

Along the Moscow Golden Ring

Red Square —
Mazeznaya Square —
the Troitsky Gate —
the Kremlin —
the Cathedral of Christ
the Saviour —
Zamoskvorechiye Area —
Zaryadye — Lubyanka —
Red Square



The First Records of Moscow

A wonderful city! This is the impression of any person who has visited Moscow and saw its architecture, theatres, museums, cathedrals and hotels. The history of the town contains many legends. According to one of them, Moscow was founded by King Mosokh, the grandson on the biblical Noah. On the crest of a high hill, on the spot where the current Kremlin is situated, he founded a "small town" and settled there. His wife's name was Kwa, his son was called Ya, and his daughter was called Vuza. The names of the Moscow and the Yauza rivers could probably stem from these names.

The most popular legend says that Moscow was founded by Yuri Dolgoruky, the prince of Suzdal and the son of Vladimir Monomakh, the prince of Kiev.

In ancient times, the territory of future Moscow belonged to boyar Stepan Kuchka. Dolgoruky, who was staying at the boyard's, suddenly became angry with him for an unknown reason and ordered to have his host killed. Then, he founded a town in the place of Kuchka's estate. 4 April, 1147 is considered the date of the town's foundation. On that day, Yuri Dolgoruky received his brother Svyatoslav Olgovich, the prince of Novgorod Seversky here. This is the first record of Moscow in Russian annals.

The small town in the heart of Russia, at the intersection of the most important market roads

gained momentum fast. Its heyday come in the time of Ivan Kalita, and in 1327 it became the capital of Russia's principalities.

By the end of the 16th century, Moscow was surrounded by four walls guarding the town against invasions. The Kremlin on Borovitsky Hill became the centre of the town. Craftsmen and tradesmen settled near the Kremlin in a suburb enclosed by the Kitay-gorod wall. At the same time, two more walls appeared: a Bely gorod (White town) aligned with the current Boulevard Ring, and a Zemlyanoy gorod (Earthen town) that corresponds with the modern Sadovy Ring. Roads to the Russian towns Tver, Novgorod, Volokolamsk and Dmitrov spread out from the Kremlin like beams. Ancient Moscow was built up according to the peculiarities of the natural landscape and fit quite well into it. It resulted in the narrow and winding streets of old Moscow, and its famous seven hills that it is built on.

Today, in the early 21st century, you can see for yourself that Moscow is turning into a city with European levels of comfort while fully retaining its national originality and the unique look of an ancient Russian capital.

We offer you a trip along the most interesting historic areas that comprise the Golden Ring of Moscow.



Red Square — Manezhnaya Square — the Troitsky Gate

Red Square – The Spasskaya (Our Saviors) Tower – The St. Vassily the Blessed Cathedral – The Minin and Pozharsky Monument – The Lobnoye Place – The Cathedral of the Kazan Icon of the Blessed Virgin – The Voskresenskiye Gate and the Iverskaya Chapel – Manezhnaya Square – Moscow University – The St. Tatyana Church – Pashkov's House – The Russian State Library



1. Russia Hotel
★★★
rooms 3200
Russia Hotel, 6, Varvarka ul.
Tel.: 095/2325200, 2326283



2. Amsterdam
4, Il'inka ul.
Tel.: 095/9563931

3. Armadillo
Bar with Mexican snacks. Nice music: blues and country
1, Khrustalny per.
Tel.: 095/293 35 53

4. Arsentiyeh
Russian cuisine
15, Bolshoy Cherkassky per.
Tel.: 095/9270755

5. Barhan
Uzbek cuisine restaurant in GUM with its windows facing onto Red Square
GUM, 3, Red Square
Tel.: 095/7884200

6. Bosco Cafe
Mon-Sun 9 a.m.- 11 p.m.
Cafe in GUM. Italian cuisine, coffee and cakes
GUM, 3, Red Square
Tel.: 095/9293182

7. Brigantina
Russia Hotel, 6, Varvarka ul.
Tel.: 095/2985762

Red Square

Red Square was always the main square of Moscow. In Old Russian “red” meant “beautiful”. The Kremlin is situated near it.

Let us begin our trip from here. In ancient times, there was a pinewood thicket (“bor”) here that gave name to the Borovitsky hill. The word “Kremlin”, or “kremnik” as the Moscow fortress was called in the chronicles, first appeared in 1339 – 1340. At that time during the rule of Ivan Kalita new walls of solid oak were built. Thus, the word might have been derived from the Greek “kremnos” meaning “solid”, but a more probable version presumes that it stems from the Slavic root “krem”, “kremnik” meaning “pinery” or “forest”. The place retained this name even after the 15th century when a new red-brick Kremlin was built.

One can enter the Kremlin through the Troitskiye or the Borovitskiye Gates, but we should feast our eyes upon its ancient walls and towers first. They were erected by Italian masters Antonio Fryazin and Pietro Antonio Solari in 1485 – 1495. The wall merlons bear a resemblance to swallow's tail's. They served as a shelter for marksmen guarding the Kremlin during sieges. The gabled roofs of the towers were raised in the 17th century by Russian builders who paid tribute to the national architectural style.



8. Cardinal Richeleau
1 bldg., 5, Teatralnaya pl.
Tel.: 095/2981475

9. Drova
5, Nikolskaya ul.
Tel.: 095/2980118

10. In Montmartre
9, Vetoshny per.
Tel.: 095/7455230

11. In Varvarka
14, Varvarka ul.
Tel.: 095/2984672

12. Jokonda
Russia Hotel, 6, Varvarka ul.
Tel.: 095/2985360

13. Kayuta Kepa
Russia Hotel, 6, Varvarka ul.
Tel.: 095/2326338