752) (July 1998 est.)

Population growth rate: –3.31% (1998 est.)

Birth rate: 9.57 births/1 000 population (1998 est.)

Death rate: 34.89 deaths/1 000 population (1998 est.)

Net migration rate: 2.21 migrant(s)/1 000 population (1998 est.)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 2.05 male(s)/female

under 15 years: 2.03 male(s)/female

15–64 years: 1.93 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.44 male(s)/female (1998 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 23.26 deaths/1 000 live births (1998 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 64.97 years

male: 68.61 years

female: 71.64 years (1998 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.34 children born/woman (1998 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Russian(s)

adjective: Russian

Religions: Russian Orthodox, Muslim, Buddhism, other

Languages: Russian, Tatar, other

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 98%

male: 100%

female: 97% (1998 est.)

Russia – Economy

Economy overview:

In terms of natural resources, a well-educated population and developed industrial base Russia could be considered a wealthy country. However, its economy experiences formidable difficulties in moving from its old centrally planned economy to a modern market economy.

Major Exports Russia's major exports are fuels, energy, metals, machinery & equipment, chemicals.

Major Imports Russia's major imports are machinery & equipment, food and agricultural raw materials, chemicals and metals.

Major Export Markets Main export markets are Ukraine, Germany, Belarus, Netherlands and China.

Major Import Markets Russia's main import markets are Germany, Ukraine, Belarus and the US.

Some facts:

Agriculture

Russia is a major producer of wheat, barley, oats, and rye. In the early 1990s Russia annually produced 46 million metric tons of wheat, 25.5 million metric tons of barley, 13.9 million metric tons of rye, and 11.5 million metric tons of oats. Other important crops in Russia include dry peas, corn, millet, buckwheat, rice, and soybeans. Various types of temperate–climate fruits, such as apples, pears, and cherries, are also grown extensively in Russia. In the far north, reindeer herding is a major occupation among the native peoples.

Forests

There is no Forests...

Fishing

Russia's fishing industry is one of the largest in the world. In the early 1990s the annual catch was about 9.2 million metric tons. Marine fisheries accounted for the largest share of the catch. Of the inland catch, the saltwater Azov, Black, and Caspian seas accounted for about three–fifths of the total; freshwater lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and ponds accounted for the remainder.

Mining

Mining is a major sector of the Russian economy and provides important items for national export. Mineral resources are diverse, abundant, and generally well developed. Russia has large reserves of energy–bearing minerals, including petroleum, coal, and natural gas. For many years it extracted enough of the minerals to meet domestic demands, provide for nations in its economic sphere, and export to industrial nations of the West in return for needed hard currency.

Export

Russia is a major exporter of iron ore, with most production occurring in the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly of south central Russia. Iron ore deposits near Magnitogorsk in the Ural Mountains have been largely depleted. Russia is also a notable exporter of copper (168,000 metric tons in 1990) and nickel (127,000 metric tons in 1990). Copper and nickel ores are mined primarily in the Urals, although sizable deposits of nickel are also located in the Kola Peninsula near Murmansk.

The country is one of the world's leading producers of gold, which is mined in the Urals, western Siberia, and eastern Siberia in the valley of the Lena River. Russia is also a major diamond producer.

Russia – Administrative Structure

Political System

Government type: Federation.

The Chief of State is the President. The President is elected by popular vote for a four–year term.

The Head of Government is the Premier and Chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Legal System

Based on civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts. The Constitution was adopted 12 December 1993.

Administratively, **Russia** includes 21 republics; 6 territories known as krays; 10 national areas called okrugs; 49 regions, or oblasts; 1 autonomous oblast; and 2 cities with federal status.

Russia – Practical Information

In order to be ready for a visit to any foreign country you should definitely know some of its basic rules and peculiarities.

We tried to prepare some information for you that might be very useful to learn before undertaking the trip. This information is divided into sections below. There you'll find out about the type of money the country uses, the entry regulations, visas etc.

Russia – Books

There is an enormous number of books to read about Russia's cultural, political and social life. However, the small amount of the books on this site will give you hints on how to plan and be prepared for a trip to the mysterious land called Russia.

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Time Out Moscow & St. Petersburg

A very helpful guide to Moscow and St. Petersburg. Both sections of the book provide detailed information on many different beautiful places to see. They also recommend the best routes and transportation. Besides, you will a lot of other very necessary information for travelers.

author: Penguin,USA

isbn: 014027314X

subject: Travel Guide

Lonely Planet Moscow

The Lonely Planet Moscow explores the magic of the city. It provides pertinent information about this unique metropolitan that is filled with magnificent museums, historic sites, and famous theaters. The book provides useful maps, essential predestination information and important facts for the visitor. Indeed, the guide will be a good friend to tour you around the city.

author: by Ryan Ver Berkmoes, Ryan Ver Berkmoes
isbn: 1864500549
subject: Travel Survival Kit

Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples

author: Daniel R. Brower (ed.)
isbn: 0253211131
subject: Russian History

Russia – History

The Russian Federation was established in late 1991, when the former Soviet Union (USSR) disintegrated and all the 15 Soviet republics became independent countries.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was formed immediately afterwards to foster economic co-operation among the former Soviet Republics except the Baltic States.

The Russian Federation then became a member of the CIS. However, the differences in political and economic conditions have prevented the CIS from implementing common economic policies or creating a free trade area, and Russia has its own systems.

The Russian Federation extends from the Baltic States and Ukraine to the Ural Mountains, while the Asian part covers Siberia to the Russian Far East bordering the Pacific Ocean.

The country is divided into republics (formed on the basis of ethnic lines), territories and administrative regions (on geographical or industrial basis, with some being autonomous regions), as well as two municipalities, Moscow and St Petersburg, directly under the central government.

Russia – Getting Around

Air

Not long ago "Aeroflot" has been the only airline that served internal Russia. Now there is a great number of companies that can deliver you to any place in Russia you might wish to visit. However, the service may differ.

Rail road

Another way to travel through Russia is to take a train. The country has developed rail network that makes trains a viable means of getting to practically anywhere. They are cheap and comfortable. However, they are too time consuming. The air and rail network run on Moscow time but the suburban train services work on local time.

Horses

Russian horses are a great way to travel when between small towns. They are comfortable and very well served.

Cars

Driving in Russia can be a little bit difficult for those who didn't get used to rough road conditions.

River transport

River transport remains an important way of transportation, especially in summer. Using passenger boats you can travel far along the major Russian Rivers. The main passenger services ply between Moscow and St Petersburg and between Moscow and various points on the Volga and Don including Yaroslavl, Nizhny Novgorod, Volgograd, Astrakhan and Rostov-on-Don. The trip for sure will be fun.

Russia – Getting There

all

Albert

Trans-siberian / Trans-Mongolian train trip – Get ready for the Trans-siberian! Learn everything you need, check out our pics, exchange your pictures and experiences. Russia, Mongolia and China! Pictures from the Trans siberian.

email: albert@crazytranssiberian.net

url: www.CrazyTranssiberian.net

Russia – Map

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Notes:

Chuvashia

Chuvash Republic

Chuvashia – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Cheboksary

Cheboksary

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Notes:

Dagestan

Dagestan is a republic within the Russian federation. Located between the Caspian sea on the East and Caucasus mountains on the West, it is one of the most attractive places in that part of the globe.

In size it is close to Scotland. With population of just above 2 million people, Dagestan is the homeland to over 36 different nationalities, and each one of those nationalities has its own unique language. Such combination of languages, cultures, types of landscape and customs makes it a one of a kind place in the world.

The capital of Makhachkala is the most important town and the best place to start exploring the many aun's in the neighborhood. Derbent is an attractive city with very old roots. Tidib is set stunningly in the mountains and the watchtower is an important monument.

These days, however, Dagestan is going through the times of heavy unrest, both political and ethnical.

Dagestan – Tours and Excursions

matka Dagestanin

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Notes:

Derbent

Derbent is the southernmost city in the Russian Federation, and it is the second most important city of Dagestan, with a population of over 90.000, the Azeris are the main ethnic group, followed by Lezgin and Tabasaran. The city is built near the western shores of the Caspian sea, on the slopes of the Tabasaran mountains (part of the Bigger Caucasus range). It is well served by transportation, with its own harbour, a railway going south to Baku and the Baku to Rostov–on–Don road. Derbent has a unique strategical location in the Caucasus: the city is situated on a thin strip of land (3km) between the Caspian sea and the Caucasus mountains, controlling land traffic between south–eastern Europe and the Middle east. Derbent claims to be the oldest city in the Russian Federation. Since antiquity the value of the area as the gate to the Caucasus has been understood and Derbent has archaeological structures over 5000 years old. As a result of this geographic particularity the city developed between two walls, stretching from the mountains till the sea. Along the times different nations gave the city different names, but all connected to the word 'gate'. The first intensive settlement in the Derbent area dates from the 8th century B.C. Until the 4th century A.D. century it was part of Caucasian Albania, when it became part of the Sassanid empire as a strong military outpost and harbour. During the 5th and 6th centuries Derbent becomes also an important centre for spreading the Christian faith in the Caucasus. During the 630s it was invaded by the Khazar khanate. In 654 Derbent was captured by the Arabs, which transformed it in an important administrative centre and introduced Islam to the area. In the 10th century, with the collapse of the Arab Caliphate Derbent becomes an emirate, until it's invaded by the Mongols in 1239. In the 14th century it was occupied by the hordes of the Tatar warlord Timur. In 1437 it falls under the control of the Shirvan Khan. During the 16th century Derbent is the arena for wars between Turkey and Persia ruled by the Azeri Sefevid dynasty. By the early 17th century the Sefevid Shah Abbas inflicted a serious defeat on the Turks and recovered Derbent.

By the 1735 Ganja treaty Derbent falls within the Persian state. In 1747 Derbent became the capital of the khanate of the same name. Finally in 1796 it was occupied by Russian forces involved in the 2nd Persian campaign. As a consequence of the Gulistan treaty of 1813 – between Russian and Persia – Derbent became part of the Russian empire. A large portion of the walls and several watchtowers have been preserved in reasonable shape till our days. The walls, reaching until the sea, date from the 6th century, Sassanid dynasty period. The city has a well preserved citadel (Narin–kala), comprising an area of 4.5 hectares, enclosed by strong walls. It's worth visiting the baths, the cisterns, the old cemeteries, the caravanserai, the 18th century Khan's mausoleum, the Armenian Church as well as several mosques: the most interesting built from a 6th century Christian basilica is the Juma Mosque (with a 15th century madrassa); the 17th century Kyrhlyar mosque, the Bala mosque and the 18th century Chertebe mosque.

The city is home to machine building, food (even a brewery and wineries!), textile, fishing and fishery supplies, construction materials and wood industries. The education infrastructure is quite good, there is a university as well as several technical schools. On the cultural front, don't miss the Lezgin drama theatre (S.Stalsky theatre). There a nice vacation colony about 2km from the city ('Chayka' – Seagull). Derbent being in practice a huge museum and with magnificent mountains and shore nearby, a great potential for development of the tourism industry exists, however instability in the region hasn't allowed further development (Russian visa procedures are also not very helpful).

Derbent – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Irkutsk

Irkutsk is located 60km East of the world famous *Lake Baikal*. It is administrative centre of Irkutsk oblast (province) in the east–central Russia. The city lies along the Angara River at its confluence with the Irkut River. More than 750,000 people live in this city surrounded by natural beauty. Gorgeous birch forests link urban center to its residential area giving a kind of resort feeling to Irkutsk.

It was founded as a wintering camp in 1652, during the first Russian colonization of the area; a fort was built in 1661, and Irkutsk rapidly became the main centre of Cisbaikalia and of the Russian trade route to China and Mongolia. It acquired town status in 1686. Its importance grew after the coming of the Trans–Siberian Railroad in 1898. The city of Irkutsk, with attractive embankments along the river and many surviving wooden houses on its tree–lined streets, is an administrative and cultural centre for Eastern Siberia and of the Russian Far East. Irkutsk State University (1918) and the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences are among the city's many teaching and research institutes. Irkutsk has taken on several roles in its nearly 350 years of existence, including expedition base for explorations of Siberia, city of exiles, and gold rush town, just to name a few. The city's nicknames include *the capital of Siberia*, *the pearl of Siberia*, and even *Paris of Siberia*.

Irkutsk is lighthearted and sunny, filled with pastel–colored 18th century buildings and delicately sculptured old wooden houses where the political rebels lived in serene exile. Elaborate brick mansions were built at the turn of the century, and the dark black wooden cabins were adorned with a local "lace" sculpture that gives them a touch of the Italian Renaissance.

In the late 19th century, gold was discovered in the nearby Lena Basin, and the Siberian Gold Rush began. People came to the region hoping to strike it rich, and those who were successful built sprawling classical mansions and financed public buildings, some of which still stand today.

Irkutsk is in many ways the heart of Siberia, with its proximity to Lake Baikal. As a local writer once noted, "To miss seeing Irkutsk is to miss Siberia."

Irkutsk – Practical Information

Before planning your trip to Russia, you should know some peculiarities of this country. Please, check the pages below with the relevant information.

Irkutsk – Sights

One of the primary sights in Irkutsk is its gorgeous *Lake Baikal*.

Lake Baikal is situated in the south of East Siberia. The deepest lake in the world – 1637 m, has unique features: its area is 35 000 km² and approximate is equal to Belgium's territory. No other lake can be compared with Lake Baikal in age, reserves and properties of water. Scientists estimate an age of Lake Baikal as 25 – 30 million years. Most of lakes, especially appeared in the ice age, exist for 10 – 15 thousands years

and then are filled up with sediments and disappear from the surface of the Earth. Lake Baikal has no signs of aging, like other lakes. On the contrary, after researches geophysicists said, that Lake Baikal is a conceiving ocean.

Among other places of interest one can name more than 2 thousand monuments and memorial zones of history and architecture, 10 archaeological monuments, 8 museums, and 5 theatres.

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base "Malomorskaya"

The trip can be booked at :664011, Irkutsk, Sverdlov Str. Suite 35 Telephone:(3952) 33-36-80 e-mail: postmaster@malomor.irkutsk.ru The base "Malomorskaya" is in 250 kilometers from Irkutsk located by the Lake Baikal.

Irkutsk – Eating Out

Irkutsk has a lot of dishes to offer its guests.

Some of the foreign guests, however fell in love with traditional Russian pelmeny and borshch. They are served at the restaurant *Siberian Traktir* tel: (3952)290-181

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Restaurant Aura

Restaurant Aura is one of the best restaurants in Western Siberia. It opens from noon to 1a.m. Specialities include complex soups, pelmenyi dumplings, healthy portions of fruit, and meat stews. About \$25 a person.

address: Proletarskaya 13th Street

tel: tel: 335-606

Irkutsk – People

Population: 750,000

Ethnic Groups: Russian; Buryats; Eenki; Yakuts; Tofa

Irkutsk – Accommodation

There is a number of comfortable places to stay in *Irkutsk* during your trip to this unique city. Check out some of the places that have been recommended by the travellers who have already had their lucky chance to visit *Irkutsk*.

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Hotel Inturist

Address: 44 Bulvar Gagarina, Irkutsk tel: (7 3952) 290–171 or 230–166, fax: 277–278

Hotel Angara

Address: 7 Suhe–Batora ulitsa Phone : +7 (3952) 255106 Fax : +7 (3952) 255005

The three–star Angara Hotel (8 floors, 300 rooms) was built in 1969 and is located close to the Local Administration Office and the City Hall. The Circus, post office, market, museums, churches and castle are not far from the hotel. "Irkutsk" airport – 20 minutes. Railway station – 10 minutes.

Hotel Baikal

Address: Irkutsk region, Listvianka village Phone : +7 (3952) 250391 Fax : +7 (3952) 250392 The three–star Baikal Hotel (3 floors, 53 rooms), built in 1980, is located in 70 kilometres from Irkutsk on the outskirts of Listvianka village. It is situated in a picturesque area near the Angara river source. The hotel has a wonderful view of the Baikal lake. "Irkutsk" airport – 1 hour. Railway station – 1 hour.

Baikal Business Centre Hotel

Address: 279 Baikalskaya ulitsa Phone : +7 (3952) 259113 Fax : +7 (3952) 259110 The four–star Baikal Business Centre Hotel (3 floors, 59 rooms) is located in a green and picturesque area, near waterfront at Baikal Highway and across from the SibExpocentre International Fair & Exhibitions Complex, in 10 minutes from the city centre and 40 minutes from the Baikal lake. "Irkutsk" airport – 5 minutes. Railway station – 20 minutes.

Hotel Baikal, Irkutsk

Address: 44 Gagarina boulevard Phone : +7 (3952) 250168 Fax : +7 (3952) 250314 The three–star Baikal–Hotel (9 floors, 242 rooms) was built in 1978 and is situated in the city centre on the bank of the Angara river close to the Irkutsky bridge. The Music Theatre, the Youth Theatre, the Circus, trade centres, architectural monuments are located nearby. "Irkutsk" airport – 20 minutes. Railway station – 10 minutes.

Jack's Homestay

BUDGET HOMESTAY IN IRKUTSK

Jack Sheremetoff, a Lonely Planet recommended guide, offers his homestay in the center of Irkutsk and Listvyanka.

The apartment is in the historical center of Irkutsk. Its location is so that you can just walk everywhere you need: Internet cafe (100 m), pizza or restaurant (200m), Art Museum or ATM (400m), Angara river (700m)

The homestay itself has what all travelers need: nice beds, really

good shower and bathroom. Rooms are isolated and well lit. There is a library with books in English, German and National Geographic magazines.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Visa registration is arranged upon request (add 150 Rub).

An absolutely unique feature of this place: twice a year – 7th of

November and 1st of May – our die hard communists march the Lenin street (that's actually where the building is located) so you can watch it from the balcony! (see the picture on the left)

Extra FACILITIES and SERVICES: Breakfast (optional) Train ticket reservation for the guests. Airport/Rail station Pick Up Internet Access Laundry Bicycle Hire Linen Included (free) Towels (free) Luggage Storage (free) Telephone 24 Hour Reception (No check out time!) Travel Desk/Travel Info (free) Taxes included in price Maps of lake Baikal

Tours to lake Baikal, transfers to Listvyanka or Olkhon island and other destinations can be arranged. Suggestions on how and where to go in Irkutsk or lake Baikal. Also, you are welcome to join our ongoing tours (if any)

Hosts:

- Jack Sheremetoff [about]
- Elena AA [she is also a poet, her site is here in Russian only!]
- cat Fyodor [after Dostoyevsky, he is mute but not deaf!].

Welcome to Jack's Homestay!

Price in Rubles:

500 / night / person, double (NO breakfast).

How much is it? Currency converter is here

To book accommodation, please e-mail your request.

Meeting and transfer can be arranged upon request.

E-mail: info@baikaler.com

email:	info@baikaler.com
address:	Irkutsk, Lenin street, building #9, apartment 11
CostOfDoubleForANight:	Rub 1000
tel:	+7 3952 336 240
costofdoubleforanight:	Rub 1000
zipcode:	http://www.baikaler.com

Irkutsk – Economy

Modern *Irkutsk* is one of the major industrial cities of Siberia. The city is especially noted for a wide range of engineering products. There are railway, aircraft, ship, and vehicle repair yards.

Other industries include mica processing and consumer-goods manufacture. The Irkutsk hydroelectric station on the Angara River is within the city; its reservoir extends back to include Lake Baikal.

Irkutsk – Books

all

Russian Regional Business Directories: Irkutsk Obl

author: Russian Information & Business Center,
Incorporated

isbn: 1577510577

Irkutsk Oblast: Economy, Industry, Government, Bus

author: Russian Information & Business Center,
Incorporated

isbn: 157751386X

Irkutsk – Getting There

It is very easy to get to *Irkutsk* by air, rail or by road. Of course in order to get there from Moscow or St Petersburg you'd better consider taking a flight. However, from Vladivostok or Khabarovsk you might catch a train and enjoy the gorgeous beauty of the surrounding nature.

For the best air-ticket prices check the Priceline.com. Connection is provided at the Links section.

Irkutsk – History

Hundreds years ago Irkutsk was a hosting missionaries, free spirited Cossacks, deportees and rich merchants. All of them in this or other way contributed to a rich cultural heritage contributing to the glory and the honor of their native city.

The spirit of the citizens was lifted by charming melody of hundreds of bells on holydays at the beginning of the century. There were about forty Orthodox Churches in Irkutsk in those days. Not all of them could survived to our days. Fortunately, the first church-Spask Church that has been erected at the city's early days still welcomes its guests. This Church was called *The swan song of ancient Russian architecture* by specialists.

During three and half centuries Irkutsk has lived its long–suffering life, has undergone many severe trials. 1879 was called *black year* which was stamped by fire. Three days and nights the city was burning inferno and then a long ten years were need to rebuild it! All Siberians and Russians created it from ash and after ten years A.P.Chehov could say: "The city of Irkutsk is dandy. It is quite a European city..."

Among others who worked much for the city at that time werw Irkutsk merchants who always were great patriots. They built hospitals, orphanages, colleges, libraries and churches. People said that if they had wanted to make a road of silver roubles, they could do it and a glittering way from Irkutsk to Moscow could be stretched.

There were one and half thousand employers working for the brother–millionaires Vtorovs. And their shops were famous in many cities of Western Europe, in China and Mongolia. To make their own houses they called the best architects from Russia. And it sometimes happened that a famous architects left memories of himself in far Siberia and only later somewhere in Moscow and St.Petersburg.

The whimsical brick house of brothers Vtorov made in neorussian style you can find now at the former Ivanovsaya square. The millionaire Trapeznikov ordered his private residence to be built after the pattern of the famous Luvre. And the great Qwarengi considered it an honor to fulfill the order of powerfull Sibiryakov. Built in his design, the White House was called by contemporaries *the oriental palace* because of its blinding richness.

The Names

Sukachyov – the mayor, the founder of the Irkutsk art museum – made his private residence with an art gallery, in exotic oriental taste, on the outskirts of the city. But after the big fire, Bolshaya street, Amurskaya street and Laninskaya street were made the architectural attraction of the city not only by celebrities from the capital but also by local talented architects: Rozen, Rassushin, Razgildeev, Alexeev, Vasilyev.

But the center of the East Siberia was famous not only for its brick buldings. The log part of the city was very competitive and there you can find more deep national heritage. The majority of Siberian cities are proud of their log architecture, but only in Irkutsk can you see the top art wooden handicraft baroque platbands where where elastic volutes are stretching one to another decorated by splendid bouquets.

Darkened carved tulips over windows, *fans* and beamed suns at platbands, slim irises covering house walls, figured carvings at the edge of roofs–and far more were used by carpenters to decorate Irkutsk houses. Even if you know only a little of the mystery of wooden lace work, sightseeing in Irkutsk along old streets could take you on a fantastic journey into the heathenism of ancient Slavs.

The past is the staircase to the future. Nowadays the city of Irkutsk is one of greatest economical and culture centers in the East of the country. Many years ago the modern stately city expanded and grew beyond its former outskirts.

There are the Polish Roman–Catholic church, Tatar mosque, Jewish synagogue which shows that from the very beginning the city was multinational.

Formely detached from central Russia by the rocky Urals this distant Siberian city is connected by living threads with all the world now. The 100–th annyversary of the East–Siberian steamship–line was celebrated

in 1985. There are direct routes which connect the city with the Mongolia, Japan and China and a lot of routes within the country.

Today

Despite the fact that Irkutsk is much more than three hundred years old, the average age of the population is only 31.6 years. It is the city of youth and students. There are 36 institutes and colleges and 9 vocational education colleges. Every day 166646 pupils go to the school. In 1949 the East–Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Science founded 9 Research institutions and regional Economy Department. Irkutsk is the theatrical city. In the evenings bright lights are switched on at the entrances of five theatres. There are 15 cinemas and 34 libraries with 2.5 million books.

Irkutsk – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Kazan

Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan on the junction of the Volga and Kazanka Rivers about 500 miles south–east of **Moscow**. Founded circa 1005 AD, it later served as the capital of the Kazan Khanate.

It is an ancient city filled with magnificent buildings, monuments, boulevards and many other incredibly beautiful sights to see. In fact, **Kazan** is divided into two distinct parts : the upper town with the Kremlin, where the Russian gentry, merchants and craftsmen lived, and the lower town , the Old Tatar and new Tatar settlements, where Tatar tradesmen, merchants and even peasants lived, since cultivated fields extended to the very edge of the lower town.

In the cultural sense, **Kazan** always struck a balance between Europe and Asia: the life–style of a provincial capital combined with the traditional mode of existence, resulted in a fascinating synthesis unique to **Kazan**.

