



EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

TOP 10 MOSCOW



THE 10 BEST OF EVERYTHING

Table of Contents

[Essential tips](#)

[Introducing Moscow](#)

[Moscow's Highlights](#)

[St Basil's Cathedral](#)

[Red Square](#)

[Cathedral of the Assumption](#)

[State Armoury](#)

[Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts](#)

[Bolshoi Theatre](#)

[Tretyakov Gallery](#)

[Metro Stations](#)

[Novodevichiy Convent](#)

[Kolomenskoe Estate](#)

[Top 10 of Everything](#)

[Moments in Moscow's History](#)

[Museums](#)

[Churches and Cathedrals](#)

[Art Galleries](#)

[Performing Arts Venues](#)

[Russian Writers](#)

[Leisure Activities](#)

[Soviet Buildings](#)

[Festivals and Events](#)

[Shops and Markets](#)

[Children's Attractions](#)

[Bars and Clubs](#)

[Restaurants](#)

[Around Town](#)

[The Kremlin and Red Square](#)

[Kitay Gorod](#)

[Arbatskaya](#)

[Tverskaya](#)

[Zamoskvoreche](#)

[Greater Moscow](#)

[Streetsmart](#)

[Planning Your Visit](#)

[Getting There and Around](#)

[Etiquette](#)

[Sources of Information](#)

[Shopping Tips](#)

[Moscow on a Budget](#)

[Health and Security](#)

[Banking and Communications](#)

[Things to Avoid](#)

[Accommodation and Dining Tips](#)

[Phrase Book](#)

[Image Gallery](#)

[Copyright](#)

ESSENTIAL TIPS

A quick read of these tips will help you find everything you are looking for, quickly and efficiently.



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IMAGE GALLERY

All entries with this icon have an accompanying photo, simply click the link to view.



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INTERACTIVE MENUS

1 Museums 

2 Churches 

Navigate by using our interactive table of contents, click each link to be taken to that section. These appear at the beginning of each chapter.

NAVIGATION

The best way to explore this guide is to begin at **Highlights**. This first chapter shows you, quite simply, the best sights in the destination. This is followed by: **Top 10 of Everything** – themed Top 10 lists that allow you to make the most of your time away; **Around Town** – must-see sights, area by area; **Streetsmart** – essential practical information; and the **Image Gallery** – A selection of great images that accompany many of the sight listings.

INTRODUCING MOSCOW



Despite Stalin's destruction of much of Moscow's architectural heritage, what remains is enough to convey the impression of a medieval capital that collided with a Soviet juggernaut. It is a city where petite onion-domed churches and 19th-century mansions compete with epic neo-Gothic skyscrapers and ten-lane ring roads. Ironically, Communism's greatest contribution to the city – the magnificent metro system – lies deep underground. In recent years bold modern structures have been added to Moscow's progressive skyline and Muscovites have recovered pride in their city by funding the restoration of lost landmarks such as the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

