

# Meshchansky & Basmanny

MESHCHANSKY | BASMANNY

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Contemplating Moscow's hot contemporary art scene at any one of the city's post-industrial art complexes, such as **Winzavod Center for Contemporary Art** (p148), **ArtPlay** (p148) and **Proekt\_Fabrika** (p157).
- 2 Descending 60m underground to explore the Cold War communications centre at **Bunker-42** (p149).
- 3 Stocking up on junk souvenirs and Soviet paraphernalia at **Izmaylovsky market** (p150).
- 4 Putting on a Soviet child's hat at the **Soviet Arcade Games Museum** (p149).
- 5 Whiling away some hours with food, music and art at **Art Garbage** (p156).



For more detail of this area see Map p270 ➔

## Explore: Meshchansky & Basmanny

Markedly laidback compared with other central districts, Meshchansky covers a large swath of central Moscow dominated by pre-revolutionary residential buildings – many of them painted in the uniform yellow.

Its busiest artery is ul Maroseyka, which originates in Kitay Gorod and becomes ul Pokrovka just before reaching Boulevard Ring. It is absolutely packed with good places to eat and drink.

Gracious boulevards create a leafy pedestrian belt running all the way down to the Moscow River. With a beautiful pond that becomes a skating rink in winter, Chistoprudny Boulevard is about the cutest area in Moscow and is great for leisurely walks.

Beyond the Garden Ring and Kursky train station, a belt of centenarian factories is becoming one of Moscow's hottest art, shopping and start-up scenes. The flagship Winzavod Center for Contemporary Art, a former winery, is packed with galleries, while the nearby ArtPlay area specialises in modern design.

## Local Life

➔ **New Moscow** Watch the city's game-changers plot new projects and start-ups at Winzavod Center for Contemporary Art and ArtPlay.

➔ **Budget Joint** What are young Russians up to? Find out at Tsiferblat (p154), where 20-somethings spend time engaging in a few dozen different activities.

➔ **Outdoors** Whatever the weather, locals stroll and socialise around Chistye Prudy.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Meshchansky** Several metro lines pass through Meshchansky. Both the purple Tagansko-Krasnopresnenskaya line and the orange Kaluzhsko-Rizhskaya line have stops at Kitay-Gorod. Along the Boulevard Ring, Chistye Prudy is on the red Sokolnicheskaya line; Turgenevskaya is on the orange Kaluzhsko-Rizhskaya line; and Sretensky Bulvar is on the light green Lyublinskaya line.

➔ **Basmanny** Converted factories are best accessed from Kurskaya metro station where the ring links with the dark blue Arbatsko-Pokrovskaya line and the light green Lyublinskaya line.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Trams departing from Chistye Prudy metro station are a nice way of touring this section of the Boulevard Ring. All of them go down to the river and across the bridge to Novokuznetskaya metro in Zamoskoverchie.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Darbazi (p152)
- ➔ Kitayskaya Gramota (p152)
- ➔ Odessa-Mama (p153)

For reviews, see p152 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Art Garbage (p156)
- ➔ Solyanka (p155)
- ➔ Chaynaya Vysota (p154)
- ➔ Tsurtsum Cafe (p154)

For reviews, see p154 ➔

## Best Art Centres

- ➔ Winzavod Center for Contemporary Art (p148)
- ➔ Proekt\_Fabrika (p157)
- ➔ ArtPlay (p148)

For reviews, see p148 ➔