Naturally , the architectural regulations of the time also affected the construction of Kazan s stone mosques from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, which were built, as a rule, where old wooden mosques had been standing before. Although only a few of the mosques have survived , they demonstrate a surprising variety of architecture.

Kazan – Practical Information

Kazan – Getting There

From Moscow ,St Petersburg, or any other city you can get to Kazan by air, rail or by bus.

For the best air–ticket prices check the Priceline.com. The connection to the site is provided at the Links page.

Kazan – Sights

Kazan – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Kizhi

The **Kizhi** is one of the most precious world sights protected by UNESCO. One should definitely visit this perfectly preserved and arranged outdoors museum

The **Kizhi** open–air museum is situated on Kizhi Island 70 kilometers to the northeast of Petrozavodsk–the capital of Karelia.

The **Kizhi** historic, cultural and natural complex is a unique historic area having no equal in the European North of Russia reflecting the concentration of the monuments of the Russian heritage.

See also other cities of Russia:

Irkutsk Kazan Moscow St Petersburg Murmansk Novgorod Novosibirsk Orel Pyatigorsk Suzdal Tula Ulyanovsk Vladivostok Vladimir Yakutsk

Back to Russia

Kizhi – Getting There

The capital of Karelia–Petrozavodsk city is the point from where you can get to the Kizhiby the hydrofoils "*Cometa*" or "*Colkhida*".

On a regular basis they carry visitors from the Petrozavodsk port to the **Kizhi** outdoor museum.

The best airticket prices to Karelia you can get on the Priceline.com. The connection to the site is provided at the Links section.

Kizhi – Sights

Kizhi is a rich place in terms of the sights you might wish to visit and get to know the Russian Northern culture closer.

One of the recommended sights is a world famous Kizhi Pogost

Kizhi – Karelia

Karelia republic the subject of the Russian Federation was founded July 8, 1920. It is situated in the northwest of the Eastern European Plane, in the eastern part of the Baltic Sheet and occupies the territory in 172.4 sq. km.

About 790,000 people inhabit this northern part of Russia. The republic is divided into 19 districts, including 13 towns, 12 settlements of urban type and 128 volosts (Provinces).

The capital of Karelia is **Petrozavodsk**. The total population of the city is about 290,000 people. It is the most important industrial city of the republic, an important scientific and cultural center. It is situated on the shore of the Petrozavodsk Bay of the Lake Onega, 925 km to the northwest of Moscow.

Kizhi – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Krasnodar

Super sity

Krasnodar – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Moscow

Moscow is one of the oldest and one of the most beautiful Russian cities.

The emperors, or tsars, made the city their base of rule until 1712, when the capital was moved to Saint Petersburg. *Moscow* was restored as Russia's capital in 1918, and it served as the capital of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from 1922 until 1991. Since then Moscow is the capital of the Russian Federation.

Moscow has a long and full of drama history. Many times the city has been completely destroyed and rebuilt again. Its most ancient wooden buildings disappeared in fires. Each time the city resurrected from the ash to become more and more beautiful. Each time the most talented and famous architects were invited from around the world to restore *Moscow*.

That is why *Moscow* has absorbed many different styles that strike the visitors with their variety. Stalin epoch monumental buildings neighbor with small two–store XIX century town houses; splendid cathedrals peer from modern skyscrapers. Even in the heart of *Moscow*, in the *Kremlin*, old churches compete with the immense Congress Palace for space.

Despite its size (about 900 square kilometers) and the scale of many of Moscow buildings and avenues, the general layout is easily grasped – a series of concentric circles and radial lines, emanating from the *Kremlin* – and the center is compact enough to explore on foot.

For more information on other attractive places that you can see in Moscow, please check the Sights section.

See also other cities of Russia:

[Irkutsk](#)

[Kazan](#)

[Kizhi](#)

[St Petersburg](#)

[Murmansk](#)

[Novgorod](#)

[Novosibirsk](#)

[Orel](#)

[Pyatigorsk](#)

[Suzdal](#)

Tula

Ulyanovsk

Vladivostok

Vladimir

Yakutsk

Back to Russia

Moscow – Accommodation

Moscow offers different types of accommodation depending on your taste and financial strength. The centrally located *Travelers Guesthouse* has been described as the second most important place in Moscow after the Kremlin', and it's the place to meet other budget travelers to swap travel info.

If you've got more cash to throw around, there's a cluster of good but expensive hotels just a stone's throw away from the Kremlin. They include the *National* one of the city's finest hotels, which has reopened after five years of renovations – it even includes a branch of Maxim's.

all

Yuzhny

Pricey hotel, room rate range: \$20 – \$80, Facilities: Restaurant, cafe, grill bar, hairdresser's, shop, currency exchange office, conference hall and business center. [WEBPAGE](#)

address: 87, Leninsky Prospekt

tel: (7–095) 134–3086, 134–3065

Asia

Rates include free continental breakfast. Parking, Business Center, Currency Exchange, Pets allowed, Bar, Coffee Shop, Restaurant, Beauty shop, Make-up room.

address: 2/3, Zelenodolskaya Street (15 minutes from city centre)

tel: (7–095) 371–6841, 378–3392 (24 hours)

Belgrad

Hotel built in 1973, Conference facilities, Parking, Currency Exchange, Sauna, Casino, Room rate range: \$50 – \$180.

address: 8, Smolenskaya Street

tel: +7(095)248–1643

Mayak

Nice hotel with garden and 109 rooms, parking available.

address: 25, Bolshaya Filyovskaya Street

tel: +7(095)142-2117

Orekhovo

Facilities: Car Rental, Parking, Garden, Satellite TV

address: 39/2, Shipilovsky Proyezd

tel: +7(095)392-3327

Metropol (Inter-Continental Hotels)

Traditional Hotel, build 1905, with 372 rooms, 5 Restaurants, 2 Bars, Cafe Confectionery, Night Club & Casino; 24-hour Room Service; Business Center with Word Processing, Secretarial Facilities; Travel Agent; Health Club, Fitness Center, Massage; Laundry; Parking; Babysitting Service; Security, Room rate range: \$310 – \$1600, WEBPAGE

address: Teatralny Proyezd, 1/4

tel: +7(095)927-6000

Kempinski Hotel Baltshug Moscou (Dusit Thani/Kempinski)

Luxurious hotel with 234 rooms, Car Rental, Parking, Business Center, Conference facilities, Air Conditioning, Satellite TV, Currency Exchange, Indoor Swimming-pool, Laundry, Sauna, Pets allowed, Non-smoking Rooms, Babysitter, Handicapped facilities, Room rate range: \$320 – \$1650.

address: 1, Balchug Street

tel: +7(501)230-6500

National (Forte PLc)

Built in 1903 and renovated in 1993 this hotel offers 213 rooms, Car Rental, Business Center, Conference facilities, Interpreters; Air conditioning, Currency Exchange, Non-smoking rooms, Laundry, Pets are not allowed, Sauna, Satellite TV, Air tickets, Airport & Railway station transfer, Travel office, Health Center, Room rate range: \$255 – \$1200.

address: 15/1, Mokhovaya Street

tel: +7(095)258-7000

Sheraton Palace Hotel Moscow (Sheraton)

Modern hotel (built in 1993) with Three Restaurants, Lobby Bar & Cafe, Conference rooms, Business center, Health Club, Budget Rent a Car and underground parking. All rates inclusive of full buffet breakfast, exclusive of value added tax (currently 20%), Room rate range: \$295 – \$1100.

address: 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Street, 19

tel: +7(095)931-9700

Agmos

Nice downtown hotel, Room rate range: \$99 – \$220. Facilities: Restaurant SILLA, Moscow's first Karaoke system, Casino Club (regular guests may become Club members), playing poker, roulette or Black Jack. WEBPAGE

address: Krymskaya nab, m/s

tel: +7(095)956-6501/(02-07)

Cosmos

Huge Hotel built in 1979, Room rate range: about \$120. Facilities: Bars, Restaurants, Parking, Business Center, Taxi, Casino, Air Conditioning, Indoor Swimming-pool, Garden, Laundry, Airport transfer, Sauna, Satellite TV, Travel Office

address: 150, Prospekt Mira Avenue (10 km from downtown)

tel: +7(095)217-1649

Danilovskaya

98 rooms, Car Rental, Parking, Business Center, Indoor Swimming-pool, Non-smoking rooms, Currency Exchange, Garden, Laundry, Sauna.

address: 5, Bolshoy Starodanilovsky Pereulok

tel: +7(095)954-0503

Intourist

Built in 1970 this hotel offers 436 rooms for a Room rate range about \$155. Facilities: Parking, Conference facilities, Air Conditioning, Indoor Swimming-pool, Non-smoking rooms, Currency Exchange, Laundry, Travel office, Pets allowed, Sauna, Satellite TV, Interpreters.

address: 3/5, Tverskaya Street

tel: +7(095)956-8304

Moskva

Nice and pricey hotel (Room rate range: \$85) with Car Rental, Parking, Conference facilities, Air conditioning, Non-smoking rooms, Laundry, Casino, Pets allowed, Travel office.

address: 2, Okhotny Ryad Street

tel: +7(095)292-1000

Nakhabino

Small but nice hotel with 27 rooms and Car Rental, Parking, Air conditioning, Conference facilities, Babysitter, Currency Exchange, Non-smoking rooms, Laundry, Pets allowed, Sauna, Satellite TV, Indoor Swimming-pool, Health Center.

address: Volokolamskoye Shosse, 31 km (suburb)

tel: +7(095)564-4110

Rus Hotel (Russian– Dutch Joint Venture)

212 rooms, built in 1980, renovated 10 years later. Facilities: special transfer to and from airport, autoservice and parking area. The Hotel is located in the ecologically clean region of Moscow. Room rate range: \$25 – \$1500

address: Varshavskoye Shosse, 21 km (30 min by car from the centre)

tel: (7-095) 383-3001

Hotel Rossiya

This hotel located directly across from the Kremlin and below GUM is one of the largest hotels in the world with 3000 rooms. The renovated section faces the Kremlin walls offering a spectacular view especially at night. Budget priced rooms secured through third party tourist firms for this section can be found between \$50 and \$100. Of course there are more expensive rooms as well. In Moscow I view this as a Best Buy for the city.

Note that this is a distinctly Russian hotel. If you are looking for something up to Western European standards this is not for you. However, if you are a bit flexible, I don't think you will be disappointed.

address: Varvarka, 6,

CostOfDoubleForANight: 77USD (Kremlin View)

tel: (+7 095) 232-6256

costofdoublenight: 77USD (Kremlin View)

zipcode: Moscow 127495

url: moscowhotels.iwebland.com

Moscow – Sights

The *Red Square* and the *Kremlin* are the historic nucleus of Moscow, a magnificent stage for political drama, signifying a great sweep of history that includes Ivan the Terrible, Peter and Catherine the Great, Romanovs dynasty, Stalin and Gorbachev.

Here you'll find Lenin's Mausoleum and St Basil's Cathedral, the famous GUM department store, and the Kremlin itself, whose splendid cathedrals and Armory museum head the list of attractions.

The Kremlin is Moscow's heart, symbolically, historically and strategically: *Red Square* lies along its eastern side and the Moscow River is to the south. From here, Moscow spreads out in four distinctive rings of development, each area having its own collection of monasteries, museums and elegant buildings. Most of the city's sights are within the first circle – an area that can easily be covered on foot.

all

The "Tsaritsyno" Museum

The Museum is open from 11.00 to 18.00; Wednesdays and Sundays – from 10.00 to 17.00, except Mondays, Tuesdays. It displays the ancient furniture and ceramics, and fine collection of the modern paintings.

address: Dolskaya Street, 1, "Tsaritsyno" or "Orekhovo" Metro stations

tel: 321-07-43

The Museum of the History of Moscow

Those, who are deeply interested in the history of Moscow, may visit the Museum of the History of Moscow (open: 12.00–18.00; Wednesday, Friday: from 12.00 to 20.00, closed on Mondays).

tel.: 924-84-90

address: Novaya Ploshchad, 12, "Lubyanka" Metro station

The Museums of the Moscow Kremlin

The oldest museums of Moscow are located in the territory of the Moscow Kremlin. One of them is "*Oruzheinaya Palata*" or "*The Armoury*" (*Armoury Chamber*). The Armoury was founded about 500 years ago. In the 15th century it was called "Kazennaya Palata", where the Tsar treasures had been stored. The museum displays the unique specimens of applied art and precious utensils, i.e. collection of jewelry of the 12th–20th centuries; the collection of West–European silver utensils of the 13th–19th centuries (ambassador's gifts); the collection of elite arms and (12th to 19th centuries); the collection of golden and silver embroidery (14th to 19th centuries); the collection of fabrics and clothing of the 14th to the beginning of 20th centuries; accouterments and Tsars' carriages. Opening hours: 10.00 to 17.00, except Thursdays.

Located near the Armoury is the *Diamond Fund* (Tel.: 229-20-36), where a collection of precious stones and Russian jewelry, golden and platinum naggets is displayed.

The ancient cathedrals of the Kremlin combine a peculiar museum ensemble. *Uspensky Sobor (Cathedral of the Dormition)* is the main temple of Russia and the burial place of the Moscow's metropolitans and patriarchs. In compliance with the Russian traditions the whole interior of the cathedral is covered with frescoes painted in the 17th century by the best craftsmen. The unique icons are preserved in the cathedral, among them are: "St. George" from Novgorod; "Our Lady of Vladimir" painted by craftsman from Andrei Rublev's school; "Metropolitan Peter" by Dionisius and many others. Close to the Cathedral of the Dormition stands the Church of the Deposition of the Robe. It was the private chapel the Russian Tsars. The iconostasis and some icons of this church were painted by Feofan Grek, Prokhor from Gorodets and Andrei Rublev. The church frescoes include the works of famous painter Simon Ushakov. The Church floor is made of the agate–jasper tiles. The *Arkhangelsky Sobor*, or the Archangel Michael Cathedral was the burial place of Moscow's Grand Princes and Tsars. The southern wall of the cathedral displays the frescoes with the images of Grand Princes and Tsars, from Ivan Kalita and up to the first Tsars from Romanov's family. Totally, there are 46 tombs with 54 burials in the cathedral, including the burials of Dmitry Donskoy, Ivan the 3rd, Ivan the Terrible. The portraits of prominent political leaders of ancient Russia, Andrei Bogolubsky, Alexander Nevsky, Daniil Moskovsky are painted on four columns supporting the ceiling of the cathedral. Zvonitsa or Belfry that stands close to Ivan the Great Bell–Tower houses the Exhibition hall of the Moscow Kremlin treasures, while the Patriarch's Palace houses the Museum of the 17th–Century Life and Applied Art (Tel.: 202-3798, 921-9152).

tel.: 921-4720

email: efragatzi@hotmail.com

The State Historical Museum

No doubt, the Moscow Kremlin presents a unique collection of rare specimens of the Russian history and culture. However, there is one more museum in Moscow of no less value, this is the State Historical Museum. The main building of the Museum was built in 1875–1881 to the design of architect V. Sherwood in a traditional Russian style. It is now closed for repair. There are plans to open museum on the eve of the 850th anniversary of Moscow. However, the museum has six affiliates displaying some of the richest collection of over 5 million exhibits. The museum displays the most complete collections of coins and medals; the country's largest archaeological collection; the collection of ancient manuscripts and books; the collections of arms, clothing; the collection of precious ornaments and household articles.

The affiliates of the State Historical Museum are located in unique buildings, which belong to the 16th – 17th centuries. These are the Cathedral of Vasily the Blessed or the Intercession Cathedral (the Red Square, Tel.: 298–3304); Palaces in Zaryadye (Varvarka St., 10, the "Kitai–Gorod" Metro station, Tel.: 298–5018); Krutitskoye Podvorye (Krutitskaya St., 11, the "Proletarskaya" Metro station, Tel.: 276–9256), Novodevichiy Convent (Novodevichiy Proezd, 1, the "Sportivnaya" Metro station, Tel.: 246–8526, open from 10.30 to 17.30, except Mondays); the "Izmailovo" estate (the "Izmailovsky Park" Metro station, Tel.: 367–5579).

tel.: 292–8452

address: Red Square, 1/2, metro station: "Okhotny Ryad"

The State Tretyakov Gallery

The State Tretyakov Gallery is the biggest art museum in Russia housing the largest collection of the Russian art. The Gallery was founded by P.M. Tretyakov (1832–1898), a Moscow merchant, who dreamed of a museum accessible for any visitor, with fine collection of objects, which would describe the whole history of the Russian art. On display here are the specimens of early Russian art of the 9th to 17th centuries, including the icons of the 12th to 17th centuries from Kiev, Novgorod, Central Russia painted by Andrei Rublev, Simon Ushakov, Dionysius; pictures; drawings and sculptures of the 18th to 19th centuries (F.S. Rokotov, F.I. Shubin, O.A. Kiprensky, I.I. Shishkin, I.E. Repin, I.I. Levitan, K.A. Korovin, etc.) and the works of painters from "The World of Art" association (A.N. Benua, K.A. Somov), "The Blue Rose" association (M. Saryan, V. Borisov–Musatov), "The Knave of Diamonds" association (P.P. Konchalovsky, I.I. Mashkov); the works of the representatives of the Russian avant–garde (V.V. Kandinsky, K.S. Malevich, M. Shagal and many others). Opening Hours: from 10.00 to 19.30, except Mondays.

An interesting exposition of the Russian avant–garde of the 20–ies (V. Kandinsky, K.S. Malevich, M. Shagal, etc.) is open in the Exhibition Hall of Tretyakov Gallery at Krymski Val street, 10 (Tel.: 230–7788, 238–1738, open from 10.00 to 19.30, except Mondays). The Soviet art of the 30–ies of the 20th century is also displayed here, as well as many other exhibitions. On the whole, up to 20 exhibitions are held here in the Exhibition Hall annually. In the near future the following exhibitions will be open: "Russian Marine Art" (September–November, 1996); "The World of Jews (December, 1996 – February, 1997). Each exhibition will display up to 500 objects from many Russian and foreign museums.

The affiliates of the Tretyakov Gallery are: The House–Museum of V.M. Vasnetsov – a "fairy tale" wooden house built in a traditional Russian style (Per. Vasnetsova St., 13, the "Sukharevskaya", the "Tsvetnoi Bulvar" or the "Prospekt Mira" Metro stations, tel.: 281–1329, open from 11.00 to 17.00, except Mondays, Tuesdays and every last Thursday); The Apartment–Museum of A.M. Vasnetsov (Furmanny per. St., 6, the "Krasnye

Vorota" Metro station, tel.: 208–9045, open from 14.00 to 20.00 on Wednesday and Friday; from 11.00 to 17.00 on Thursday, Saturday, Sunday); The Museum–Studio of A.S. Golubkina (B. Levshinsky per., 12, The "Gorky Park" Metro station; the "Smolenskaya" Metro station, tel.: 201–5682); The House–Museum of P.D. Korin (M. Pirogovskaya St., 16, the "Sportivnaya" Metro station, tel.: 245–1190, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, from 11.00 to 17.00), where not only the works of the painter, but the icons of his rich collection are on display.

tel.: 230–7788, 231–1362

address: Lavrushinsky Per. 12, Metro stations: "Treryakovskaya" or "Polyanka"

The Andrei Rublev Museum of Early Russian Culture and Art

One of the best collections of icons belongs to The Andrei Rublev Museum of Early Russian Culture and Art (Andronyevskaya Square, 10, the "Ploshchad Ilyicha" Metro station, 278–1289, open from 11.00 to 17.00, except Wednesday and last Friday). On display are the icons of Moscow's school of the 15th to 16th centuries, sculptures of the 12th to 17th centuries, the copies of frescoes. The affiliate of the museum located at the Church of the Intercession at Fili (See Chapter "Churches and Monasteries, open: 11.00–17.30, except weekends) displays the icons of the end of the 17th century painted by the Tsar's craftsmen.

tel.: 148–4552

address: Novozavodskaya St., 6, Metro station: "Fili"

The State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts

The biggest Moscow's collection of the Western–European art is on display at the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts (Volkhonka Street, 12, "Kropotkinskaya" Metro station, Tel.: 203–9578 or 203–7998, open from 11.00 to 20.00, except Monday). The Museum comprises the collections displayed in the Halls of Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Antique, Early–Christian Arts. On display are the paintings and sculptures of the 14th – 19th centuries, the works by famous Italian painters (Simone Martini, Sandro Botticelli, Pietro Perugino, Domenico Tresini), Holland painters (Peter Piters, Peter Breigel Jr.), Flamand painters (A. van Ostade, Y.I. van Reisdal, Rembrandt Harmens van Rein), German painters (Lucas Cranah Sr.) and French artists (F. Bushe, J–B. Sharden). There is a special department in the Museum called the Museum of Private Collections (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, open from 10.00–16.00; weekends: from 12.00 to 18.00) displaying the gifts of native and foreign collectors.

tel.: 203–9578

address: Volkhonka Street 14

The State Museum of Oriental Art

The art of oriental countries (China, Korea, Japan, India, Middle and South–East Asia, Kazakhstan) is presented by collection of the State Museum of Oriental Art (open daily from 10.00 to 20.00, except Mondays). The collection presents the time period from the 4th millennium and up to the present days. The collection of the far east Art is especially interesting, it displays a lot of unique samples.

tel.: 202–4555

address: Nikitsky Bulvar Street, 12a, "Pushkinskaya" or "Arbatskaya" Metro stations

The Museum of Applied and Folk Art

The best samples of the true Russian art, ceramics from Gzhel, specimens from Khokhloma, Palekh, Fedoskino, etc. are displayed at the exhibition halls of the Museum of Applied and Folk Art (open from 10.00 to 18.00, and from 12.00–20.00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except Fridays and the last Thursday). The Museum exhibits fine collection of furniture, china, glass, clothing of the 18th to 20th centuries, the collection of agitation china specimens of the 20–ies to 30–ies, artistic textile of the 16th to 20th century; samovars from private collections presented to the Museum.

tel.: 291–0139, 923–1741

address: Delegatskaya Street 3, "Tsvetnoy Bulvar" or "Mayakovskaya" Metro stations

The Bakhrushin State Central Museum of Theatrical Art

The State Central Museum of Theatrical Art, as the Tretyakov Gallery, bears the name of its founder, A.A. Bakhrushin (open from 12.00–18.00, except Tuesdays, and the last Monday) is a fundamental collection of theatrical sketches, clothing and memorial objects related to the history of the Russian theatre.

tel.: 233–4470

address: Bakhrushin Street, 31/12, "Paveletskaya" Metro station

"Kolomenskoye" Museum–Preserve

The Moscow's suburbs attract by many Museums–Preserves and the Museums–Estates, which are the favourite places of the Muscovites, who like to rest and walk here on weekends. One of the most interesting museum under the open sky is "Kolomenskoye" Museum–Preserve (open from 11.00 to 17.00, except Mondays). This architectural and historical preserve built in the 16th – 17th centuries used to be a village residence of the Russian Tsars (Peter the Great spent his early years here, in Kolomenskoye). The museum is famous with its outstanding example of 16th–century tent–roof architecture, i.e. the Church of the Ascension (1530–1532) (see Chapter "Churches and Monasteries") and the interesting samples of the Russian wooden architecture brought here from different regions of Russia. Many tourist service centers organise interesting excursions in Kolomenskoye (the summer season is preferable). The guide wearing national clothes, horse–riding, sailing ancient wooden boats along the Moskva–River in a company with folk–music ensemble, visiting the store–rooms of museum and testing of the Russian "sbityen" in the Fryazhsky cellar with the famous Russian pancakes may attract any visitor.

address: Andropov Avenue 39, "Kolomenskaya" Metro station

The Ceramics Museum in Kuskovo

Three beautiful Palace–Garden ensembles deserve special attention. Walking along the alleys of ancient parks may bring you a great satisfaction and the exhibits will surely surprise you by their beauty and peculiarity. The Ceramics Museum and the 18th–century palace–garden ensemble of Kuskovo (open from 10.00 to 15.00, except Mondays, Tuesdays, the last Wednesday) displays the finest collection of ceramics and sophisticated interior of the palace.

tel.: 370–01–60

address: Yunost Street, 2, "Ryazansky Prospect" Metro station

The Palace–Museum of Serf Art in Ostankino

The Palace–Museum of Serf Art in Ostankino (open May–September from 10.00 to 18.00) is a brilliant monument representing the classic architectural style of the 18th century, the palace–theatre, which once was famous with the theatrical talents of the local serf theatre.

tel.: 283–4645

address: 1st Ostankinskaya Street, 5, "VDNH" Metro station, tram No. 11

Patriarch's Palace

Patriarch's Palace is the former residence of the Russian Tzars

Museum of the Seventeenth Century's Life and Appli

Museum of the Seventeenth Century's Life and Applied Arts displays ecclesiastical regalia, period furniture and domestic utensils.