MOSCOW



10 TOP 10

MOSCOW
HIGHLIGHTS

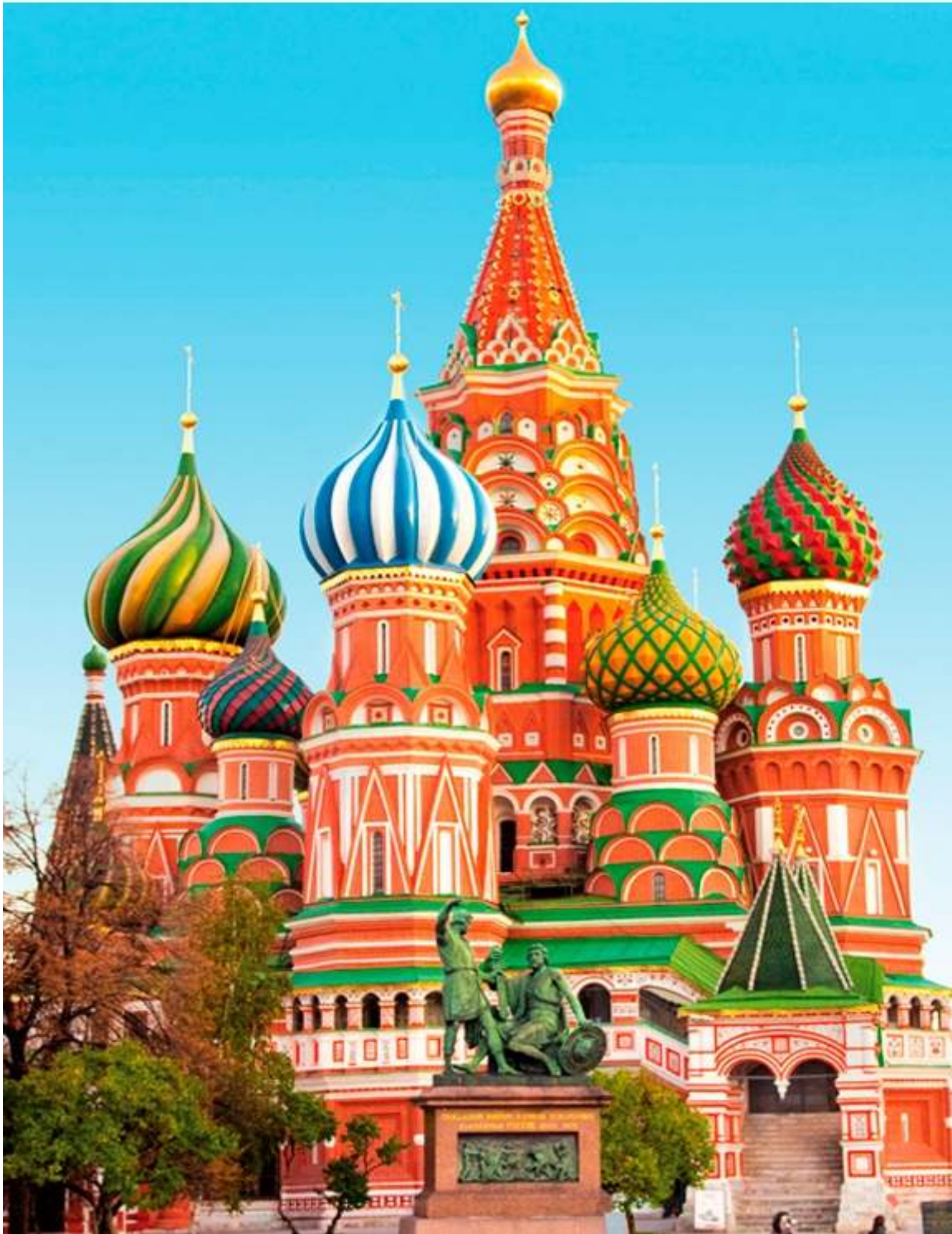
THE MUST SEE SIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES

MOSCOW'S HIGHLIGHTS




1	St Basil's Cathedral	>
2	Red Square	>
3	Cathedral of the Assumption	>
4	State Armoury	>
5	Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts	>
6	Bolshoi Theatre	>
7	Tretyakov Gallery	>
8	Metro Stations	>
9	Novodevichiy Convent	>
10	Kolomenskoe Estate	>

ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL



ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL

With red-brick towers and swirling onion domes, this gloriously colourful cathedral is perhaps Russia's most emblematic building. Ivan the Terrible ordered its construction to celebrate capturing the Tatar stronghold of Kazan, 800 km (500 miles) east of Moscow, in 1552. The cathedral was designed with eight chapels, each representing a successful assault made on Kazan. A ninth chapel was added later to cover the grave of Basil the Blessed, the pious ascetic to whom the cathedral owes its popular name.  *Krasnaya Ploshchad 2 • 495 698 3304 • Metro: Okhotnyy Ryad, Ploshchad Revolyutsii • Open May–Oct: 10am–7pm; Nov–Apr: 11am–5pm • Adm: 250 Rub • www.saintbasil.ru*



1. TILED GALLERY

The warren of narrow galleries and stairways connecting St Basil's chapels over different levels was covered over in the 17th century and subsequently decorated with elaborate tiles featuring floral and geometric designs.



