

RUSSIAN MIND

LA PENSEE RUSSE

№106/02 (4977)
February 2019

Russkaya Mysl
Russian/English

The magazine
was founded in 1880
www.RussianMind.com

NEW MOSCOW CITY



9 770757 223144

PALVKO 2019-01



555045-1812 € 5.00



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EDITOR'S LETTER

MOSCOW TIME



‘Gold-domed Moscow, / The peal of bells, / The magnificent Tsar-Canon, / The odour of cakes...’

I still remember the singer Mikhail Gulko’s somewhat hoarse voice at the Primorsky restaurant in Brighton Beach, New York City.

At that time Moscow was not ‘gold-domed’. Instead, it was the ‘hammer-and-sickle’ capital of the country where I was born and grew up, and which, as we (not only I, but also all political emigres) believed, was lost forever.

But the unthinkable happened and Moscow became a city of golden

domes again, and now church bells resound through the city as before.

I was just saying this by the way. For Moscow does not live in the past. Today Moscow is one of the most vibrant and the brightest capitals in the world. Its music, theatres and exhibitions serve as a model of modern world culture. With its fashion which is mainly developed in Moscow, Russian fashion industry is one of the most creative and advanced in the world. Moscow’s enormous size amazes foreign visitors. The excesses of Moscow’s nightlife astonishes the most inveterate revelers, who have not seen anything of this kind even in New York and Paris. It seems that something ‘exceptionally Russian’, something which is swinging, unrestrained and full of life is bubbling over with energy here. ‘Moscow is a magic place,’ the French author Frederic Beigbeder, who is loved and respected in Russia, says. ‘Moscow makes me indulge in reveries even more than Paris,’ he continues. ‘In Russia you don’t need vodka to feel drunk.’

Well said, Beigbeder!

Victor Loupan

Russian Mind
No106/02(4977),
FEBRUARY 2019

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HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE IS FALLING APART

Advocates of utopia are prone to deafness

VICTOR LOUPAN,
Head of the Editorial Board

Citizens of the EU countries are experiencing a weird yet extremely interesting moment. Today even the most ardent supporters of the European Union at last admit that Europe is falling apart – something that is obvious to everyone.

As a matter of fact, this process began long ago. The problem is that advocates of utopia (any utopia!) are prone to deafness, as it were. They fail to perceive reality as something objective and empirical. In their mental space ideology is dominant. It is ideology (and not anything else) that defines the dividing line between the truth and falsehood, between facts and illusions in their world. Denial of the reality on principle has become one of the distinctive characteristics of the modern worldview, not least in Europe.

Perhaps we could jeer at all of them, but now it is not a right time for mocking remarks, for the current state of things is so serious and alarming that there is nothing to gloat over. What is going on in France, the UK, Italy and a number of other EU member countries allows us to conclude that the political crisis has reached a point of a direct confronta-

tion. A confrontation with what? With the existing system!

The recent refusal of the majority of UK parliamentarians to support Theresa May in her extremely complicated negotiations with the plutocracy in Brussels has made the two years' work of her Government null and void. The power-hungry Labour Party MPs, proponents of Brexit, and advocates of the UK's divorce from the EU – all of them voted against their leader! A logical result of the rejection of the compromise which had been achieved

seems to indicate that this state of affairs makes it happy! Unofficial yet well-informed analysts concluded long ago that Brussels wants to punish London severely as a way of warning other EU nations not to do the same thing. I am personally not surprised by this primitivism.

The brutal nature of one or another postulate is commonplace in the EU. Let us recall how it 'punished' Greece not long ago, how it intimidated Italy at the beginning of this year, how it threatened to impose sanctions on Poland and now it 'turns up its nose' on Hungary. The split between the peoples of Europe and its ruling elites is still not complete, yet it is 'advancing in giant strides' towards the stage of absolute mutual rejection and, therefore, the collapse of civilised relations.

What has been going on in France since 17th November is not just a new type of people's rebellion. Rather, it is a challenge to the democratic regime

that was propagated and promoted for a long time as 'the only possible one'. In this case the whole system and the media under its control are totally rejected by the overwhelming majority



Brussels wants to punish London severely as a way of warning other EU nations not to do the same thing

with such difficulty is the 'tough divorce' – that is, no deal!

Brussels warned for a long time that an outcome like this would be a catastrophe. However, everything

of citizens, while the powers that be don't have appropriate words to enter into a direct dialogue with the people.

In France (like in the UK) people and their 'elected representatives' appear to be standing 'on the opposite sides of the barricades'. The system of voting and vote counting is such that around fifty per cent of France's population are not represented in Parliament or represented by a handful of deputies. In 2005, the French referendum on the treaty establishing a Constitu-

tion for Europe was held. A vast majority voted 'no', but later the newly-elected President Nicolas Sarkozy pushed through the notorious Constitution for Europe, securing the approval of both Chambers of Parliament. As expected, deputies and senators voted 'yes', betraying their people without a moment's hesitation. As for Britain, undoubtedly there would have been no Brexit but for the referendum.

The crisis of the European Union is above all connected with the crisis of democracy. The peoples feel that the treacherous elites have sold them. But whether they are right or wrong is a different matter. Controlled democracy as a form of government has obviously exhausted itself.

The Italian ruling coalition came to power quite contrary to the expectations and efforts of the Establishment. Brexit is in essence the rejection of the ruling elites' dogmas, too. As for Macron, who is clearly the plutocracy's protege, he gathered all the reins of power in his hands within two months, in effect crushing the left and the right ruling parties. For a year he tried to em-

body 'soft populism', with the full support of the media that serve the plutocracy. He was even presented as the new embodiment of 'European leadership'. But soon it turned out that he was gutless, and after the first successful year in office he became bogged down in a series of petty, scabrous and shameful scandals, which are inadmissible for his high rank. Today only about twenty per cent of France's population still support Macron.



As for Belgium, which became a fictitious country long ago, its ultra-right Flemish nationalists not only openly strive to rule the wealthy region of Flanders, but also aspire to the post of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom's Government. According to specialists, this will inevitably lead to the implosion of the state.

We should also recall that the Flemish nationalists are much more radical than the far right Marine Le Pen in France, who plays a role of the bogeyman of Europe. By the way, according to all the forecasts, at the General European Elections in May 2019 her recently renamed party is to become the 'first party of the country', as the French say. That is, it will become the main and most representative party in France. If this happens, the shock will be incredible. Meanwhile, only six deputies rep-

resent Marine Le Pen in the National Assembly – French Parliament!

The last example sums up the general situation of most of the EU member countries. Though on paper it is still called representative democracy, it is no longer representative. Now controlled by oligarchy, it is out of touch with ordinary people. The catastrophic impoverishment of the lower strata of the population (in France, twelve per cent of population live below the poverty line

and ten per cent are unemployed), the gradual impoverishment of the middle class, mass unemployment in most of the EU states, coupled with mass migration from the African and Asian countries – all of this has led to a stalemate.

Is chaos unavoidable here? Some experts say yes, while others say no. Half a century ago,

in 1969, the author Andrei Amalrik published his essay with a strange title, *Will the Soviet Union Survive Until 1984?* It became sensational among human rights activists and in the West. In 1970, Amalrik was sentenced to three years of prison according to article 190–1 of the RSFSR Penal Code, 'Dissemination of knowingly false fabrications that defame the Soviet state and social system...' As we know, the Soviet Union did survive until 1984, albeit with difficulty, but the next year, 1985, began with perestroika and glasnost which dealt the country the fatal blow. Thus the prediction of Amalrik eventually came true. Although we don't have any symbolic date, like the Orwellian 1984, at our disposal, the question 'Will the European Union survive until next year?' now sounds not as strange as it seems at first glance.

DISSENTING OPINION

A TIME TO GATHER STONES...

Is there a hope that the times will change and the United Kingdom will see a reliable and advantageous partner in Russia?

VYACHESLAV KATAMIDZE,
a writer and historian



The exhibition, Russia: Royalty and the Romanovs, is being held at the Queen's Gallery of the Buckingham Palace in London with great success. The exhibition will run till April 2019, which means that many thousands of people will have time to visit it. It narrates the history of the relations between Russia and Britain over the centuries (beginning from Tsar Peter I's visit to Britain), the rare periods of hostile conflicts between the two nations, and their alliance in the hardest years of two world wars. Documents, portraits, works of art, including absolutely unique and priceless ones – all of this makes the exhibition very attractive for both Britons and foreigners. When it comes to history and culture of Russia, the UK residents have always shown a keen interest in all of this.