Cathedral of the Twelve Apostles

Cathedral of the Twelve Apostles is painted flesh–pink and demonstrates adventures of the Twelve Apostles.

Tsar Cannon

Tsar Cannon (Tsar–pushka)– cast by Andrei Chokhov in 1586, is one of the largest cannons ever made and was intended to defend the Savior Gate – but it has never been fired.

Tsar Bell

Tsar Bell (Tsar–kolokol) is the largest bell in the world, cast in 1655.

Cathedral Square

Sobornaya ploshchad (Cathedral Square)is the historic heart of the Kremlin, surrounded by a superb array of buildings that give the square its name.

Ivan the Great Bell Tower

Ivan the Great Bell Tower (Kolokolnya Ivana Velikovo is the fourteenth–century the magnificent White Square provides a focal point for the entire Kremlin, being the tallest structure within its walls.

Cathedral of the Assumption

Cathedral of the Assumption (Uspenskiy sobor)is the oldest and most important of the Kremlin churches, which has symbolized Moscow's claim to be the protector of the seat of Russian Orthodoxy ever since the seat of the Church was transferred here from Vladimir in 1326. The cathedral was rebuilt in 1479 by the Bolognese architect Alberti Fioravanti, and its subsequent history reflects its role as Russia's premier church, used throughout Tsarist times for coronations and solemn acts of state. Given the cathedral's exalted status its exterior is remarkably plain, while the interior is spacious, light and echoing, its walls, roof and pillars entirely covered by icons, and frescoes applied onto a gilt undercoating. Though still a museum rather than a place of worship, the cathedral is used for religious services, albeit rarely.

Church of the Deposition of the Robe

Church of the Deposition of the Robe (Tserkov Rizpolozheniya)is the lowly white church with a splendid design.

Cathedral of the Archangel

Cathedral of the Archangel (Arkhangelskiy sobor) was built in 1505–08 as the burial place for the rulers of Muscovii. In the spirit of the Italian Renaissance it has four heavy square pillars take up much of the dimly lit interior, which is covered in frescoes. Around the walls and pillars cluster the tombs of Russia's rulers from Grand Duke Ivan I to Tsar Ivan V.

Cathedral of the Annunciation

Cathedral of the Annunciation (Blagoveshchenskiy sobor) is the golden–domed cathedral, which served as the private church of the grand dukes and tsars. Restored in 1562–64, the cathedral is lofty and narrow, with an interior that seems far more "Russian" than the other Kremlin cathedrals. It also houses some of the finest icons in Russia, with works by Theophanes the Greek and Andrei Rublev (a famous Russian icon painter).

Armoury Palace

Armoury Palace (Oruzheynaya palata) conceals a staggering array of treasures behind its Russo–Byzantine facade, among them the tsars' coronation robes, carriages, jewelry, dinner services and armor – whose splendor and curiosity value outweigh the trouble and expense involved in seeing them. The palace also houses the State Diamond Fund (Almazniy Fond), which contains the most valuable gems in Russia.

Saviour Cathedral

The Cathedral was built with the money collected by the people all over Russia in the 19th century. It had been under construction for about 40 years! And it was destroyed (exploded) by communists at one day of 1932. Today the reconstructed dome of the Saviour Cathedral is clearly seen from many places of Moscow. Recently the works completed and now the Cathedral receives its second life. Now it has the official status of the main cathedral in Russia. Aleksiy the Second, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, performs services in the Cathedral and the sessions of Divine Synod are also held there.

St. Andronicus Monastery

St. Andronicus Monastery (Andronyevskaya sq., 10, the "Ploshchad Ilyicha" Metro station) is beautifully located on the high bank of Yauza River. The Monastery was founded in 1360. It is known that Andrei Rublev, the famous Russian painter, was a monk at the St. Andronicus Monastery. It is supposed that the main cathedral of the Monastery, the Spassky (Saviour) Cathedral was built in 1425–1427, in compliance with the architectural planning carried out by Andrei Rublev. This white–stoned Cathedral has been recently transferred to the Russian Orthodox Church and is currently used for religious ceremonies. All other structures at the territory of Monastery belong to the Andrei Rublev Museum of Early Russian Culture and Art. (See Chapter "Museums").

Novospassky (New Saviour) Monastery

Krestyanskaya sq., 10, the "Proletarskaya" Metro station. was founded in 1462. It was transferred here from the Kremlin and, that is why, received the word New to the old name (Saviour). The Cathedral of Saviour was built there to resemble the Cathedral of Dormition of the Kremlin. This cathedral was the burial place for the family of Romanovs, the family of the last tsars of Russia.

St. Simon Monastery

(Vostochnaya St., 4, the "Avtozavodskaya" Metro station) was founded by the end of the 14th century. Like the Novospassky Monastery, it was under the direct control of the Patriarch of All Russia.

The territory of St. Simon Monastery preserves the ancient Church of Our Lady (16th century). It was built instead of the old, wooden church, where the heroes of Kulikovskaya battle, monks Peresvet and Oslabya were buried. There is also a so called "New" chapel built in 1677–1685 and decorated by white–stoned ornamental details, the angular tower "Dulo" built by architect Fyodor Kon in the 16th century. The walls and towers of the Monastery were built in the 17th century. There are also some other structures dated by later periods.

Danilov Monastery

(Danilovsky Val, 22, the "Tulskaya" Metro station) is the official residence of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Aleksiy the Second. This is the most ancient monastery of Moscow. It was founded by the sacred honourable Prince Daniil Moskovsky, the son of Alexander Nevsky, in 1282. During the time of Soviet rule the territory of Monastery housed the colony of under–aged criminals. Today there are 5 churches and 2 chapels where the religious ceremonies are regularly held.

Donskoy Monastery

(Donskaya sq., 1, the "Shabolovskaya" Metro station) was founded in 14th century by Tsar Fedor Ioanovich in the honour of majestic deliverance of Moscow from the hordes of Khan Kazy–Girei. The miracle was achieved thanks to the Donskaya icon of Our Lady. The icon received such name because it was with Prince Dmitry Donskoy during the Kulikovo battle at Don River. It is considered that the icon was painted by Feofan Grek, the famous Russian painter. At present the icon is displayed at the State Tretyakovskaya Gallery.

Novodevichy Convent

This is the only one Nunnery in the southern defense circle. The Convent is located on Novodevichy Proyezd, 1, the "Sportivnaya" Metro station. One of the most beautiful, delicate and sophisticated, if judged by the architectural style, the Convent strongly resisted the hordes of Khan Kazy–Girei in 1591. That was a privilege Convent, its novices were the ladies – representatives of tsar families: Tsarina Irina Godunova; the first wife and the sisters of Peter the Great, other prominent ladies from wealthy families.

The Convent was founded by Vasily the Third, the Grand Prince of Russia in the memory of seizure of Smolensk. The sacred icon of Our Lady from Smolensk taken from the defeated Lithuanians was placed in the Convent Cathedral. It was a custom in the 16th century that all cathedrals and churches were built to resemble the style of the Dormition Cathedral of the Kremlin. The Convent comprises the brightest and widely known edifice representing the Moscow's or "Naryshkin Baroque" style, this is the Bell–Tower, which adds elegance and sophistication to the whole ensemble of Novodevichy Convent.

Vysokopetrovsky Monastery

(Petrovka, 28, the "Pushkinskaya", "Tverskaya", "Chekhovskaya" Metro stations), which preserved nearly all of its structures.

Rozhdestvensky Monastery

(Rozhdestvensky Blvd., 8, the "Kuznetsky Most", "Tsvetnoy Bulvar", "Chystye Prudy" Metro stations). A new nunnery has been recently established here. A short walk along the same street may take you to one more monastery called Sretensky Monastery (B. Lubyanka St., 19, the "Turgenevskaya" Metro station). The Monastery main cathedral (12th century), and several monk cells dated by the 17th–18th centuries are the only structures remained. One more monastery, Zachatyevsky Convent (2nd Zachatyevsky per., 2, the "Park Kultury" "Kropotkinskaya" Metro stations) displays the only one remaining Church of Our Saviour Over the Gates. The Church was built in the best traditions of "Naryshkin Baroque" style.

The Church of Ascension

The Church of Ascension at Kolomenskoye located in the national park "Kolomenskoye" at the high bank of Moskva–River is the best representative of an old architectural style. The Church was built in 1532 in the honour of new–born Crown Prince.

address: Metro station: "Kolomenskoye"

openinghours: 10.00am–6.00am

Church of St. Trinity at Nikitniki

Church of St. Trinity at Nikitniki was built in 1631–1634. The church represents the Russian structural and decorative details with the up–stretched gables, the white–stoned window surrounds, the tent–roofed chapels and the beautiful porches.

openinghours: 10.00am–6.00pm

Moscow – History

Moscow is one of the biggest cities in Europe with a relatively short history in 850 years. At the beginning of the 12th century Moscow was only a small provincial wooden town of a powerful and a wealthy state Kievan Rus'.

Moscow – Eating Out

Russians by nature have always been fond of eating and treating their guests. At dinner parties or simply at home Russians have always tried to treat their guests with wide varieties of different meals and traditional Russian delicacies. It is considered the honor of the hostess to dazzle the guests with the art of culinary. Therefore, only occasionally the Russians dined out at the restaurants. However, all through Russia in general and Moscow in particular there always has been a developed net of fine restaurants.

The news images that portray Moscow as a place with nowhere to eat are far from being true. Moscow is being taken over by a new overwhelming wave of franchises, pizza bars, bar & grills, pasta restaurants, Irish pubs...However, if you want to taste genuine Russian cuisine there are plenty of fine places to indulge yourself.

all

BALTSCHUG

Features International cuisine and daily themed buffet dinners 6 p.m.–11 p.m. Californian Mondays; Russian Tuesdays; Bavarian Wednesdays; Russian Thursdays; Seafood Fridays. Open for daily buffet breakfast from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., buffet lunch from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Daily a la carte from 12 noon to 11 p.m. Sunday International Buffet Brunch from 12 noon to 4 p.m. AmEx, Visa, Diners Club, Master, JCB accepted.

address: Hotel Baltshug Kempinski Moskau, 1 Ulitsa Balchug, M. Tretyakovskaya
tel: 230–6500

Boyarksy

An expensive option but really great traditional Russian dishes.

address: 1/4 Teatralny Proezd, 927–6063. M. Teatralnaya
openinghours: 7 p.m.–1 a.m., closed on Sun.

ALEXANDROVSKY

Russian/European. Features Russian and European cuisine. Try the specialties such as Salad Alexandrovsky, Sterlet Kupecheskiy with mushrooms and ham, and ice cream Alexandrovsky for dessert.

Open 12 noon–12 midnight. Reservation recommended.

AmEx, Visa, Diners Club, Master, JCB, Union accepted.

address: 17 Ulitsa 1st Tverskaya–Yamskaya
tel: 251–0701/2761

ARSENTYICH

Russian. Try the specialties Pork Roast, Leg of Lamb. Micro–brewery makes dark and light beer according to the Bavarian recipes. 50% discount for the light beer on weekdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on the weekends. Live music in the evening. Four banquet rooms. Open 12 noon–11 p.m.

address: 15 Bolshoy Cherkasskiy Pereulok, M. Kitay–Gorod
tel: 927–0755

BAKHOR

Serves 40 kinds of first courses, 4 kinds of pilaf, manty, samsa. Banquet catering. Catering service for home parties. Open daily from 12 noon till the last guest leaves.

address: 12 Tovarishcheskiy Pereulok, M. Marksistskaya
tel: 911–7181/0116

Le Romanov

One of Moscow's gourmet restaurants. Count on at least 50 dollars for a 4 course meal.

address: 1 Ulitsa Balchug, 230–6500. M. Tretyakovskaya
openinghours: Open Mon.–Sat. 7 p.m.–2 a.m.

Hong Kong

Not just Chinese, but also Thai and Malayan food the Hong Kong Style Duck is one of the specialities of the house. Not very cheap but well worth the money.

address: 5/1 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya, 209–2456/4539. M. Mayakovskaya.
openinghours: Open 11 a.m.–1 a.m.

Talk of the Town

Indian and Chinese specialties in an Oriental atmosphere. Good bargain for group bookings and banquets.

address: 9 Tryokhprudnyy Pereulok, 299–5771, 234–0345. M. Mayakovskaya.
openinghours: 12:30 a.m.–11 p.m.

Capri

Casual atmosphere and great lobster. Lunch starts at about 15 dollars.

address: 7 Prospekt Akademika Sakharova, 207–5253. M. Turgenevskaya, Krasnye Vorota.
openinghours: 12 noon–2 a.m.

Cipolla d'Oro

Best Italian place in town. Fresh Mediterranean fish, home made pastas, authentic Italian pizzas.

address: 39 Ulitsa Gilyarovskogo, 281–9498/1339. M. Prospekt Mira.
openinghours: 12 noon–11:30 p.m.

Gilyai

Famous Moscow historical restaurant. Named after one of the most prominent Moscow historians – Vladimir Gilyarovski ("uncle Gilyai").

Address: Stoleshnikov pereulok, 6 M. "Okhotny ryad", "Pushkinskaya"

opening hours: 12:00 – 23:00 (weekdays) 14:00 – 22:00 (weekends)

email: <mailto:marketing@stear.ru>

PriceOfMenu: \$50–70

address: Stoleshnikov pereulok, 6 M. "Okhotny ryad", "Pushkinskaya"

tel: 933–5521

priceofmenu: \$50–70

Moscow – Nightlife and Entertainment

all

Karo

Big entertainment centre "Karo" is located on Tverskaya street, in the centre of Moscow (see the first page of our Guide). This place is marked with peculiar respectability. In casino of "Karo" centre they play for high stakes. The door next to casino takes you to "Utopia" disco-club with a nice bar showing the wonders of

barman's art of "freestyle".

Bolshoi Theatre

You will be inevitably attracted by the sight of the legendary columns of Bolshoi Theatre (ul. Petrovka, 1), which has, finally, lived through the long-awaited period of outer and inner changes. Currently, the oldest theatre of Russia is headed by Vladimir Vasilyev, who, together with such ballet stars as Maya Plisetskaya and Gediminas Taranda, was rejected by the former administration of Bolshoi Theatre. The operas "La Boheme" by Puccini and "Khovanshchina" by Musorgsky are now considered the best performances staged in Bolshoi. Some new ballet performances have also been staged in the theatre: "The Taming of the Shrew" and "Snow White and Seven Dwarfs" with famous Ilze Liepa dancing the Snow White.

Music Theatre

Dmitry Bryantsev, the Chief Choreographer of the Music Theatre named after Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko (Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 17), is especially popular with the admirers of modern ballet-dancing. All performances including classical ballets, such as Don Quixote and The Swan Lake, and typical avant-garde ballets, e.g. The Taming of The Shrew (music composed by Bronner), staged by this popular ballet-master, attract a lot of people to the theatre located in the city center, on Bolshaya Dmitrovka street.

Experimental Theatre

Many new, innovative and modern experimental theatres have appeared during the passed few years in Moscow. No doubt, the leading theatres are: Municipal Theatre "New Opera" directed by Evgeny Kolobov, the star of the world value, and "Helikon-Opera" directed by, Dmitry Bert, man. The young artists of these theatres do not relay on theatrical conservatism and old traditions. Thus, "Helikon-Opera" amazed the audience by the unusual interpretation of Verdi's "Aida". This performance has immediately become a real hit.

Chamber Music

Moscow's Chamber Musical Theatre headed by Boris Pokrovsky (Leningradsky prospekt, 71) is especially popular with the theatre-goers. The unusual is the repertoire of this theatre, it doesn't include classic performances, instead, it presents the unknown or little-known works of famous authors ("Nose" by Shostakovitch, Salieri's "Word After Music").

Kids Theatre

Children's Music Theatre (prospekt Vernadskogo, 5), established by Nataliya Sats, a prominent master and stage manager, is a unique theatre having a repertoire, which offers the best samples of ballet and opera performances for children of different age and tastes, from Snow White and Seven Dwarfs to Mozart's Magic Flute.

Musical Comedy

The Moscow's Theatre of Musical Comedy (Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 6), which is also called "the junior sister of Bolshoi Theatre", presents the undying masterpieces of Johann Strauss and popular musicals with famous Tatyana Shmyga starring on the stage.

Harlequin

"Harlequin", the Moscow's Theatre of Musical Drama directed by Sergei Melkonyan (Bolshoi Kozlovsky Per., 3/2). The independent Commedia Dell'Arte theatre was founded in Moscow 20 years ago. In 1991, after successful performances in the USA, the theatre has got its international status and is currently staging

together with the International Arlekin Theatre Corporation (USA). There are three orchestras in the theatre, string, instrumental and folklore.

Poor People

The club bearing a specific name "Bednye Lyudi" ("Poor People") welcomes you to Bolshaya Ordynka Street, 11/6 to listen to very interesting rock 'n' roll and jazz programs. The prices in this club are considered rather moderate.

Crisis of Genre

Similar environment attracts visitors to another club, called "Krizis Zhanra" (Crisis of Genre) (Pereylok Ostrovskogo Street, 22/4).

Armadillo

Tex–Mex bar "Armadillo" (Khrustalny Per., 1) sticks to the music styles of "country" and "reggae". You may also play billiards and darts in the same bar, enjoy Mexican cuisine and fine Mexican beer.

Casino

The first Moscow's Casino "Moskva" welcomes guests in "Leningradskaya" Hotel on Kalanchevskaya Street (tel./fax: 975–1967). The set of entertainments is standard: roulette, Black Jack, poker. Jacko's Bar & Night Club are also located in the hotel building it's a place where most of merry European holidays are celebrated, St.Valentine day, for example.

Tastes differ

"Tastes differ", – this is what we like to repeat again and again, and your Russian friends will definitely take you to their favourite places. We may only recommend you to visit some places, which are especially popular with the foreign citizens living and working in Moscow. These are the Night Flight Club (Tverskaya Street, 17), Irish Pubs Rosie O'Gradys (Znamenka Street, 9/12) and Shamrock Bar at the Irish House (Novy Arbat, 19 or 21).

Metropol

Hotel "Metropol" invites to respectable night shows staged in its wonderful variety theatre (tel.: 927–6091). There is also a casino in the hotel.

Hungry Duck

The night bar "Hungry Duck" follows the best traditions of rock–clubs. (The bar is located on the ground floor of The Central House of Artistic World.) You may enjoy rock 'n' roll music from 10 p.m., daily, but try to come at the time of opening, otherwise all night you will have to stand leaning towards the wall or at the bar counter. Admission is free and, most probably, this fact attracts many people.

Arbat Blues Club

"Arbat Blues Club" is considered a "Citadel" of the Moscow's jazz. The club is open on Fridays and Saturdays. It is located in the building of the theatre–studio called "Na Starom Arbate" (Aksakov Per., 11, tel.: 291–1546).

Olympic

Good for cocktails.

address: 18/1 Olympiyskiy Prospekt, 931–9000. M. Prospekt Mira.

openinghours: 5 p.m.–1 a.m.

Stanislavsky

Bar but also a discotheque

address: 23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 209–5020. M. Pushkinskaya/Tverskaya.

openinghours: Sun.–Thur. 12 noon–2 a.m.; Fri., Sat. 12 noon–5 a.m.

Moscow – Practical Information

In order to be ready for a visit to Moscow or any other city in Russia you definitely should know some of its basic rules and peculiarities.

We tried to prepare some information for you that might be very useful to learn before undertaking the trip.

This information is divided into sections below. There you'll find out about the type of money the country uses, the entry regulations, visas etc.

Moscow – Getting There

You can get to *Moscow* by air,rail and by bus. For the best air–ticket deals please check the Priceline.com The link to the site is provided at the Links section.

Moscow – Getting Around

A very developed net of public transportation will help you to get around Moscow. Of course, depending on your taste you can either use public transportation, private taxi or rent a car

Moscow – Internet Cafes

all

TimeOnline Internet Salon

140 fast machines, friendly English speaking staff, wi–fi, cheap European food, digital & regular photo processing in 20 mins, game zone, copy centre

price: \$1 – \$2.50

email: eames@timeonline.ru

hours: 24 hrs
address: Okhotny Ryad Shopping Mall
url: www.timeonline.ru

Vik@web

price: 30 rub/h
tel: +7 (095) 283-85-56
email: info@vikaweb.ru
hours: 24+7
address: 1-st Ostankinskaya 57
url: www.vikaweb.ru

Agmar Internet Salon

address: Moscow
url: www.agmar.ru

IMAGE.RU

Comfortable place with great design, within a computer shop, 68 computers.

price: 1.38 USD
tel: +7(095)7373700 ext 146
email: cafe@image.ru
hours: 09-00:07-00
address: 16 Novoslobodskaya str.
Moscow RUSSIA
url: cafe.image.ru

Internet Cafe IRPO

address: Moscow
url: www.irpo.ru

Internet cafe of RSUH

price: 1 hour=1\$
tel: 7(095)250-6169
email: cafe@rsuh.ru
hours: 1 hour=1\$
address: Chayanova street 15, Moscow/Russia, 125267, Russian Federation
url: cafe.rsuh.ru

Internet Kiosk @ Compulink

address: Moscow

url: www.compulink.ru

Internet-bar Chevignon

Sat 09:00 – 15:00

price: Sun close

Computers & internet cafe, network games, graphics & office 97 work, software & hardware

address: Moscow

url: www.chat.ru

PRESS Internet Cafe

address: Moscow

url: www.media-center.ru

Screen

tel: (095) 349–1920

email: screen@space.ru

address: Moscow

url: www.screen.ru

TimeOnline Internet Salon

TimeOnline – Eastern Europes most attended Internet 200–computer Salon – is situated in the Manezh mall, the underground shopping center. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

price: \$1,5

tel: 7 (095) 787 52 75

email: info@timeonline.ru

hours: 24–jul

address: Manezh mall, Moscow, 103009, Russia

url: www.timeonline.ru

TimeOnline Internet Salon

140 fast machines, friendly English speaking staff, wi-fi, cheap European food, digital & regular photo processing in 20 mins, game zone, copy centre

price: \$1 – \$2.50

email: eames@timeonline.ru

hours: 24 hrs

address: Okhotny Ryad Shopping Mall

url: www.timeonline.ru

TimeOnline Internet Salon

TimeOnline – Eastern Europes most attended Internet
200–computer Salon – is situated in the Manezh mall, the underground shopping center. It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

price: \$1,5
tel: 7 (095) 787 52 75
email: info@timeonline.ru
hours: 24–jul
address: Manezh mall, Moscow, 103009, Russia
url: www.timeonline.ru

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Notes:

Murmansk

Murmansk known as Romanov-on-Murman at the date of its foundation September 21, 1916 is the centre of Murmansk region and the largest Russian seaport on the Arctic Ocean. The city was named after the Russian Royal Dynasty Romanovs *Romanov-on-Murman*. The name *Murmansk* the city got after the Revolution in 1917. Some consider that the word *Murman* is descended from "Nurman" (Normann). Peoples of Scandinavia Russians called as "Murmans".

Murmansk's development has started just in the beginning of this century. Before that, the Kola Peninsula was inhabited only by the Skolt Lapps and a few Russian settlers. The main sources of livelihood are fishing, shipping and the navy. This is a great sight to see largely because of the unique Arctic nature. The peninsula is covered by thousands of lakes and dense forests. Here you'll observe the polar day in summer and the polar night in winter.

Murmansk is a strange city in many ways: it is above the polar circle, so endures weeks of total darkness in the winter and enjoys weeks of 24 hour sunshine in the summer. It is above the tree line; the trees peter out a couple of hundred miles to the south. It is above the 10 degree isotherm; that is a line drawn around the arctic where the average June temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or less. And last but not least, despite cold winters, the sea doesn't freeze (because of the Gulf Stream). Go in winter, and you can have air temperatures of -16 degrees Celsius, with great clouds of steam coming off the water and hanging over the port area as fog. The people of Murmansk is generally kindly but very few speak English. Lots of places in the surrounding are military areas and they are not marked. You should not take photographs in such places or in the harbour unless you don't want to be stopped by the military police.