2. ICONOSTASES

The cathedral's 9 iconostases, symbolizing the separation between the divine and the earthly world, comprise over 400 icons from the Moscow and Novgorod schools of icon painting.



3. TENT-ROOFED BELL TOWER

Added to St Basil's Cathedral during the late 17th century, the bell tower is located at the southeast corner. It rang until 1918, when the Communist authorities closed the cathedral and melted down its bells. It was not until 1997 that new bells were cast and once again rang out over Moscow.



4. INTERNAL WOODEN STAIRCASE

Leading up to the Chapel of the Intercession, this spiral wooden staircase remained hidden for hundreds of years until its accidental discovery in the 1970s during renovation work. It is now open to the public.



5. ONION DOMES

The cathedral's central tower is surrounded by onion domes: four large and four small. Originally gilded, they received their first full-colour treatment in 1670.

6. ST BASIL'S CHAPEL

In 1588, Tsar Fyodor commissioned a ninth chapel, with a small dome, to contain the relics of Basil the Blessed (1468–1552).

7. CHAPEL OF ST CYPRIAN

Each of the original eight chapels honours the saint upon whose feast day an assault on Kazan occurred. St Cyprian's Day was that of the penultimate attack on the stronghold. With a striped blue-and-white dome, this chapel is one of the cathedral's largest.

8. INTERIOR FRESCOES

The interior of each chapel is illuminated by 19th-century oil paintings and the bright colours of lovingly restored frescoes dating back to the 16th century.

 [View photo](#)

9. ST BASIL'S NAME


The cathedral only adopted its popular moniker after St Basil was interred here. It was originally named the Cathedral of the Intercession of the Virgin on the Moat.


10. HISTORY EXHIBITION

A small exhibition inside the main entrance chronicles St Basil's history and includes a display of 16th-century weaponry used during Ivan the Terrible's campaign against Kazan.

Lucky Escapes

St Basil's Cathedral has twice escaped destruction. During his conquest of Moscow in 1812 Napoleon ordered its demolition, but the task was abandoned when rain dampened the gunpowder. Stalin contemplated knocking it down to facilitate the exit of troops parading across Red Square, but was stopped by the architect Baranovsky, who threatened to cut his own throat. The gesture earned Baranovsky five years of hard labour.

 **Tip:** Linger in the Central Chapel where you might hear the cathedral's male choir sing promotional excerpts from their CD of Orthodox chants.

 **Tip:** The nearby [GUM](#) shopping mall has plenty of cafés and ice-cream parlours.

 [Back to intro](#)  [Chapter contents](#)

RED SQUARE

Red Square (Krasnaya Ploshchad) has been at the heart of Moscow for over 500 turbulent years, and its grand buildings recall the city's eventful history. Here, Ivan the Terrible mutilated prisoners before repenting of his sins at Lobnoe Mesto; it was he who funded the construction of St Basil's Cathedral. In 1812 a victorious Napoleon addressed his troops on the square, while stabling their horses in the cathedral. Lenin Mausoleum was added by the Communists, who later demolished both the Resurrection Gate and Kazan Cathedral to make way for enormous military parades. The square has been restored to its pre-Soviet appearance. **i** *Krasnaya Ploshchad • Metro: Ploshchad Revolyutsii, Teatralnaya, Okhotnyy Ryad*

 [Google Map](#)

1. STATUE OF MARSHAL ZHUKOV

Astride a stallion, Marshal Zhukov raises his palm in symbolic defence of the Kremlin. In 1944 he successfully lifted the siege of Leningrad, before pushing back the Germans and capturing Berlin in 1945.

 [Google Map](#)  [View photo](#)

2. ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL

Moscow's enduring highlight, with its eclectic mix of colourful domes and lovely chapel interiors, has stood here since 1561 (for further details see [St Basil's Cathedral](#)).

 [Google Map](#)  [View photo](#)

3. LOBNOE MESTO

Despite its ominous name, meaning "execution place", this has only ever been used as a speaker's platform; leaders have made proclamations from here since the 16th century.

 [Google Map](#)

4. STATUE OF MININ AND POZHARSKIY

This dramatic statue depicts the two legendary Russian heroes who drove Polish troops out of the Kremlin in 1612.

