

ARBAT | KHAMOVNIKI

1 Perusing the collections at the **Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts** (p117), especially the incredible array of Impressionist and post-Impressionist art in its Gallery of European & American Art of the 19th & 20th Centuries.

2 Wandering around **Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery** (p114), soaking up five centuries of artistry and history.

③ Strolling, shopping, and doing the cafe scene on **ul Arbat** (p122).

4 Marvelling at the ostentation and sheer size of the **Cathedral of Christ the Saviour** (p121).

5 Recalling Russia's greatest tragedy and triumph of the 20th century at the Museum of the Great Patriotic War and the monuments at **Park Pobedy** (p119).



For more detail of this area see Map p260 and p262

Explore: Arbat & Khamovniki

These two adjacent districts are an art-lover's dream. The Arbat district is packed with world-class art museums and smaller artist-dedicated galleries, not to mention the elaborate Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. One might spend an entire day wandering the area, starting at the world-class Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, then strolling up ul Prechistenka in the afternoon and dropping into sights along the way.

Evening is also a wonderful time to wander the storied cobblestoned streets around the old Arbat, the historic haunt of artists, musicians and street performers. Though Arbat today has been taken over by souvenir stands and is often packed with tourists, it still evokes the free-thinking artistic spirit of yesteryear.

In Khamovniki, the Unesco-recognised Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery is a worthwhile half-day destination – a welcome break from art-gallery row. Further away from the city centre, the roads become wider, the traffic faster and the distances greater. As such, Dorogomilovo and Sparrow Hills are not great for wandering. But it's worth making a special trip for a few choice destinations, such as Park Pobedy (Victory Park) and the forested hillsides of Vorobyovy Gory Nature Preserve.

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.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** The light-blue line and dark-blue lines 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.

➔ **Metro** The red 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).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Many of the neighbourhood museums stay open in the evening one day per week. On Thursday, for example, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and its 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

- ➔ Elardzhi (p127)
- ➔ Black Market (p128)
- ➔ Varenichnaya No 1 (p126)
- ➔ Zhurfak Cafe (p127)

For reviews, see p126 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Gavroche Wine Bar (p128)
- ➔ Carabas (p129)
- ➔ Zhiguli Beer Hall (p128)
- ➔ Sky Lounge (p128)

For reviews, see p128 ➔

Best Art Galleries

- ➔ Gallery of European & American Art of the 19th & 20th Centuries (p118)
- ➔ Reikh Museum (p122)
- ➔ Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts (p117)
- ➔ Multimedia Art Museum (p125)
- ➔ Burganov House (p123)

For reviews, see p122 ➔