See also other cities:

[Irkutsk](#) [Kazan](#) [Kizhi](#) [Moscow](#) [Novgorod](#) [Novosibirsk](#) [Orel](#) [Pyatigorsk](#) [St Petersburg](#) [Suzdal](#) [Tula](#) [Ulyanovsk](#)
[Vladimir](#) [Vladivostok](#) [Yakutsk](#)

Back to [Russia](#)

Murmansk – Accommodation

You can find a nice place to stay in *Murmansk*: there is a number of comfortable hotels. Please, check the recommended hotels listed below.

all

Hotel Arktika

The three-star Arktika Hotel (16 floors, 635 rooms), built in the style of modern architecture, is located in the heart of Murmansk, that creates particular comfort both for tourists and businessmen. The Museum of Local Lore, the Drama Theatre and the Puppet Theatre are situated not far from the hotel. Airport – 45 minutes. Railway station – 5 minutes.

address: 82 Lenina ulitsa

tel: +7 (8152) 457988

Hotel "Ogni Murmanska"

berit hansen: It's a bit of an old style Soviet hotel, but an OK place to stay.

address: Leningrad highway

tel: 453683, 680–537

Hotel "Polarnye Zori"

E–mail: polarzor@dionis.mels.ru *Maaria Sarivaara:* Best option, I think for staying in Murmansk.

address: Knipovich street 17

tel: 289500, 450282

url: www.mels.ru

Hotel "Meridian",

address: 5/23 Vorovsky street

tel: 450452, 453417

Murmansk – People

Murmansk – History

Murmansk – Internet Cafes

Murmansk – Practical Information

ULITSA GEROEV RYBACHYEGO

all

gereev ribachego

addres

zipcode: 183053

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Notes:

Novgorod

Novgorod is an old Russian city, history of which goes back to almost 1000 years. Once it competed with Moscow for domination of Old Russia and emerged as a political center of Slavic and Fino-Ugric tribes in the mid-9th century, while as a town it was formed in the middle of the 10th century.

Just outside of *Novgorod* is the Vitoslavlitsy Museum of Wooden Architecture which has a collection of 22 wooden structures all built without nails.

240 000 inhabitants populate now this northern city. Modern *Novgorod* is a stunning combination of old and new.

After the Second World War the historical part of the city was built up in such a way as to avoid confining ancient temples within the narrow well-like yards of high-rise apartment buildings.

Nowadays *Novgorod*, lying on the highway connecting *Moscow* and *St Petersburg*, enjoys stable economic and cultural links with both capitals, the Karelia region and the Baltic states, and also attracts foreign investors.

Novgorod is also on the list of those Russian cities that have joined the New Hanseatic League. The city uses modern communication facilities, has art galleries, art school, two theaters, a philharmonic society, a ballet troupe, music and dance ensembles, casinos and discotheques. Several newspapers function in the city which also has its own television and radio stations

Novgorod is a university town. The University named after Yaroslav the Wise is one of the largest scientific centers in Northwest Russia. The city trains professional athletes in such sports as gymnastics, rowing, swimming and boxing. Modern *Novgorod* is a center of Russian domestic and international tourism.

Novgorod – History

Novgorod has a very rich and full of intrigues history. One of its pages tells the story about the invitation of Novgorodians a foreign Prince to keep law and order in the city. It was at the time when the statehood of Rus was established. The name of the Prince was Rurik, who established the dynasty of Ruriks that ruled over all Russian lands throughout more than 750 years.

The adoption of Christianity at the end of the tenth century turned Novgorod into a powerful political, cultural and spiritual center. The efforts of *Novgorod* Bishops to spread and promote the Orthodoxy were given high credit in the mid-12th century, when they were elevated to the ranks of Archbishops which made the Bishops Chair of Novgorod most powerful in the Russian Orthodoxy.

The right of Novgorod to select its own princes, that was granted in the middle of the twelfth century, attracted princes to the Novgorod throne, and thus provided favorable conditions to maintain the unity of Russian lands tending to be feudally divided. The annexation of Novgorod republic to Moscow Principality at the end of the 15th century resulted in the united Russian State with Moscow as a capital.

Throughout many centuries, Novgorod was a political center of vast territories stretching up from Baltic lands and Finland in the West to northern Urals in the East. It was also one of the greatest international trade centers on the Baltic–Volga commercial route that tied northern Europe with Asia as early as in the mid – 8th century.

Novgorod is the cradle of Russian republican and democratic traditions. In the course of over 600 years until 1478, all vital decisions on its life and foreign policy were taken by the "veche", meaning the ancient parliament comprising the representatives of the town aristocratic families.

Novgorod was one of Russia's major centers of literacy and book production. As far back as in the 30–s of the 11th century, by the will of the great Prince Yaroslav The Wise, Novgorod saw the first school to train three hundred children at a time. It was also one of the greatest art centers of Europe. Its architectural traditions, school of icon–painting, jeweler's and decorative applied art became famous all over the world.

The town's military power, its remoteness from dangerous southern borders, successful campaigns against clerical reforms and heresies enabled it to preserve a unique complex of architectural monuments with frescoes of the 11th – 17th centuries, the oldest Russian manuscripts, chronicles, acts and icons.

The only time in its history when Novgorod suffered military damages was in the course of the World War II: for over two years the city, being at the front line, was bombed and shelled by both combating armies. Turned into ruins, this city on the Volkhov River was brought to life again by the restorers who managed to revive old architecture.

Novgorod – Sights

Novgorod is famous for its fine architecture, a great number of museums, cathedrals and churches.

all

Museum at St Sophia's Cathedral

openings: summer daily noon–13:00 & 14.30–17:00; winter closed on Mon&Tues

Museum of History, Architecture and Art

The museum owes a fine collection of icons of the Novgorod Art School along with other precious pieces of art.

openings: 10:00–18:00, closed Tues&last Thurs of every month

St Nicolas' Cathedral (Nikolskiy sobor)

Built in 1113, the Byzantine style was a significant change to St Sophia's.

openings: 10:00–18:00, closed Tues

Museum of Wooden Architecture

Situated in the complex of the Yuryev Monastery, where you can also find the majestic Cathedral of St George, the museum hosts a collection of timber constructions from the surrounding area.

openings: 10:00–18:00, closed on Wed, October–April 10:00–16:00

Kremlin

the impressive walls of the Kremlin date back from the 15th century. They formed the inner ring of a series of fortifications. Inside there were once 18 churches and 150 houses.

St Sophia's Cathedral (kiev)

The town's earliest and largest cathedral is one of the Kremlin's landmarks. It has a beautiful golden helmet dome. Inside is a well-preserved iconostasis, one of the oldest in Russia. It includes works from the eleventh to seventeenth century.

Novgorod – Getting There

You can get to Novgorod by rail or air from [St Petersburg](#) or [Moscow](#). The town is about 160 km southeast of St Petersburg.

You can take the bus No 2 from the Bus Station, Naberezhnaya Obvodnovo Kanala 36, which runs every two hours. In total the journey takes three hours.

There are also excursion buses, leaving from Nevskiy Prospekt 33. Tickets are available at the kiosk at the Gostiniy Dvor.

Tours are in Russian, however the interpreters will be provided upon request. Besides, if you wish to take a tour which is in English you can join the regular tours organized by the hotel you are staying in. Unfortunately, the ticket price will be much higher.

The best prices for the tickets to Novgorod can be obtained at the [Priceline.com](#). The connection to the site is provided at the [Links](#) section.

Novgorod – Eating Out

Novgorod offers a wide variety of cafes and restaurants to lunch or dine in.

There you can try the famous Russian dishes. Some of the places where you can enjoy fabulous food we have highlighted below.

all

CHARODEIKA cafe

Choice of hot and cold appetizers, sandwiches and pizza at reasonable prizes.

address: ul.Volosova 111

openings: daily 10:00–23:00

PRI DVORYE RESTAURANT,

This restaurant of Russian national cuisine is at Your service.

openings: 12:00–16:00& 18:00–23:00

DETINETS RESTAURANT

Located in the Kremlin's Intercession Tower (16th – 17th c.), the restaurant interior and wooden tableware are finished in ancient Russian style. Meat and fish dishes follow old Russian recipes and cold and hot Russian drinks, e.g.medovukha (mead), zbiten (tea with spices), honey kvass are served.

openings: 12:00–16:00& 18:00–23:00

Novgorod – Accommodation

You can easily find a comfortable place to stay in Novgord according to your budget.

Please, check the of the hotels that we have highlighted.

all

HOTEL "SADKO"

The hotel is located in Novgorod historic downtown and has 150 rooms (90 – singles, 57 two–bedded, 2 – suites);rooms are furnished with baths, cable TV, radio, phones; restaurant with fine cuisine and a great choice of pastries.

HOTEL INTOURIST – NOVGOROD"

First class Hotel, located in Novgorod historic downtown, on the bank of the Volkhov river. Additionally, the Hotel companyCompany provides city and regional tours; recreation and entertainment programs;services of guides– interpreters and tours of St–Petersburg – Novgorod – Pskov –Moscow and other cities.

BERESTA PALACE HOTEL

the four star hotel in Novgorod is the only international standard hotel in Russia outside Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Hotel Rossiya

Cheap and shabby Soviet–style hotel on the Volhov river directly across from the Kreml

Novgorod – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Novosibirsk

Novosibirsk is a heart of Siberia and is considered its cultural and industrial center with the population of 1.6 million people.

By all standards it's a relatively young city founded in 1893. Actually at that time the city was called Novonikolaevsk after the Nicholas II (Nikolay Alexandrovich Romanov) the last Emperor and Sovereign of Russia.

Considered the business center of Siberia, *Novosibirsk* is a home to the largest Siberian banks, as well as the Siberian Stock and Commodity Exchanges.

Aside from business, *Novosibirsk* has a rich cultural and spiritual life.

Six theatres, a philharmonic orchestra and a musical conservatory are located in the city.

The Novosibirsk Opera House, an architectural marvel in itself, houses two permanent ballet and opera companies known throughout the world.

The intellectual community is equally rich and is fostered by more than 16 institutions of higher education. Since 1957 the city serves as a center for the Siberian Science Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. It has a special place called Akademgorodok (the Academic City).

However, both cultural diversity and intellectual community fail to conceal the fact that Novosibirsk's major palette is based upon – and consists only of – all imaginable greys. Which comes at no surprise, since Novosibirsk was built for and by unqualified labourers. The city got a significant development boost from arriving workers in the early 1940s, when heavy machinery plants were hastily transferred inward from the USSR's western frontiers.

Novosibirsk can easily beat Novokuznetsk or Kemerovo in a battle for '*The Most Kafkaesque Settlement*' title.

See also other cities of Russia:

[Irkutsk](#) [Kazan](#) [Kizhi](#) [St Petersburg](#) [Murmansk](#) [Novgorod](#) [Moscow](#) [Orel](#) [Pyatigorsk](#) [Suzdal](#) [Tula](#) [Ulyanovsk](#) [Vladivostok](#) [Vladimir](#) [Yakutsk](#)

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Novosibirsk – Practical Information

In order to avoid unpleasant surprises during your trip you should have some information on customs, visas and other issues.

Novosibirsk – Getting There

Novosibirsk is located in the center of Siberia. Therefore, you can easily get there from any big city either by air, train or by road.

The best prices for the air-tickets can be checked at the Priceline.com. The connection to the site is provided at the Links section.

Novosibirsk – Attractions

The Novosibirsk Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the major attractions in the city. The Orchestra is well-known outside Siberia and Russia.

The Novosibirsk Philharmonic is among the best orchestras of Russia.

The conductor of the orchestra is *Arnold Katz*.

.

Novosibirsk – Internet Cafes

all

Tochka-ru

Russia, Novosibirsk, Stanislavsky square

price: 25 rubls

tel: 3832-43-46-55

email: sersor@mail.ru

hours: 24 h

address: Stanislavsky st., 12

url: internet-zakusochnaya.ru

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Notes:

Orel

Orel is one of the oldest Russian cities located on the Oka River with a long and dramatic history. It was founded in 1564 by Ivan IV as a defense post against Mongol invasions. During World War II it was badly damaged.

Orel now is a capital center of the Orel oblast. It is known for hosting a famous Russian writer Ivan Turgenev, who spent his childhood there. The house that he lived in is now turned into museum.

Orel is a center of agricultural trade. Manufactures include machinery, clothing, flour, and beer.

See also other Russian cities:

[Irkutsk](#) [Kazan](#) [Kizhi](#) [Moscow](#) [Murmansk](#) [Novgorod](#) [Novosibirsk](#) [Pyatigorsk](#) [St_Petersburg](#) [Suzdal](#) [Tula](#)
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Notes:

Ossetia

Ossetia is a part of the Russian Federation. The tiny republic is located in the Caucasus. Visiting Osetia is an unforgettable experience, the awe-inspiring Caucasus peaks being but one gem on the tiara of this ancient land.

Despite the overall state of the Russian economy, Osetians remain perhaps the world's most hospitable people. Spending even a short time with an Osetian family offers an unforgettable insight into a close-knit society, one eager to show off to guests its heritage and customs, as well as the region's natural wonders. (For those who prefer not to live with a family, furnished apartments are also available.)

Snow-capped peaks soar above—you gaze upon them from your cozy baths amid temperate air, some of the cleanest on earth. Legend has it that bathing here quickens healing—you are sure to believe it as you take in the rugged alpine landscape.

In truth, however, travel to Osetia currently is not without risks. If you consider yourself an "adventure" traveller...

Ossetia – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Perm

Perm is the most Eastern city of Europe, and therefore its province is often referred to as Eurasia. Having a population of 1.2 million, Perm is the 5th largest city in Russia and the second largest in the Urals. The city was formerly called Molotov, after the minister of foreign affairs during Joseph Stalin's ruling. The Perm province, "Permskaya Oblast", or "Prikamye", is around two–third the size of the United Kingdom and covers a great area in the very heart of the Ural Mountains.

Perm is internationally known as the name for the geological period in which the Ural Mountain Range was formed, 45 million years ago. In contrary to the Urals, Perm itself is rather young. The citizens loudly celebrated its 280th birthday in 2003 with street parades, concerts and fireworks throughout the whole city!

Perm owes its existence to two factors: firstly the large amounts of natural resources (minerals, oil and timber) that are present in the region, and secondly (but more important): its location. The mighty Kama River (up until 4 kilometers wide!), the Great Trans Siberian Railroad and main motorways from Moscow/Kazan to Siberia all cross in Perm, making Perm a main Russian transportation hub. The city is the doorway from Europe to Asia and to Siberia in particular.

During Soviet times, Perm was a proper fortress because of the huge military industry in its region. All artillery and rocket vehicles, as well as rocket launching systems, jet engines for MiG jetfighters and canons of all ranges were (and in less proportions still are) produced in Perm. The Soviets did an excellent job in hiding Perm and keeping it secret. Most people from outside the Urals simply did not know of the existence of the then 1–million–people–city. Until the end of the cold war, Perm did not appear on any Soviet–made map, nor did the roads towards it.

Nowadays, Perm is obviously accessible to anybody. Actually it is the third fastest growing city in Russia because of its economical prosperity.

Perm is known as Russia's leading city for opera, ballet and drama after St. Petersburg. Arguably Russia's greatest ballerina, Anna Pavlova, was born in Perm. Furthermore the city and its region brought forward a number of famous people: the composer Tchaikovsky, inventor of the radio Popov, the industrial revolutionist Stroganov family and the writer of Dr. Zhivago, Boris Pasternak.

Perm is not the only city in the Ural Mountains, yet it provides the best access to the mountains of all of them. The mountains gain popularity among adventurous tourists every year.

Perm – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Pyatigorsk

Pyatigorsk is a small town hidden in the Northern Caucasus mountains with the population of about 150,000 people. "Pyatigorsk" means "Five Mountains Town". This place is a famous Russian mineral water resort and even during the time of the tsars the nobles would come to drink, bathe and relax in the mineral water and recover their health.

Pyatigorsk was the home of the poet Lermontov, and the site of his death in a duel.

City life revolves around the linguistic university, pharmaceutical college, and outdoor activities.

Pyatigorsk is at the same latitude as Minneapolis, and they have similar weather patterns in the summer: very hot and humid.

See also other Russian cities

[Irkutsk](#) [Kazan](#) [Kizhi](#) [Moscow](#) [Murmansk](#) [Novgorod](#) [Novosibirsk](#) [Orel](#) [St_Petersburg](#) [Suzdal](#) [Tula](#) [Ulyanovsk](#)
[Vladimir](#) [Vladivostok](#) [Yakutsk](#)

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Pyatigorsk – Getting There

You can get to Pyatigorsk either by air, rail or bus from Moscow or Simferopol.

For the best airticket prices, please check the Priceline.com. The connection to the site you will find at the Links section.

Pyatigorsk – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Ryazan

Ryazan is a city in central European Russia, and is capital of Ryazan' Oblast. Ryazan is located on the Oka River. The city is an industrial and transportation center. Manufacturers include agricultural machinery, chemicals, and clothing. Ryazan was originally founded in the 11th century, downstream from its present site. It was completely destroyed by the Tatars in 1237, and was then moved to the city of Pereyaslav–Ryazanskiy. In the 15th century the community became the capital of a principality. It passed to Moscow in 1521 and was given its present name in 1778. Ryazan's population in 1999 was 528,800.

The Ryazan area is the home to several famous Russians. Poet Sergei Esenin was born in nearby Konstantinovo and lived there most of his life. One can still visit his home.

World–renown scientist Ivan Petrovich Pavlov was born in Ryazan and did his famous research with dogs and bells there as well. One can visit his birthplace as well as his laboratory. There is a guided tour through the lab as well.

Ryazan – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

St Petersburg

St Petersburg is the cultural capital of Russia. The city was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great. It was renamed Petrograd and Leningrad during the twentieth century. In the early nineties people vote to get its old name back. The city contains many cultural heritages as, the Hermitage, the Mariinsky Theatre and the Russian Museum. Most famous inhabitants of this city; Dostoyevski, Pushkin, Tschajkovski, Lenin and the current president of the Russian federation Vladimir Putin.

St Petersburg – Eating Out

Having a good meal in St. Petersburg has never been a problem because there are wide varieties of places to dine in the city.

If you are the busy type who is always on the move (tourists, students, workers), the best bet would be a **Fast food** restaurant. This is where Carrols, Mc Donalds and a host of other establishments come in.

Chopsticks Lovers could always find a place to practice this art as there are many **Chinese** restaurants in the city. Try the "**Chopsticks**" restaurant and a host of others.

The **Japanese** are not left as a small part of the mighty Japan has moved to St. Petersburg. For delicious and exotic Japanese cuisine check out **Sakura, Segun, Kyoto** and **Fujiyama**. Sure, you will not be disappointed.

Russian and **European** cuisine is also available in many of the restaurants in the city. Try the **1001 nights** restaurant. **Davidov** is a good place to dine out if you have opted for spicy Russian cuisine. **Demyanova Ukha** is also a classy place for those who love seafoods. There are a host of other restaurants in this category.

Those who love it the **Italian** way can always find a solace in the many **Pizza** restaurants in the city. I recommend **Pizza Hut** for those who love it big and tasty. **La Strada** is a wonderful place for hot, tasty pizza. You can also dine at **Patio Pizza** and a host of others.

all

Demyanova Ukha

The restaurant serves mainly fish. Reservations are essential.

address: Kronverkskiy pr. 53 (Gorkovskaya metro)

tel: 812 232 8090

openings: daily 11:00 –22:00

Staraya Derevnja

Comfortable interior with relatively cheap but rather delicious traditional Russian dishes. Gypsy or Russian singers entertain guests on the weekends.

address: ul.Savushkina 72 (tram no.2 /no.31 from chernaya Rechka metro)

tel: 812/2390000

openings: daily 13:00–18:00; 19:00–22:00

Count Suvorov

Russian and European cuisine

address: ul. Lomonosova 6 (Gostiny dvor metro)

tel: 812/3154328

openings: 12:00–24:00

Kalinka

address: Syezdovskaya Liniya 9 (on Vasilyevsky Island) Metro: Vasileostrovskaya

tel: 812/213–37–18

openings: 13:00–23:00

Admiralty

address: Nevsky Prospekt 57, Nevskij Palace Hotel (Metro: Mayakovskaya)

tel: 812/275–2001

1001 Nights

address: Millionnaya Ulitsa 21/6 (Metro: Nevsky Prospekt/Gostiny Dvor)

tel: 812/312–22–65

openings: 12 pm to 12 am

Carlifornia Grill

There can be no better location for a restaurant of this kind. Situated in the heart of Saint Petersburg, *'Carlifornia Grill'* is one of the best American restaurants around. American, Mexican and European cuisine prepared under the best conditions are available. If you really care for a good lunch, then Carlifornia Grill is a good place to have it. There is live music every evening and a Rock 'n' Roll party on sundays.

Credit cards accepted here include: VISA, Mastercard, JCB, AMEX, DC.

To get to the restaurant, take a metro train to Ploshchad Alexandra Nevskogo station. The restaurant is at a walking distance from the station.

address: 176 Nevsky Prospekt ("Ploshchad Alexandra Nevskogo" subway station)

openinghours: 24 hours daily

tel: +7 812 274 7470

+7 812 274 2422

La Strada

LA STRADA is a restaurant with a unique interior under a glass dome designed to represent an Italian village. There is a Florentine balcony on the second floor.

For those who really love pizzas in their varieties, this is one of the best places to have a great treat. At **LA STRADA**, Pizzas are prepared in full view of the restaurant and are made strictly to order. Why don't you try the famous Tiramisu dessert, the Italian delicacies with baked potatoes, cakes and pies. An intimate banquet hall is available on request.

To get to the restaurant, use the subway (metro). Get off at Nevsky Prospekt station and take the exit to Griboedova Canal. Walk down Nevsky Prospekt. Bolshaya Konyushennaya is the third street to the right of Nevsky Prospekt. You can't miss the restaurant if you get this far.

address: 27 Bolshaya Konyushennaya Ulitsa
openinghours: Daily from midday until the last customer leaves.
tel: +7 812 312 4700

Patio Pizza

At **PATIO-PIZZA** thin pizzas are cooked in a wood-burning oven. There is an extensive selection of Italian and International cuisine, desserts and large bar. Credit cards are accepted here. These include visa, mastercard, AMEX, Maestro, DC, and JCB.

The restaurants are within walking distances from metro stations: (1)'Nevsky Prospekt' and (2)'Ploshchad Alexandra Nevskogo'.

Restaurant 1

Address:30 Nevsky Prospekt

Tel:+7 812 314 8215

Restaurant 2

Address:182 Nevsky Prospekt

Tel:+7 812 271 3177

openinghours: From 12.00 p.m to 12.00 a.m daily

Pizza Hut

PIZZA HUT is well-known in Saint Petersburg for her delicious pizza. There is a restaurant, express-bar and plenty of pizza to take away. Credit cards accepted here include AMEX, DC, EC/MC, and visa.

Restaurant (1) is within walking distance from the metro station 'Nevsky Prospekt' while (2) is situated just opposite the station 'Mayakovskaya'

Restaurant 1

Address: 71/16 Reka Moika Embarkment

Tel:+7 812 315 7705

Restaurant 2

Address: 96 Nevsky Prospekt

Tel:+7 812 327 2642

openinghours: Monday–Thursday, Sunday (noon to 10.00 p.m)
Friday, Saturday (noon to 11.00 p.m)

Carrols

CARROLS is fast becoming a household name amongst fast food lovers in St Petersburg. The serenity of the restaurant so perfectly blends with the availability of assorted recipe; that makes it easy for any customer to fall in love with **CARROLS**. This fast food restaurant has a wide selection of the best eco–friendly burgers, crispy French fries, and other pasteries. Desserts include milky ice creams, milk shakes, pies, and soft drinks.

The restaurant at 45 Nevsky Prospekt is situated at a walking distance from the metro station Nevsky Prospekt. The second restaurant on Nevsky Prospekt is situated on the ground floor of the Bolshoy Gostiny Dvor (Metro station Gostiny Dvor).

The branch of the restaurant on Vosstaniya Ulitsa is situated close to the metro station 'Mayakovskaya–Ploshchad Vosstaniya'. It opens daily from 8.00 a.m to 11.00 p.m.

On 71/1 Zanevsky Prospekt, the restaurant is situated close to the metro station 'Ladozhskaya'.

The branch on Kamennooostrovsky Prospekt is about 2 minutes walk from the 'Petrogradskaya' metro station.

On Grazhdansky Prospekt, the restaurant is situated close to 'Akademicheskaya' metro station.

All branches of the restaurant (except the one on Vosstaniya Ulitsa) open from 9.00 a.m to 11.00 p.m daily.

Locations: 45 Nevsky Prospekt

5 Vosstaniya Ulitsa

31 Kamennooostrovsky Prospekt

71/1 Zanevsky Prospekt

35 Nevsky Prospekt

41 Grazhdansky Prospekt

address: 45 Nevsky Prospekt

openinghours: 9.00 a.m to 11.00 p.m daily.

tel: +7 812 311 4560
+7 812 311 8588

Mc Donalds

Almost every St Petersburg resident has been to a **McDonald** restaurant at one time or the other; for most people, it has become a culture that cannot be done away with so easily.