 [Google Map](#)

5. GUM

Occupying the eastern side of the square, this glitzy 19th-century shopping mall was once the largest of its kind in Europe. Three gleaming arcades are connected by elegant walkways (for further details see [GUM](#)).

 [Google Map](#)  [View photo](#)

6. KILOMETRE ZERO

The brass plaque in the ground here marks the point from which all distances from Moscow are measured. The spot is scattered with coins for luck.

 [Google Map](#)  [View photo](#)

7. RESURRECTION GATE

Built in 1995, this is a copy of the original 17th-century gate demolished by Stalin to allow parading troops easier access to the square.

 [Google Map](#)

8. LENIN MAUSOLEUM

Designed by Aleksey Shchusev, the mausoleum features a rooftop terrace from which leaders might view military parades (for further details see [Lenin Mausoleum](#)).

 [Google Map](#)

9. STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

This imposing red-brick building offers a fascinating insight into Russian history from the Paleolithic era to the 20th century (for further details see [State Historical Museum](#)).

 [Google Map](#)  [View photo](#)


10. KAZAN CATHEDRAL


Rebuilt in 1993 in the style of the 17th-century original, this exquisite cathedral houses a replica of the miracle-working Icon of the Kazan Virgin (for further details see [Kazan Cathedral](#)).

 [Google Map](#)  [View photo](#)

Kremlin Wall Graves


These graves (for further details see [Kremlin Wall Graves](#)) have been used to inter the ashes of Soviet heroes since 1917, when 200 revolutionaries were buried here. Soviet leaders were buried in individual tombs. Stalin's body was embalmed and laid beside that of Lenin, where it remained until 1961, when it was removed and buried following Khrushchev's de-Stalinization programme.

 **Tip:** Before queuing for the Lenin Mausoleum, leave large bags and any photographic equipment at the Historical Museum's cloakroom to avoid being refused entry.

 **Tip:** Facing Red Square, the Bosco Café in the GUM shopping mall has a great range of ice creams and desserts.

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Originally founded in 1326, the cathedral was redesigned in 1470 by Italian architect Aristotle Fioravanti in Renaissance spirit. For centuries it hosted Russia's most important ceremonies, including the coronation of Ivan the Terrible in 1547 and the inaugurations and burials of the patriarchs and metropolitans of the Orthodox Church. The cathedral retained its importance even after the capital was moved to St Petersburg in 1713, and became a museum under the Communists in 1918; religious services resumed in 1990. [i](#)
Kremlin • Metro: Aleksandrovskiy sad, Biblioteka im. Lenina, Borovitskaya • 495 697 0349 (Call in advance to book a guided tour) • Open 10am–5pm Fri–Wed • Adm: 350 Rub • www.kreml.ru

 [Google Map](#)

1. PATRIARCH'S SEAT

This white-stone prayer seat was used by metropolitans and patriarchs from the 16th century. It was from this chair that Metropolitan St Philip II (1507–69) refused to bless Ivan the Terrible in 1568.

2. ICONOSTASIS

The gleaming iconostasis, which dominates the cathedral, was built in 1813. The original iconostasis dating from 1652, was destroyed by Napoleonic troops the previous year. It comprises a remarkable series of gilt-framed icons rising five levels to a grand 14th-century portrait of Christ.

 [View photo](#)

3. TABERNACLE

Cast in 1624, the latticed bronze tabernacle served as a repository for Russia's collection of holy relics, including one of the four nails used to crucify Christ. Today it contains the remains of Patriarch Germogen (1530–1612).

4. FRESCOES

The frescoes adorning the interior were painted in 1511 and a gilt layer was added 150 years later. The 4 huge central pillars depict portraits of 140 martyrs.

 [View photo](#)

5. ST GEORGE ICON

Encased by glass, this 12th-century icon depicting a youthful St George was discovered under a layer of paint on the reverse of another icon in 1930.

6. MIRACULOUS VIRGIN OF VLADIMIR ICON

The revered 16th-century copy of the Virgin of Vladimir icon is kept in a small gilt tabernacle beside the iconostasis.

