

SAS CITY PORTRAITS

# Moscow

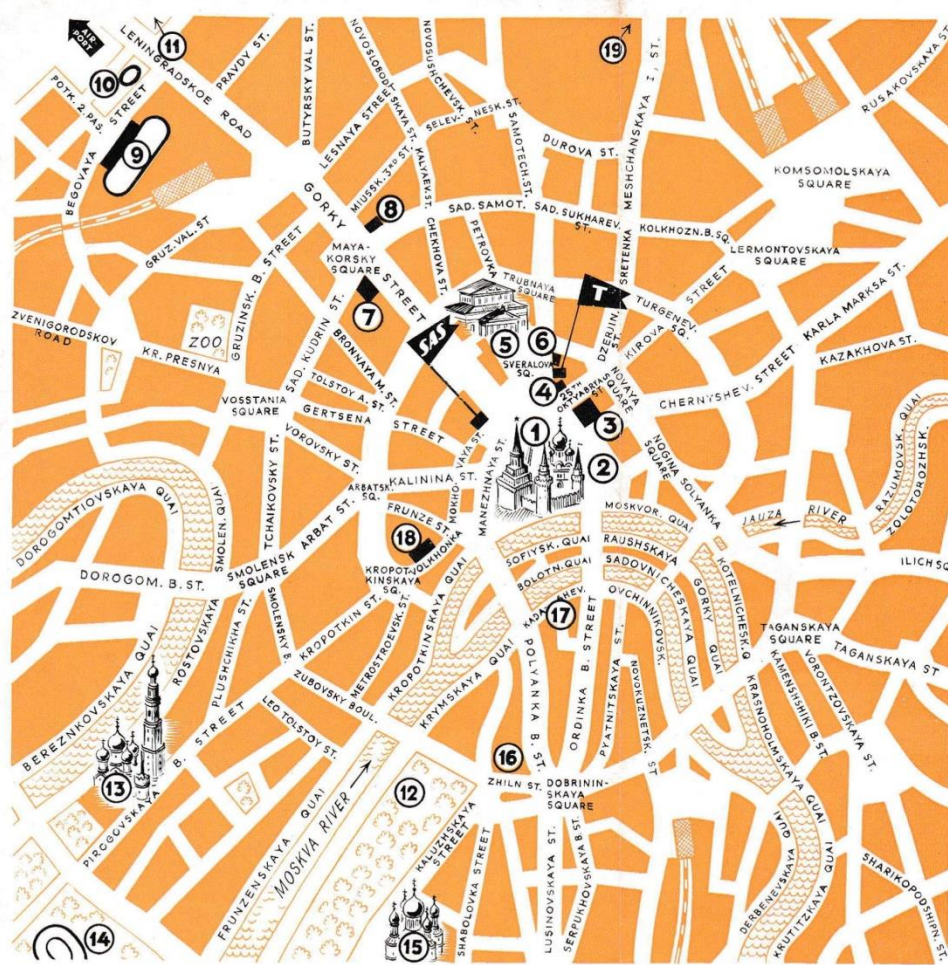
SAS



Moscow University



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## One Hour's Walk Around Moscow

The SAS Office in the Hotel National is a convenient starting point, as you are in the middle of the city across from the Kremlin and the Red Square.

Start by turning left and immediately after turn right, as crossing the square in front of the hotel is not permitted. Reaching the Red Square, on your left note Moscow's largest department store, the GUM. Opposite this is the Kremlin, in front of which you will see the Mausoleum where Lenin and Stalin are buried. Red Square is bordered by the Historical Museum and the fantastic church of St. Basil's (1555). Pass through the GUM, proceeding to the Theater Square where on the right is a remnant of the wall of what was known as the "Chinese City", one of the earliest adjuncts of the Kremlin. Cross the Square towards the famous Bolshoi Theater, turn left into Okhotniy Ryad until you reach Gorky Street (*Ulitsa Gorkogo*). In front of you is the Hotel National, the starting point of your walk.

### Key to the Map:

1. The Kremlin.
2. The Red Square (with the mausoleum of Lenin and Stalin, the Historical Museum and the Cathedral of St. Basil).
3. GUM, State department store.
4. The Lenin Museum.
5. The Bolshoi Theater.
6. The Maly Theater.
7. The Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.
8. The Central Puppet Theater.
9. Moscow Race Course.
10. Young Pioneers' Stadium.
11. Dynamo Stadium.
12. Gorky Recreation Park.
13. The Novodevichi Monastery (museum).
14. Central Lenin Stadium.
15. Donski Monastery (Museum of Architecture).
16. Church of Ivan the Great.
17. Tretyakovskiy Gallery.
18. Pushkin Gallery.
19. Dzerzhinsky Recreation Park (with Ostankino Palace).