But that is not all. The educated British audience has always known

that Russia is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources, that it is one of the fastest growing markets in Eurasia, and that its human potential is truly unique. Once the economic relations between our countries were developing a great deal better than those between other countries of the planet; and they worsened only when Russia became the target of demonisation across the media and among the politicians in various Western European countries due to one or another political situation or in order to please the dominant forces in the West. The country is going through one of such periods in our days. However, sober-minded politicians and businessmen in the UK see no logic and common sense in demonising Russia, not to mention hurling insults at the country all the time. As we see it, these people act like wise

strategists in decisive battles: if a powerful covering force is on your way, it is wiser to bypass rather than destroy it. Realising the advantages of their trade with Russia and investment into its economy, they try not to miss the opportunities that present themselves. As a result, the UK's direct investments into Russia in 2018 significantly amounted to \$22 billion. And that is considerably more than Germany (the traditional leader in this respect) invested into Russia.

Answering the questions of journalists during his annual press conference, the Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed the fact that British companies were very active in Russia and were interested in the markets and the cooperation. He added that the question of economic cooperation with the UK hadn't been discussed with its Prime Minister Theresa May yet. He said: 'We have been discussing this with our colleagues and friends, and we have quite many of them in the UK, not least in the sphere of business.' The Russian leader noted that British businessmen had great interest in this kind of cooperation as Russian agriculture, industry, and energy sector have immense potential.

This is an objective truth. Russian independent political analysts, including those representing the liberal wing, more than once noted that Russia's extensive cooperation with British companies might be extremely beneficial for both parties. Apart from the bilateral cooperation in the sphere of hydrocarbons, there could be at least six other spheres of large-scale cooperation. Knowledge-inten-

sive industries, digital economy, new types of renewable energy, aircraft building, industry and even metallurgy are among them.

In truth the achievements of the UK in the improvement of the quality and effectiveness of knowledge-intensive industries are quite impressive. But British scientists themselves admit that only twelve to sixteen per cent of British up-to-date products in this sphere are used today. It is explained first of all by the fact that their application spectrum in industrial production has decreased sharply because of the constraints imposed on this country by the EU. It also restricts application of these products in the trade with the USA and other countries, to say nothing of Russia. Thus brilliant scientific discoveries remain largely unused. The effective application of them in Russia could be repaid a hundredfold.

The UK has enormously contributed to the introduction of wind turbines. Giant 'wind farms' largely contribute to power generation, yet their development (as before) depends on the quality and cost of wind turbines. I had an occasion to see some of these 'wind farms' in the west of the country – their number is rapidly increasing and technical equipment is steadily developing. I was amazed by their sizes and output. Russia, some regions of which could use Britain's innovations in this field efficiently and extensively, could benefit from this cooperation, which could be profitable for the UK as well.

Digitization and aircraft construction development are among high priority tasks in Russia. In both spheres the UK has been the leader in Europe for many years. The creation jointly by the UK and France of the Concorde airliner alone, the triumph of modern engineering which remains unrivalled, is worth I don't know what. The UK could well repeat its own successful experience together with Russia, all the more so if we take into account that once Russia developed its Tu-144 supersonic airliner, which was like the Concorde. Thus the UK (jointly with

Russia) might bring the Concorde back from the dead by creating its more advanced version instead of buying airbuses which now seem to be obsolete. Since joining the EU not only did the United Kingdom not promote its possibility to create Aerospace industry, it lost its potential altogether.

Automotive industry fell into decline in the UK, though it is one of the countries that started manufacturing first cars in the world! Now all that it has is the Morgan Motor Company which manufactures several hundred sport cars per year. But what became of all other manufacturers? Jaguar and Land Rover now belong to the Indian automotive company Tata Motors. The Vauxhall firm became part of the French Peugeot and Citroën concern. The firm BMW first bought Rover and then made this company bankrupt, which resulted in Rover disappearing as a trademark. However, cooperation with Russia in this field would help the UK revitalize its automotive industry, producing benefits for both sides. The same applies to the possi-



The author of the drawing: Tim Major

bility of our cooperation in the field of converter industry.

Is there a hope that the times will change and the United Kingdom will

see a reliable and extremely advantageous partner in Russia? There is always hope. At the end of 2018 it was reported that the United Kingdom and Russia reached an agreement on the gradual restoration of the staff of the diplomatic missions. As is generally known, although Britain found no evidence of Russia's involvement in the poisoning of the Skripals, it expelled twenty-three Russian diplomats from the country. Russia expelled the same number of diplomats in a tit-for-tat move. It would seem that actions like these are contrary to the logic of international relations: if the relations between two countries are deteriorating, they ought to use the whole potential of their diplomatic missions to stop the process of deterioration! Fortunately, the realisation of this fact comes sooner or later, and so both diplomatic missions will be fully staffed again.

But, of course, that is not enough for today. I hold that British business (as well as Russian companies) should begin to lay the new foundations for business dealings, and on a large scale and in different areas at that. Economic and cultural cooperation is an important factor of international relations.

Modern Russia has always been interested in multilateral economic relations, especially in those with a country such as the UK; and these relations will be of paramount importance to this country, particularly after Brexit. In my opinion, we need to shake off the heavy

load of the past and try to turn over a new leaf. This is required by both international climate and the interests of our nations.

IYA KOBAKHIDZE

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PEOPLE

LOVE AND HATE IN THE CITY OF LIGHTS

ECATERINA KILIAN



Love-Hate relationships are close to me, but this one has seen a drastic transformation over the last few years. As I grow I start thinking that Moscow is like an adult movie, it shouldn't be allowed for children. The lifestyle and what the city of lights has to offer can send you into a whirlwind of emotions and parental control is advised in the beginning. Over the years my relationship with Moscow has drastically changed. This city is like a good

book or movie, the one where you discover something new every time you go back to it. My story with Moscow changes over certain periods of time.

8–9 years old

I just turned eight the first time I came to Moscow. We ended up living there for a year. It was mostly school, more like a prison back then. I remem-

ber all the kids being very competitive in every single way. My father used to take me to the Poklonnaya Hill to rollerblade almost every weekend. The hill has the monumental museum to the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic war, with a very long alley way leading to the museum. This place is overflowing with history. In 1812 this was the place where Napoleon expected the keys from the Kremlin to be brought to him; little did he know that

that was never to happen. It has tanks and other war machines exhibited that were used during the World Wars. I still go back there to remember how great and united the country was during the war.

10–14 years old

Once we left Moscow, we would still come back every summer. I hated it. I didn't know anyone, all my so called 'friends' from school weren't exciting and I lost all interest. All I had left 'fun' to do was going to see family on the outskirts of Moscow, or hang out with my childhood friend. I was way too young for anyone to be interested in hanging out with me, even though there were attempts on occasion. This is how I discover theater, not just any but the Russian theater. Every theater has its own troupe of actors, some of them are stars some of them aren't, but they are still amazing. Unfortunately for me, summer is a very low season for theater but any chance I had I would buy a ticket and sink into the magical world of the stage. This was also a stage in my life when me and my childhood friend would spend much time together, our favorite pastime was rescuing animals, we had a kitten, a rat, a fish, and a lobster called Sebastian, yes like in the little mermaid. None of them, for some reason, would stick around, so the sandbox in the playground resembled the pet cemetery in a couple of years. The outskirts of Moscow, or podmoskovie has nature out of this world. Many areas have relaxation homes, where you can get healthy and rest all year round, but the summer is the best; long walks in the forest, bathing in the lakes, cycling in the fields, it's breathtaking.

15–19 years old

This brought on a period of my life where I didn't want to go to Moscow at all, I was bored, I couldn't stand sitting at home all the time, or seeing

family who, during the rebel teenage years, all seemed evil and irritating. I may have even skipped a summer. I was starting to have a soft spot for art, especially contemporary art, Moscow has that in abundance. Vinzavod is the best example of that. The latter is an exhibition space in central Moscow. It used to be a wine factory, hence the name (vino-wine, zavod-factory), but has now been refurbished into the most hyped and fashionable exhibition space in Moscow, with constant pop up shops and cafes. During lonely afternoons the best place to go was the Stary Arbat (Old Arbat), a very long pedestrian street that used to be filled with different souvenir tents, painters and other street artists. The long walk is peaceful despite the amount of people passing by everyday.

20–24 years old

This is when everything changed. When at university I met two girls who were from Moscow, we started getting along extremely well. They are the ones who changed Moscow for me once and for all. With them I started discovering the other side of the city of lights, the side that doesn't sleep. Did you know that the only time of the day when you don't have any traffic is between 5 am and 6:30 am? This is when people shower and change between fun and work. Where else in the world can you have a business meeting or a date at 2am? Moscow is a 24hour city, once I was looking for the strangest 24/7 business, and you can get tractor pieces anytime deliv-

ered to you. It all started at Propaganda, near the Kitay-gorod metro station. Propaganda is a fairly priced, good food place during the day that turns into a night club during the night. It is buzzing with tourists and is a very hip place. Then it moved to the Simachev Bar, a shop and bar/club owned by the Russian designer Denis Simachev, and 'Sorry, Babushka', a karaoke/bar/restaurant/shisha/club, all near Kitay-gorod underground station. Enough with the party places, let's move on to where to eat. Moscow has an ever changing food scene, not everyone can survive. The best known steak houses are Goodman, all over Moscow, Sushi restaurants in Moscow are amazing, all of them. My recent favorite ones are Milli and Chi, situated on the Lubianskiy Proezd, built within the same building with one part Italian and the other Chinese. Milli has a delightful terrace from April till October and Chi has an open kitchen where you can see the chefs at work. On my recent trips, my favorite place to go has been Noor Bar, in the middle of the Tverskaya Street, the welcoming staff and amazing bar-men make you feel very at home. The bar is not big and simple but has been growing in popularity with the creative population of the capital, it's sister restaurant Dodo has the best fish you can have in Moscow.