7. MONOMAKH THRONE

Installed as Ivan the Terrible's prayer seat in 1551, this elaborately carved throne owes its name to scenes on its rear panel depicting the life of Prince Vladimir Monomakh (1053–1155).

8. TOMB OF METROPOLITAN ST PETER

The tomb of St Peter is contained within a shrine with silver pillars and a canopy topped with a gilt dome. However, this area is inaccessible to tourists.

9. TOMB OF METROPOLITAN ST IONA


St Iona became Moscow's metropolitan in 1448. His gold and silver canopied shrine is one of the most sumptuous tombs in the cathedral.


10. HARVEST CHANDELIER

This chandelier was made from gold that Napoleon's soldiers looted during their occupation of Moscow in 1812, and later abandoned.


Unusual History

During Napoleon's occupation in 1812 the cathedral was one of many churches used to stable horses. To combat the cold, French troops cut up its 15th-century iconostasis to use as firewood. Stalin, who had a Christian upbringing, allegedly ordered a secret service to be held here in 1941 when the German army was approaching.

 **Tip:** The best views of the Kremlin's cathedral towers are from the south, from the opposite bank of the Moskva river.

 **Tip:** There are no cafés within the Kremlin; the nearest are those at [Okhotnyy Ryad Shopping Centre](#).

STATE ARMOURY

The Kremlin's fabulous collection of weaponry and treasure offers a fascinating insight into the immense wealth and power enjoyed by the Russian aristocracy throughout the centuries. Moscow's Grand Princes began storing their valuables in the Kremlin's cellar as early as the 14th century, but when space ran short a stone treasury was built between the fortress's cathedrals. The collection was first put on public display in 1806 and the current State Armoury was purpose-built as a museum on the orders of Tsar Nicholas I. Designed by Konstantin Ton in 1844, the building was completed in 1851. Here you will find remarkable ceremonial carriages, priceless churchware and glittering thrones, as well as The Diamond Fund, a separate museum housing some of the world's largest jewels, including the Orlov Diamond.  *Kremlin* • 495 697 0349 • *Metro: Biblioteka im. Lenina, Borovitskaya, Aleksandrovskiy sad* • Admission at 10am, noon, 2:30pm, 4:30pm Fri–Wed • Adm: 700 Rub • www.kreml.ru

 [Google Map](#)

1. DIAMOND THRONE

This gem-encrusted sandalwood throne was gifted to Tsar Alexius in the 17th century by Armenians hopeful of securing Russian trade rights.

2. CATHERINE THE GREAT'S WEDDING DRESS

Among the royal outfits on display is Catherine the Great's finely embroidered silver wedding dress. Her loveless marriage at 16 to Peter III led to his abdication and her assumption of power.

3. RUSSIAN WEAPONRY

The Round Hall has a fine array of 12th-century Russian weaponry. Ceremonial sabres and scabbards sit alongside 17th-century flintlock pistols and iron chainmail armour.

4. CEREMONIAL SADDLERY AND CARRIAGES

The saddlery on display includes Ivan the Terrible's velvet-covered saddle and a harness given to Catherine the Great by Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid. The carriage of Elizabeth was decorated by French artist François Boucher.

 [View photo](#)

5. MINIATURE CARRIAGES

Among the royal carriages is a delightful pair of miniature carriages made in the 17th century for the children of Peter the Great and his brother Ivan.

6. CROWN OF MONOMAKH

Edged with sable fur and topped with jewels and a gold cross, this ancient crown was presented to the prince of Moscow, Ivan Kalita (Ivan I).

7. THE DIAMOND FUND

Among the Fund's highlights are the Large Emperor's Crown, the Orlov Diamond and the Shah Diamond, presented to Tsar Nicholas I by Fath Ali Shah as compensation for the murder of Russia's ambassador in Persia.

 [View photo](#)

8. THE ORLOV DIAMOND

The world's fourth-largest diamond adorns the Imperial Sceptre. Taken from an Indian temple, it was one of the many presents given to Catherine the Great by her lover, Count Grigoriy Orlov.