SAS Office: Hotel National, Room 217.

Tourist Information Office: Intourist Travel Bureau, Hotel Metropol and the Service Bureau at your hotel.

### Your First Hour in Town

You arrive at Vnukovo airport, about 18 miles from the city. The big letters spelling MOCKBA over the airport buildings remind you at once that the Russian alphabet is indeed unfamiliar. Before you leave the plane your passport will have been taken by an immigration officer, then the Aeroflot staff will conduct you to customs, where you will make your declaration. Next, you will get your passport back; and, if you hold *Intourist* coupons, an *Intourist* representative will assist you throughout the entire control procedure. Money can be changed at the airport. The monetary unit is the Ruble, divided into 100 Kopeks. There are 10 Rubles to the US dollar and 27.60 Rubles to one £ Sterling.

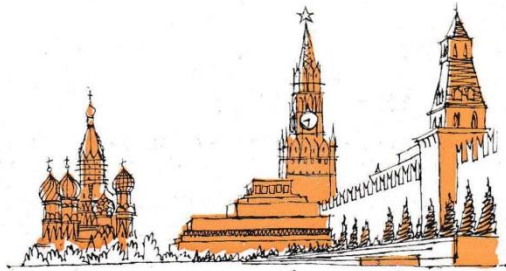
If you are under the care of *Intourist*, a car will be waiting to take you on the 45-minute drive into town.

Don't expect many people outside the large hotels to speak English — or, for the matter, anything but Russian.

# MOSCOW

Moscow is the capital of the U.S.S.R. The city covers 127.4 square miles and has about 5 million citizens. It is the nation's industrial, scientific, cultural, and political center, seat of the government and of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In March 1918, after the October Revolution of the year before, the first Soviet Government moved from Petrograd (now Leningrad) to Moscow, and in December 1922 when the first All-Union Congress of Soviets proclaimed the establishment of the Soviet Union, Moscow was made the capital of the young Soviet state.

In the course of history the capture of Moscow has been twice attempted; by Napoleon and by Hitler, both times unsuccessfully. Each time the defeat of the attackers turned the fortunes of the day, and Moscow thus became a City of Destiny, as it perhaps still is in connection with high politics. Thousands of visitors come to Moscow every year to see the Red Square, the Mausoleum, the museums and theaters. The USSR Company for Foreign Travel (Intourist) has introduced tourist itineraries which make it easy for tourists without knowledge of the Russian language to visit Moscow. Moreover, the Intourist coupon system includes certain important reductions thus saving the traveller a good sum of money. Your local travel agent will be able to give you all information on these facilities.



## Hotels

SAS passengers are normally accommodated in the National, Savoy, (Intourist hotels) and Ukraina, Sovetskaya, Leningradskaya, Pekin and Moskva all of which are good. Reservations are automatically taken care of when you buy your tour from your local travel agent.

Hotel coupons are divided into four categories. If you choose the de luxe class you will get a comfortable room with private bath and toilet. Other classes are First, Tourist A and Tourist B.

You are advised to check the voltage in your hotel before using your electric appliances as it differs (127—220) from one part of the city to the other.

## Restaurants and Food

When visiting Moscow do not look for restaurants with standard European Continental cuisine, although in the larger hotels you may find a few familiar dishes. Why not use the opportunity to make yourself acquainted with Russian cooking? Remember that this is a wide-ranging matter as each part of this huge geographical area has its own specialities. You would need more time than you probably have to go seriously into this "sport", but here are a few suggestions which may be useful.

The Aragvi (6 Ul. Gorky) is known for its excellent Georgian cooking. One of their specialities is chicken on the bricks (*Tsipyata tabaka*), assorted *Schaslik*, and particularly good bread. You'll listen to soft Georgian music while you eat. Ararat (4 Ul. Neglinaya), an intimate and quiet restaurant, serves fine Armenian food. There is a small orchestra and dancing. Most people like the Ukrainian dishes at the Hotel Ukraina, Moscow's



newest skyscraper and the largest hotel in the city. The food of their restaurant is excellent, there is a fine jazz orchestra and, of course, dancing. Should you prefer an old-fashioned atmosphere you will appreciate the restaurant of the Hotel Savoy (3 Ul. Zhdanov).

If you like to eat in the open air, there are good roof-terraces at the Hotel Moskva (2 Okhotniy Ryad) and at the Praga (Arbatskaya Ploshchad), but the latter is rather expensive.

Besides these places there are numerous cafes and cafeterias (*stolovaya*) all over the city, where you may have a snack and drink original Vodka.