'**McDONALDS**' is a fast food restaurant that serves hot meals, drinks and desserts– their ice–creams and cocktail are just perfect. Other services provided include organisation of birthday parties, morning meals and trips around the 'McDonald' restaurants. There are eight 'McDonald' restaurants in St Petersburg today. And every one of these restaurants is unique for her location, size and taste. On an average scale it costs between 65 Roubles (2.30 USD) and 100 Roubles (3.55 USD) to have a nice meal at any of the restaurants

Address: 29a Sredny Prospekt, Vasileostrovskaya

Tel: +7 812 323 1579.

The restaurant is situated just opposite the metro station 'Vasileostrovskaya'. Its exterior gives you a feeling you were about to enter a hotel or a kind of palace. You couldn't really miss the restaurant if you got as far as this metro station.

Address: 39 Kamennooostrovsky Prospekt.

Tel:+7 812 234 9263

The restaurant is situated on the ground floor of the two–storey building next to the metro station 'Petrogradskaya'. This branch is very spacious (with an open air extension in summer) and happens to be one of the biggest here in St Petersburg.

Address: 4/1 Sennaya Ploshchad

Tel:+7 812 325 9281

The restaurant is situated a stone throw away from the metro station 'Sennaya Ploshchad'.

Address: 11/6 Bolshaya Morskaya Ulitsa

Tel:+7 812 314 6858

Obviously one of the most beautiful of the McDonald restaurants in Saint Petersburg. It is about ten minutes walk from the metro station 'Nevsky Prospekt'. Bolshaya Morskaya runs across Nevsky Prospekt so all you have to do is turn left.

Address: 195a Moskovsky Prospekt

Tel: +7 812 448 9603

Situated on the longest highway in St Petersburg, this restaurant's exterior is simply a classic; it gives you a feeling you are about to enter a glass house. The restaurant is directly opposite the metro station 'Moskovskaya'.

Address: 45a Zagorodny Prospekt

Tel:+7 812 310 5214

The restaurant is situated very close to the metro station 'Pushkinskaya'.

Address: 119a Savushkina

Tel:+7 812 323 1579

This is a 24-hour drive-in McDonald restaurant. It is situated on the outskirts of the city.

address: 11/6 Bolshaya Morskaya Ulitsa

openinghours: 9.00 a.m to 11.30 p.m

tel: +7 812 314 6858

Kyoto

'**KYOTO**' is Saint Petersburg's first Japanese restaurant. Services provided here include business lunches, tatami rooms, children's menu. There are also sukiyaki, sushi, sashimi, yusanabi, kushiyaki. You will always have a wide selection of Japanese alcoholic drinks.

Home and office deliveries are available. All major credit cards are accepted.

Located at a walking distance from the metro station 'Sennaya Ploshchad'.

address: 77 Reka Fontanka Embarkment

openinghours: From 1.00 p.m till the last customer leaves.

tel: +7 812 310 2547

Arirang

Arirang is one Japanese restaurant that serves tasty and quite inexpensive dishes. The food is prepared by the restaurant's chef. Other features of the restaurant are sushi bar and karaoke-bar. All major credit cards are accepted.

The restaurant is located about 10–20 minutes walk from the subway (metro station) 'Ploshchad Vosstaniya' although it might be best to take a trolley bus, auto bus or call a taxi.

address: 20 8th Sovetskaya Ulitsa ("Ploshchad Vosstaniya")

openinghours: 11.00 a.m to 11.00 p.m

tel: +7 812 274 0466

tel: +7 812 274 0467

Fujiyama

If you are looking for a Japanese restaurant that has got class, then **FUJIYAMA** is the right place to go. This is one Japanese restaurant with a really large sushi-bar. It also has a tatami room. Other services include home and office deliveries of orders, banqueting hall. Credit cards accepted include Visa, Mastercard.

The '**FUJIYAMA**' is about 7–10 minutes walk from the 'Petrogradskaya' metro station.

address: 54 Kamennostrovsky Prospekt
 openinghours: Monday–Thursday, Sunday (12.00 a.m to 11.00 p.m)
 Friday, Saturday (12.00 a.m to 1.00 a.m)
 tel: +7 812 234 5922
 +7 812 327 5285

Sakura

SAKURA is a little bit of the mighty Japan in the very heart of Saint Petersburg. There is genuine Japanese food prepared by Japanese chefs. Also available are sushi, nabe, teppan-yaki, etc. Credit cards accepted include Visa and Mastercard.

The restaurant is located very close to the metro station 'Nevsky Prospekt'. Take the exit to Groboedova Canal and walk down the Embarkment– You can be sure you can't miss the restaurant.

address: 10/12 Griboedova Canal Embarkment
 openinghours: From noon to 11.00 p.m daily
 tel: +7 812 315 9474

Segun

'**SEGUN**' is a traditional Japanese restaurant with traditional Japanese cuisine. There is sushi, sukiyaki, tempura and a host of others. Take-away service is also available. Credit cards accepted include Mastercard, Visa, AMEX, DCM JCB.

The restaurant is located some metres away from the metro station "Ploshchad Vosstaniya". You may walk or take use any available means of transport.

address: 26 Ulitsa Vosstaniya
 openinghours: From noon to 11.00 p.m
 tel: +7 812 275 3297

St Petersburg – Sights

Saint Petersburg is a city filled with a lot of very charming attractions. Besides the magnificent architecture one can enjoy beautiful nature.

Rivers the Neva, the Moyka and the Fontankadivide St Petersburg into a series of islands which makes orientation easy.

Here you can explore the tsarist estate, many other historic buildings, including the marvellous cathedrals and churches as well as a vast number of museums.

Start, for instance with the Peter`s and Paul`s fortress that is just a remarkable , historic and architectural memorial in Saint–Petersburg.

The Winter Palace (designed by Rastrelli in the 18th century), the former residence of Russian tsars, is situated on the Palace Square, one of the most beautiful architectural ensembles in the world.

The Hermitage with its collection of over 2,5 million exhibits is one of the very finest world art museums.

The Russian Museum contains 3 thousand paintings (10th–20th centuries) by Russian artists.

The St.Isaac`s Cathedral (1818–1858) is an outstanding monument of the late Russian Classicism.

The majestic architectural ensembles of Saint–Petersburg suburbs are well–known all over the world.

Peterhof or Petrodvorets, the former Russian imperial residence, Pavlovsk (18th–19th centuries) and Pushkino (18th–19th centuries), the former country residence of the Russian tsars, are among them.

all

The Admiralty

Used for ship–building until the 1860s, the building is now used home to the Naval Engineering College.

Bronze Horseman

Located on Senate Square (Decembrist square), the ***Bronze Horseman*** is a monument to ***Emperor Peter the Great***– founder of the city of St Petersburg.

The monument depicts a rider on a horse whose hind legs are trampling on a venomous snake. The famous statue is the work of the sculpture ***E. Falconet*** except for Peter's head (carved by his pupil M–A Collot) and the snake (carved by F. Gordeyev). A massive crag found near St Petersburg forms the pedestal of the monument: it weighs 1600 tonnes. The monument was unveiled in 1782.

The senate square is situated very close to the Admiralty on the Dvortsovaya Embarkment. The closest subway station (metro station) to the monument and the Senate square is Nevsky Prospekt. At the metro station, take the Canal Griboyedova Embarkment exit.

To reach the monument, you can make a number of choices:

Walking: This is about the best way to reach the square if you really want to savour the beauty of Nevsky Prospekt. This will take about 10 to 15 minutes.

Taxi: This is the fastest way and would cost about 20 Roubles (about 70 cents).

Route taxis: Most of the route taxis that ply Nevsky Prospekt go to Senate Square. On an average this costs

between 8 and 10 Roubles (about 35 cents).

Address: Senate square (Senatskaya Ploshchad)

Monument to Lenin

This monument to the founder of the Soviet Union is situated on Ploshchad Lenina (Lenin square). *Vladimir Lenin* can best be referred to as the father and founder of the Soviet Union. He was at one time a student of the Saint Petersburg State University.

The monument to Lenin was erected on the square near the Finland Station in 1926. It is the work of the sculptor S. Yevseyev, architects V. Shchuko and V. Gelfreikh. It was on this square in 1917 that the communist leader made a speech immediately after his return to Russia from exile.

The monument is so super-imposing; you can see it as soon as you come out of the subway station (metro station) 'Ploshchad Lenina'. Take the exit to the Finland Train Station.

Address: Lenin Square (Ploshchad Lenina)

Monument to Nicholas I

The monument to Nicholas I is situated on Isaakievskaya Ploshchad (Isaac square). This particular monument was designed by A. Montferrand and unveiled on 25th June 1859. The horse and the Tsar were carved by P. Klodt, while the other figures, the weapons and the Imperial monograms are the works of R. Zaleman.

The enormous statue spans a length of six metres and is supported on only two points– the horse's hoofs. The pedestal is of marble and granite. The four seated female figures are supposed to resemble the wife and daughters of the Russian Emperor Nicholas I.

The statue's location is strategic. It can be reached from the subway station (metro station) Nevsky Prospekt. Take the exit to Canal Griboyedova Embarkment. You can walk if you are in the mood. Isaac square is about 10 to 15 minutes walk from the subway station. You may wish to use a Route taxi or bus from here. Taxis are also readily available.

Address: Isaakievskaya Ploshchad (Isaac square)

The "Steregushchy" Monument

This monument was created by the sculptor K. Izenberg and unveiled in 1911. The monument commemorates the heroic exploits of two sailors from the torpedo boat "Steregushchy" during the Russian–Japanese War. Even when surrounded by the enemy navy, the sailors still preferred death to captivity: they went down to the hold and scuttled the ship.

The monument is about ten minutes walk from the "Gorkovskaya" subway station.

Address: Kamennostrovsky Prospekt

Suvorov Monument

Located on Suvorovskaya Ploshchad (Suvorov Square), this monument was erected in 1818 on the approach to the Troitsky bridge. The heroic figure of the general carved to resemble Mars, the Roman god of war, is the

handwork of the sculptor M. Kozlovsky. F. Gordeyev designed the bas-relief on the base, which represents the spirits of Glory and Peace.

To get to the monument, take a metro train to Gorkovskaya subway station (metro station). From here you can walk along Kamennostrovsky Prospekt to the Troitsky bridge. The monument is at the far end of the bridge.

Kazansky Cathedral

This is a very special cathedral for the residents of St Petersburg. It was built between 1801 and 1811 to a design drawn by Voronikhin. The cathedral was built to house the miracle-working icon of Our Lady of Kazan (the icon is now kept in the Prince Vladimir Cathedral). *Kazansky Cathedral* was constructed in the shape of a Latin cross. The side facing Nevsky Prospekt boasts a colonnade of 96 columns. Exhibitions are held here regularly according to the Orthodox church and the Ecclesiastical art.

It is very easy to get to the cathedral. Take a metro train to Nevsky Prospekt, get up the elevator leading to Griboedova Canal. The building opposite the subway exit is the cathedral.

Tel: +7 812 311 0495

Address: 2 Kazanskaya square (Kazanskaya Ploshchad)

Alexander Nevskiy Monastery

This monastery was founded by Tsar Peter the Great in 1710 as "the Monastery of Holy Trinity and Grand Duke St. Alexander Nevskiy" some years after the founding of St Petersburg. The monastery (then called lavra) was built to commemorate the victory of Prince Alexander Nevskiy (Grand duke of Novgorod) over the Swedish troops in the Neva battle of 1240.

Construction of the stone monastery started in 1717. On 30 August 1724 the remains of St. Alexander Nevskiy were transferred to the church of the Annunciation at the orders of Peter the Great.

In 1797, the monastery was given the official title of "The Alexander Nevskiy Monastery of the Holy Trinity". At the turn of the century, there were six churches in the monastery complex, of which five are still surviving. The surviving churches are: Holy Trinity Cathedral built between 1776 and 1790 by architect J. Starov, the Church of the Anunciation built between 1717 and 1722 by architect D. Trezzini (A.V Suvorov was buried here.), St. Lazarus' Church, St. Nicholas Church, and the Church of the Holy Mother of God "the joy of mourners" which is over the monastery gates.

There are some cemeteries located on the territory of the monastery. These include Lazaryevskoye Cemetery (Nekropol of the 18th century) and Tikhvinskoye Cemetery (Nekropol of the masters of arts). A lot of important people were buried here. These include the renowned scholar M. Lomonosov; architects A. Voronikhin, C. Rossi, A. Zakharov; composers M. Glinka, P. Tchaikovsky, M. Moussorgsky; and writers A. Ivanov, I. Kramskoi, I. Shishkin.

The nearest metro station to the monastery is 'Ploshchad Alexandra Nevskogo'. From the station walk down 'Prospekt Obuknovskoy Oborony', then turn right on Reka Monastyrka Embarkment.

Tel: +7 812 274 0409

Address: No. 1 Reka Monastyrka Embarkment
St. Nicholas Cathedral

St. Nicholas Cathedral of the Epiphany otherwise known as "Sailor's Cathedral" was built as a church between 1753 and 1760. It became a Cathedral in 1941. The cathedral has a four-storey bell-tower to the west, which was built between 1756 and 1758. The cathedral contains some of the relics of St. Nicholas the miracle-worker, saviour of those dying at sea and the patron saint of sailors.

The cathedral can be reached from the metro station 'Sadovaya–Sennaya Ploshchad'. It might be necessary to use an autobus, trolley bus or tram car from the station.

Tel: +7 812 114 0862

Address: 1 Nikolskaya square (Nikolskaya Ploshchad)
Aurora

The *Aurora Cruiser* was founded in 1897 and launched in 1900. It is named after the Aurora frigate that defended Petropavlovsk on Kamchatka during the Russia–Japan war of 1853–56. The cruiser also took part in the Tsunima. The cruiser became the monument of the October Revolution on November 17 1948. Today it is a part of the Navy Museum.

Aurora is located on the Petrogradskaya Embarkment of the Bolshaya Nevka River .

Open: Daily from 10.30 a.m to 4 p.m except Mondays and Fridays

Tel: +7 812 230 8440

Address: No. 3 Petrogradskaya Embarkment (subway station "Gorkovskaya")
Printing Museum

The printing museum was built in 1905. It is an old printing house and is devoted to the history of printing in St Petersburg at the beginning of the 20th century. Collections include copies of newspapers and magazines, restored interiors and printing equipment from the mid 19th century up to early 20th century. There are various exhibitions on particular subjects.

To get to the museum, you can take the metro. Take a train to the metro station 'Nevsky Prospect', take the exit to Griboedova Canal and walk down Nevsky Prospect. You can also take a taxi from the metro station.

Open: Monday, Thursday–Sunday (11.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m)

Tel: +7 812 312 0977

Address: 32 Reka Moika Embarkment (Naberezhnaya Reki Moiki)
Central Naval Museum

The Central Naval museum is one of the largest naval museums in the world. It was established in 1709. Museum's exhibitions include items related to the history of the Russian fleet, and the traditions of Russian

sailors. The museum stores over 800,000 exhibits which include 2,000 ship models, over 3,500 banners, over 7,000 items of arms, weapons and military facilities. There are also about 2,000 paintings. Peter the Great's boat is a unique part of the Museum's exhibition.

The museum is located close to the Dvorsovy bridge (about ten minutes walk from Palace square). Closest metro station is "Nevsky Prospekt".

Tel: +7 812 328 2502

Address: No. 4 Birzhevaya Ploshchad

Church of the Resurrection

The Church of the Resurrection (Church of Our Saviour on the Spilled Blood) is a monument of Russian architecture and decorative art of the 19th century. The cathedral was designed by the architect A. Parland. It was modelled after St Basil's in Moscow. It was constructed between 1882 and 1907 on the spot where Tsar Alexander II was mortally wounded by a terrorist bomb.

The unique interior and exterior decorations of the Church include icons and panels made from majolica and mosaic. Most of the designs were made from drawings of leading Russian artists of the last century. There is also a permanent exhibition titled "Tsar Alexander II". One major decoration on one of the exterior domes is Leonardo Da Vinci's painting of the last supper in the "upper room".

To get to the museum, you can take a metro train to the "Nevsky Prospekt" station, take the exit to Griboedova Canal and walk down the Griboedova Canal Embarkment. The cathedral stands out distinct of all the buildings on the Embarkment.

Open: 11a.m–6p.m daily except wednesday.

Tel: +7 812 315 4361

Address: 2a Griboedova Canal Embarkment ("Nevsky Prospekt" subway station)

The Russian Museum

In March 1998 the State Russian Museum, the world's largest museum of Russian Art, celebrated its Centennial. With the renovation of the museum's main building – Mikhailovsky Palace – you can now enjoy the best collection of Russian Art. The museum, then called the "Russian Museum of Emperor Alexander III", was established in 1895 and opened its doors to the public on March 7 (19), 1898. First paintings for its collection were donated by the Hermitage, Academy of Fine Arts and various royal palaces. Since then the collection has been growing very quickly. Nowadays, the Russian Museum's vast collections are put on display at four different locations in downtown St. Petersburg, all within a short walking distance from each other: The Mikhailovsky Palace and the Benois Building Main building of the museum, which showcases Russian art from early icons to the beginning of the 20th century and holds temporary exhibitions The Mikhailovsky (St Michael's) Castle Permanent collection of Russian Official Portraits plus temporary exhibitions The Marble Palace Modern Russian art early 20th century to the present (including the famous Russian Avant-garde) plus an insightful display of the Rossica – art by foreign artists who worked in Russia. Temporary exhibitions The Stroganov Palace Collection of Russian icons, once owned by the Stroganov family and a wax figures display

address: ploshchad Iskusstv

Zoological Museum

The Museum of Zoology was established in 1832 on the basis of the collection of the Kunstkamera. It has one of the finest collections in the world, with over one hundred thousand specimens including a set of stuffed animals that once belonged to Peter the Great. the most evocative display shows the discovery of a 44,000-year-old mammoth in the permafrost of Yakutia in 1903.

The closest subway stations are "Vasileostrovskaya" and "Nevsky Prospekt". Recommended you take a route taxi or trolleybus. (about 10–20 minutes)

Tel: +7 812 328 0112

address: No. 1 Universitetskaya Embarkment

openinghours: Saturday to Thursday (11:00–18:00); closed on Fridays

The Hermitage

The State Hermitage is the world's second largest museum (only the Louvre in France is bigger). Situated in the city center, the museum is one of the most popular tourist attractions in St Petersburg. The colourful green and white paint combination of the Winter palace is done in Russian baroque style, such that it becomes very difficult not to fall in love with The Hermitage at first sight. The museum is situated on Dvortsovaya Embarkment (Dvortsovaya Naberezhnaya); few metres away from the Dvortsovaya bridge– one of the oldest and most beautiful bridges in St Petersburg.

The State Hermitage comprises five buildings: The Winter Palace (built by B. Rastrelli between 1754 and 1762), the Small Hermitage (built by V. de la Mothe in 1775), the Old Hermitage (built by Y. Felten between 1775 and 1787), the Hermitage Theatre (built by G. Quarenghi between 1783 and 1787) and the New Hermitage (built by L. Klenze between 1839 and 1852). All the buildings are interconnected by passages in the form of arches, covered brigdes and a hanging garden. The museum opened to the public at the end of the 19th century.

The museum comprises eight departments some of which include:

- i.* The Antiquities department, which contains a collection of monuments of the culture and art of Ancient Greece and Rome. Popular works here include the statue of Venus– the goddess of love and beauty and the statue of Gonzaga Cameo who was executed in Alexandria in the 3rd B.C.
- ii.* The department of West–European art which represents a collection of world famous paintings, sculptures, drawings, engraving and objects of applied art. There are masterpieces of Leonardo Da Vinci, Paohael, Rembrandt, Rubens, Titian, El Greco, A. Van Eyck and other great artists. French paintings and culture of the 15–20th centuries occupy two floors. There are works of Poussin, Chardin, Watteau, Fragnard, Falconet and Picasso.
- iii.* The department of the History of Primitive Culture, which shows the developepment of the primitive cultures on the territory of the former USSR from the beginning of the stone age to the formation of the states.

- iv.* The Oriental department, which was founded in 1921. The largest exhibition is the culture and art of the peoples of Central Asia.
- v.* The department of the History of Russian Culture, which was set up in 1941. The exhibition illustrates very fully the important stages of the history of Russian culture and life.

The museum's collection now numbers more than three million items which include paintings, graphic arts, sculptures, applied art, coins, and archeological discoveries. There are 350 halls in the museum. The museum keeps 15,000 paintings, 12,000 sculptures, 600,000 drawings, over 600,000 thousand monuments of archeology, over 1,000,000 coins and medals, and 4,224,000 thousand items of applied arts. Admission into the museum costs 250 Roubles (approx. 9USD) For students with student I.D cards, admission is free. To get to the museum: Using the metro: Take any train to the subway station "Nevsky Prospekt". Take the exit that leads to Griboedova Canal. The Museum is about twenty minutes walk from here. You may take a taxi, autobus, or trolleybus.

Museum Open: Tue–Sat (10.30a.m–6.00p.m) Sun (10.30a.m–5.00p.m)

Website: <http://www.hermitage.ru>

Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography

The museum displays everything from Balinese puppets to Inuit kayaks. There are sections covering Southeast Asia, the Antipodes and Melanesia as well as Africa and the Americas. In the round hall a selection of Tsar Peter's curiosities is being shown and fills visitors with wonders and disgust: Siamese twins, a two-faced man and a two headed calf, followed by surgical and dental instruments and teeth pulled by the tsar himself, who was an ambitious amateur dentist.

openinghours: 11:00–18:00, closed every thurs & last Wed of the month

St. Isaac's Cathedral

The *St. Isaac's cathedral* is Russia's biggest cathedral and one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world. It is named in honour of St Isaac of Dalmatia, on whose day (30th May) Peter I was born .

The cathedral was built between 1818 and 1858 to a design made by the French architect Auguste Montferrand, who was commissioned to build the most spectacular church – a prime landmark of the Russian Imperial capital. Many leading artists and craftsmen of that time participated in the construction of this edifice. These include sculptors I. Vitalli and P. Klodt; painters K. Bryullov and F. Bruni, the bell-maker I. Stukolkin from Valdai and a host of others.

One hundred and eighty years after, the gilded dome of St. Isaac's still dominates the skyline of St. Petersburg. Although the cathedral is smaller than a newly rebuilt Church of Christ the Savior in Moscow, it has by far more inspirational facades and interiors.

St. Isaac cathedral has columns of Karelian granite and pediments with statues of the Apostles and the Evangelists. The cathedral is 101.5 metres high, and there is a marvelous view over St Petersburg from the colonnades.

The facades are decorated with sculptures and massive granite columns (made of single pieces of red granite), while the interiors dazzle the eye with mosaic icons, paintings and columns made of malachite and lapis lazuli. A large stained glass of "*Resurrected Christ*" located inside the main altar is truly fascinating. The church, designed to accommodate 14 thousand standing worshipers, was closed in the early 1930s and later re-opened as a museum. Nowadays, church services are held here only on major occasions like the Orthodox Easter celebrations.

St. Isaac's square is situated right in front of the cathedral, giving a wonderful view as if the square was a part of the cathedral.

To get to the cathedral you can make use of the metro. Take a train to the station 'Nevsky Prospekt' or 'Gostiny Dvor'. The cathedral is located on Isaac square which is about 10–15 minutes walk from "Nevsky Prospekt" subway station.

Foreign visitors can buy their tickets at the right door of the southern facade (not at the ticket booth). We recommend that you also climb about 300 stairs to get a bird-eye view of St. Petersburg from the "Colonnade" observation point at the bottom of the dome.

Metro: Nevsky Prospekt/Gostiny Dvor

The Colonnade observation point is open on Thursday to Tuesday 11:00–18:00; last admission at 17:00; closed on Wednesdays.

tel:315–9732: +7 812 210 9206

Menshikov Palace

The Menshikov palace is a branch of the State Hermitage. It is a typical example of 18th century architecture. The Palace was built for Tsar Peter I according to the design of architects G–M Fontane and I–G Schadel.

The museum contains an exhibition of Russian history and culture in the first half of the 18th century. These include genuine unique pieces of art and household objects of the Peter I epoch.

The nearest subway stations to the museum are "Nevsky Prospekt" and "Vasileostrovskaya". It is advisable to take a taxi, trolleybus, autobus or route taxi from the subway station.

Open: Tuesday–Sunday (10.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m)

Tel: +7 812 323 1112

Address: 15 Universitetskaya Embarkment (Universitetskaya Naberezhnaya).

