

Arbat & Khamovniki

ARBAT | INNER KHAMOVNIKI | OUTER KHAMOVNIKI

Neighbourhood Top Five

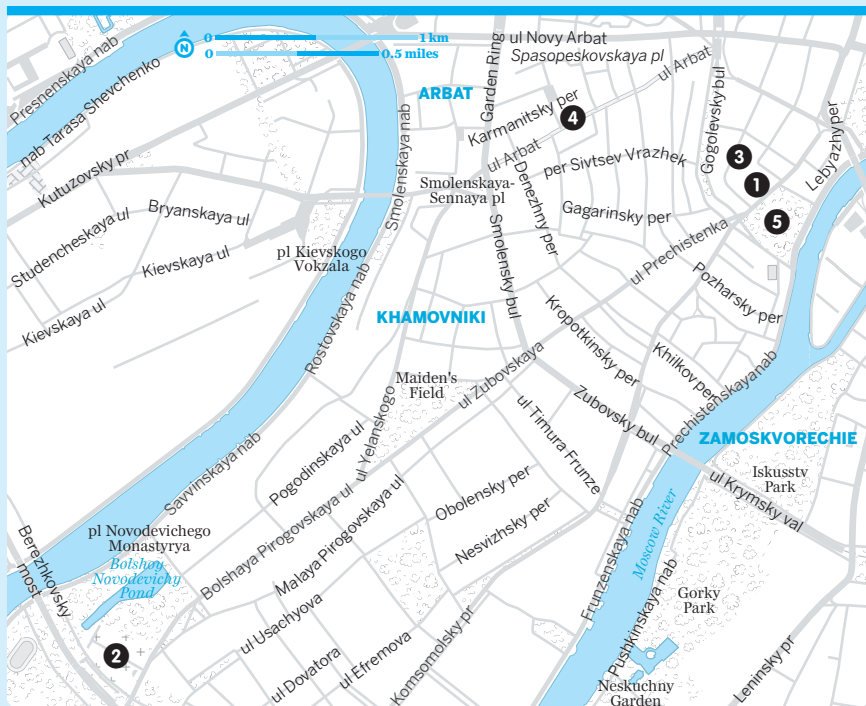
1 Perusing the collections at the **Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts** (p107), especially the incredible array of Impressionist and post-Impressionist art in the Gallery of European & American Art of the 19th & 20th Centuries.

2 Wandering around **Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery** (p104), soaking up five centuries of artistry and history.

3 Visiting the **Reikh Museum** (p111) to uncover the fantastic world of this mystical artist.

4 Strolling, shopping and doing the cafe scene on the historic **ul Arbat**.

5 Marvelling at the ostentation and sheer size of the **Cathedral of Christ the Saviour** (p111).



For more detail of this area, see p268 and p270 ➔

Explore: Arbat & Khamovniki

These two adjacent districts are an art-lover's dream. Khamovniki is packed with world-class art museums and smaller artist-dedicated galleries, not to mention the elaborate Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Depending how many stops you make, one might spend the entire day in Inner Khamovniki, starting at the world-class Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in the morning, then strolling up ul Prechistenka in the afternoon and dropping into sights along the way. The Unesco-recognised Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery is another half-day destination – a welcome break from art-gallery-row.

Evening is the time to wander the storied cobblestones of Arbat, the historic haunt of artists, musicians and street performers. It is undeniable that Arbat today has been taken over by souvenir stands and pavement cafes and it's often packed with tourists; nonetheless, it still evokes the free-thinking artistic spirit of yesteryear. Sights in Arbat are limited to small museums and architectural landmarks – easy to squeeze in here and there when exploring the neighbourhood.

Local Life

- ➔ **Al fresco** None of Moscow's many summer terraces can beat the pedestrian bridge behind the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour for fabulous Kremlin views. It's also an economical choice: bring your own bottle of *shampanskoe* and pull up a bench.
- ➔ **Special events** The Pushkin continues to attract local art-lovers with its ambitious and unusual temporary shows. The museum also hosts the prestigious December Nights Festival (p21), which accompanies the artwork with musical performances.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Arbat** The light-blue Filyovskaya line and the dark-blue Arbatsko-Pokrovskaya line run parallel across the Arbat district. They both have stations called Arbatskaya, with the entrance near Arbatskaya pl; and they both have stations called Smolenskaya, with the entrance near Smolenskaya pl. None of these same-named stations are connected to each other, however, so make sure you know which line you are getting on.
- ➔ **Khamovniki** The red Sokolnicheskaya metro line traverses Khamovniki district, from Kropotkinskaya station at pl Prechistenskie Vorota near the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour; to Park Kultury station along the Garden Ring; to Sportivnaya station in the southwestern corner, near Novodevichy and Luzhniki.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Many of the Khamovniki museums stay open in the evening one day per week. On Thursday, for example, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the Gallery of European & American Art of the 19th & 20th Centuries stay open until 9pm, as does the Tsereteli Gallery. The Shilov Gallery does the same on Wednesday evenings.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tiflis (p115)
- ➔ Les Amis de Jean-Jacques (p113)
- ➔ Moskvich (p117)

For reviews, see p113 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Gogol-Mogol (p118)
- ➔ Zhiguli Beer Hall (p117)

For reviews, see p117 ➔

Best Art Galleries

- ➔ Gallery of European & American Art of the 19th & 20th Centuries (p107)
- ➔ Rerikh Museum (p111)
- ➔ Pushkin Fine Arts Museum main building (p107)
- ➔ Multimedia Art Museum (p112)
- ➔ Burganov House (p111)

For reviews, see p109 ➔