

Kremlin & Kitay Gorod

KREMLIN | KITAY GOROD

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Wandering around the grounds of the **Kremlin** (p60); exploring 500 years of artistic mastery, political power and spiritual devotion; and gawking at the royal treasures in the Armoury.
- 2 Marvelling at the multicoloured, multidomed spectacle of **St Basil's Cathedral** (p77).
- 3 Paying your respects to Vladimir Ilych Ulyanov and other communist leaders at **Lenin's Mausoleum** (p75).
- 4 Discovering the ancient churches hidden among the narrow streets of **Kitay Gorod** (Map p255).
- 5 Watching ballerinas spin across the stage at the **Kremlin Ballet** (p84).



For more detail of this area see Map p255 ➔

Explore: Kremlin & Kitay Gorod

If you have only one day in Moscow, you will probably spend it here. With more time, you might spend more than one day here, exploring the churches and museums, and viewing 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: it requires 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 sometimes closed to the public and it's almost always 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 characterises 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** It may be too expensive for most Muscovites to shop at the stores in GUM, but it's not too expensive to eat at Solovaya 57 – as evidenced by the lines of locals out the door at lunchtime.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Three metro lines converge at Red Square. Teatrnaya station is on the green line; Okhotny Ryad station is on the red line; and Ploshchad Revolyutsii is on the dark blue line.

➔ **Metro** The orange line and the purple line intersect in Kitay Gorod, with both stations sharing the name of the neighbourhood. The red line has an eponymous station at Lubyanka, which is also useful for Kitay Gorod.

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 (p81)
- ➔ Friends Forever Café (p81)
- ➔ Coffee Mania (p81)
- ➔ Bosco Café (p81)

For reviews, see p81 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Café Tantsy (p82)
- ➔ Dissident Vinoteca (p82)
- ➔ Mandarin Combustible (p82)

For reviews, see p82 ➔

Best Soviet Relics

- ➔ Lenin's Mausoleum (p75)
- ➔ Stolovaya 57 (p81)
- ➔ Lubyanka Prison (p149)
- ➔ Four Seasons Moscow (p177)

For reviews, see p79 ➔