### Entertainment and Night Life

An evening spent at the Bolshoi Theater (No. 5 on the map) is simply a must for any Moscow visitor. This is the home of classical 19th century ballet at its best and genuine classical Russian Opera. Seats cost approximately Rubles 35.—. To reserve a seat let the Service Bureau in your hotel know one day in advance (before 1 PM). The Moscow Symphony Orchestra is the best in the Soviet Union and ranks among the finest in Europe. It is especially famous for its solo instrumentalists, among which are D. Oistrakh, E. Gilels, S. Richter, M. Rostropovich, and D. Shafron. If the Red Army Chorus or the famous Mosyevy Folk Dancing Troupe give performances while you are in town be sure to get a seat as it will be one of the unforgettable experiences of your stay in Moscow. The Chorus and the Dancing Troupe perform in Tchaikovsky Hall (20 Sadovaya — No. 7 on the map), where some of the principal symphony concerts also take place. Other concerts are given in the Bolshoi Hall and in the smaller Maly Hall (6 Pushkinskaya — No. 8 on the map), an affiliate of the Bolshoi Theater.

There are many theaters in Moscow, among which is the famous Moscow Art Theater (MHAT), 3 Khudozhestvenny Proyezd, where the Stanislavsky tradition is meticulously preserved. At the Romen Gypsy Theater (10 Gnezdinkovski Proyezd), gypsy drama and music are presented in intimate surroundings. The performance is in vivid pantomime and easily understandable.

You will find it fun to go to the *Kukolny* or Central Puppet Theater (32a Ul. Gorky — No. 8 on the map). Remarkably good puppet shows are staged here under direction of Obratsov. The Gorki Park Open-Air (*Zeleny*) Theater (No. 12 on the map) offers a variety of programs, and in the Ermitage Park there are several theaters performing both indoors and in the open air.

Outdoor cafes, a restaurant and a Chess pavilion add to the pleasures of this park. Ask at your hotel Service Bureau for tickets to theaters, concert halls, cinemas and sporting events. Theater tickets cost 15—25 rubles, except for the Bolshoi Theater, where prices are up to 33—35 rubles.

If you understand Russian, a visit to one of Moscow's numerous cinemas may be of interest to you. The newspaper "Evening Moscow" (*Vechernaya Moskva*) lists the current cinema programs. Tickets cost from 3—5 rubles. The "Revival Films" (23 Ul. Gertsena) shows classics, both of Soviet and foreign origin, some of them silent movies.



### Sights

Sightseeing tours of Moscow are organized by Intourist. If you wish to join one of these, and reap the benefit of an English speaking guide, make arrangements directly with Intourist or through your hotel Service Bureau. Some of the principal sights are marked on the map and listed below:

- (1) *Kremlin*. Situated in the heart of Moscow, the Kremlin is the heart not only of the city, but of the Soviet Union. It was formerly a citadel whose walls enclose an area of 64.2 acres. You'd do well to let a guide lead you through this assembly of buildings when you visit it for the first time. You may take photographs all through the Kremlin except inside the museum where special permission from the director is required. There are three large churches: The Assumption Cathedral (Russian: *Uspensky*) from 1479; The Annunciation Cathedral (Russian: *Blagoveshchensky*) from 1489; and the Archangel Cathedral (Russian: *Arkhangel'sky*) from 1505. Note also the bell-tower of Ivan the Great and other smaller churches. The Armoury Museum in the Oruzhennaya Palace (closed Fridays) has a fine collection of jewels, armory, costumes, coaches etc. It is sometimes possible to visit the ceremonial rooms in organized groups.