Marble Palace

The Marble Palace is now a branch of the Russian Museum. The palace was built between 1768 and 1785 for Count G. Orlov– one of Catherine II's favourites. It was designed and built by the architect Rinaldi.

Here, there is a permanent exhibition dedicated to European artists of the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries who lived and worked in Russia. There is also an exhibition of modern art from abroad.

The palace is situated some metres away from the State Hermitage. You can get there using the metro. Take a train to Nevsky Prospect and take the exit to Griboedova Embarkment. You might walk, call a taxi, or use an autobus.

Open: Monday, Wednesday–Sunday (10.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m)

Tel: +7 812 312 9196

Address: 5/1 Millionnaya Ulitsa

Peter and Paul Fortress

The Fortress was constructed during the reign of Peter the Great. First built in earth and wood, it was rebuilt in stone by the middle of the 18th century. In the center of the Fortress there is Peter and Paul's Cathedral (1727, architect D. Trezzini) which is the burial place of all Russian Emperors (from Peter the Great to Nicholas II) except Peter II and Ioann VI.

Palace Square

Palace Square is the main square of St. Petersburg where the Alexander Column is situated. It was erected to commemorate the Russian victory over Napoleon.

Winter Palace

The Winter Palace is one of St Petersburg's oldest buildings. The first building of the palace was constructed in 1708 as a residence for the first Russian Emperor Peter I. The palace is now a museum which actually forms a very strategic part of the State Hermitage. In fact it is located underneath the stage of the Hermitage Theatre. The main courtyard and some of the ground floor rooms have been renovated and restored. It is also possible to have a view of the turning shop, study and dining room used in Peter's time; as well as some of Peter's actual personal belongings.

Visits are permitted only with one of the museum's own excursions which start every 30 minutes. All tickets can be bought at the State Hermitage's cash desks. Entrance to the palace is from 32 Dvortsovaya Embarkment.

Admission is free for students with I.D cards. For foreigners and tourists admission cost 250 Roubles(9 USD).

To get to the palace, take a subway train to the "Nevsky Prospekt" station. Take the exit that leads to Griboedova Canal. The palace/Museum is about twenty minutes walk from here. You may take a taxi, autobus, or trolleybus.

Open: 11.00a.m–3.30p.m daily except Mondays

Tel: +7 812 311 3465

Address:No. 34 Dvortsovaya Embarkment.

Summer Palace

Situated in the Summer Garden, the Summer Palace was erected on the banks of Fonanka River during 1710 to 1714.

Nevskiy Prospekt

Nevskiy Prospekt (Avenue) is the main thorough fare of St. Petersburg. It starts from Admiralty Prospekt and ends at the Alexander Nevskiy Square (a distance of about 4.5 kilometers). The avenue is about 26–60 meters wide. Old Nevsky Prospekt is the part between the square of Insurrection and the Alexander Nevsky square. Three rivers cross Nevskiy Prospekt namely the Moika, Fontanka and the Griboedov Canal.

Nevskiy prospekt appeared in 1710 as two roads in a boggy forest leading from the Admiralty and from the Alexander Nevskiy Monastery to the Old Novgorod highway. The part that led from the Admiralty was the main entrance to the city and was referred to as Big Prospekt. This was later renamed Neva Prospekt in the 1730s.

Today Nevskiy Prospekt can boast of magnificent architectural masterpieces and sculptural monuments which include

The Triumphal Staff of the General Staff The St. Peter Church (Lutheran) The House of Books Monument to Pushkin The Opera and Ballet theatre (named after Mussorgsky) The Mikhajlovskiy Palace The Temple of Christ's resurrection The Russian Ethnographical Museum The St. Ekaterina Church Armenian Church The Sheremetevskiy Palace The State Circus The Mikhaylovsky Castle The Stroganovskiy Palace The Cathedral of the Icon of Our Lord of Kazan The Duma The Bolshoy Gostiny Dvor The State Public Library (named after Saltykov–Shchedrin) The Alexandrinskiy theatre The Ekaterininskiy Public Garden Monument of Ekaterina II The Anichkov Palace The Zodchego Rossi Ulitsa. The Beloselskikh–Beloserskikh Palace The Anichkov bridge Simeona and the Anny Church The Spaso–Preobrazhenskiy Cathedral The Vladimirskaya Church Dostoevsky Memorial Museum Monument of Dostoevsky The Sheremetjevskiy Palace Monument of A.S Pushkin The Moskovskiy Railway station The Alexander Nevskiy Lavra (and its ensembles)

St Petersburg – Getting Around

St Peterburg is a big city to go around by foot. In order to cover all beautiful sights you might consider taking either public transport or a city cab.

Actually, the public transport will be the best option as far as this means of transportation is an effective and a cheap system.

There is a fast metro service and an overstretched network of trams, buses and trolleybuses.

St Petersburg – Getting There

Basically from any point of the world you can get to Saint Petersburg by air, water, road or railroad.

For the best airticket prices, please, check the Priceline.com, the connection to the site is provided at the Links section.

all

Pulkovo 1

Pulkovo is located 18 km south of the city. The airport offers air services to the former Soviet republics and within Russia. From the airport you can reach the city by taking a taxi to the Moskovskaya subway station (metro station). The taxi trip to Moskovskaya takes about 5–10 minutes while it takes about 20–30 minutes to get to the city center.

You can also use the express bus 39 "E" which leaves the airport at intervals of about 1 hour. The route price is fixed irrespective of the distance. Payment is made on entrance.

Route taxis (minibus with 10 seats) operate to the Moskovskaya subway station from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. The trip takes about 10–15 minutes.

Tel: Information desk – 104 3822

Pulkovo 2

Pulkovo 2 offers air services to foreign countries. The airport is located 17 km south of the city center.

From the airport you can reach the city by taking a taxi to the Moskovskaya subway station (metro station). The taxi trip to Moskovskaya takes about 5–10 minutes while it takes about 20–30 minutes to get to the city center.

Bus No. 13 leaves the airport for the city regularly. Payment should be made upon entrance (Don't forget to get your ticket from the conductor).

Route taxis (minibus with 10 seats) operate to the Moskovskaya subway station from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. The trip takes about 10–15 minutes.

Tel: Information desk – 104 3444

Baltiyskiy Train Station

From this station there are suburban trains to Gatchina, Kalishche, Luga, Oranienbaum (Lomonosov), and Peterhof.

Tel: +7 812 168 2859

*Address:*No. 120 Obvodny Canal Embarkment (subway station "Baltiyskaya").

Finlandskiy Train Station

Long–distance trains to Moscow, Petrozavodsk, and Helsinki. Suburban trains to Vyborg, Priozersk, Primorsk.

Tel: +7 812 168 7687

*Address:*No. 6 Ploshchad Lenina (subway station "Ploshchad Lenina")

Moskovskiy Train Station

<From the Moskovskiy station long distance trains travel to Moscow, Almaty, Adler, Archangelsk, Volgograd, Ekaterinburg, Ivanovo, Kazan, Murmansk, Perm, Nizhniy Novgorod, Samara, Chelyabinsk. There are suburban trains to Volkhov, Malaya Vishera, and Mga.

Tel: +7 812 168 4597

Address:No. 85 Nevsky Prospekt (Subway station "Ploshchad Vosstaniya")>

email: flyhugo767@hotmail.com

Vitevskiy Train Station

The Vitevskiy train station has long–distance trains to Brest, Derbent, Dnepropetrovsk, Kiev, Kishinev, Minsk, Odessa, Smolensk.

There are also suburban trains to Novolisino, Oredezh, Pushkin, and Pavlovsk.

Tel: +7 812 168 5807

Address:Zagorodny Prospekt(Subway station "Pushkinskaya").

Warsaw Train station

At the Warsaw station there are long–distance trains to Kaliningrad, Lvov, Pskov, Pytalovo, Ivongorod, Truskavets. International trains from here head for Berlin, Tallin, Budapest, Warsaw, Prague, and Riga.

There are also suburban trains to Luga and Siverskaya.

Tel: +7 812 168 2690

Address:No. 118 Obvodnogo Canal Embarkment (Subway station "Baltiyskaya")

St Petersburg – Nightlife and Entertainment

St Petersburg offers a wide variety of options to spend your night time. Whether it is clubbing, classical music or theatre, you will definitely find your favourite program.

all

Sadko's

Bistro bar with live music in the evenings

address: Mikhailovskaya ul.1 (Nevskiy Prospekt metro)

openings: daily 23:00–1:00

Staroe Kafe

Tiny cosy cafe with traditional Russian food

address: nab. reki Fontanki 108 (Tekhnologicheskiiy institut metro)

openings: daily 12:00–23:00

Cafe Ambassador

address: nab. reki Fontanki 16 (15min. walk from Nevskiy Prospekt metro)

openings: daily 13:00–5:00

Carroll's

fast food – chips and burgers.

address: Nevskiy pr. 35 (Gostiniy dvor metro)

openings: daily 9:00–23:00

Green Crest

good healthy eating

address: Vladimirskiy pr. 7 (Vladimirskaya/Dostoevskaya metro)

openings: daily 10:00–22:00

Idiot

Relaxed vegetarian bar with books and boardgames

address: nab.reki Moyki 82 (trolleybus no.5 /no.22 from Nevskiy prospekt)

openings: 12:00–24:00

Kashtan

address: nab.reki Fontanki 46 (gostiniy Dvor metro)

openings: daily 12:00–22:00

Krokodil

Cafe for the in-crowd, with some events and performances.

address: Galernaya ul. 181 (trolleybus no.5/no.22 from Nevskiy prospekt)

openings: daily 13:00–23:00

Domenicos

address: Nevskiy pr. 70 (Mayakovskaya metro)

openings: daily 12:00–6:00

Griboedov

On of the coolest dance clubs in the city situated in a bomb shelter.

address: Voronezhskaya ul. 2a (Ligovskiy Prospekt metro)

openings: Thurs–Sun 17:00–6:00

Hollywood Nites

This place includes a disco, a casino and a restaurant, situated in the centre of town.

address: Nevskiy Prospekt 46 (Nesvkiy Prospekt/gostiniy dvor metro)

openings: Tues–sun 21:00–6:00

Fish Fabrique

Cafe–club at the heart of the city's artist's colony.

address: Pushkinskaya ul. 10 (Mayakovskogo metro)

openings: Thurs–Sat 17:00–6:00

JFC Jazz Club

address: Shpalernaya ul.33 (Chernyshvskaya metro)

openings: daily 19:00–22:00

Mama

favourite techno location

address: Malaya Monetnaya ul. 3B (Gorkovskaya metro)

openings: Fri&Sat midnight–6:00

Metro

address: Ligovskiy Prospekt 174 (Ligovskiy Prospekt metro)

openings: daily 22:00–6:00

Moloko

Small rock club especially favourite among students

address: Perekupnoy per. 12 (Poshchad Aleksandra Nevskogo metro)

openings: Fri–Sat 19:00–23:00

PORT

Several dance halls and exhibitions.

address: per.Antonenko 2 (Sennaya Ploshchad metro,, off St)

openings: daily 15:00–6:00

Manhattan

Hip place with occasional jazz improvisations

address: Fontanka 90

openings: daily 12:00–5:00

Dacha

This place rocks the free world! On Dumskaya.

St Petersburg – Suburbs

Most of St. Petersburg's suburbs are very beautiful. They date back to ancient times of Imperialism. The most popular of the suburbs are Peterhof, Pavlovsk, Pushkin, Oranienbaum (Lomonosov), and Gatchina.

Find out more about the magnificent suburbs.

all

Peterhof

Peterhof is the kingdom of fountains and undoubtedly the most beautiful of St. Petersburg's suburbs. It is located on the southern shore of the Finnish gulf 29 kilometers away from St. Petersburg. The palace and park ensembles are historical monuments of the 18th–19th centuries. Construction of the palace and park started in 1714 (reign of Peter the Great). By 1724 the Lower Park (with its canals) and the Upper Park had been laid out. The Hermitage pavilions, the Marli, three fountain cascades, the Upper Chamber, the palaces, the Monplaisir and other fountains were also constructed.

During the reign of Empress Anna Ioannovna (1730–1740) the Marli Cascade was decorated with marble, and the Ruin Cascade was reconstructed to form the Dragon Cascade (Chess Hill). The fountain alley was formed in the Lower park and the Roman fountains were erected. In 1735 B.K Rastrelli installed the famous "Samson tearing the lion's mouth" at Grand Cascade to mark the 25th anniversary of Poltava victory over the Swedish troops. In the mid 18th century Rastrelli turned the Upper Chambers into the Imperial palace for special occasions.

The fountains' magical play of water takes you back to the days of the first Emperor, Peter the Great. The Neptune fountain lies to the south of the park (just after the main entrance if you came by road). For those who would come to Peterhof on a jetty, the entrance is the Petrodvorets pier which lies to the north. The great palace is situated behind the Neptune fountain. It is an ensemble of great architectural mastery. The Samson fountain which is situated on the Lower Park is the main feature of the Peterhof park and palace. The Big Hot–house lies to the east of the Samson fountain. The Hermitage lies close to the shores of the Finnish gulf. Dragon's Cascade, the Rome's fountains, the Voliere and the Monplaisir lie East of the Big Hot–house. The Marli lies to the extreme west of the park while St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral is situated opposite the park.

Peterhof can be reached by boat during the sea navigation period (spring and summer). You can take the jetty from Vasilievsky Island near the Tuchkov bridge. This trip takes 30–40 minutes.

You can also reach the town by shuttle train. Shuttle trains (Elektrichka) to Peterhof are available from the Baltiyskiy train station ("Baltiyskiy" subway station). The train trip takes about 35 minutes.

Buses No. 350, 351, 351a, 352, 353, 354, 356 also go to the park from the "Baltiyskiy" subway station.

Route taxis No. 103, T300 are available from the "Avtovo" subway station.

Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo

Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin) is located about 25 kilometers south of St. Petersburg. Main features of Pushkin are the Palace and park complex. The name Tsarskoye Selo originated from the Finnish word "*Saari Mois*". ("Saari Mois" was a Finnish farm which came to the Tsar's possession in 1708. Originally it was renamed "Tsarskaya Mysa".)

Tsarskaya Mysa became the residence of the Empress Catherine I (Peter the Great's wife) from 1708 till 1724. From 1741 Tsarskoye Selo became the residence of Empress Elizabeth. A stone palace and a church were constructed in 1750 by the architects M. Zemtsov and S. Chevakinsky. They also constructed built the buildings that enclose the Parade Yard. A magnificent, Russian baroque palace was built between 1752 and 1756 by the architect V.V Rastrelli. At the same time the Hermitage and the Grotto pavilions were built. The Upper and Lower gardens were laid out and the Lower garden was decorated with sculptures.

St Petersburg – Background Info

This section is dedicated to giving you background information about St. Petersburg especially its weather, geographical location, news and events. Hope you like it.

St Petersburg – Accommodation

Saint Petersburg is a city with diverse accommodation potentials. As a visitor to the city you can be rest assured that you can always find a place that suits your needs and financial abilities. There are a wide range of comfortable places to lodge in. Please check the list of hotels provided below.

All these hotels have different ratings. Prices also vary depending on hotel's rating but one thing is sure– you will always have a nice time.

all

Astoria Hotel

Astoria is a gray-colour, six-storey, *five-star* hotel located at 39 Bolshaya Morskaya Ulitsa (the very heart of St. Petersburg). The hotel is about ten minutes walk from the subway station "Nevsky Prospekt". It overlooks the St. Isaac Cathedral situated on Isaac square.

Astoria offers 4 deluxe suites, 1 presidential suite, 24 "senior suites", 16 single rooms, 168 double/twin rooms, 3 restaurants and 1 bar. Customer service is excellent and all major credit cards are accepted here.

Tel: +7 812 313 5757

Fax: +7 812 313 5059

E-mail: front@astoria.spb.ru

Angleterre

Angleterre is a *four-star* hotel located adjacent to the Hotel Astoria on Bolshaya Morskaya Ulitsa (about ten minutes walk from the subway station "Nevsky Prospekt"), and overlooking Isaac square.

The hotel offers 1 deluxe suite, 187 double/twin rooms, restaurant, bar and good customer services. All major credit cards accepted.

Tel: +7 812 313 5757

Fax: +7 812 313 5059

E-mail: front@astoria.spb.ru

Moscow

Hotel Moscow is one of the most comfortable hotels in the heart of St. Petersburg. It is located in the historical center of the city, 2 Alexander Nevsky Square (overlooking Nevsky Prospekt and the Neva Embarkment). Alexander Nevsky Monastery (the oldest architectural ensemble of the 18th century) is situated right in front of the hotel.

Hotel Moscow offers 335 four-star category rooms, 10 suites, 40 deluxe rooms, 125 singles, 560 doubles, a business center, 4 restaurants, 3 bars, cafe, billiard, casino, a fitness center, swimming pool and a sauna. All rooms are provided with satellite TV and advanced means of communication. Excellent customer service provided. All major credit cards accepted.

The closest subway station to the hotel is "Ploshchad Alexandra Nevskogo". To book a room:

Tel: +7 812 274 2094

Fax: +7 812 274 2130

To confirm your reservation(s), call +7 812 274 0022

Tel: +7 812 274 3001

Fax: +7 812 274 2130

E-mail: business@hotel-moscow.ru

Website: <http://www.hotel-moscow.ru>

Moscow

Hotel Moscow is one of the most comfortable hotels in the heart of St. Petersburg. It is located in the historical center of the city, 2 Alexander Nevsky Square (overlooking Nevsky Prospekt and the Neva Embarkment). Alexander Nevsky Monastery (the oldest architectural ensemble of the 18th century) is situated right in front of the hotel.

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To confirm your reservation(s), call +7 812 274 0022

Tel: +7 812 274 3001

Fax: +7 812 274 2130

E-mail: business@hotel-moscow.ru

Website: <http://www.hotel-moscow.ru>

Grand Hotel Europe

Grand Hotel Europe is unarguably one of the most beautiful hotels in the heart of St. Petersburg. It is situated on Nevsky Prospekt, adjacent to the subway station "Gostiny Dvor". The four-storey five-star hotel rates high amongst visitors to the city.

Grand Hotel Europe boasts of 301 rooms, which comprises 212 regulars, 19 semi luxury, 17 terraces, 22 penthouses, 31 suites, 4 restaurants, cafe, bar, full-fledged business center, conference hall, courier service. It is possible to book a room online, as all major credit cards are accepted. Neat, high class hotel with excellent customer service. English-speaking personnel. Hotel taxi service available.

Tel: +7 812 329 6000

Fax: +7 812 329 6001

Email: res@ghe.spb.ru

Website: <http://www.Grandhotel-europe.com>

Nevskij Palace Hotel

Nevskij Palace Hotel is a ***five–star*** hotel of the Sheraton class. Situated on the busy Nevsky Prospekt, it is accessible from the subway station "Mayakovskya" and about 10–15 minutes walk from the Moskovsky Train station.

The hotel has 285 guest rooms including 31 suites, 5 restaurants, a lobby bar, business and conference facilities, fitness center and a shopping arcade. Perfect customer service offered. Hotel taxi service available. All major credit cards accepted.

Tel: +7 812 275 2001

Fax: +7 812 301 7323

Oktiabrskaya Hotel

Oktiabrskaya Hotel is an ancient hotel situated at No. 10 Ligovskiy Prospekt (about five minutes walk from the subway station "Ploshchad Bosstaniya"). The hotel was built in the middle of the 19th century.

It offers comfortable grand deluxe and semi deluxe class apartments, also has single, double and triple rooms. There is a conference hall, a business center, and restaurant.

Very good customer service with English proficient hotel personnel.

Tel: +7 812 277 6330

+7 812 277 6255

Fax: +7 812 315 7501

E–mail: okt@iac.spb.ru

Address:No. 10 Ligovskiy Prospekt ("Ploshchad Bosstaniya" subway station)

address: 13295 55a Ave

zipcode: v3x

Deson Ladoga

Deson Ladoga is a medium–sized, average priced, three–star hotel situated at 26 Shaumiana Prospekt. It is close to the Alexander Nevsky Monastery and the Smolny Cathedral (subway station "Novocherkasskaya").

The hotel has 96 rooms which comprises of 4 semi–luxury rooms, 44 singles and 48 doubles. There is a restaurant with European and Chinese cuisine as well as a night bar, sauna, hairdressing salon, parking lot with round–the–clock security, Bureau D'Change, and a business center. Cost of room reservations negotiable if you are a member of the business class. Perfect customer service with English–speaking personnel.

Fax: +7 812 528 5448

+7 812 528 5220

E-mail: dladoga@bcltele.com

Website: <http://www.deson.lek.ru>

address: 26 Shaumiana Prospekt (subway station)

tel: +7 812 528 5200

+7 812 528 5393

Holiday Hostel

The hotel offers a full range of services including visa support. If you are lucky, your room will overlook the river Neva.

address: ul. Michaylova 1, third floor (Ploshchad Lenina metro)

tel: 812/5427364

Health Hotel

Between sky scrapers you will find an excellent and clean hotel offering services such as visa support and a cybercafe.

address: 812/5599673

Pribaltiyskaya

Pribaltiyskaya is a *five-star* hotel situated on the edge of the Gulf of Finland. It is one of the largest and most beautiful hotels in the city. It is located at 14 Korablestroiteley Ulitsa which is about 10–15 minutes walk from the main exhibition center "Lenexpo", and about 5–10 minutes drive from the subway station "Primorskaya".

The hotel has 1200 comfortable rooms which include 20 suites, 40 deluxe rooms, and 1140 doubles. There are 9 restaurants with Russian, International, Korean cuisine and bars. Multi-functional rooms available for banquets, conferences, and seminars. On an average these rooms seat from 30 – 250 people. There is also a congress hall for 1000 people, a wide exhibition center, a modern business center, a cafe, a health club, sauna with swimming pool, massage, beauty salon, billiards and bowling facilities.

Customer service is perfect, online booking available, all major credit cards accepted. English-speaking personnel at your service.

For your room reservations please call

Tel: +7 812 356 0158

Fax: +7 812 356 4496

Fax: +7 812 356 0094

E-mail: market@pribaltiyskaya.ru

Website: <http://www.pribaltiyskaya.ru>

address: 14 Korablestroiteley Ulitsa(Primorskaya metro)

url: www.pribaltiyskaya.ru

tel: +7 812 356 3001

St Petersburg – Books

Please check the books listed below for more information about St Petersburg, its history, culture, political life etc.

The list will be updated regularly.

all

The Hermitage : The Biography of a Great Museum

author: Geraldine Norman

isbn: 0880641908

subject: Art, Architecture & Photography, History

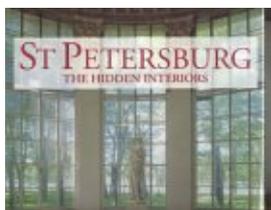
Stroganoff : The Palace and Collections of a Russi

author: Penelope Hunter–Stiebel (Editor)

isbn: 0810941961

subject: Art, Architecture & Photography, History

St. Petersburg : The Hidden Interiors

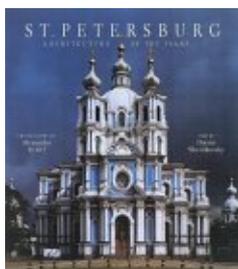


author: Katya Galitzine, Leonid Bogdanov

isbn: 0865652090

subject: Architecture, Home & Garden

St. Petersburg : Architecture of the Tsars



author: Dmitri Shvidkovsky, Alexander Orloff

isbn: 0789202174

subject: Art, Architecture & Photography, Architecture, History

Fodor's Moscow and St. Petersburg (Fodor's Moscow

author: Robert I. C. Fisher
isbn: 0679000941
subject: Travel

Hooliganism : Crime, Culture, and Power in St. Pet

author: Joan
Neuberger
isbn: 0520080114
subject: Nonfiction

From Leningrad to St. Petersburg : Democratization

author: Robert W.
Orttung
isbn: 031212080X
subject: History

Imperial Palaces in the Vicinity of St. Petersburg

author: Ivan Sautov, Alain De Gourcuff
isbn: 2909838013
subject: Art, Architecture & Photography, History

St. Petersburg : A Cultural History

author: Solomon Volkov, Antonina W. Bouis
isbn: 0028740521
subject: History

St Petersburg – Practical Information

In order to be ready for the trip and avoid unexpected surprises one should know several things concerning money, visa, personal safety etc.

Please, check the corresponding sections listed below.

St Petersburg – Internet Cafes

Cybercafes are gradually becoming a common feature of St. Petersburg. Although it is important to point out that most cybercafes in the city are patronised by foreigners (mainly tourists) and students, the standard of services rendered has remained quite low.

