



# Moscow

## Includes »

History.....	62
Sights.....	62
Activities.....	72
Tours.....	72
Festivals & Events.....	72
Sleeping.....	75
Eating.....	81
Drinking.....	83
Entertainment.....	83
Shopping.....	87
Information.....	87
Getting There & Away....	89
Getting Around.....	92

## Best Places to Eat

- » Delicatessen (p81)
- » Café Pushkin (p82)
- » Stolle (p82)
- » Dacha on Pokrovka (p82)
- » Barashka (p82)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Home from Home (p77)
- » Golden Apple (p76)
- » Artel (p76)
- » Basilica Hotel (p77)

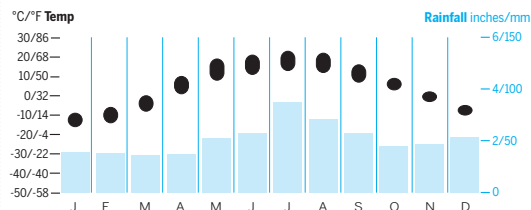
## Why Go?

Moscow (Москва) is the start or the end point for your train journey across Mother Russia. If you are travelling east to west, you will be relieved – after days (or weeks) on the train – to reach the cultured, cosmopolitan capital, brimming with opportunities to immerse yourself in history; to indulge in world-class music and art; to feast on fabulous food; and to sample the nightlife in a city that never sleeps. If you are travelling west to east, you may be relieved to depart – to escape the overwhelming urbanity, the bumper-to-bumper traffic, the nonstop noise, the panic-inducing prices. Either way, Moscow is an exhilarating and confounding contrast to the rest of Russia.

Soak it up. Examine the art and move to the music; splurge on a ritzy restaurant; stay out till sunrise; get lost in the crowds. Once you get on that train, you may not get to do it again.

## When to Go

### Moscow



**May & Jun** Long daylight hours and mild temperatures entice locals to sit at summer terraces.

**Sep** The capital celebrates City Day, as the foliage turns the city splendid oranges, reds and yellows.

**Dec** The sparkling snow-covered city hosts its premier cultural event, the December Nights Festival.

## Arriving by Air

If you arrive by air, you will fly into one of the city's three airports. The majority of international flights go in and out of Domodedovo and Sheremetyevo International Airports; the third airport is Vnukovo. All three airports are accessible by the convenient **Aeroexpress train** (☎8-800-7003377; [www.aeroexpress.ru](http://www.aeroexpress.ru); business/standard R550/320) from the city centre.

If you wish to take a taxi from the airport (p92), it is highly recommended you book in advance to take advantage of the fixed rates offered by most companies (R1000 to R1500). Note that driving times vary wildly depending on traffic.

### ARRIVING BY RAIL

Rail riders will arrive at one of the central train stations. All trains from St Petersburg arrive at Leningradsky vokzal, while Trans-Siberian trains from the east arrive at Yaroslavsky or Kazansky vokzal. These three railway stations are clustered around Komsomolskaya pl, a bustling square just northeast of the centre. From here, you can hop on the metro (M Komsomolskaya) for a quick, easy ride to your destination. Alternatively, most taxi companies offer a fixed rate of R300 to R500 for a train-station transfer, although you will probably get this price only if you book in advance.

## Get the Big Picture

Moscow can be overwhelming for the first-time visitor. An introductory tour can provide an overview of the city, as well as useful advice and information for the rest of your trip.

- » **Moscow Free Tour** ([www.moscowfreetour.com](http://www.moscowfreetour.com)) Offers a free walking tour, led by knowledgeable and extremely enthusiastic guides. Did we mention it's free?
- » **Moscow Mania** (p72) Young history scholars offer the informative 'Meet Moscow' tour as an introduction to the city's history and architecture.
- » **Capital Tours** (p72) Technically it's a hop-on-hop-off bus service, but it's more useful as a one-off overview of the city.
- » **Radisson River Cruises** (p72) and **Capital Shipping Co** (p72) Boats follow the route from Kievsky vokzal or Hotel Ukraina in Dorogomilovo to Novospassky Monastery in Taganka. Again, you can get off and on the boat, but the full 90-minute trip is a pleasant way to get the big picture.

### NEED TO KNOW

Most Moscow museums are closed on Monday, but the Kremlin and the Armoury are closed on Thursday instead.

## Fast Facts

- » Telephone code: ☎495 or ☎499
- » Population: 11,514,300
- » Time zone: GMT/UTC + four hours

## New in Moscow

- » Red October (p71) Formerly a chocolate factory, now an art and entertainment hotspot.
- » Ivan the Great (p66) The bell tower is now open for business.
- » Moscow Planetarium (p74) Reopening after 17 years – it was worth the wait.

## Resources

- » [Expat.ru](http://Expat.ru) ([www.expat.ru](http://www.expat.ru)) By and for English-speaking expats.
- » Moscow Business Telephone Guide ([www.mbtg.ru](http://www.mbtg.ru)) Bilingual phonebook.
- » Art Guide ([www.artguide.ru](http://www.artguide.ru)) Galleries and events.