HISTORY

THE BATTLE FOR MOSCOW: HOW RUSSIA STOPPED HITLER'S MILITARY DURING WORLD WAR II

Defender of the Fatherland day — a holiday celebrated on February 23 in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Transnistria.

MICHAEL PECK

In October 1941, the Second World War teetered on a knife edge.

There was war in China and war in North Africa, and soon there would be war between America and Japan. But in the autumn of 1941, the only war that really seemed to matter was fought in a portion of central Russia.

Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union, had begun brilliantly on June 22, 1941. Encirclement after encirclement had inflicted almost 4 million casualties on the huge but disorganized Soviet armies. By early October, they had advanced to within 200 miles of Moscow. Now came Operation Typhoon, the offensive to seize the Soviet capital and – or so the Germans hoped – end the campaign.

Desperation breeds optimism, so indeed Germany needed to end the War in the East soon. The newsreels

of vast columns of bewildered Soviet prisoners may have conveyed an image of German invincibility, but for the Wehrmacht, Russia was Death by a Thousand Cuts. Germany and its allies had committed more than 3 million men to Barbarossa: by October, they had suffered more than 500,000 casualties, or 15 percent of the invasion force. The panzers sweeping 500 miles deep into Russia left a trail of broken-down tanks. The Russian roads, few in number and poor in quality, had devoured perhaps 40 percent of the German truck fleet. That left railroads as the supply arteries on the Eastern Front, yet Russian railroad tracks were wider than German ones, stranding supply trains that couldn't move forward until repair crews modified the Russian rails. German logistics collapsed, leaving the troops short of food, ammunition and especially fuel for the panzers.

Not that the Soviets were in any better shape. Its officer corps decimated before the war, and its generals often incompetent but politically acceptable toadies, the Red Army had been caught by surprise and then relentlessly pounded by an opponent that conquered France in just six weeks. But at least the Soviets were

falling back on their supply bases. The Red Army was also infused with an endless stream of fresh division after fresh division. The troops were poorly trained and led to be sure, but German intelligence, convinced that the Soviets should have collapsed by now, couldn't understand how the Red Army could take such a pounding and yet keep growing.

Operation Typhoon was like a boxing match between two battered and bloodied fighters barely on their feet. The Soviets could field more than a million soldiers and a thousand tanks at Moscow, dug into multiple defensive lines dug by women and children. The Germans managed to muster almost two million men, and more than a thousand tanks and five hundred aircraft. The plan was do more of what had already worked so well: conduct a series of pincer operations to surround and destroy the Soviet armies in front of Moscow, and then roll into the capital. The fast-moving panzers would be the arms of the pincers, encircling the enemy to keep them from escaping until the footslogging German infantry caught up with the armor and mopped up the pocket. When the Wehrmacht reached Moscow, the city would also be encircled and captured.

With proper supply and good weather, such a big German strike force could probably have conquered any country in the planet. Alas, neither condition would prove true. The



initial phase of Typhoon went according to plan, with four Soviet armies and more than 500,000 Soviet soldiers killed or captured at Vyazma alone.

But then rain and melting snow fell in early October, bringing with them the infamous rasputitsa, the muddy season that turned the Russian landscape into such a quagmire that vehicles sank to their axles. They had to be hauled out by teams of sweating soldiers whose boots also disappeared into the glutinous morass. Not only couldn't the combat troops advance, but neither could the supply trucks. Meanwhile, Soviet counterattack after Soviet counterattack, even if repelled, left German forces battered and exhausted.

Also unpleasant were the Soviet T-34 tanks. More heavily armed and armored than their Teutonic counter-

parts, the Germans gasped in dismay as their anti-tanks weapons bounced off the T-34's thick hide. To make matters worse, the T-34 had wide tracks, which gave it better maneuverability in the mud.

But the Wehrmacht still retained the skill, leadership and professionalism that made it the best army in the world at the time. The advance continued, leading Stalin to order the evacuation of the Soviet government from Moscow to Kuibyshev. Despite Stalin choosing to remain in the capital, the move further weakened Soviet morale.

After the German armies paused for breath in early November, the weather turned colder, freezing the mud and giving Hitler's troops the solid footing they needed to advance. By the end of November, German reconnaissance

units were just 12 miles from Moscow, so close they could see the towers of the city through their binoculars.

So close and yet so far. By the beginning of December, the thermometer had dropped to 45 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. It's not true that the Germans were unaware of the Russian winter. But with limited supply capacity, priority was given to fuel and ammunition. Besides, who needs winter clothing if Moscow was supposed to be captured before General Winter struck?

Instead, it was the Soviets who struck. Stalin had been reassured by information from Richard Sorge, a German living in Japan but working for Soviet intelligence, that the Japanese would turn south to fight the Americans and British instead of north against Siberia. He felt able to transfer 18 elite Siberian divisions,



Late 1941. This German light armored car is just 100 Kms from Moscow

well-trained and well-equipped for operating in harsh winter conditions, by rail to Moscow.

When the counter offensive began on December 5, the Soviet armies punched through an enemy more scarecrow than human. German weapons were frozen, German soldiers were frozen, and sometimes the soldiers froze to the weapons. The survivors could only watch helplessly as the attackers, warmly clad in fur-lined jackets and boots, and camouflaged in white snowsuits, emerged like ghosts through the mist and snow.

Now came one of those decision points that occur in every major battle. Some of Hitler's generals wanted to retreat to a line far from Moscow. But Hitler feared that a retreat would disintegrate into a panic-stricken rout that would bring the Red Army to the gates of Germany. He ordered his troops to hold their positions to the last man, a hedgehog defense of strong points that would be defended even when surrounded. Though Hitler fired some generals who disagreed, many German commanders later praised the decision as preventing a collapse like that suffered by Napoleon's Grande Armée in 1812.

The Germans were pushed back to Rzhev, 150 miles from Moscow.

But their lines were still intact, and though battered, their armies were still ready to fight. And now it was Stalin's turn for overconfidence. The Soviets had also suffered grievously during the counteroffensive: their troops were inexperienced, their supply lines were strained by snow and mud, and they also suffered from the cold. Nonetheless, with dreams of reaching Berlin in his eyes, Stalin ordered his exhausted forces to continue attacking. The result was heavy losses in futile attacks. By February, the Germans even counterattacked, destroying several Soviet divisions.

What had been accomplished? Both sides had gambled and failed. German dreams of capturing Moscow and ending the War in the East had evaporated. Stalin's dreams of a grand counteroffensive that would kick the Germans out of the Soviet Union also faltered. The slaughterhouse that was the Eastern Front would continue into 1942, and then into 1945.

However, it was Hitler's gamble that proved fatal. 1941 and 1942 would be the last years that the Germans had the luxury of waging a one-front war. After that, the Americans and British would open Second Fronts with amphibious landings in Europe and around-the-clock bombing over the Third Reich.



End of October 1941. Germans getting a taste of the harsh Russian climate.



If Hitler was to win, it had to be before the Anglo-Americans mustered their strength, and before the Soviets reorganized their armies and harnessed their vast industrial potential.

Ironically, the catastrophe that Germany barely avoided at Moscow only led to catastrophes later on. Hitler may have been right in ordering his armies not to retreat. To the ex-corporal, resentful and suspicious of the German officer corps, this was evidence that he possessed more genius and nerve than the professional soldiers. There-

fore Hitler would only listen to himself and never accept the advice of his generals to retreat, which meant the German armies at Stalingrad and Normandy held their positions until they were destroyed.

Would the capture of Moscow have altered the outcome of World War II? Losing their capital has often led nations to seek peace. Moscow was more than the administrative capital of the Soviet Union: it was also a vital rail hub and production center. There was also the symbolic value: totalitarian

dictators, like Hitler and Stalin, crafted images of themselves as all-knowing leaders of their nations. Losing Moscow would certainly have dented popular confidence in Stalin. In fact, Stalin apparently did put out discreet peace feelers to Germany through Sweden, which Hitler ignored.

But the Russo-German War was no ordinary conflict fought over territory or resources. For Nazi Germany, it was a war of extermination and subjugation that would have killed the Russian people or reduced them to

slavery. For the Soviet Union, it was a war of survival. What kind of peace would have been possible? There could be no escape through a peace treaty with Hitler.