One major problem anyone surfing the net in St. Petersburg faces is low connection/transmission speed. This is due to the fact most of the telephone exchanges have outlived their time. ADSL, leased lines, internet by

satellite and other modern Internet Service technologies are fast gaining ground in the city. This is actually where the city's many Cybercafes come in.

This section is dedicated to the standard cybercafes in the city i.e places where foreigners (tourists) can always surf the net.

all

Sofit

SOFIT is a major company whose services range from photography to internet. The cybercafe is one of the most popular in St Petersburg. Situated on the Petrogradskaya side of the city, the cafe overlooks the famous Avstriyskaya ploshchad, just at the junction from the bustling Kamennooostrovskii Prospekt to Ulitsa Mira.

It is possible to browse the internet here at a modem speed a little above 56Kps. The cafe has its own server machine and presently has six powerful computers at the client's disposal. The atmosphere is friendly and lively too. Bar and restaurant services are available. You can sip some cold drink while you surf the net.

Services available include Internet browsing, video conferencing (using camera and headphones with microphones), guide services (for those just getting started with the Internet), e-mail services, data storage, site construction, printing, scanning and web cam.

Prices of services vary, depending on who the client is and what time of the day he/she is using the Internet.

Web browsing for one hour costs

45 Roubles (about 1.60 USD) from 10.00 a.m – 13.00 p.m;

60 Roubles (about 2.12 USD) from 13.00 p.m – 18.00 p.m;

80 Roubles (about 2.83 USD) from 18.00 p.m – 23.00 p.m;

45 Roubles (about 1.60 USD) for all students (with student ID cards) and

35 Roubles (1.24 USD) for kids.

Guide services per hour cost 100 Roubles (3.55 USD), Video conferencing costs 10 Roubles (35 cents) while using a digital polaroid camera will cost 20 Roubles (about 71 cents).

The cafe is accessible from the subway station (metro station) Gorkovskaya. It is about five minutes walk from the station.

Website: <http://www.sofitspb.ru>

email: sofit@sofitspb.ru

address: 10 Ulitsa Mira ("Gorkhovskaya" subway station)

url: www.sofitspb.ru

+7812 232 2022
tel: +7812 232 0896
+7812 232 9360

Tetris

Tetris is the first Internet–cafe in Russia. Just like in the west, here you can work on a computer, surf the Net, send e–mail, etc. If you are new at cyber space, you can get good advice from the professionals.

This is also a great place to meet people, and it has become a regular hangout of folks from the USA and Europe living in St.Petersburg.

There is also a small bar, where you get pizza, sandwiches, excellent coffee and tea, coke, beer. So you will not be thirsty and hungry

Address: Internet Cafe "Tetris"

33, Chernyakhovskogo

St. Petersburg 191119

Russia

Tel: +7 812 325 4877

+7 812 164 4877

Fax: +7 812 164 0827

E–mail: tetris@dux.ru

Open daily:

Monday–Friday: from 10.00 to 21.00

Saturday–Sunday: from 13.00 to 21.00

Erwin:

M 19

price: 1eur/h

tel: 78123275829

email: club@m19.spb.ru

address: Moskovsky pr. 19

url: www.m19.spb.ru

1995

price: 40 rubles/hour
 tel: +7(812)232-2022,232-0896,232-9360
 email: sofit@sofitspb.ru
 hours: Mon-Sun: from 10:00 to 23:00
 SOFIT, St.Petersburg
 address: Mira st., 10
 St.Petersburg
 url: www.sofitspb.ru

Tetris, St.Petersburg

tel: +7 (812) 325-4877, 164-4877
 email: Sat&Sun 13:00 to 21:00
 address: Mon - Fri from 10:00 to 21:00
 url: www.netcafe.spb.ru

St Petersburg – History

ST. PETERSBURG: IMPERIALISM TO CAPITALISM

St. Petersburg's history is a very unique and beautiful one. In ancient times the Finnish gulf, Ladoga lake, Onega lake and their environs were regions of constant battle between Novgorod and the Centralised Russian state, and later neighbouring countries especially Sweden.

In 1240 **Duke Alexander Nevsky**, Commander of the Novgorod troops defeated the Swedes at the place where the Izhora River falls into the Neva river. But in 1716 during the reign of Michael Feodorovich, Russia was forced to give up the Izhora lands to the Swedes as part of a peace treaty signed between the two parties. Thus Russia lost access to the strategic Baltic sea.

THE FORTRESSES

When **Peter the Great (1689–1725)** became king in 1699 he had a vision to recapture this natural outlet to the Baltic sea. In 1700 the Northern war with Sweden broke out. That war lasted for twenty one years. In the fall of 1702 Russia siezed the fortress town of **Noteburg**. Peter renamed this fortress **Schluesselburg** (Key town). On the 16th of May 1703 the foundation stone of the **Peter and Paul Fortress** was laid. Thus May 16 is considered St. Petersburg's foundation date. The Peter and Paul Fortress lies on the Zayachy Island. The construction of Kronstadt, the first sea fortress was completed in 1704. The location of these three fortresses marked the boundaries of the future Russian Capital city and its suburbs.

THE NORTHERN CAPITAL

In 1710, **Peter the Great** moved the capital of the Russian state from Moscow to St. Petersburg. This was followed by the relocation of the Tsar's family and all major governmental bodies to the new capital. On the 24th of July 1714, the Russian navy commanded by Peter himself, won a major victory at Gangut cape in the Baltic sea hence opening the door to Western Europe.

BUILDING A UNIQUE CAPITAL

The first architect employed to design the city plan was ***Domenico Tresini***. It was he who made the first layout of the city center. His designs were employed in the construction of the Summer Palace of Peter the Great, the building of the Twelve Boards, and the laying of the Alexander Nevsky Monastery.

Jean Batist Leblon, also an architect, designed the general city layout. During that period the Menshikov palace and the Kunstamera were constructed. A pause in the city's development set in just after Peter the Great's demise in 1725. Opponents of his reforms returned the capital to Moscow.

RETURN TO THE NORTH (IMPERIAL ERA)

In 1730, ***Empress Ann (1730–1740)*** ascended the throne and thus returned the capital city to St. Petersburg. During her reign the city was divided into five districts to allow for easy administration. The center was moved to the Admiralty Island. Three thoroughfares that stemmed from the Admiralty were completed—Nevsky Prospect, Median Prospect (now Gorokhovaya street), and Voznesensky Prospect.

In 1740, ***Empress Elizabeth (1741–1761)*** began to rule Russia. During her reign, the Russian baroque style of St. Petersburg was embodied in such creations as the Winter Palace and Smolny monastery (designed by B. Rastrelli) and St. Nicholas church.

Empress Catherine II (1762–1796) continued with Peter's vision for home reforms and significant conquests. During her reign Russia acquired Crimea, and the northern shores of the black sea, took back Russian regions of Poland, and joined Kurkandia. Russia's legislation, policies and fine arts of that time were influenced by the Empress. Notable buildings constructed include the Academy of Fine arts (Felten), Gostiny Dvor (Valen de la Moth), the Marble Palace (Rinaldi), the Old Hermitage (Felten), the Taurida Palace (Starov), the Yusupov Palace at the Fontanka river and the Smolny Institute.

Emperor Pavel (Paul) (1796–1801) ascended the royal throne in 1796. Between 1797 and 1800 the architects ***V. Brenna*** and ***V. Bazhenov*** built the ***Mikhaylovsky Palace***. The palace is a square-shaped building with an inner yard surrounded by rivers and moats on all sides like a medieval castle. This palace became the official residence of the Emperor's family in November 1800, however after his assassination the family moved back to the Winter Palace.

Alexander I (1801–1825) was Emperor when the war with Napoleon broke out in 1812. Moscow and St. Petersburg were at the verge of invasion by the French troops. Notable constructions of this time include the ensemble of the Mikhaylovsky Palace, the ensemble of the Alexandrinsky Theater, the buildings of the Senate and Synod, the building of the Headquarters with the Triumph Arch and the House of Ministries on Palace Square. The complex of the Palace square was completed with the Alexander column. Russia's biggest cathedral, St. Isaac's was also built on the Isaac square. The cathedral was designed by the famous architect Montferrand.

HARD TIMES IN IMPERIAL HISTORY

Nicholas I's (1825–1855) ascension to the throne after the death of ***Alexander I*** was marked by a lot of political intrigues. On December 14, 1825 when the new Emperor was taking the oath of office, the guards' regiment refused to pledge allegiance to the new ruler. They planned to sieze the Winter Palace, and the Peter

and Paul Fortress and then declare the abolition of autocracy and serfdom, and the introduction of democracy. The insurrection was busted and suppressed in the most cruel way. It was later termed the ***Decembrist Rebellion***. During Nicholas' reign Russia waged war with Persia and Turkey. It was a period of rapid economic growth in industry. St. Petersburg acquired new physical features typical of capitalism. The squares near railroads were developed, port facilities were revamped and industrial complexes were erected. Stakensneider, a renowned architect designed the Mariinsky Palace on Isaac Square, the Nicolaevsky Palace, etc. He also took active part in the development of the Petrogradskaya storona (Petrogradskaya side).

Alexander II reigned from 1855–1881. He was a reform–setting Tsar. Most famous of such reforms was the abolition of serfdom. His administrative, financial, military and education reforms made Russia a more democratic state, thus allowing for the development of public institutions. It was a time of cultural rejuvenation. Buildings constructed include the famous Mariinsky Imperial Palace (Arch. A.K Kavos), the Capella (Arch. A.M Benois), the Palace of Grand Prince Vladimir Alexandrovich (Arch. A.I Rezanov), and the granite embarkment in front of the Admiralty. Alexander was assassinated by a revolutionary bomb on March 1, 1881.

Alexander III (1881–1894) kept up the trends in the city's development. His reign is best remembered as a period of peace for Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG IN THE 20TH CENTURY

The reign of ***Nicholas II (1894–1917)*** was mared by wars that were extremely hard to fight. The war with Japan resulted in the defeat of the Russian fleet at Tsushima Island. Port Arthur (in China) was also lost. In 1914 the First World war broke out. Under the influence of anti–German protests, St. Petersburg was renamed into Petrograd in 1914. The war was fatal for the Russian autocracy.

On November 6–7 1917 ***Vladimir Lenin*** led the Bolsheviks in effecting a change in Russia's political system. All private properties were seized by the state. The structure of the central residential homes were broken as thousands of workers moved from industrial outskirts into central apartments. The Bolsheviks sold out a lot of national treasures to foreign countries. The sacred objects of the church were not spared either. Between 1917 and 1923 the Mars square was transformed into a garden laid out to the design of I. Fomin. The granite monument to the revolutionaries was erected according to the design of ***L. Rudnev***.

When Lenin died in 1924 the Bolsheviks renamed the city ***Leningrad*** as a way of immortalizing Lenin's name. In the 1930s and 1940s districts such as Avtovo, Moskovsky Avenue, and Malaya Okhta were developed.

THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

For Russians, the great patriotic war started in 1941 when Nazi Germany attacked Russia. According to Hitler's plans, St. Petersburg was supposed to be completely demolished but the Nazi army never entered the city. The ***Blockade of Leningrad*** lasted a period spanning 900 days (September 8 1941 till January 27 1944). The Red army fought to keep the Germans out of Leningrad as they set an example of real heroism. Foodstuff, fuel and ammunition were delivered to the city by so–called "*the Way of Life*" laid through the frozen Ladoga lake. This delivery was very insufficient and thus the city faced real famine from the fall of 1941. In December alone, 53,000 civilians died of hunger. In the first months of 1942 famine and bombs killed more than 20,000 civilians. A total of 800,000 civilians died of hunger, while more than 17,000 were killed by

bombs and shell splinters. Memorial ensembles were created in 1960 at Piskarevskoye and Seraphimovskoye cemeteries where the victims of the blockade were buried.

ST. PETERSBURG IN MODERN TIMES

Between 1960 and 1980 the city was developed along the arch of the Finnish gulf coast, as well as to the North–west and South. The memorial ensemble of the victory square was established. Other major constructions include the "Oktyabrsky" concert hall, the "Yubileiny" Palace of Sport, the "Pulkovskaya" hotel, the "Pulkovo" airport and the Sport and Concert Hall. In 1979 the city began to erect the flood protection dam and associated facilities. The dam is 25.4 kilometers long and 8 meters high.

In 1991, after the conduct of a city referendum, the city's name was returned to St. Petersburg. The high speed St. Petersburg – Moscow railroad was started in 1991. In 1994 the city hosted the Goodwill games. The city has the honor of being referred to as the Northern capital.

Upon the decision of UNESCO St. Petersburg has been recognized as a monument of the works of culture. In 2001 the first high–speed train "Nevsky" made the trip from Moscow to St. Petersburg in a record 4 hours

St Petersburg – Shopping

St Petersburg – Art Galleries

St. Petersburg is Russia's cultural capital. This is one place where Old meets New and History is written so easily. Arts and music in the city dates as far in history as the foundation of the city.

Drama theaters, Art galleries, music halls, and cinemas fall within the scope of this section. It is our hope that this will be very helpful for those lovers of Art out there.

all

State Theater "Beyond the Looking Glass"

The St. Petersburg State Theatre "Beyond the Looking Glass" was opened in 1987. The theatre's musical ensemble is many–sided. It transcends every play and finds itself not only in the sound of the orchestra and the actors' singing, but also in their every dance movement, gesture or arabesque, in every prosaic dialogue, in the visual art of scenery and costume–making.

Over its nine–year period of existence, the theatre has staged more than 20 plays. The theatre uses the works of generally accepted masters, like J.S. Bach, Mozart, Donizetti, Shostakovich and Stravinsky, and also of our contemporaries, like Banevich, Petrova, Vysotsky, Rogalev, Podheitz. The creation of author's plays based on great masterpieces of world literature and instrumental music.

One of the theatre's last stagings is an opera by Gaetano Donizetti titled "Love Potion" that has not been staged in opera theatres for over 30 years. It has been awarded the 1996 Golden Sophite, the highest award of

the Association of Theatre Workers of St. Petersburg in three nominations: "best directing" (A.V. Petrov), "best conducting" (P.A. Bubelnikov) and "best female vocal part" (O.A. Pchelintseva).

Address: No. 13 Rubenshtein Street ("Dostoevskaya" subway station)

The Opera and Ballet Theater

The *Opera and Ballet theater* was formerly called the Maly Opera and Ballet Academic theater. It is named in memory of the famous composer M.P Musorgsky.

The theater was the first to stage the works of modern composers. It was built in 1831–1833 to the design of the architect A. Brullov. The first performance at the theater took place on 8 November 1833. It was a ballet called "The Cupid in the village".

Famous works that have been performed here include those of S. Prokofyev, D. Kabalevsky, A. Khachaturyan, R. Schedrin and D. Shostakovitch.

Matinee begins at 12.00 a.m while night performances start at 7.00 p.m. Please book a ticket at the booking office between 11.00 a.m and 8.00 p.m.

The theater is about 10–15 minutes walk from the subway station. It is a stone throw away from the Church of the Resurrection.

Tel: +7 812 219 1949

Address:No. 1 Iskusstv Ploshchad ("Nevsky Prospekt" subway station)

Capella House

The Capella house is named in memory of the famous Russian composer M.I Glinka. St. Petersburg's Capella became popular as a center of performance of the best works of Russian and West European composers of the 15th–20th centuries. Most of these musical pieces were written for the choir.

Capella house was constructed by L. Benua for the Emperor Court Choir Capella. This choir was the oldest professional choir created in Moscow in 1479 and transferred to St. Petersburg in 1703.

Musical renditions of the Capella House today include organ, choir, and solo concerts of sacred and classical music. Most performances start at 7.00 p.m. Please book a ticket at the booking office between 12.00 noon and 7.00 p.m.

The Capella House is about 10–20 minutes walk from "Nevsky Prospekt" subway station.

Tel: +7 812 314 1058

Address: No. 20 Moika River Embarkment

Mariinsky theater

Mariinsky theater is one of the oldest and biggest music theaters in Russia. It is very famous all over the world as it dates back to 1783. The construction of the building was completed in 1858 to a design by

Architect A. Kavos. The first opera staged at the theater was held in October 1860. It was the performance of M.I Glinka's "Life sacrificed for Tsar".

Operas and ballets written by great Russian composers have been staged in this theater. Such composers include E. Lavrovskaya, F. Shaliapin, M. Kshesinskaya, A. Pavlova, T. Karsavina, V. Nizhinsky, M. Fokin and G. Ulanova.

The theater has as its Chief Producer Valery Georgiev (one of the best orchestra conductors in the world today).

There is beautiful singing at the opera. The voices will surely thrill you, costumes are splendid and the orchestra is very wonderful.

Present ballet repertoire consists of Marius Petipa's stage versions of classical Russian ballets like "Swan Lake", "Sleeping Beauty", and "Nutcracker"

Matinee begins at 11.30 a.m while night performances at Mariinsky start at 6.30 p.m. Please book a ticket at the booking office between 11.00 a.m and 7.00 p.m.

Tel: +7 812 114 1211

Address:No. 1 Teatralnaya Ploshchad
St. Petersburg Music hall

St. Petersburg Music hall is one of the most popular music ensembles in the city. It attracts audience from practically all walks of life. It was established in 1967 by I. Rakhlin. The bright, yellow-coloured building is still one of the biggest theaters in the city. Its exterior decorations are vivid displays of early 20th century architectural perfection.

Night performances at the Music Hall start at 7.00 p.m. Tickets should be booked at the booking office between 11.00 a.m and 7.00 p.m.

The Music Hall is about 5–10 minutes walk from the subway station.

Tel: +7 812 233 0243

Address:No. 4 Alexandrovskiy Park ("Gorkhovskaya" subway station)
The Shostakovitch Philharmonic Hall (Big Hall)

The Philharmonic Society was formed in 1921. It is the oldest and one of the biggest in Russia. The building of the Big Hall was carried out to a design by P. Jaquau between 1834–1839.

Today the Philharmonic Society comprises two symphony orchestras. Famous conductors and musicians that have performed in the Big Hall include K. Zanderling, S. Richter, M. Rostropovitch, Y. Temirkanov, D. Oistrakh, E. Svetlanov and E. Mravinsky.

Matinee begins at 4.00 p.m while night performances at Mariinsky start at 7.00 p.m. Book a ticket at the

booking office between 11.00 a.m and 8.00 p.m.

Tel: +7 812 110 4257

Address:No. 2 Mikhaylovskaya Ploshchad
Children's Drama Theatre

The theater was established seven years ago with a very specific goal of bringing joy to the youngest viewers. Every play of the theatre has a festival-like quality. The performances have a strong emotional influence on both the children's and the adult audiences. The good old tales read all over the world are staged in the theatre. Almost all plays are musicals. The theatre's devoted work has in a very short time made it a favourite of St. Petersburg's children.

Address: 5 Sovetsky Pereulok **Metro:** Tehnologichesky Institute

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Notes:

Suzdal

Suzdal is a small pretty provincial Russian town. However, once it was capital of the ancient state named Rostovo–Suzdalskaya Rus'.

The city has history of ten centuries and is famous for its cultural influence on entire Russia.

Suzdal is in 230 km east of Moscow, and its neighboring city of Vladimir, are known worldwide for architectural masterpieces of XII to XVII centuries.

See also other cities:

[Irkutsk](#) [Kazan](#) [Kizhi](#) [Moscow](#) [Murmansk](#) [Novgorod](#) [Novosibirsk](#) [Orel](#) [Pyatigorsk](#) [St_Petersburg](#) [Tula](#) [Ulyanovsk](#) [Vladimir](#) [Vladivostok](#) [Yakutsk](#)

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Suzdal – Sights

Sights

Suzdal has a gerat number of ancient sites to visit and learn more about the development of the Russian History.

There is a small settlement Kideksha not far from Suzdal. Once it had been the summer residence of Prince Yuri Dolgoruky, the founder of Moscow.

The Church of Boris and Gleb, the monument of Vladimir–Suzdal architecture is located in the settlement.

Suzdal – History

History

The first written mention of Suzdal dates back to the year of 1024.

In the 12th–14th centuries that was one of the most powerful towns of the ancient Rus.

In Suzdal, Vladimir and in the neighbouring territories a peculiar school of architecture appeared.

The major monuments representing this peculiar architectural style are still with us.

The architectural style of Vladimir and Suzdal is characterised by sophisticated proportions (the use of "golden section"), fine design of facades with the arc belt as the necessary element.

Suzdal – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Tula

Tula is one of the oldest cities in Russia that has been founded in 1146.

It is the central city of Tula oblast and has a population of more than 560.000 people.

It is not only an industrial center but also a cultural point. Tula is a world famous place because of her once glamorous resident—the famous Russian writer Leo Tolstoy who lived at Yasnaya Polyana, which is just ten kilometers away from the town.

Tula also is rather famous for its weaponry masters, who produced world-known guns. Some of the items are displayed at the wonderful museum.

Moreover, Tula is famous for its gorgeous Samovars, the grandfather of the contemporary electric kettle. They were invented at the end of the 17th century by the same smiths who produced weapons. Initially this industry was just a sideline until they decided to concentrate on the new samovar business. The best exemplars of Tula samovars are exhibited at the local museum.

Extremely delicious Pryaniki, or honey pastry add to Tula's fame. They come in 100 different kinds and shapes. You definitely should indulge yourself in Tula's Pryaniki in order to get real taste of a real cookie.

Being an old city, Tula preserved a number of splendid churches and cathedrals and the Kremlin.

Tula – History

The history of the city of *Tula* dates back to the 12th century.

It took its name probably from the river *Tulista*. According to the dictionary, the word "*Tula*" means a "hidden, unapproachable, naturally well protected place."

Here, at the Kulikovo Pole (Field of Kulikovo) 130 km south-east of Tula the great battle between Russians headed by Moscow Prince Dmitry and Tatars of the Golden Horde took place in 1380. After his triumph, Prince Dmitry included Tula as a part of the united Russian state and serve as a shield to defend Russia's capital from the south.

At the end of the 16th century the first settlement, inhabited by blacksmiths, sprang up here, which gave the town of Tula a new reputation of a weapons maker, the armory of Russia

By the middle of the 17th century Tula became a trade , crafts and commerce center.

In 1712, by the order of Emperor Peter the Great the Tula gun factory, the oldest one in Russia, was built, which has not lost its significance until now. The coat of arms of Tula, originated in the 18th century, also reflects its main craft – the art of weapons makers.

Tula – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Ulyanovsk

Ulyanovsk is the center of the Ulyanovsk Region that is located in the central part of European Russia. The region is a part of the Middle Volga Valley.

It occupies a territory of 37,300 sq. km.

The population is 1,488,300 people.

The Ulyanovsk Region has 21 administrative areas (rayons) and 6 cities.

The administrative center Ulyanovsk has a population of around 700,000 residents. It is located 441 miles east of Moscow.

Besides Ulyanovsk the other large city of the Ulyanovsk region is Dimitrovgrad (134,000 inhabitants).

Approximately 73 percent of Ulyanovsk residents are Russians,

11.4 percent are Tatars,

8.3 percent are Chuvash, and

4.4 percent are Mordva.

The prevalent religions are Orthodox Christianity and Islam.

See also other cities:

[Irkutsk](#) [Kazan](#) [Kizhi](#) [Moscow](#) [Murmansk](#) [Novgorod](#) [Novosibirsk](#) [Orel](#) [Pyatigorsk](#) [St_Petersburg](#) [Suzdal](#) [Tula](#) [Vladimir](#) [Vladivostok](#) [Yakutsk](#)

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Ulyanovsk – Getting There

You can get to Ulyanovsk from Moscow by air or by railroad.

By Air

The flight from Moscow to Ulyanovsk takes 1 hour and 25 minutes. You can take it from Moscow Domodedovo Airport.

By Railroad

There is one direct and 3 transit trains from Moscow to Ulyanovsk. They depart daily from the Moscow Kazansky train station . It will take you 16 hours to reach Ulyanovsk.

The best deals on airtickets to Ulyanovsk can be obtained at the Priceline.com. The connection is provided at the Links section.

Ulyanovsk – Accommodation

Ulyanovsk has four hotels that serve its guests. However, neither of them is certified internationally or managed by a Western company. Therefore, according to the city travel agents the best option will be to stay at the Oktyabrskaya hotel, which is located in the central part of the city in the neighborhood of the governmental buildings.

The hotel has a restaurant and a bar.

Domestic and international calls are made through a telephone operator.

Contact info:

Oktyabrskaya Hotel:

Tel: 7-8422-31-42-82 (reception),

Fax: 7-8422-31-47-19

Ulyanovsk – Sights

Ulyanovsk is the birthplace of Lenin. You can see the house where he grew up and there are still many statues of him around the city.

