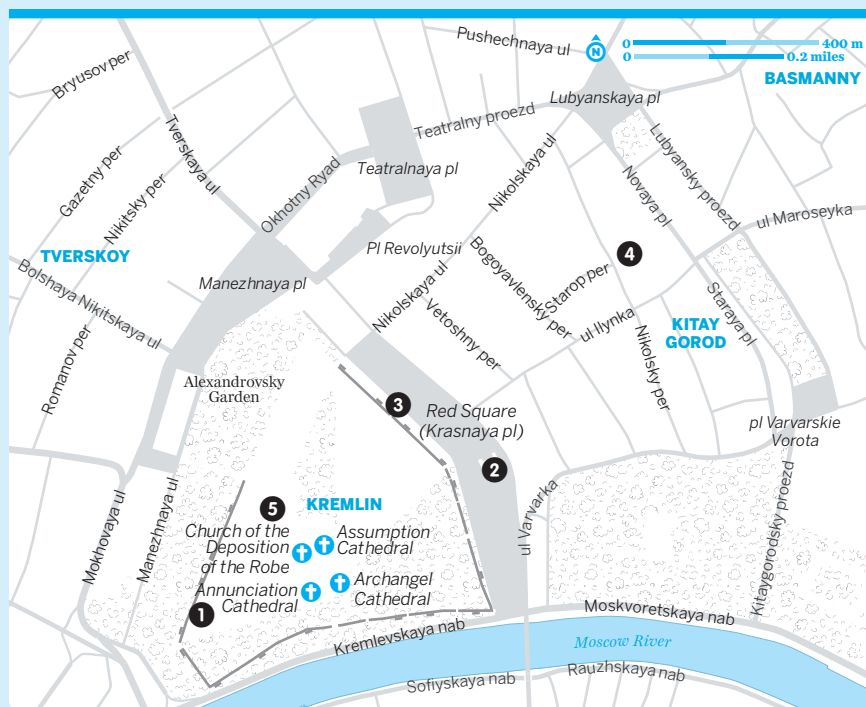


Kremlin & Kitay Gorod

KREMLIN | KITAY GOROD

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Wandering around the grounds of the **Kremlin** (p48) and exploring 500 years of artistic mastery, political power and spiritual devotion; gawking at the royal treasures in the Armoury.
- 2 Marvelling at the multicoloured, multidomed spectacle of **St Basil's Cathedral** (p62).
- 3 Paying your respects to Vladimir Ilych and other communist leaders at **Lenin's Tomb** (p64).
- 4 Discovering the ancient churches hidden among the narrow streets of **Kitay Gorod** (p68).
- 5 Watching ballerinas spin across the stage at the **Kremlin Ballet Theatre** (p72).



For more detail of this area, see Map p262 ➔

Explore: Kremlin & Kitay Gorod

If you have only one day in Moscow, you will probably spend it here. If you have more time, you might spend more than one day here, exploring the churches and museums and viewing at the trappings of power.

The neighbourhood's key attractions are clustered around Red Square and within the walls of the Kremlin. It doesn't matter which of these two you take in first, but try to leave time for both. Your visit to the Kremlin should be planned around admission to the Armoury and Ivan the Great Bell Tower: both require the advance purchase of tickets, which specify the admission times.

Besides being a major tourist attraction, Red Square hosts concerts, festivals, parades and other official events. As a result, the place is often packed with people. Come early in the morning or late in the evening to catch a glimpse of the square when it is sparsely populated, vast and majestic. Travellers with some extra time will enjoy wandering the medieval streets of Kitay Gorod, discovering ancient hidden churches and popping into shops and cafes. It is a welcome change from the hustle and bustle that dominates the Kremlin and Red Square.

Local Life

- ➔ **Parks** Muscovites don't often hang out on Red Square, but they do enjoy Alexander Garden, where they stroll among the flower beds, snap photos and (gasp) lounge on the grass.
- ➔ **Wedding Parties** The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is Moscow's top destination for wedding parties, who snap photos and drink champagne while the bride and groom pay their respects by laying flowers on the grave site.
- ➔ **Shopping Malls** GUM is too expensive and too touristy for most Muscovites. But plenty of locals hang out, shop and eat in the underground Okhotny Ryad shopping centre on the opposite side of Manezhnaya pl. The shops are less interesting, perhaps, but there is a big food court with many affordable and fast eating options.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Red Square** At the very centre of Moscow. Three metro lines converge here. Teatralnaya station is on the green Zamoskvoretskaya line; Okhotny Ryad station is on the red Sokolnicheskaya line; and Ploshchad Revolyutsii is on the dark blue Arbatsko-Pokrovskaya line.
- ➔ **Lubyanka Sq** The red Sokolnicheskaya line has an eponymous station at Lubyanka.
- ➔ **Kitay Gorod** The orange Kaluzhsko-Rizhskaya line and the purple Tagansko-Krasnopresnenskaya line intersect in Kitay Gorod, with both stations sharing the name of the neighbourhood.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you think Red Square is impressive by day, come back at night, when the crowds are gone and the lights cast a magical glow on the historic buildings.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Loft Café (p70)
- ➔ Stolovaya 57 (p70)
- ➔ Bosco Cafe (p70)

For reviews, see p70 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Dissident Vinoteca (p71)
- ➔ Cup & Cake Cafe (p71)
- ➔ Club Che (p71)

For reviews, see p71 ➔

Best Soviet Relics

- ➔ Lenin's Tomb (p64)
- ➔ Lubyanka Prison (p68)
- ➔ Central Lenin Museum (p66)

For reviews, see p66 ➔