9. AMBASSADORIAL GIFTS


Lavish gifts received from diplomats and merchants include English Tudor silverware, a 140-piece Sèvres porcelain dessert service gifted to Emperor Alexander I by Napoleon in 1807, and a wonderful silver decanter given to Tsar Alexius in 1665.


10. FABERGE EGGS


The Armoury owns one of the world's largest collections of Fabergé eggs, produced as Easter gifts for Tsar Nicholas II and his family between 1885 and 1917. One highlight is an exquisite example containing a tiny model of the Tsar's yacht.

Faberge Fascination

The wealthy art collector Malcolm Forbes (1919–90) is credited with reviving the world's interest in Fabergé eggs. Between 1960 and 1990 he tracked down nine of the Russian royal family's eggs and paid large sums for them. His collection was put up for auction after his death in 1990 and was purchased by Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg.


 **Tip:** Tickets should be purchased in advance from the kiosk at Kutafya Tower.


 **Tip:** Tickets for the Diamond Fund can only be purchased inside the Armoury.

 **Tip:** Large bags must be deposited in the cloakroom beneath Kutafya Tower.

 **Tip:** Visit [Okhotnyy Ryad Shopping Centre](#) for refreshments.

PUSHKIN MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

This stately museum has amassed over 600,000 artworks since its inauguration in 1912. It was envisaged as an educational institution, and was initially filled with plaster casts of sculptural masterpieces along with a world-class selection of Egyptian relics. The Communist policy of nationalizing private property brought many new artworks to the museum; it was further boosted when the government transferred thousands of pieces to it from St Petersburg's Hermitage and Moscow's Museum of Modern Western Art. The museum's excellent collection of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Modernist art is housed next door in the Gallery of European and American Art of the 19th–20th Century.  *Ulitsa Volkhonka 12 • 495 697 9578 • Metro: Kropotkinskaya • Open 10am–7pm Tue–Sun (10am–9pm Thu) • Adm: 400 Rub*

 [Google Map](#)

1. MASTERPIECES IN PLASTER

Several rooms of the museum are filled with plaster casts of classic Greek and Roman sculptures and copies of works by Michelangelo and other Renaissance figures. Even today, these are still used as models for art students.


 [View photo](#)

2. HAY WAGON

Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot claimed that the desire to create landscapes outweighed everything else in his life. Painted in 1860, *Hay Wagon* captures his style as it moves towards Impressionism; light brushstrokes depict the freshness of the rural scene.

3. FAYOUM PORTRAITS

Found at the end of the 19th century attached to mummies in the Fayoum region of Egypt, these remarkable portraits demonstrate an extraordinary degree of realism. They were made as death mask in the 1st to 4th centuries AD and form part of the museum's substantial Egyptian collection.

 [View photo](#)

4. BLUE DANCERS

Edgar Degas' outstanding 1898 pastel sketch, showing the same dancer in multiple poses, illustrates the "random glance" method with which the artist conveyed fleeting impressions of a scene.

 [View photo](#)

5. TROY TREASURE

Also called Priam's Treasure, this 4,500-year-old collection of gold and silver vessels, diadems and jewellery was found in the lost city of Troy by German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann in 1873.

6. VIRGIN AND CHILD

Despite its missing right-hand panel, this 16th-century work by Lucas Cranach the Elder clearly displays the artist's skills as a leading figure of the German Renaissance. Its highlights are realism, use of perspective and the subtle inclusion of a cross above the child's head.

 [View photo](#)

7. MATISSE AND PICASSO COLLECTIONS

In 1948 the museum acquired works by Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso from the State Museum of Modern Western Art. Among prize exhibits are Matisse's *Spanish Woman with a Tambourine* (1909) and Picasso's *Young Acrobat on a Ball* (1905).

8. BACCHANALIA

This masterpiece by Peter Paul Rubens is a fine example of 17th-century Baroque painting. It skilfully combines stark contrasts between dark and light with intense realism to hint at the inner passions of the subjects.

9. RODCHENKO COLLECTION


Minimalist paintings and experimental photographs by Aleksandr Rodchenko (1891–1956) are on display alongside textile designs by his wife Varvara Stepanova (1894–1958).


