

## MOSCOW

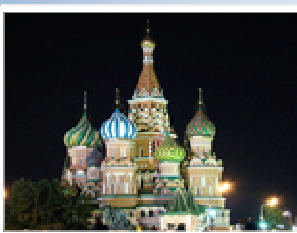
**Moscow** (Russian: Москва) is the capital and the largest city of **Russia**. It is also the largest metropolitan area in Europe, and ranks among the largest urban areas in the world. Moscow is a major political, economic, cultural, religious, financial, educational, and transportation centre of Russia and the world. It is also the seventh largest city proper in the world, and a megacity.

It is located on the **Moscow River** in the Central Federal District, in the European part of Russia. Historically, it was the capital of the former Soviet Union, Russian Empire, Tsardom of Russia and the Grand Duchy of Moscow. It is the site of the **Moscow Kremlin**, which serves as the residence of the President of Russia.

It is home to many scientific and educational institutions, as well as numerous sport facilities. It possesses a complex transport system, that includes 3 international airports, 9 railroad terminals, and the world's second busiest (after Tokyo) metro system which is famous for its architecture and artwork.



**The Red Square** is the most famous city square in **Moscow**, and arguably one of the most famous in the world. The square separates the Kremlin, the former royal citadel and currently the official residence of the **President of Russia**, from a historic merchant quarter known as **Kitai-gorod**. As major streets of Moscow radiate from here in all directions, being promoted to major highways outside the city, Red Square is often considered the central square of Moscow and of all Russia. The rich history of Red Square is reflected in many artworks, including paintings by Vasily Surikov, Konstantin Yuon and others. The square was meant to serve as Moscow's main marketplace. It was also used for various public ceremonies and proclamations, and occasionally as the site of coronation for **Russia's czars**.



**Saint Basil's Cathedral** is a multi-tented church on the **Red Square** in Moscow that also features distinctive onion domes. It is very often mistaken for the Church of the Savior on Blood, located in St. Petersburg. In the West, it is frequently confused with the Kremlin which overlooks it. Arguably the most recognized building in Russia, it is an international symbol for the nation and for the city of Moscow.

**The Moscow Kremlin**, sometimes referred to as simply The Kremlin, is a historic fortified complex at the heart of **Moscow**, overlooking the **Moskva River** (to the south), **Saint Basil's Cathedral** and **Red Square** (to the east) and the **Alexander Garden** (to the west). It is the best known of kremlins (Russian citadels) and includes four palaces, four cathedrals, and the enclosing Kremlin Wall with Kremlin towers. The complex serves as the official residence of the President of Russia. The name The Kremlin is often used as a metonym to refer to the government of the **Soviet Union** (1922–1991) and its highest members (such as general secretaries, premiers, presidents, ministers, and commissars). To some extent, it is still used in reference to the government of the Russian Federation. "Kremlinology" referred to the study of Soviet policies.



**The Bolshoi Theatre** is a historic theatre, which holds performances of ballet and opera. The Bolshoi Ballet and Bolshoi Opera are amongst the oldest and greatest ballet and opera companies of the world, respectively. The theatre is the parent company of The **Bolshoi Ballet Academy**, a world-leading school of ballet. The Bolshoi has been the site of many historic premieres including Tchaikovsky's *The Voyevoda* and *Mazeppa*, and Rachmaninoff's *Aleko* and *Francesca da Rimini*.

**The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts** is the largest museum of European art in Moscow, located in **Volkhonka street**, just opposite the **Cathedral of Christ the Saviour**. The museum's name is misleading, as it has nothing to do with the famous Russian poet. It would be more fitting if the museum were named for its real founder, professor Ivan Tsvetaev. Tsvetaev persuaded the young millionaire Yuriy Nechaev-Maltsov and the fashionable architect Roman Klein of the urgent need to give **Moscow** a fine arts museum.

**Gorky Park** – Easily the most well known of **Moscow's parks**, Gorky Park is packed with a number of theme park rides, cafes, places to stroll, and a quaint-looking pond, all straddled alongside the Moskva river. Gorky Park is a very popular place for Muscovites of all ages. In winter it's a popular place to ice skate and it hosts an ice sculpture competition.

**The Russian State Library** is the national library of Russia. It is the largest in the country and one of the largest in the world. At the present behind the scenes of the Russian State Library is over 275 km of shelves, number of items reach 42 million, including over 17 million books and serial volumes, 13 million journals, 350 thousands music scores and sound records, 150,000 maps and others. There are items in 247 languages of the world, the foreign part being about 29 percent of the entire collection.

**The State Tretyakov Gallery** is an art gallery, the foremost depository of **Russian fine art** in the world. The gallery's history starts in 1856 when the Moscow merchant Pavel Mikhailovich Tretyakov acquired works by Russian artists of his day with the aim of creating a collection, which might later grow into a museum of national art. In 1892, Tretyakov presented his already famous collection to the Russian nation. The façade of the gallery building was designed by the painter Viktor Vasnetsov in a peculiar Russian fairy-tale style. It was built in 1902–04 to the south from the Moscow Kremlin. During the 20th century, the gallery expanded to several neighbouring buildings, including the 17th-century church of St. Nicholas in Tolmachi. The collection contains more than 130,000 exhibits, ranging from Theotokos of Vladimir and Andrei Rublev's Trinity to the monumental Composition VII by **Wassily Kandinsky** and the Black Square by **Kazimir Malevich**.



**The State Historical Museum** of Russia is a museum of Russian history wedged between **Red Square** and **Manege Square** in Moscow. Its exhibitions range from relics of the prehistoric tribes inhabiting present-day Russia, through priceless artworks acquired by members of the **Romanov dynasty**. The total number of objects in the museum's collection numbers in the millions.

- **New Arbat Street** – Located near Old Arbat Street, this street offers a contrast from the touristy pedestrian-only thoroughfare. New Arbat is perhaps where Moscow's rich are the most visible, as some of Moscow's most expensive restaurants and nightclubs are located here. There are some reasonably priced cafes, however. The street is lavishly lit up at night and is always very lively.
- **Vorobyovy Gory** – The best place for a view of Moscow from the ground. Near the main Moscow State University building, there is a popular lookout point where one can see much of the city on clear days.
- **The Obratsov Puppet Theatre** at the very north part of the Garden Ring has performances during the winter in the evening. Everything is in Russian and meant for children, but the stories are simple and quite understandable even if you don't understand Russian. There is a small box in front of the building where a puppet appears every hour and does a performance. At midday all of the puppets appear for a short but entertaining appearance.

## INFORMATION

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