The War in the East was a fight to the death, and neither capturing nor defending Moscow would change that. The Soviet Union would probably have fought on despite the loss of its capital.

Michael Peck is a contributing writer for the National Interest.

CULTURE

WHAT NOT TO DO
IN MOSCOW

JENNA MAKOWSKI



Mikhail Vrubel hall in the State Tretyakov Gallery

Former Moscow expat Jenna Makowski breaks down the Russian capital's avoidable attractions... and what you should do instead.

Don't... stick to Red Square

Red Square is, literally and figuratively, the centre of Moscow. The iconic onion domes of St. Basil's Cathedral and imposing walls of the Kremlin are indeed worth seeing. But don't spend all your time there.

Overrun with tourists and street vendors hawking piles of mass-marketed souvenirs, the atmosphere of Red Square is not representative of Moscow.

Do... explore Kitai Gorod and Moscow State University

The neighborhood of Kitai Gorod rivals Red Square in architectural beauty, without the excessive crowds. A walk along Varvarka Street (heading east from the rear of St. Basil's) leads past centuries-old churches into Kitai Gorod.

Include a walk up the hill along Solyanskiy Proyezd toward Zabelina Street and the Ivanovsky Monastery. The small monastery-run café, with freshly baked bread and homemade soups, sits at the top.

Located in the southern suburbs is Moscow State University (Univversitet metro stop), with a young student population and green, tree-filled campus. It's a great place to bicycle or picnic during the warmer months.

Don't miss the wedding-cake-shaped building dominating the

center of campus. One of seven identical buildings constructed by Stalin, its Soviet-era style provides a stark contrast to the older, pre-Revolution architecture of Kitai Gorod.

Don't... visit the Pushkin Museum

Similar to the Louvre, you could spend days wandering the halls of the Pushkin Museum and only skim the surface. The massive crowds further hinder your progress.

Do... visit the Tretyakov Gallery or a literary house

The collection at the Tretyakov Gallery features Russian artists. It's organized chronologically, so that a walk through the museum guides you through three centuries of Russian art history.

Separate buildings house the core collection of 18th- and 19th-century art (Tretyakovskaya metro stop) and the extended collection of 20th-century Soviet art (Oktyabrskaya metro stop). Tickets are 300 roubles (about \$4.5).

The last two centuries also saw a proliferation of Russian literature. Many authors lived in Moscow, in beautiful estates that have been well preserved as museums.

The Leo Tolstoy estate (Park Kul'tury metro stop), where the author spent his final years writing the novel *Resurrection*, contains a collection of period furniture and belongings. The Nikolai Gogol estate (Arbatskaya metro stop) presents interactive exhibits about the author's life, and the fireplace into which he threw the sequel to *Dead Souls*.

Admission to both museums is 100 roubles (about \$1.5); each is small and easily doable in a few hours.

Don't... plan anything else on Kremlin day

A tour of the Kremlin is an all-day event, with six different churches

and museums to visit and expansive grounds to walk. Don't try to fit in anything else.

Do... be patient

Entrance to the Kremlin will likely involve a long line. Compounded by an inflated price for non-Russians and a potentially grumpy ticket agent (who probably won't speak English), the experience can become overwhelming. Take a deep breath.

Extra patience is needed to get Armory tickets. The Armory, a separate museum in the Kremlin, houses the famous Faberge Eggs and two floors of gold, silver, diamonds, rubies, and other jewels from the former tsarist estates.

It's a worthwhile add-on. Entrance is only granted at designated times (10:00, 12:00, 2:30, 4:30), and tickets must be purchased separately, 45 minutes before entry. My first two attempts failed, as mobs clustered around the windows elbowed me out of the ticket race. I was successful on my third try, learning that the earliest admission slot also has the mellowest line.

Don't... drive

Moscow is a city of perpetual traffic jams, hazy road rules, and questiona-

ble lanes. It's difficult and expensive to rent a car, and there's the ever-present possibility of an arbitrary pullover and bribe request.

Do... take the metro

Moscow's subway system is one of the biggest in the world. Every corner of the city is accessible from 182 stations, and each of these is a work of art, initially intended to be Soviet-inspired "Palaces for the People."

The Cathedral-esque arches of Komsomolskaya Station and the marble columns of Mayakovskaya Station are standouts. And with trains running every 40–60 seconds during rush hour, the experience is sure to be an efficient one.

Don't... eat in restaurants with costumed waitstaff

Restaurants such as Taras Bulba Korchma are expensive chains, with waitstaff dressed in colorful but ambiguous folk costumes. The experience doesn't represent local eating patterns.

Do... eat at a stolovaya

Instead, find a stolovaya. These choose-and-point cafeterias are popular remnants of Soviet days, and the food is freshly prepared. Typical lunch options – soup, cutlet or fish, potatoes or buckwheat, and

juice – are an inexpensive taste of everyday Russian food.

For an afternoon snack or dessert, look for stands serving blini, paper-thin pancakes stuffed with fish, sour crème, or chocolate.

Don't... go color blind

Moscow is overwhelmed by gray cement housing blocs. A few days of walking through the residential areas may leave you wondering if you've become color blind.

Do... visit one of Moscow's colorful parks

There are numerous parks throughout the city, providing miles of walking paths through evergreen forests and green fields.

Two especially impressive parks are Kolomenskaya (Kolomenskaya metro stop) and Tsaritsino (Tsaritsino metro stop). Both former tsarist estates, these parks surround centuries-old churches and palaces. They're especially colorful during the springtime tulip season.

Don't... buy a mass-marketed souvenir

Buying a mass-produced nesting doll from a persistent street vendor may be tempting, especially as you wander central Moscow. But think outside the doll.

Do... buy a unique antique

A creative gift idea is an antique from a local flea market, such as Izmailovskaya Park (Izmailovsky metro stop). Walk to the back of the market, where local artists exhibit their work next to vendors selling items straight from grandma's attic.

An interesting store is Baboushka (Barrikadnaya metro stop, 1 Kudrinskaya Pl). Its five-room collection includes everything from silverware to Christmas ornaments to picture frames, dating from the 1930s through the 1980s. And everything is for sale.



Restaurants such as Taras Bulba Korchma are expensive chains, with waitstaff dressed in colorful but ambiguous folk costumes

CULTURE

MYSTICAL MOSCOW

ARTUR MULYUKOV *and* KIRILL ZHURAVLYOV

In the 19th century, Kuznetsky Most Street was a thriving centre of fashion and nightlife with many boutiques and gambling houses

If you want to meet a ghost and chat with spirits, you don't need to travel to Transylvania. Just take a walk around Moscow, which has an arsenal of nerve-tingling myths and blood-chilling legends, and enjoys a reputation as one of Europe's most mysterious and strange cities.

We began our ghost trip with Moscow's central street, Tverskaya, where a black cat is said to appear at midnight. Skeptics say that it is not a ghost but an ordinary stray cat, of which there are a great many in Moscow, and it is only natural that the animal chooses nighttime for its promenade: The street is not so busy at night. Critics also say there must be several black cats, not just one.

We asked people on the street whether they had seen the ghost cat. Local residents confirmed that the cat does, indeed, exist, appearing at midnight, walking around and then disappearing into thin air. This ghostly inhabitant of

Tverskaya Street is known not just in Moscow, but also far beyond Russia's borders: it is mentioned in Britain's Encyclopaedia of Ghosts and Spirits. According to another story, this ghost was the prototype for Begemot, a character in Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*. Reportedly, the writer was once returning home late at night and saw a big black cat strolling along the street and then disappearing in front of his very eyes.

This is just one of many cat stories. One resident of Tverskaya Street told us that a whole family of ghost cats haunts the area near the Novokuznetskaya metro station. Once, late at night, he saw several semi-transparent cats and kittens emerge from the wall of a building, cross the street and disappear into the wall of the building opposite. We decided to check this information on the Internet and did, indeed, find stories about the same cats. According to one posting, those cats

were harmless even for dogs, but if you get in their way, you will certainly lose consciousness.

Meanwhile, the legendary black cat of Tverskaya Street is not the only fantastic creature mentioned in Russian literature. In Anatoly Rybakov's *Bronze Bird*, a popular children's book in Soviet times, one character speaks of the Golyginskaya Gat ("gat" means a log road across a swampy area). "If they wander on to the Golyginskaya Gat, they might get lost there forever," says local villager Zherdyai about visiting pioneers. He goes on to tell about the ghosts of an old count and his son, who were beheaded there "before Napoleon's time."