Ulyanovsk – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Ural

The Ural Mountains, (Russian Uralskiy Khrebet) also known simply as the Urals, are a mountain range that run roughly north and south through western Russia.

The Urals extend 2500 km from the Kazakh steppes (see [Kazakhstan](#)) along the northern border of Kazakhstan to the coast of the Arctic ocean. The island of Novaya Zemlya forms a further continuation of the chain. Geologically this range marks the northern part of the border between the continents of Europe and Asia. Its highest peak is Narodna Mountain (Poznurr, 1895 m). Erosion has exposed considerable mineral wealth in the Urals, including gems such as Topaz and Beryl. The Virgin Komi Forests in the northern Urals is recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

The Urals were formed in the late Carboniferous period, when a continent consisting largely of Siberia collided with the supercontinent that contained much of the world's land at the time: the combination of Laurussia (Europe and North America) and Gondwana. Europe and Siberia have remained joined together ever since.

Geographers have divided the Urals into five regions: South, Middle, North, Subarctic and Arctic Urals. So the Ural Mountains were formed by tectonic plates.

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Notes:

Ekaterinburg

Ekaterinburg is the historical and economic center of the Urals which forms a natural border between Europe and Asia. It is also the administrative center of the Sverdlovsk region and the Ural federal district. The city lies on Iset River.

Ekaterinburg (Yekaterinburg), the capital city of the Urals, was founded in 1723 by Tzar Peter the Great (and named after his wife, Catherine). The city witnessed the death of monarchy in Russia, as it was there that the last Russian czar Nicolas II with his family was assassinated, in Ipatiev house by the Bolsheviks on July 16, 1918.

Another dramatic episode in the area took place on May 1, 1960 when American U2 spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers was hit by a missile launched from the local military base. The city was closed to the outside world until 1990 because of its strategic defense industries.

The city is associated with another famous political figure, Boris Yeltsin, who was born in the village of Butka not far from Ekaterinburg. Under Yeltsin's orders, the house where the Tzar and his family were killed was destroyed; a wooden cross and a chapel were been installed later. This place has been recognized by the Russian Orthodox church as a sacred and now Cathedral-on-the-Blood is constructed exactly on Ipatiev house once stood.

Ekaterinburg has played a notable role in the history of Russia. It was here that Russian industry was born. The products of Ural and Siberian iron mills were exhibited at local trade fairs. Iron and cast-iron from the Urals as well as masterpieces of Kasly casting (named after the town of Kasly) were delivered by merchants to various parts of the world. The town owes its origin to a metallurgical and metal-working plant which rose on the banks of the river Iset, and by the standards of those days was one of the best, not only in Russia but also in Europe.

Later, a mint and a lapidary factory were added to form one big enterprise. Peter the Great's comrades General Gennin and Captain Tatishchev, one a prominent statesman and the other a noted scientist, headed the construction project. Since the beginning of the 19th century Ekaterinburg came to play an increasingly important role as an administrative, mining and Ural-wide machine building center.

The first part of 19th century was also marked by the flourishing of the art of stone-cutting, for which the Ekaterinburg lapidary factory was largely responsible.

In 1924, Ekaterinburg was renamed Sverdlovsk, after the revolutionary leader Jakob M. Sverdlov. During the Soviet period Sverdlovsk grew up rapidly and became one of biggest industrial, cultural and scientific centers of Russia.

The present day Ekaterinburg is rich in sights – architectural monuments of Russian classicism of the 18–19th centuries including the estate of Rastorguev–Kharitonov; the house of the mining chief: the Mining Board; the Church of Alexander Nevsky, the Church of the of the Ascension and others; the Geological Museum which features a unique collection of minerals; the Fine Arts Museum which, along with a fine collection of paintings by Russian and foreign artists, displays Kasly castings; as also several museums dedicated to writers such as Mamin–Sihiriak and Bazhov. There is also an Opera House, a Musical Comedy theater, Childrens and Puppet theater, as well as a Philharmonic auditorium.

Currently the population of Ekaterinburg stands at 1.5 million. There are more than 100 research institutes headed by the Urals Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 15 higher educational establishments, 35 technical schools (colleges), 27 vocational schools, 5 theatres, a philharmonic concert hall, about 600 libraries, and 15 stadiums.

Ekaterinburg is a draw for geologists (fascinated by the mineral-rich Urals) and tourists who come for mystery and history of the Communist-era, and then discover a city surprisingly rich in pre-Soviet churches and other architecture of an earlier era. The Europe-Asia Obelisk which is about 25 miles west of the city, marking the border between the two continents, is an especially interesting place to visit.

Ekaterinburg – Sights

The upper part of the shield is in the shape of a fortress, as Ekaterinburg was a fortress during the first years of its existence.

The wavy azure line at the bottom of it is the river Iset, which connects the history and the present, Europe and Asia.

The bear is a European symbol, the sable is an Asian one. Moreover even during Demidovs' times the sable was the trademark of the Urals metal. The animals are not within the borders of the shield showing their tongues and baring their teeth v such a demonstration of an aggression can be explained as they are defending the city.

The golden ribbon at the very bottom of the emblem is considered to characterize Ekaterinburg as a metropolitan city.

Ekaterinburg – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Vladimir

Vladimir one of the oldest and most famous cities of Russia is the center of the Vladimir region.

The city has the population of 360,000 people and covers the area of 11,145 hectares. Growing cities in the region other than Vladimir are Kovrov, Murom, Alexandrov and Gus–Krustalny.

Vladimir has a millennial history; according to the latest data discovered by the historians and archaeologists, Vladimir was founded in 995.

In the early part of Vladimir's history the city was the capital of Russia. It was a political, cultural and religious center .

Vladimir is famous for its unique cathedrals dating back to the XII century. Four of them are included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The city belongs to the so called "Golden Ring" of Russia and, consequently, presents a major international tourist center.

The geographical position of Vladimir makes it an attractive place for business development. The city is located in the Central Region of Russia; 180 km east of Moscow. Such prominent scientific–industrial centers as Nizhni–Novgorod, Ivanovo, Yaroslavl and Ryazan are situated not far from Vladimir. The city is linked with them by railways and highways.

Vladimir – Getting Around

To get around Vladimir you can use the services of the railway or bus stations. Besides, there is a small airport that can serve private planes and helicopters.

Vladimir – History

Historical dates:

Founded in the year 990 by the Kievan prince Vladimir Svyatoslavovich (the Red Sun)

From 1157–1439 the capital of the North–Easten Russia

In 1238 it was burnt and ransacked during the Mongol–Tatar invasion

Since 1778 – the center of Vladimir province

Since August, 1944–the center of Vladimir region

Vladimir – Sights

Vladimir–City of Museums

Vladimir is the site of several unique architectural monuments. The most outstanding of these are the Assumption Cathedral (XII century.), the Cathedral of St. Demetrius (XII century.), the Golden Gate (XII century.). These monuments are included into the World Heritage List and protected by UNESCO.

The State Vladimir–Susdal Historical–Architectural Natural Reserve Museum is famous for its exhibitions and monuments all over the world.

Vladimir – Accommodation

all

Hotel Erlangen House

Address: 25 B.Nizhegorodskaya ulitsa Phone : +7 (0922) 323795 The three–star Erlangen House occupies the second floor of the ancient merchant house opened in 1995 after reconstruction. The hotel is located in the historical part of the city in 10 minutes from the historical Golden Gate. "Sheremetyevo–2" airport (Moscow) – 4,5 hours. Railway station – 5 minutes.

Vladimir – Economy

Industry

In Vladimir there are several large–scale industrial enterprises, specializing in machine–building, metal–working, mechanical and electrical engineering, instrument–making, chemicals, textiles, food processing and building materials. As well, there are high technology enterprises in glass, fiber optics, polimers, automation and materials science.

Vladimir – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Vladivostok

Vladivostok is a pearl of the Russian Far East, its capital and the largest city with the population of 659'000 people. It was founded on July 2, 1860 by Colonel Paul F. Unterberger, a chief of engineering department of East Siberian military district.(For more details see History section).

Once created as a citadel against enemies' invasion Vladivostok stood guard for many years. The city covers over 600 sq. km and lies on the shore of the Pacific Ocean at the Muraviyov–Amursky Peninsula, which is about 30 km long and approximately 12 km wide.

The city has magnificent old and new buildings, monuments and a lot of other sights to wander around.

Other facts:

The highest point is the Orlinoye Gnezdo Mountain (Eagle's Nest). The height of the Mountain is 214 m

The mean annual temperature is +5 C, the temperature in January is –14 C, the temperature in August is +24 C The annual precipitation is 765 mm

Railroad distance to Moscow is 9302 km

Direct distance to Moscow is 9302 km.

Direct distance to Bangkok is 5600 km, to San_Francisco – 8400 km, to Seoul – 750 km, to Tokyo – 1050 km.

Vladivostok is a sister–city of San–Diego and Tacoma (USA), Niiagata, Akita and Hakodate (Japan), Pusan (Korea) and Palyan (China).

See also other cities of Russia:

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Vladivostok – Practical Information

Vladivostok – Accommodation

Vladivostok has a number of comfortable places to stay during your visit. Please, check the list of some hotels that have been recommended by previous visitors.

all

Hotel Gavan

Address: 3 Krygina ulitsa Phone : +7 (4232) 495363 Fax : +7 (4232) 495383 The Hotel Gavan was built in 1993 is located in 5 minutes from the city centre and the administrative and shopping areas. The Historical Museum and the Museum of Local Lore are in 15 minutes from the hotel. "Vladivostok" airport is in 40 minutes. Railway station is in 10 minutes.

Vladivostok – History

Vladivostok has more than 100 years long history. This unapproachable coastal fortress was erected at the naturally well protected Golden Horn Bay. As a Russian Far Eastern fortress it was officially announced on August 30, 1889.

Paul Unterberger is considered one of founders of Vladivostok. He proposed to build up fortifications providing all-round defense, deliver modern artillery, and concentrate suitable amount of infantry units with all necessary supplies and ammunitions. 70 cannons were delivered from Kronshtadt on a German schooner "Emma and Matilde". They were intended for defense of South-Ussuriysk area in general, and Vladivostok in particular. A platoon of mountain artillery was located in the suburbs of the post, Tigrovaya and Batareinaya Mountains. The fortress itself consisted of 25 cannons of various types by 1878.

Difficulties in political situation all over the world contributed to understanding the importance of this military post. Actually, the first coast guards batteries appeared at Goldobin, Egersheld, and Shkot peninsula (places in Vladivostok) in the mid-70s of the last century.

The Times newspaper wrote in 1919: "Vladivostok fortress is the best of all coastal fortifications worldwide, its buildings can be called a miracle of engineering art."

Vladivostok – Getting There

It is rather easy to get to *Vladivostok* from any big city in Russia including Moscow, St Petersburg, Ekaterinburg, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Rostov-on-the Don and Chelyabinsk or from cities abroad by air. For instance, air routs connect Vladivostok with Seattle and Anchorage (USA), Niigata and Toyama (Japan), Pusan and Seoul (Korea).

Approximately the ticket prices range from \$350 to \$600 USD:

Anchorage – Vladivostok – \$578

Moscow – Vladivostok – \$378

Niigata – Vladivostok – \$352

Pusan – Vladivostok – \$340

Saint-Petersburg– Vladivostok – \$394

Seattle – Vladivostok – \$599

Seoul – Vladivostok – \$360

Toyoma – Vladivostok – \$424

Actually the best airticket prices can be obtained at the priceline.com. They might be even cheaper than those displayed here. The connection to the Priceline.com is provided at the Links section.

The distance from the airport to the center of *Vladivostok* totals 50 kilometers. It takes about an hour to get from the airport to the city center by taxi and will cost you around \$40 US dollars.

It is possible to get from the airport to the Vladivostok Bus Terminal by bus. The circulation of coaches on this route is less than an hour. The distance from the Bus terminal to the city center totals 10 km. The distance from the Sea and Railroad Terminals to the center totals 0,5 km.

Vladivostok – Getting Around

Vladivostok has a very developed public transport including trolley buses, regular buses, trams, trains, funicular, ferryboat and cutter.

Hours of operation are from 6:00 till 23:00 for trolleys, buses, trains and trams, from 7:00 till 20:00 for ferries and cutters.

The travel costs ~ \$0,30 US dollars by buses, funicular, cutters and ferries. Trolley buses and trams are free now but it can be changed. The prices of the train's ticket vary depending on the distance. In the rush hours and in the evening when urban transport is overcrowded, it is better to use commercial buses, which travel costs are \$0,40 US dollars.

Vladivostok – Internet Cafes

all

Vladivostok CyberC@fe

The First Internet cafe in Vladivostok. 14 PC, 1.5 Mbit/sec., small bar. customer leave

price: 36 rbl./h(\$1.2/h)

tel: +7 423 226–9135

email: adwin@inbox.ru

hours: Mon–Sun 0:00–24:00
address: 209, 19, Uborevicha str., Vladivostok,
Primorskiy Krai, 690089, Russia
url: cybercafe.vladivostok.com

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Notes:

Volgograd

Volgograd – Internet Cafes

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Notes:

Vyatka

Vyatka – Internet Cafes

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InetCafe

except Sunday
price: The first inetcafe in Vyatka. Forum, chat, WWWboard, homepages, conferences and more for fun and work.
tel: 7-8332-624984
email: 9 pm – 8 am
hours: 2 \$
address: antony@inetcafe.vyatka.ru

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Notes:

Yakutsk

Yakutsk is the capital of the Sakha Republic that is in the East Siberia of Russia. It's one hot little place in the sun. Bring your beach towel!

The Sakha Republic stretches to the Henrietta Islands in the far north and is washed by the cold waters of Arctic Ocean (Laptev and Eastern Siberian Seas). The Ocean is the coldest and iciest of all seas in the northern hemisphere, are covered by ice for 9–10 months of the year.

The Stanovoy Ridge borders Sakha–Yakutia in the south, the upper reaches of the Olenyok river form the western border, and Chukotka forms the eastern border.

Yakutsk is the major port on the Lena River. Yakutsk is also a highway center and has tanneries, sawmills, and brickworks.

Yakutsk has Sister City agreements with Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, Guirin (China), Muroyama (Japan), and Darmstadt (Germany). The city is also the home of Yakutsk State University, which has an active exchange program with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Sakha Republic has much in common with Alaska: vast undeveloped and lightly populated lands from tundra in the north to Boreal Forest in south, an economy based on natural resources, and great cultural diversity.

It has a university (founded 1956) and the Yakutsk branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

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Yakutsk – Accommodation

There are several hotels in Yakutsk where you can stay comfortably in. Please check the list of the hotels recommended by those folks who had chance to visit this beautiful city.

all

Tygyn Darhan

Located in the Yakutsk downtown hotel "Tygyn Darhan" has very cosy and clean rooms, a restaurant with national, Russian and European cuisine, conference hall, business centre, sauna, swimming pool, fitness–centre, currency exchange office.

address: Yakutsk, 677018, Ammosova 9.

tel: +7 (4112) 43-51-09, 43-53-09, 43-52-13, 43-55-09

url: www.yakutia.ru

Hotel Parus

Hotel Parus owned by Lena River's Shipping Company is a small but rather pleasant hotel located on the central square of Yakutsk. It offers among other things international telephone, bar, sauna, room-service, laundry, ironing, conference hall transportation etc.

address: 6770007, Russia, Yakutsk, Prospekt Lenina 7

tel: +7 4112 423727

url: www.yakutia.ru

Hotel Ontario

Address: Viliuskaya ul.

Telephone/fax 411-22/22-046, 411-22/65-058

Lainer

Address: Bykovskovo Ul. 1

Telephone: 411-22/95-227

Sterkh

Address: Prospekt Lenina 8

Telephone: 411-22/44-890

411-22/42-701

Fax: 7-509-854-5001

Yakutsk – History

Yakutsk was founded in the fall of 1632. First it was a small fortress that sheltered a group of Yenisei cossaks headed by Peter Beketov. Who were sent to Lena river with the mission to inspect the banks of "the great river".

The first Mayor of Yakutsk appointed by the Moscow government was Peter Golovin. Together with 395 Cossacks and 5 priests he left Moscow in 1638 and arrived in Yakutsk in 1641. It took them 3 years to cover the distance that nowadays is only 6 hours to fly over.

Peter Golovin implemented the strict policies in taxation, which later caused people's rebellion. The result of the rebellion were dramatic. Golovin tortured and hung 23 "best" Yakuts and his opponents among the Russians. In spite of his own sayings ("The heavens and the Tsar are too far away"), Golovin was disposed of his position and was later convicted. The period of his governing was probably the "bloodiest" in Yakutsk' history.

The city of Yakutsk played a great role in Sakha' history. It was a starting point for many other Cossack expeditions: Dezhnev expedition, which in 1648 discovered a strait between Asia and America; Atlasov – the discoverer of Kamchatka; Poyarkov and Khabarov – discoverers of Amur River. Due to these discoveries, in twenty years the borders of the Russian empire expanded from Baikal and Yenisei to the Pacific Ocean' coasts.

In the 18–19 centuries many of the world famous scientists and travelers visited Yakutsk, and gave extended descriptions of the nature, climate, landscape, history and language of the peoples of Yakutia. Some of these noble people, who are the pride of many nations and countries, are Archbishop Innokentii Veniaminov, ethnographer Vatslav Seroshevski, researchers F.Vrangel, A.Middendorf.

The incorporation of Sakha's territory into Russian Empire caused great impact on all Yakutia's future development. It is clear from what has been said before, that Sakha were experiencing some sort of the Russian influence since the 1630. Russian officials were collecting yasak (the fur tax) in Yakutia, but otherwise they would not interfere with the Sakha lifestyle. Catherine the Second established Russian domination in a more formal way, but Sakha enjoyed far-reaching autonomy, even under and after Catherine. Right to the end of the nineteenth century, Russia practiced, in many ways, a policy of non-intervention in Yakutia in both a good and a bad sense. It did not interfere much with local customs, but it also made little effort to advance the region.

Since the middle of the 17th century Yakutia becomes a place of exile. Representatives of all three generations of the Russian revolutionaries – from so-called Decemberists to Bolsheviks – have been here. Their names are still present in the geographical names throughout Yakutia. These are A. Bestuzhev-Marlinski, N. Chernyshevski, V. Korolenko, E. Yaroslavski, G. Ordzhonikidze, G. Petrovski and others.

In 1922 the former Yakutian land was proclaimed the Yakutian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. The area was one of the last regions opposing the Soviets. The movement of the so-called confederalists in 1927, headed by Ksenofontov, proclaimed the idea of the republic equal in rights to the Soviet Union. The movement was subdued, its members exiled and later executed. In the 1930's the waves of repression reached the republic. Many members of the intelligentsia were denounced. Among many others were the writers Kulakovskiy, Sofronov, and Neustroev, who were accused of bourgeois nationalism. The same happened to the statesmen Ammosov and Ojunskiy. The rehabilitation process of the 1990's re-established the names of these people.

In the end of the 1930s Yakutia became one of the main components of the Gulag system. In those days the KGB had no problems with laborers, who worked mostly on forest clearance. There are still some Gulag establishments near Zhigansk on the Lena.

In the 1960s the official policy towards the northern regions was slightly modified. Under Khrushchev, the youth was strongly advised to 'go North'. The average pay in the USSR was reckoned to be 155 rubles per month while in the Far North monthly earnings from 300 to 650 rubles were the rule. Yearly vacations lasted 42 working days against 18 elsewhere. This triggered a wave of migration to Yakutia in the quest for the so-called "long ruble". In addition to other benefits each migrant could travel free once in three years to his or her place of origin. At the same time, food and the like were almost twice as expensive here as in the central parts of the USSR, and the "quality of life" was leaving much to be desired.

The biggest problem of the period, which stays rather acute even nowadays, was poor infrastructure. Since there were no railways in the Yakut A.S.S.R., river and road transport had to do the bulk of the work. Both forms of transport in Yakutia have to overcome great difficulties. River navigation means primarily navigation on the river Lena and its branches, and the navigation period on the Lena is shorter than on most other Siberian rivers. It lasts not more than 135 days on the sector Vitim–Yakutsk, and even less on the sector stretching from Yakutsk to the Arctic Ocean.

The development of the region was somewhat triggered by the discovery of the diamonds in the 1950s. Although the first diamond in Sakha territory was found in August of 1949 by the geological expedition of G.Finestein, the development of Sakha diamond industry started in the second half of the 1950s, after the 1954 L.Popugaeva's discovery of the first diamond site in the USSR. Sakha produces an estimated 98% of Russia's diamonds while Russia is the world's single largest producer by value.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was a fundamental change in Sakha's relationship with Russia.

In 1991 the Republic proclaimed sovereignty within the Russian Federation. The official name of the Republic since then is the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

For more than two centuries Yakutsk served as a base for different expeditions headed by famous land discoverers and explorers, who became famous for important geographical discoveries in the north–east of the Asian continent.

Yakutsk – Climate

Climate in Sakha Republic can be compared to a roller coaster ride with the temperature ranging from minus 72 C (approximately, –112 F) in winter, to plus 40 C (+112 F) in summer. It gives a temperature magnitude of more than 100 degrees Celsius and more than 200 Fahrenheit! However, Yakutsk inhabitants promise that yet, even at minus 60 C you can count on the warmest welcome here.

Yakutsk – People

The Sakha Republic is the traditional homeland of the Yakut people who today represent about one–third of the population. Yakuts (Yakuti in Russian) live in Siberia in the basin of the Middle Lena River and the Aldan and Vilyuy rivers and farther north. It is an area of primarily taiga vegetation. The country is partly mountainous and partly lowland. The northern area is a tundra region. The climate is dry, with long and severe winters. The vegetation consists predominantly of larch, with some birch and pine. The animal life includes squirrel, Siberian ferret, ermine, hare, fox, bear, wolverine, elk, blue fox, wild reindeer, and musk deer. Fish are also abundant. Yakuts were primarily pastoralists, whereas their neighbors were hunters and fishers.

Nine–tenths of the population lived in the central regions, in the former Okrugs of Yakutskiy and Vilyuyskiy, and these people were the "typical" Yakuts. A third group in the region of Olekminsk was considerably Russianized, while the northern groups, e.g., the Dolgan, were reindeer herders and in general resembled the Tungus and Yukagirs. The feature that most clearly distinguished the Yakut from their neighbors was the fact

that their dominant economic activity was the herding of horses and cattle. Pastoralism preserved a semi-nomadic way of life.

The Yakut moved twice a year between winter and summer camps, and their settlements were very widely scattered. The winter camps consisted of two or three dwellings with a total population of less than 20. The summer camps were usually somewhat larger. The yurt, the predominant type of dwelling, was a square structure with a pyramidal roof. Fire was religiously important—it was considered the protector of the family—and consequently the hearth was the most important area of the dwelling. Fishing was the second most important economic activity. Hunting was done primarily for furs.

The Russians introduced agriculture in the mid-nineteenth century, but it was never widely practiced. The diet consisted primarily of dairy products, secondarily of fish, thirdly of vegetable products, and lastly of meat. At the time of Russian contact, the Yakut were divided into a number of subgroups, called d'on or aymakh, which were engaged in constant warfare with each other. The aymakh were exogamic, and fellow members were considered "clansmen." The aymakh were further subdivided into smaller clans. An aristocracy headed the clans, the toyons, who were also military leaders. The toyons were wealthy and had large herds, and they employed the labor of slaves and their dependent clansmen. The primary social unit was the nuclear family. Marriages were usually monogamous, but in the early nineteenth century, polygamy was practiced among the wealthy. This situation gave rise to the erroneous notion of maternal clans. Yakut clans were definitely patrilineal. They were, however, subdivided.

These subdivisions were all descended from the same progenitor but by different wives. The clans were maintained up to the time of the Revolution in the form of administrative units. Each clan constituted a community called an aga-usa. The community elected elders and formed a council. The next level of organization was a naslegi, and the level after that was an ulus. Each level had a council of elected elders.

Siberian peoples are known for shamanism. The shaman among the Yakut was considered to be an attendant to the spirits. Men or women could be shamans, but women were considered to be more powerful. The main duties of a shaman were to cure sick people and prevent catastrophes.

Source: Marlene M. Martin

Other indigenous people who live in Yakutia include Eveni, Evenki, Dolgane, Chukchi and Yukaghiri. Like Yakuts, they herd reindeer and hunt and fish.

Yakutsk – Economy

The page is under construction and will be available very soon. Sorry for inconvenience

Yakutsk – Internet Cafes

all

Internet Cafe (Sakhatelecom)

ISDN

price: 32 roubles/hour

tel: (4112)43-50-61

email: cafenet@sakha.ru

address: Lenin avenue 27
Yakutsk, Republic Sakha(Yakutia) 677000 Russia

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