

Presnya

INNER PRESNYA | OUTER PRESNYA

Neighbourhood Top Five

❶ Admiring Presnya's unique collection of architecture, including the art nouveau **Ryabushinsky Mansion** (p102) and the constructivist **Narkomfin** (p103).

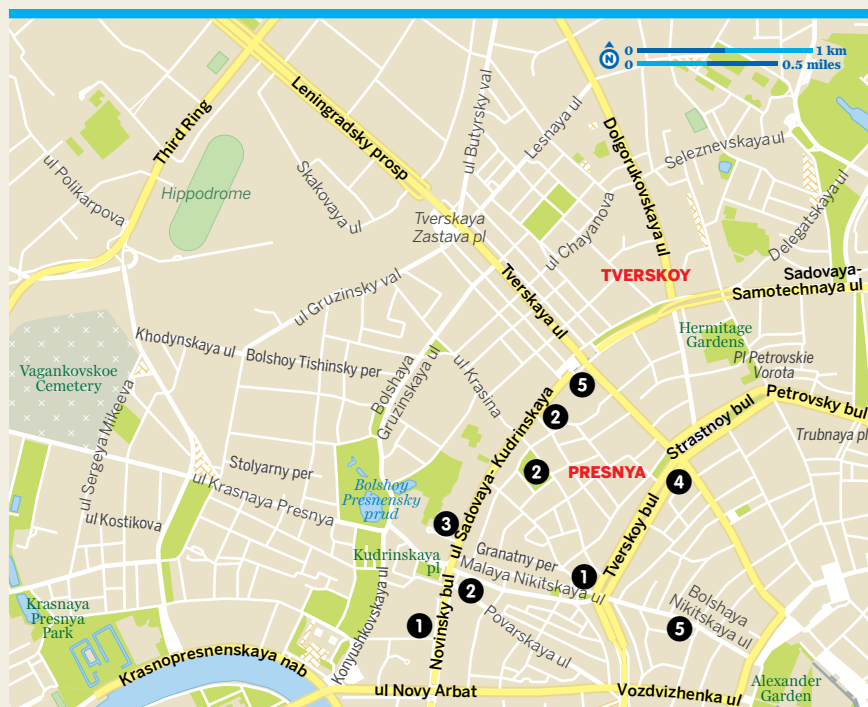
❷ Following *The Master and Margarita* from its opening scene at **Patri-**

arch's Ponds (p103) to its climax at the **Central House of Writers** (p103), following up with a visit to the author's **Bulgakov House** (p103).

❸ Stargazing and braving flight simulation at the **Moscow Planetarium** (p105).

❹ Indulging in an *haute russe* feast at **Café Pushkin** (p107).

❺ Attending the **Tchaikovsky Concert Hall** (p110) or **Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory** (p110) to listen to a world-class concert (perhaps Tchaikovsky!).



For more detail of this area see Map p264 →

Explore: Presnya

Presnya encompasses some of the capital's oldest neighbourhoods as well as its newest development. Start by exploring the lovely residential areas of Inner Presnya, chock-full of evocative architecture, historic parks and fantastic drinking and dining spots. The whole neighbourhood is a wonderful place for a wander, especially with a copy of Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita* in hand. Come in the late afternoon, then stay for dinner: the area around Patriarch's Ponds has emerged as a dining hotspot, with restaurants lined up along Spiridonovskiy per.

The more traditional sights – the newly reopened planetarium and the huge zoo – are set on the busy Garden Ring (the ring road 3km from the Kremlin). Either attraction could entertain you for a few hours.

Further out, the wide roads, heavy traffic and ongoing construction in Outer Presnya are not particularly user-friendly. Make the trip only if you have your heart set on a particular destination.

Local Life

- ➔ **Parks** Packs of teens, grandmothers with wee ones and starry-eyed couples all congregate at Patriarch's Ponds to sit on the shady benches and feed the ducks.
- ➔ **Bakery** The queue often runs out the door, as loyal patrons wait their turn for the city's best freshly baked breads, pastries and pies at Volkonsky (p104).
- ➔ **Brunch** Weekends at Correa's (p108) are an expat institution.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Inner Presnya is most easily accessed from Mayakovskaya station on the green line or Pushkinskaya station on the purple line.
- ➔ **Metro** For the more western parts of the district, the most useful metro stations are at Kudrinskaya pl (Barrikadnaya and Krasnopresnenskaya stations) and ul 1905 goda (Ulitsa 1905 Goda station).
- ➔ **Metro** The new development around the International Business Center (Moskva-City) has its own minimetro spur branching off from Kievskaya station, with a convenient stop at Vystavochnaya.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

In the back streets around Bolshaya Nikitskaya ul, many old mansions have survived – some renovated, others dilapidated. Most of those on the streets closest to the Kremlin were built by the 18th-century aristocracy, while those further away were built by rising 19th-century industrialists. These days many of these buildings are occupied by embassies and cultural institutions. With little traffic, Bolshaya Nikitskaya ul is excellent for a quiet ramble.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Café Pushkin (p107)
- ➔ Volkonsky (p104)
- ➔ As Eat Is (p105)
- ➔ Khachapuri (p105)

For reviews, see p104 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bar Klava (p109)
- ➔ Kvartira 44 (p109)
- ➔ Art Lebedev Cafe Studio (p109)

For reviews, see p109 ➔

Best Kids' Outings

- ➔ Moscow Planetarium (p105)
- ➔ Moscow Zoo (p104)
- ➔ Patriarch's Ponds (p103)
- ➔ Tsereteli Studio-Museum (p104)

For reviews, see p102 ➔