In fact, Prince Ivan Khovansky was a rich and powerful courtier in the late 17th century. He planned a coup to bring down the Romanov dynasty and take the throne himself. But the conspiracy failed, and Khovansky was executed together with his eld-

est son, Andrei. They were beheaded and their bodies thrown onto the log road crossing the swampy forest near the Vorya River close to the village of Golygino. This was a way to show extreme contempt: buried in unconsecrated land, their souls were doomed to eternal suffering. So the restless, maltreated souls of father and son rise from the swamps at night and ask passers-by to bury their remains as befits Christians, insisting they were just innocent victims of malignant libel. If an unlucky man so approached cannot utter an intelligible response, the princes grow even more pressing, coming closer and removing their own heads, to be polite!

Back in Moscow, we went from Tverskaya to Kuznetsky Most.

In the 19th century, Kuznetsky Most Street was a thriving centre of

fashion and nightlife with many boutiques and gambling houses. Gamblers often played all night long, losing all their cash. As the legend goes, those hit particularly hard might even be considering suicide when they suddenly saw a grey coach with wonderful horses stopping in front of them. The coachman, hiding his face, was ready to take them "wherever your soul wishes" for very little money. Few were able to grasp the covert sense of the phrase, indeed, they had just considered taking their own lives. Those who got into the mysterious coach were never seen again.

Another strange place is Myasnitskaya Street, where, before the revolution, there stood a small house inhabited by an elderly couple called the Kysovnikovys. They

were known for their wealth and incredible greed. They were extremely thrifty, never visiting anyone and never receiving guests, never going out and not even giving alms to the poor. The pair guarded their money with great vigil. Fearing robbers at night, they would put their money trunk into a coach and drive around Moscow until dawn.

Once they had to leave their home for a while. The couple hid all their treasures in the caretaker's house, deciding that the thieves would not look there. When they came back, they peeped into the caretaker's room and saw a fire in the stove, which the servant, unaware, had lit at the site of their cache. All the banknotes and securities in which the Kusovnikovys kept their capital were gone.

Unable to withstand this blow, the old woman died on the spot and her husband went mad, roaming along Myasnitskaya Street, muttering: "Oh, my money, my money..." According to some eyewitnesses, the ghost still haunts the same street at night, stopping passers-by and telling them his sad story.

There are even older ghosts in Moscow. On Gospitalny Val Street, near Baumanskaya metro station, there is an old cemetery dating from the 18th century. In 1771, the city suffered an outbreak of the plague, which took its toll on Muscovites, forcing them to expand their cemeteries: there was not enough land even for locals, but the city also had a German Quarter, which had to bury its dead, too. A special cemetery for foreigners was laid



*Begemot, a character in Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita**

out on the steep banks of the Sinichka River, which flowed through the city. This is where many German, French and Polish soldiers were laid to rest. People say melancholy flute music is sometimes heard from the dark cemetery park on spring nights and, when it rains, an invisible musician plays his sad music until dawn, accompanied by the rattling of iron shackles heard from the tomb of Dr. Fedor Gaaz. Locals call this cemetery "Infidels' crypts."

From the Bauman district we proceeded to VDNKh metro station, where the famous Ostankino TV Tower is located. The strong electromagnetic radiation from many aerials makes this one of the city's least healthy districts, but this is not what attracted us. There is a macabre story explaining the origin of the name Ostankino, deriving from "ostanki," or "remains" in Russian. Several centuries ago, this place was considered impure, and it was here that suicides and witches were buried. Since 1558, a hunchback old woman with a crook has haunted these lands, appearing to residents of Ostankino village shortly before their deaths.

As the legend goes, she even predicted to Emperor Paul I that he would not live until spring. Her prophesy came true: the tsar was murdered by officers of his guard in the early hours of March 12, 1801. The same old woman told Alexander II that he would die at the hands of an atheist – and this prediction also came true when he was assassinated by a terrorist on March 1, 1881. It is rumored that the old prophetess also appeared to local residents before the Ostankino TV Tower fire in 2000.

There are many haunted places and ghosts in Moscow and the Moscow Region. For those keen on ghosts and spirits, special guided tours are offered. These are pretty serious things, however, and trips to some of the places mentioned above can have a bad ending. So the safest way to satisfy your curiosity is to read ghost stories, surf the Internet and use your imagination.

BOOKS

MOSCOW NOVELS

RUTH MOORE

Moscow's rich history and innumerable paradoxes has inspired some of the greatest novels in Russian literary history. More than a simple backdrop to these extraordinary narratives, Moscow is an integral character in the stories. From glamorous 19th century ballrooms to desolate suburban apartment blocks, and the metro that runs beneath them, we've picked 10 of the top Moscow novels that will give you a literary passport to this extraordinary city.

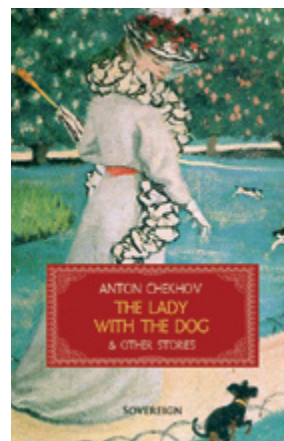
Day of the Oprichnik – Vladimir Sorokin

Sorokin's striking novels have gained him substantial international recognition as an author. His novel *Day of the Oprichnik*, set in 2028, is both a disconcerting side-step from a recognizable Moscow and potentially more ominously, a nod to it. We experience Sorokin's dystopian world through the eyes of one of the 'oprichniks' (a term dating back to the days Ivan the Terrible), who seek out enemies of the reinstated Tsar, raping and pillaging to keep the population in a state of perpetual control and fear. Sorokin's rendering of the world is as its darkest, and the carnivalesque prose is packed with pithy comments and oddly archaic statements that strike you in their direct delivery. This is a novel that focuses on the interplay of power

and the grotesque normalization of violence in service to a higher ruler.

The Lady with the Dog – Anton Chekhov

Vladimir Nabokov cited this as one of the greatest shortest stories ever written. Dmitri Gurov, the central character, is a Moscow banker trapped in a loveless marriage. He distracts himself by engaging in frequent adulterous trysts. Whilst holidaying in Yalta, his attention is caught by a lady, Anna Sergeyevna, walking her



dog on the sea-front. He resolves to make her acquaintance and a brief love affair ensues before Gurov returns to Moscow, expecting to quickly forget the event. Astonishingly, he finds himself unable to shake the memory of Anna and comes to the realization that he is falling in love for the first time. This is simple, but beautifully written prose;

Chekhov is, after all, the unequivocal master of the short story. His seamless economy of words reaches deep into the inner turmoil of his characters in just a few short pages. Gurov is tangibly bitter towards the Moscow society, its customs and its restrictions. Anna and Yalta, who remain constant in his thoughts provide a reverie from his claustrophobic reality. Although some have voiced their frustrations at a novel focusing so much on the potentially selfish actions of an adulterous middle-aged man, Chekhov reveals, through third-person narrative, the futility of reason and sense of fate in the face of love.

The Time: Night – Lyudmila Petrushevskaya

This novel is a heart wrenching, intimate portrayal of struggle one woman endures as she battles to survive in poverty-stricken circumstances. *The Time: Night* is a novel framed as the manuscript left behind by Anna, a woman striving to keep her family together whilst latching onto her role as a the self-sacrificing 'babushka' to her errant children and her grandson Timur. The novel is set in the bleak post-soviet apartments of Moscow, and the atmosphere is tangibly im-

pregnated with despair. Petrushevskaya's work is beautifully written, undulating from torrid streams of consciousness to poetic reflection to neurotic panic. Petrushevskaya's sharp wit and sardonic social commentary help lift the bleak narrative and create a truly unique and insightful perspective on the desperate nature of one family's existence.

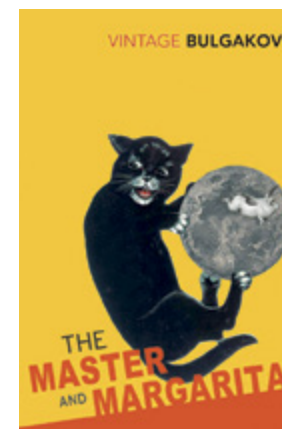


Anna Karenina – Tolstoy

Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* is a novel that delights in contrasting diametric opposites, from Levin and Kitty's marriage and Anna and Vronsky's love affair to the spatial opposition of Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Moscow is full of glamorous balls, elegant fashions and handsome officers. Moscow is where Anna and Vronsky see one another for the first time, and Moscow is where the novel ends. The text is ambitious and labyrinthine, creating a rich mosaic of human emotion that defies judgement of human actions. However, you feel about Tolstoy's treatment of his heroine, he does an exceptional job of representing the minutiae of contradictory and complex motivations that govern human behaviour.