10. MONET COLLECTION

Originally part of Sergey Shchukin's private collection, the paintings by Claude Monet span over 30 years and chart the artist's development from the early *Luncheon on the Grass* (1866) to the late series of *Rouen Cathedral* (1893–4).

Displaced German Treasure

In 1880 Heinrich Schliemann donated the Troyan Treasure to Berlin's Imperial Museum. It remained there until 1945, when it disappeared after the city fell to the Red Army. Nothing more was heard about it until it went on display at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in 1993. The treasure remains there despite an official agreement to return it to Germany.

 **Tip:** Three neighbouring buildings house the majority of the museum's collection.

 **Tip:** The museum's basement café serves reasonably priced snacks and cakes.

 [Back to intro](#)  [Chapter contents](#)

BOLSHOI THEATRE



BOLSHOI THEATRE

Established in 1776, the Bolshoi theatre and ballet companies are among the oldest in the world. The first theatre building was opened in 1780, but was destroyed by fire in 1805. The company relocated to the Petrovsky Theatre, where it remained until 1812, when the building was also consumed by fire during Napoleon's invasion. A new building, designed by Osip Bove and Andrei Mikhailov, opened in 1825 on the original site, to international acclaim, but in 1853 it too was ravaged by fire. Its restoration was overseen by architect Albert Kavos, who increased the building's height and chose the current decor. It reopened in 1856 and to this day retains its status as a world-class ballet and opera venue. **i** *Teatralnaya Ploshchad 1 • 499 250 7317 • Metro: Teatralnaya • Open 11am–7pm (ticket office) • Adm: varies from 100 to 10,000 Rub • www.bolshoi.ru*

 [Google Map](#)

1. APOLLO IN THE CHARIOT OF THE SUN

A striking bronze portrayal of Apollo, the God of art, and four flying horses has crowned the Bolshoi grand portico since 1825. The sculpture also features on the rear of the 100-rouble note.

 [View photo](#)

2. AUDITORIUM

The auditorium, with 5 elaborate tiers of boxes, has a capacity of 1,740. The decoration features crimson draping, white stucco mouldings and copious amounts of gold leaf; its restoration between 2005 and 2011 required 4.5 kg (10 lb) of gold.

3. GRAND IMPERIAL FOYER

Open during performances, the Grand Imperial Foyer boasts magnificent handwoven wall fabric based on samples from the 19th century.

4. PORTICO

The stately portico with its eight Ionic columns was part of the 1825 design envisaged by Chief Architect of Moscow city centre, Osip Bove.

 [View photo](#)

5. IMPERIAL BOX

Hung with crimson velvet, the lavish royal box dominates the rear of the hall. Above the box, Russia's imperial crown has replaced the Soviet hammer and sickle.

 [View photo](#)

6. CHANDELIER

Imported from France in 1863, the 1.5-tonne (3,300-lb) cut-glass chandelier had its candles replaced by 300 electric light bulbs in 1895.

7. APOLLO AND THE NINE MUSES

Encircling the central chandelier is a splendid segmented ceiling fresco featuring portraits of Apollo and the nine creative muses. It was painted in 1856 and has since been restored.

 [View photo](#)

8. NEW STAGE

The New Stage, adjacent to the original, was built in a record-breaking six months to host performances while the main theatre was being renovated.

 [View photo](#)

9. HISTORIC PREMIERES

Among the major premieres staged at the Bolshoi were Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* (1877), Rachmaninoff's *Aleko* (1893) and Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmila* (1846).


10. HISTORIC EVENTS

In 1918 Lenin subdued opposition from the Left Socialist Revolutionaries by briefly imprisoning 400 of their delegates here.

Underground Concert Hall

Located 6 floors underground, and with an audience capacity of 300, this hall hosts a range of evening concerts. By day it is a rehearsal room for up to 130 musicians. The chamber is equipped with the latest technological systems, and boasts outstanding acoustics. Its opening has effectively doubled the Bolshoi's performance space.


