

# Excursion program

## 1. Moscow Kremlin

Once the residence of Czars and Patriarchs and now the seat of Russian Government and historical center of Moscow, Kremlin is the small city in the very heart of Moscow. It was mentioned first in 1147, current structures date from 1474 to 1700's. Kremlin contains Russia's main cathedral - the Assumption Cathedral, Ivan The Great belfry and also such museums as Armory Chamber, Diamond Stock, Cathedral Square, and many architectural monuments.

*Armory Chamber of Moscow Kremlin*

The Armory Chamber holds the richest collection of decorative and applied art. Collection of early weaponry (from the 13<sup>th</sup> century), fabrics, cookware, furniture, carriages and Czarist thrones. Famous Faberge eggs are also exposed here.

*Diamond Stock of Russia*

Diamond Treasury represents the history of Russian jewelry art including exposition of gold, silver and platinum nuggets and works, precious stones and one of the largest diamonds in the world.

**2. Red Square and Kitai-Gorod walk.** The very center of Moscow and indeed, of Russia. The neighborhood was fortress behind a fence. You will see churches dating back to the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries along the narrow streets. One of the most interesting buildings in this area is the rambling **Palace of the Romanov Boyars**, entered from the bottom of the embankment. Built in the XVI century by Nikita Romanov. It is one formed the nucleus of a vast complex of seven thousand households stretching down to the river, made almost entirely of wood, with the exception of the palace.

## 3. St. Basil's Cathedral

This most famous of Moscow's cathedrals is also known as Cathedral of the Intercession of the Virgin or Pokrovsky Cathedral. Originally it was built by Ivan the Terrible in 1555-1561 to commemorate the capture of the town of Kazan. There is a legend that Ivan the Terrible ordered to prick the eyes of the cathedral constructors so that they could not ever construct anything like this.

## 4. City sightseeing tour

City sightseeing tour includes visit to Red Square, panoramas of ancient Kremlin and from an observation platform of the Novodevichy Convent and Vorobiovy Hills (Sparrow Hills).

## 5. Moscow metro

Moscow metro's story began in the 1930's and since that times it is a main mean of transportation in Moscow. Stations design shows completely different style periods, each station has its own character. You will see the most beautiful stations in Moscow metro and also discover the creation history and historical fact related to Moscow subway.



## **6. Izmailovo Vernissage**

The world largest exhibition-fair of fine and decorative arts. Vast collections of contemporary painting, antique works, medals, coins and souvenirs. Wander along the pleasant rows under fairy-tale wooden towers! Enjoy a choir of Russian singers in national dress, with balalaikas! The lively and bustling Izmailovo Souvenir Market is an absolute must-see for all visitors to Moscow. Excursion includes visit to **Russian Vodka Museum**. Following the story of vodka from the early centuries, the Museum halls bring visitors to contemporary Russia, at the beginning of the 21st century, and tell them about the current state of production and consumption of the national strong drink.

## **7. Cathedral of Christ the Savior**

Built in 1839 on the site of Alexeevskiy Nunnery, consecrated in 1883, was the tallest edifice in Moscow and the largest Cathedral in Russia; destroyed at Stalin's time in 1931 and replaced by a huge swimming pool; rebuilt in 1995-1997.

**8. Russian Czar Vasily III built Novodevichy convent** as a fortified monastery in 1524, later it became a nunnery for noble women. Its cemetery is a charming place, rich in the spirit of the past. The sculptured gravestones of famous Russian artists, writers and politicians illustrate the country's history.

**9. Kuskovo Estate** – typical summer residence of 18<sup>th</sup> century. Architectural ensemble with authentic décor and collection of the 18<sup>th</sup> century art. «Portrait Gallery» exposition, ceramics museum featuring impressive collection of china and porcelain from the XVI, XIX and XX centuries. There is an extensive park with a lake, and Dutch, Swiss and Italian style garden houses.

## **10. Kolomenskoe and Tsaritsino Estates**

A unique oasis of Moscow, and the summer residence of the Czars since the time of Ivan the Terrible. **Kolomenskoe Estate** is an excellent example of church and secular architecture from the XVI –XIX centuries. **Tsaritsino Estate** dated XVIII-XIX centuries is architectural and park ensemble in pseudo-Gothic style. There's displayed collection of paintings, drawings, sculpture and works of applied arts, beads and glassware, silver and cut glass.

## **11. Danilovsky and Donskoi monastery**

Founded by Prince Daniil in 1298-1300 Danilovsky Monastery is the city's oldest. It was used as a factory and youth detention center after the Revolution, but since 1988 it has been the headquarters of the Russian Orthodox Church that has offices in its more modern plainer buildings.

## **12. Borodino panorama and Victory park**

This tour combines history of two Great Patriotic wars in 1812 and in 1941-1945.



Tour of Borodino battlefield panorama commemorating the decisive battle in 1812, when Napoleon's army was stopped and turned back by the Russian army within sight of the burning city. Victory Park on Poklonnaya hill contains open-air exposition and in-house museum dedicated to World War-II (or Great Patriotic war).

### **13. Tretyakov gallery**

Contains Moscow's largest collection of Russian art with representative pieces from ancient times through various historical schools up to and including turn-of-the century vanguard works. The newly restored building is worth a visit in itself.

### **14. Jewish Moscow**

Explore the life of the Moscow Jewish community during Soviet times and the present. You will visit two synagogues and places associated with prominent Jewish intellectuals, such as the poet Mandelstam, the actor and Michoels and the architect Joffan.

### **15. Pushkin Fine Arts museum**

Contains a remarkable collection, including works from the Italian Renaissance and post-Renaissance, ancient Egypt and Babylon and in particular, one of the best Impressionist collections outside France.

### **16. Andrey Sakharov museum**

The museum displays archival documents, photographs and artifacts that narrate the history of repression in the Soviet Union beginning with the 1917 October Revolution. The permanent exhibition also chronicles the history of those movements who struggled for freedom of expression and speech during the post-Stalin years.

**17. Walk in the Lubyanka and Chistye Prudy** area around the KGB building, an old downtown section that provides many examples of nobles' mansions dating back to Peter the Great. You will visit a splendid XVII century church and Apraksin Palace, a fine example of Moscow baroque.

**18. Cosmonauts' museum.** This unique collection traces the rise of the Russian space program from 1957 to the present time, including manned and automatic spacecraft, space suits and other related items.

**19. Patriarch's Moscow.** Visit the Patriarch's Moscow, an extension of the Kremlin tour. The Patriarch's Palace has been turned into a museum of the XVII century life, and we will see the domestic church of the Patriarchs, the Church of the Deposition.

**20. Monasteries of Moscow.** You will visit main Moscow monasteries: Novodevichy Convent, Spaso-Andronikov and Danilovsky monasteries.

**21. Discover the Stalin's Moscow.** You will see the evidence of that era in the architectural and cultural styles. During this tour you will visit famous House on the Embankment, Stalin's skyscrapers, VDNKh (Soviet exhibition of the achievements in the national economy field).