The Master and Margarita – Bulgakov

Bulgakov's masterpiece reaches past the concrete reality of an identifiable Moscow to an evanescent world beyond it. The novel follows a series of inexplicable and utterly hilarious events that ensue when the Devil arrives in fervently atheistic soviet



Russia. Bulgakov satirizes the materialistic nature of Muscovite society to gesture to the spiritual void beneath it. Characters include a motley demonic band of individuals, and a droll-humoured cigar-smoking cat, wreaking havoc around town in a series of wickedly funny skits. From a magic show featuring a temporary decapitation, to a magical

scene in which the eponymous Margarita flies over Moscow on a broomstick completely naked, there is no end to Bulgakov's incredible imagination. Those familiar with the opening scene will be delighted when they visit modern day Moscow's Patriarch Ponds, where a cautionary sign will advise you that it is 'forbidden to talk to strangers.'

Night Watch – Sergei Lukyanenko

Night Watch was translated into English after the phenomenal success of the films based on Lukyanenko's pentology of novels. This novel is the first in the series, a gripping sci-fi fantasy that explores the supernatural underworld lurking just beneath the surface of our everyday world. Lukyanenko's novel reflects a trend for fantastical or allegorical fiction which is currently prevalent in Russia. In *Night Watch*, a supernatural race of primeval humans must ally either with agents of Dark or Light. The main protagonist, Anton, finds himself caught in the middle of this tumultuous battle and drawn into a world of moral incertitude. This is (in the most non-cliché terms) a really gripping page-turner.



Moscow-Petushki – Venedikt Erofeev

This is a slight cheat, as the majority of the narrative takes place during a train journey between Moscow and Petushki, a suburban settlement that appropriates a utopian-like quality in the mind of Venichka, the drunken protagonist. There are many who believe that Erofeev's work is untranslatable, replete as it is with cultural references to classical poems, the orthodox faith and slurred streams of consciousness. Nevertheless, we believe it would be a pity to miss out on insight into the darkly witty, tremendously sad and sparkling mind of Erofeev. His prose-poem allows us to be simultaneously privy to Venichka's internal dialogue, the external dialogue of his accompanying passengers and to the author himself. Erofeev plays with all readerly expectations through Venichka, the proverbial holy fool who, through his tangled commentary on everything from Marx to Pushkin to vodka slowly unveils his authenticity as a character.



Envy – Yuri Olesha

Olesha's 1927 novel is a slapstick examination of the tussles between a smug sausage mogul and the drunken no-hope he chances upon in the gutter one day. If that's not the kind of scenario to secure your interest then be assured that this is a much over-looked, brilliantly-rendered and vigorously delivered poetic feat. Although Olesha only wrote one book, it seems he put all his genius into it. As with *Moscow-Petushki*, *Envy* succeeds in being simultaneously lyrical and satirical; Olesha's wry social commentary bubbles up from the pages with incredible energy. There are some fantastically disgusting descriptions that are utterly absurd and also oddly believable. This novel probably won't suit every taste but if you have a penchant for the avant-garde then look no further.



MOSCOW FOOD & DRINK GUIDE

From hearty dumplings to colourful confectionary, Moscow serves up culinary delights to please a tsar

With the ban on imported ingredients from the EU, Russia has turned to sourcing local produce and reinventing traditional dishes by giving them a fresh twist. The city's restaurants are very diverse—you'll find Soviet-themed canteens, glamorous upmarket establishments, and family-owned eateries alike. If you're ready to sample Russia's traditional culinary delights, here's what you should try in Moscow and where to find them.

Pelmeni

Dumplings are popular throughout Eastern Europe, but what sets Russia's version apart is the semi-circular shape and thinness of the dough. Stuffed with minced meat, onion and herbs, pelmeni are enjoyed with melted butter, sour cream, tomato sauce, or vinegar, depending on the restaurant. Muscovites like to keep their dumplings in the freezer, popping them into boiling pots of water for a quick meal as and when desired.

Where to try: Lepim i Varim's (Prospekt Mira 26/1) mission is "to cook the best dumplings on Earth", and you'll need to do a lot of travelling if you want to prove them wrong.



Borshch Moskovsky (Moscow style borscht)



There's much more to borscht than beetroot. Beloved by the Slavs, this sour soup has spread far and wide across Eastern Europe, adopted to local tastes along the way. When in Moscow, you'll want to try their version of the dish – expect to spot beef, ham and Vienna sausage pieces in the broth.

Where to try: Grand-Café Dr.Zhivago (Mokhovaya Street 15/1).

Blini

These traditional Russian pancakes are wafer-thin. They're made from wheat or buckwheat flour and served either sweet or savoury, with ingredients/additions such as jam, sour cream, butter and caviar. Although they come out of the frying pan round, it's rare to find them in that shape on your plate. Instead, they're folded neatly into triangles, squares or simply rolled up.

Where to try: Step into the stylised canteen of Grably (Pyatnitskaya Street 27) for its budget-friendly selec-

tion of blinis which includes sweet options, fruity options, meat options, or the classic savoury.

Ponchiki



Moscow's doughnuts are round and can be filled with just about anything sweet, but are always served piping hot and with powdered sugar. These treats are nostalgic for many Russians, as they're easy to make and common comfort food.

Where to try: Opposite the Ostankino palace (Ostankinskaya Street 1), there's a little pink house serving these hearty doughnuts in a traditional paper bag.



Kasha

This staple breakfast porridge is traditionally made of crumbly buckwheat that has been thickened with



water or milk and seasoned with butter. It is often served with fried onions, or with sugar and milk.

Where to try: Coffee Piu (Chistoprudny Boulevard 9) is a cute little coffee shop, where kasha is a constant special.

Shchi



Cabbage soup has been around since the 9th century and is a large part of Russian culture, usually enjoyed in the summertime. This dish can be prepared in a wide variety of ways: with or without meat, with fish, roasting the vegetables beforehand or not.

Where to try: At Matryoshka (Kutuzovsky Avenue 2/1) you'll find many traditional Russian dishes set among furniture and curiosities with an old-world glamour feel/touch.

Pirozhki

Enjoyed as a snack, these large baked or fried buns are typically stuffed with beef but also come with other fillings, like salmon, mashed potatoes, mushrooms, onions and egg, or cabbage. Sweet-based fillings include fruit, jam, or cottage cheese.

Where to try: Skalka (Lavochkina Street)



Pastila

Once considered an expensive treat, this traditional dessert dates back to the 16th century and is made from baked fruit puree, egg whites, sugar or honey. Available in all

colours and fruit flavours, these airy squares of confectionary are like a cross between jellies and marshmallows.

Where to try: Head to Café Pushkin (Tverskoy Boulevard 26). What better place to try this traditional upscale Russian treat than at a restaurant dedicated to style and history?



the experience – snack on pickles while drinking, and if you're the one pouring the shots, you're expected to make the toast.

Where to try: Bar Luch (Bol. Pirogovskaya 27) has one of the most impressive selections of drinks in Moscow.

Nalivka

Known as the drink of the 18th century, this sweet liquor is homemade by mixing various fruit and berries with vodka – making for a good vodka-alternative if you're not a fan of drinking it neat. It can be made with just about any fruit and mixture of sugar, with the most popular flavour being cherries and honey. Nalivka is often served as dessert, with tea, or to accompany sweets.

Where to try: Odessa-Mama (Krivokolenny Pereulok)