 **Tip:** The Bolshoi has an online booking service and tickets can also be reserved by phone in English.

 **Tip:** The theatre bar serves refreshments during intervals.

 [Back to intro](#)  [Chapter contents](#)

TRETYAKOV GALLERY

Starting life in 1856, when Pavel Tretyakov first exhibited his collection of Russian paintings in his front room, the Tretyakov Gallery has since evolved into the world's largest repository of Russian art, with more than 160,000 works. Tretyakov envisioned a gallery for ordinary citizens that would cover the entire spectrum of Russian art. The collection begins with ancient icons painted by anonymous masters, and ends with pre-Revolution works by the Blue Rose group, whose members were inspired by Post-Impressionism and Fauvism. Works from the early 20th century are shown at the nearby New Tretyakov. **i** *Lavrushinskiy pereulok 10 • 495 951 1362 • Metro: Tretyakovskaya, Novokuznetskaya, Polyanka • Open 10am–7:30pm Tue–Sun (museum), noon–4pm Tue–Sun (church) • Adm: 360 Rub • www.tretyakovgallery.ru*

 [Google Map](#)

1. PAVEL TRETYAKOV

Moscow merchant Pavel Tretyakov (1832–98) was passionate about Russian art. His brother Sergey, meanwhile, sought out Western works. By the time of Pavel's death, they had collected over 1,600 works.

 [View photo](#)

2. ICON COLLECTION

The gallery houses several major icon collections (for further details see [Tretyakov Artists](#)), including works by Dionysius and Rublev. It catalogued and restored numerous icons from churches closed by the Soviet regime.

 [View photo](#)

3. THE PEREDVIZHNIKI

Known as “The Wanderers”, this group of late-19th-century artists organized travelling shows to bring art to the provinces. The Peredvizhniki were dedicated to depicting everyday Russian life. Members included Ilya Repin, Isaak Levitan and Vasiliy Surikov.

4. INITIAL EXPANSION

By 1872 the Tretyakov art collection had outgrown the family mansion and the building was extended. In 1874 the first public display of paintings opened. In 1892, Pavel gifted the gallery to the city of Moscow.

5. MUSEUM CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS IN TOLMACHI

Connected to the main building, this church also serves as a museum. Its highlights include the imposing 17th-century, five-tiered iconostasis and the [Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God](#), one of Russia's holiest relics.

6. PORTRAIT COLLECTION

Tretyakov set out to create a portrait gallery of eminent Russians and began commissioning and collecting portraits in the 1860s. Leo Tolstoy was one of the subjects.

7. TREASURY

The treasury houses religious exhibits dating from the 12th century, including icons in silvergilt frames and ancient bibles and manuscripts with ornate bindings.

8. MAIN FACADE

Between 1902 and 1904 the Russian artist Viktor Vasnetsov joined the buildings with a single façade returning the museum to its original form.

 [View photo](#)

9. NEW TRETYAKOV

The [New Tretyakov Gallery](#) showcases a stunning range of paintings, sculptures and graphic art. The together comprise what is today the world's best collection of Soviet art. The gallery also hosts conferences and classes with renowned artists.


 [View photo](#)


10. FUTURE EXPANSION

The gallery is undergoing an expansion that will see its exhibition space doubled. This will allow more of Tretyakov's collection to be appreciated by the public, such as Ivanov's *Apparition of Christ to the People*. The expanded building will house restoration shops and cafés with panoramic views of the Kremlin.

Gallery Orientation

The Tretyakov Gallery has 62 rooms on 2 floors. The chronological exhibition of paintings begins in Room 1 on the first floor. Steps lead down to the ground floor, where the exhibition continues with early Russian art, Realism, from the second half of the 19th century, Symbolism and Art Nouveau. Rooms 49–54 display drawings and engravings, while the treasury occupies Room 55.

 **Tip:** Don't be put off by the long queue that often forms outside the entrance at weekends. Groups of around 30 people are let in every 15–20 minutes, so visitors should not have to wait too long.

 **Tip:** The gallery has a great café in the basement serving European and Russian cuisine.

- [Inside the Cell: The Dark Side of Forensic DNA.pdf](#)
- [read online The 3rd Woman book](#)
- [read Instructor's Manual Discrete Mathematics](#)
- [read The Golden Wasp \(Secrets of Droon, Book 8\)](#)

- <http://berttrotman.com/library/Deadly-Jewels--A-Novel.pdf>
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