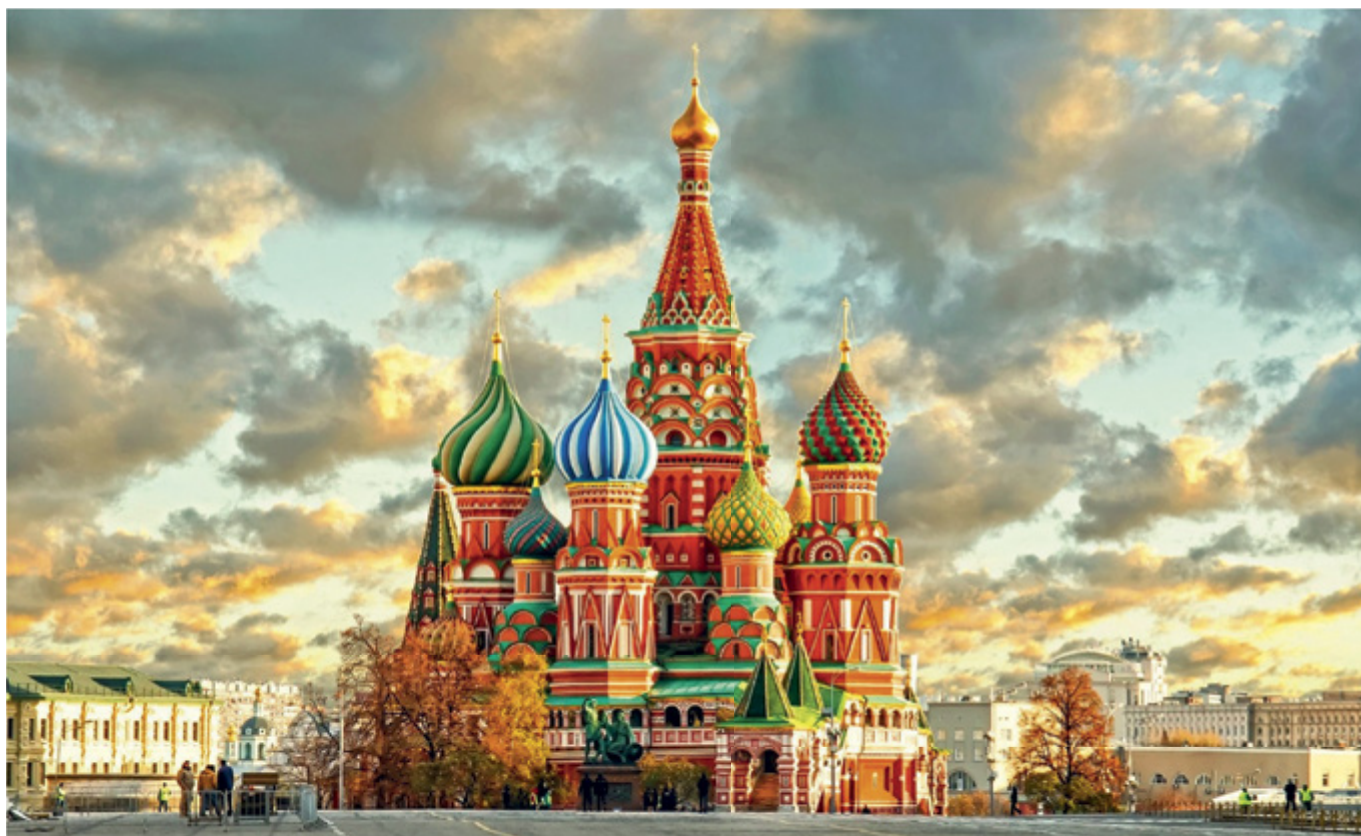
Vodka



Think vodka isn't for you? Try the real deal in Moscow and think again. Specifically, you should seek out local brands like Moskovskaya Osobaya. There's also etiquette to go along with



THINGS TO DO IN MOSCOW



Moscow is a tricky city. It's big and fast, people always run somewhere, traffic is hard, weather could be completely different: from real cold to scorching heat. However, it's an amazing one. There are dozens of attractions. Being one of the most breathtaking capitals in the world, Moscow has a wide range of entertainments and cultural hot spots. So here is our fresh version of things to do in Moscow.

All around the Kremlin

Start from the Alexandrovsky Sad (Alexander Garden), a highlight of Moscow center. The garden is famous for its architectural monuments, incredibly beautiful flowerbeds and history. The Eternal Flame in the mem-

ory of the fallen heroes in the World War II glows in front of the Kremlin Kutafya Tower. Alexandrovsky Sad is a place that is impossible to miss, if you are going to the Kremlin, a symbol of the Russian State, one of the greatest architectural ensembles in the world, a treasury of amazing relics and monuments of art. The famous Armory Chamber and the Diamond Fund are real treasure houses. The Kremlin is the official President's residence and remains a gorgeous political landmark. On the way from the Kremlin to the Red Square, you will find the State History Muzeum, with a wonderful collection of artworks, depicting Russian history.

Red Square remains, as it has been for centuries, the heart and soul of Russia. Few places in the world bear the weight of history to the extent that

Moscow's central square does. From the 16th Century St. Basil's Cathedral – one of the most famous pieces of architecture in the world – to the constructivist pyramid of Lenin's Mausoleum, Red Square is rich in symbols of Russia's turbulent and intriguing past.

Right at the Square there is one of the oldest and most remarkable shopping centers in Moscow – the GUM. Just several trading passages in Russia were created over a century ago and successfully operate until nowadays. GUM always was, and remains the greatest country's store.

To have some rest you can go to recently opened Zaryadye Park and enjoy breathtaking views of The Moscow Kremlin from the floating bridge, listen to some classic concerts or try local food from different regions of Russia.

Near the Bolshoi Theatre

Not far from the Kremlin and the main street of Moscow – Tverskaya street you will find the Theater Square. The square is situated over the river Neglinka that was enclosed in an underground pipe in 1819. Now it is a green square with two beautiful fountains.



The area owes its name because of three theaters located there: a world-famous Bolshoi Theatre, Maly Theatre and Russian Academic Youth Theatre (RAMT).

The Bolshoi Theatre is a symbol of Russia for all time. It was awarded this honor due to the major contribution to the history of the Russian performing arts. This history is on-going and today Bolshoi Theatre artists continue to contribute to it many bright pages.

Visit the theatre to watch the magnificent Russian operas and ballets. Despite high ticket's price, you will never be disappointed; it is a real pearl of the world's theatrical life.

The TsUM is a luxurious shopping mall with recognizable designer labels and expensive goods is also located at the Theatre Square.

A good place to visit in this area is a place called «Denis Simachev Bar», a two-story house in Stoleshnikov Lane. The music and menu are diverse, as well as

the audience. A special drink of the bar is cider «Sidor Simachev».

Around Cathedral of Christ the Saviour

Start from Ostozhenka St., and lanes around it, to see the charming old Moscow. Despite that Ostozhenka be-

came one of the most expensive streets in the world, with lots of new houses, it preserved unique examples of the 18 and 19 centuries architecture, which you may find in the numerous bystreets. Moreover, Multimedia Art Museum, one of the most interesting art spots in Moscow is located

at Ostozhenka, 16.

Follow the street to the city center and you will see the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. It is one of the largest Orthodox church in the world. The building is magnificent, but not as old as it looks, it was rebuilt in 2000 (the original was demolished by the order of Stalin).

One of the highlights of the Cathedral is the panoramic view from the 40-meter-high observation platform.



Use the footbridge from Christ the Savior Cathedral to get to the former area of confectionary factory Krasniy Ochyabr (the Red October) with lots of stores, bars and cultural spots. The Strelka Bar is a good place to have some rest. It is a comfortable urban space for informal and having a cocktail. In summertime, the bar opens a terrace overlooking the Moscow River.

The Gorky Park

After visiting the previous attraction, you can follow the footbridge and enter the long pedestrian zone at the borders of the Moskva River.

At first, the Krimskaya embankment will lead you to the Museon Art Park, that has a unique collection of 700 sculptures.

Nowadays Museon, together with the Gorky Park and Neskuchniy Sad



are much reconstructed. The space of the Museon Park of Arts is perfectly landscaped for a comfortable and enjoyable stay.

Follow the River Bank and you will come to the main leisure and cultural spot of nowadays Moscow – the Gorky Park. It opened in 1928. In 2011, Gorky Park underwent a major restructuring and now has a fresh, vibrant appearance. The park's recently upgraded design makes it one of the most interesting places to spend your leisure time. About 20,000 visitors visit the 109-hectare park each day.

The park features bike rental stations, a comfortable business area with Wi-Fi, an outdoor movie theatre

and a greenhouse where you can buy fresh greens such as basil and lettuce, numerous open-air cafes, yoga classes, film festivals in the summer cinema and classical music concerts. To contemplate the sky and the stars, you can go to the observatory and look through the telescope while listening to fascinating stories from astronomers. You can enjoy many sports in the park such as volleyball, handball, football or a peaceful jog around the beautiful surroundings.

If you go further by the riverbank you will reach Neskuchniy Sad, a wonderful place in the Moscow centre, one of Moscow's oldest parks, highly renovated for the past few years. Once an area filled with the summer palaces of Moscow's wealthiest nobles, it is now a charming slice of wildlife with many activities and places of rest.

The Metro

The Moscow Metro has its own unforgettable charm. It was opened in 1935 and became one of the USSR's most extravagant architectural projects. That is why most of the central underground stations look like a museum. Every station has its own mood,



different decorations and fascinating story. Take a journey in Moscow underground to get an unforgettable impression of the city.

The Novodevichy Convent

The Novodevichy Convent, built in the 16th and 17th centuries in the so-called Moscow Baroque style, was part of a chain of monastic ensembles that were integrated into the defence

system of the city. The convent was directly associated with the political, cultural and religious history of Russia, and closely linked to the Moscow Kremlin. It was used by women of the Tsar's family and the aristocracy. Members of the Tsar's family and entourage were also buried in its cemetery. The convent provides an example of the highest accomplishments of Russian architecture with rich interiors and an important collection of paintings and artefacts.

The convent was closed in 1917, and in 1926, it became a branch of the State Historical Museum. The museum's collection now consists of about 12,000 items, including old Russian paintings, fabrics from the 16th—20th centuries, items from precious metals and stones, liturgical items, and vestments, made by the best artists, jewelers and embroiderers.

The necropolis is one of the convent's special attractions. The Novodevichy cemetery is divided into «new» and «old» sections. The old cemetery lies within the convent's walls, and since the early 18th century it was the burial place for eminent and rich people, above all, the tsar's family. In the 19th century, many prominent Russians were laid to rest here. The new cemetery was had been used from 1898 to 1904. During the Soviet era, the Novodevichy cemetery was second in prestige only to the Kremlin wall necropolis.

Zoo and Planetarium

The Moscow Zoo is one of the oldest zoos in Europe. Its first name has been Zoological Park and it was opened in 1864. Through 140 years of its history, during times of peace, war, revolution the Zoo was open. Nowadays it is located right in the middle of the big city. The main entrance to the zoo, built in 1997, stands opposite Krasnopresnenskaya metro station. It looks like a fairytale castle with towers and a waterfall. This entrance leads to the old part of the zoo, where the highlights in-

clude the big cats, a neat underground viewing space below the penguin pool, a dolphinarium, as well as the sea lion enclosure that lets you watch them swim from below. A pedestrian bridge takes you across the street to the New Territory, the most interesting parts of which are probably the primate house and fun children's zoo.



Near the second entrance to the Zoo at the Garden ring The Moscow Planetarium is located. It was first opened on November 5, 1929. After a global reconstruction, it was reopened in 2011. Now it is a multifunctional complex that combines scientific and educational resources: the interactive museum «Lunarium», the Museum of Urania, the Big Star Hall and the Sky Park, family recreation center that is focused on different age groups. The Moscow Planetarium is one of the biggest planetariums in the world.

Patriarshiye Prudy

One of the capital's most charming and mysterious places – Patriarshiye Prudy or Patriarch's Ponds.

Until the 17th century, the area has been known by the less-appealing name of «Goat Marsh», apparently because of a nearby goat farm. However, in 1683 when the official residence of the head of the Russian Orthodox Church was built next to this place, the marsh was drained. Instead, several ponds were dug to breed the fish.

Only one pond survived by now. Patriarshiye is a quiet district that has traditionally been home to poets and artists. The famous Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov chose the ponds

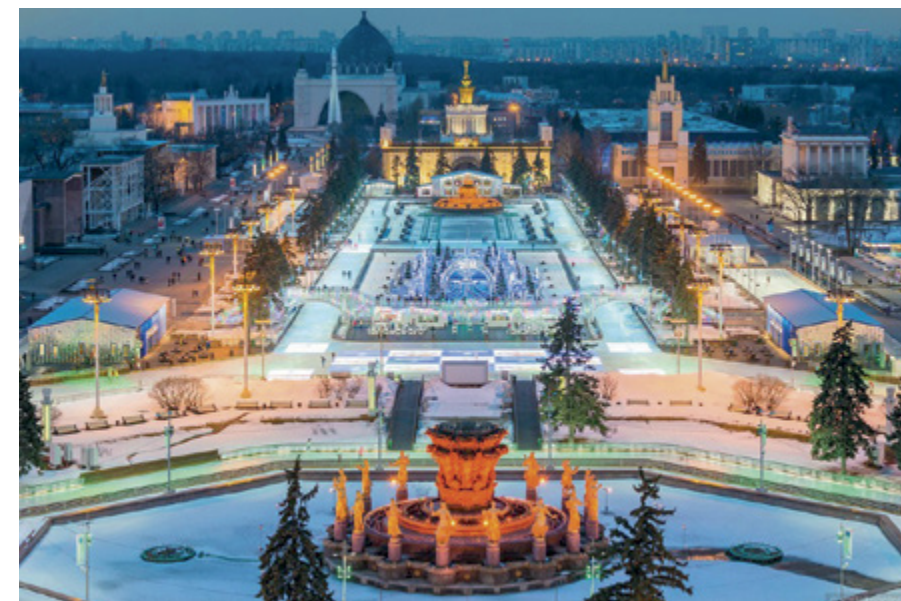
as a backstage for his magical and romantic novel «Master and Margarita». A sculpture, depicting his literature characters is located in the square at the pond's bank. There is also The Museum of Mikhail Bulgakov, at the «bad» flat from the novel in Bolshaya Sadovaya Street, 10, entrance 6, floor 3, flat № 50.

Nowadays this is a nice place to have a walk or to visit one of the numerous bars and restaurants, because Patriarshiye Prudy is a real gastro-heaven in nowadays Moscow. For example, Uilliam's is cozy restaurant with William Lamberti as a chef, a man with a Michelin schooling. Menu takes one sheet, without excess, the food is simple, but extremely exciting. Another popular place is «I Love Cake». A nice cafe with remarkable American-style desserts.

The VDNKh and Museum of Cosmonautics

The VDNKh – the Exhibition of National Economic Achievements – and it remains a fascinating monument to Russia's transitional period, a mixture of faded Soviet pomp and unregulated capitalism.

Its story began in 1939 as the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition, a monumental paean to the achievements of collectivization. Nowadays the VDNKh is a bizarre juxtaposition: part agricultural fair, part trade expo, part shopping center and part street market, with amusements as diverse as paint-balling and camel rides. The



park itself is an intriguing example of 20th century landscaping. The VDNKh buildings, still preposterously magnificent are wonderful examples of Soviet architecture.

The VDNKh is truly unique, and worth visiting, especially as there is much more to be seen nearby, including the wonderful Cosmonautics Museum.

It was opened in 1981, to the 20th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin space flight. The idea of creating this museum belongs to famous Russian scientist S.P. Korolev, one of the major figures in rocketry and space ship building of the XX century.

Nowadays a large exposition demonstrates a full-size rocket and space technology. You can try interactive exhibits, such as the one, identical to the Cosmonaut Training Center simulator, virtual international space station and more.

Kolomenskoe museum-reserve

A unique historic place – Kolomenskoe – is situated in the picturesque surroundings over the Moscow River banks. These lands are full of legends. Archeo-

logical discoveries state that the first settlements appeared here in the 8th century. It is an ancient and uniquely formed place. Today this is an exceptional complex of cultural monuments of a great historical value.

The chief attraction of the park is undoubtedly the stone Church of the



Ascension of the Lord. It was constructed in 1529–1532 by order of Tsar Vasily III to commemorate the birth of his son and heir, Ivan the Terrible. However, there is a lot more to see in the park: the pretty Church of the Icon of Our Lady of Kazan – with its bright azure domes and plenty of gold. Further into the park there is a charming Church of the Beheading of St John the Baptist, built by Ivan the Terrible to mark his coronation.

If you visit this place, you can fully enjoy nature, picturesque views over the Moskva River and learn about Russian medieval architecture. Moreover, many cultural events are held here.



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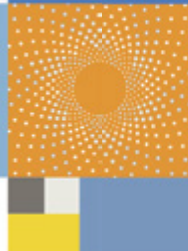


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LEGAL ADVICE

BREXIT FROM THE IMMIGRATION LAWYER'S POINT OF VIEW

EMIL MANASYAN

Brexit is the word that has been on the front of everyone's mind as of late and it is not surprising at all, considering the potential implications of the various possible outcomes of this process for almost everyone living in the UK. This is a short guide by our immigration lawyers briefly describing the main possible outcomes.

1. The Brexit Deal proposed by the government

The deal which was outlined in the draft of the Withdrawal Agreement has been rejected by the Parliamentary vote on 15 January 2019. In accordance with this proposal, after 29 March 2019, UK was to enter the so-called Transitional Period, which would run until 31 December 2020 and was meant to soften the UK's exit from the EU and to allow to finalise the new permanent arrangement. Following the rejection, a number of alternative options are currently being considered, among them a "No Deal", an extension or completion revocation of the Article 50 notice period to allow for further negotiations, a second referendum or a complete cancellation of the Brexit process. Everyone is currently waiting to see how things will develop.

2. "No Deal" Brexit

In the unlikely event of a "No Deal", there will be no agreement with the EU on the way forward and, although

it is almost impossible to predict how things will develop in this case, immigration controls on the EU migrants are likely to be brought in much sooner.

It is however unlikely that immigration controls similar to those applied to the non-EEA nationals would be introduced immediately. As the UK will



not be able to implement them in such a short period of time and any such measures are likely to be met with a reciprocal arrangement from the EU for British nationals.

In all probability, in the event of "No Deal", a quasi-transitional period will still have to be introduced to deal with the EU migrants already in the UK and those who will be entering during any such period.

The UK government has already introduced an EU Settlement Scheme, which will allow EU nationals, who are already lawfully resident in the UK prior to 29 March 2019, to apply for resident status. It is not clear if the scheme will be extended after 29 March 2019.

3. Post-Brexit

In the White Paper released on 19 December 2018, the government outlines the proposed new immigration policy, which would apply from 1 January 2021. In summary, it is proposed that the

free movement will end after that date and EU nationals will be subject to the rules very similar to those that non-EU nationals are subject to. This proposal has met a lot of criticism from the UK busi-

nesses and the government has confirmed that it will aim to launch a 12-months consultation programme involving private and public sectors across the UK to "shape both the final rules and process".

Despite the fact that the situation remains unclear, we recommend that EU nationals attempt to settle their immigration status prior to 29 March 2019, if possible.


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