- (2) *The Red Square*. Almost a part of Kremlin, this beautifully situated square is in itself a monument of important historical interest. In 1917 the final battles of the revolution took place here, and those who fell were buried in a common grave at the foot of the Kremlin wall. Before the Kremlin wall stands the mausoleum with the tombs of Lenin and Stalin (closed Mondays). In the square also is the *Lobnoye Mesto*, a round elevation which was used as an execution block in earlier days, and later on served as a rostrum when the leaders of the state read their proclamations to the people. At one end of the Square is the Historical Museum of Peoples of the U.S.S.R., and at the other the impressive St. Basil's Cathedral (1555, restored in 1954). A section of the Historical Museum has been installed in the church. The Historical Museum is closed on Tuesdays, St. Basil's is closed Tuesdays and on the 30 and 31 day of the month.
- (3) "GUM", State department store, the largest in the Soviet Union.
- (4) *The Lenin Museum*, Revolution Square. Collections illustrating the life and work of Lenin: Open 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM except Mondays.
- (5) *The Bolshoi Theater*, Sverdlov Square. See: "Entertainment". Opposite the theater is a remnant of the wall of the former Kitai Gorod (Chinese City), one of the earliest suburbs of the Kremlin.
- (6) *The Maly Theater*, at the right of the Bolshoi Theater, is one of the most important stages in Moscow. Between the two theaters is the large Central Moscow department store.
- (7) *The Tschaikovsky Concert Hall* (20 Sadovaya).
- (8) *The Central Puppet Theater*, corner of Gorky Street on Mayakovsky Square. (See "Entertainment"). The underground station here is considered the finest of all "Metro" stations in Moscow.
- (9) *The Moscow Race Course*.
- (10) *The Stadium of Young Pioneers*. Especially dedicated to youth, this stadium has an all-year skating rink as well as the usual sports grounds.
- (11) *The "Dynamo" Stadium*, home of the famous "Dynamo" football club. Further out on the Leningrad Highway is the "Dynamo" water stadium with an indoor swimming pool, and the Northern Steamboat River Station is nearby.
- (12) *The Gorky Recreation Park*. This park covers an area of 110 hectares on the banks of the Moskva River. Recreation facilities include open-air stages, cafes, restaurants, a cinema, attractive promenades and a landing stage for boats. The ancient Neskuchny Gardens, which now form part of the Gorky Park, are particularly charming.
- (13) *The Novodevichi Monastery*. This is the best preserved of all monasteries in Moscow. The large cathedral — now a museum — is well worth seeing. In a smaller church there are regular services. Many well-known Russian artists and composers are buried in the cemetery outside the walls. Open 11:00 AM to 5:30 PM except Tuesdays. Closed also on the 30 and 31 day each month.
- (14) *Central Lenin Stadium*, the largest stadium in Moscow.
- (15) *The Architecture Museum*, Bolshaya Kaluzhskaya Street. The museum is installed in the ancient Donskoi Monastery, itself an interesting old architectural landmark.

- (16) *The Church of Ivan the Great*, Bolshaya Yakimanka Street. This church was built in 1713 by order of Czar Peter I and is a fine example of early 18th century architecture.
- (17) *Tretyakovsky Gallery*, Lavrushinsky Lane. The collections include examples of Russian art, from earliest times to the present day. Closed the first Monday of each month.
- (18) *The Pushkin Gallery*, Volkhonka Street, contains European art from the Renaissance through the Impressionists, as well as occasional special exhibitions of European masters. Also outstanding are the sections of this museum dedicated to ancient civilizations, including Assyria, Persia, Greece and Rome.
- (19) *The Dzerzhinsky Recreation Park*. Formerly part of the estate of one of Russia's wealthiest families, this is now a vast recreation area for the Moscovites. The Ostankino Palace-Museum, a wonderful edifice with interior decorations created by serfs during the feudal epoch still stands in the park. (Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays). For information on admission hours, apply to the Service Bureau at your hotel.



### Excursions from Moscow

There are several interesting places to visit in the vicinity of Moscow, and below we list some of them. Ask the Service Bureau at your hotel how to get there.

*Pleasure trip on the Moskva River*. Even if your time in Moscow is limited you ought to take this interesting trip on the river and the canal through lovely landscape with an opportunity to see the large hydro-electric plants of Moscow.

*Gorky*. This small village is situated about 15 miles from Moscow. Near the village is the country house where Lenin spent the last years of his life and where he died, now a museum. (Closed Tuesdays).

*Archangelskoye*. This former Yusupov's estate is situated 17 miles Northwest of Moscow. In the "Palace" there is a rich collection of Russian art from the 18th—19th century and a tiny theater. (Closed Mondays and Tuesdays).

*Kuskovo*. This former country estate of the Sheremetiev family is about 6 miles East of Moscow. The palace building is beautifully decorated and the museum houses a rich collection of porcelain, ceramics, glass, etc.

*Zagorsk.* This is a one-day trip. Zagorsk (formerly known as Sergievo) is about 44 miles from Moscow and it has an interesting monastery, Troitskoe Sergievo, old city walls and many old churches one of which has ikons by Rublev and his contemporaries. The tomb of Boris Godunov is also among the attractions of Zagorsk, which is still considered one of the most holy places in Russia. The trip by car passes the village of Pushkino with another fine 18th century church still in use.

You are advised to make all necessary arrangements through the Service Bureau in your hotel, where complete information is available.



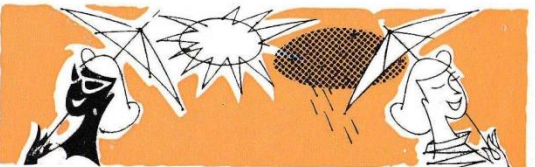
### Shopping

Simple dolls and toys are sold mostly in toy stores. The State department store "GUM" on the Red Square is worth a visit as part of your sightseeing if not to make purchases. Longplaying records offer the finest recorded music at prices that are cheap by any standard. Various kinds of souvenirs are sold at GUM and at the special souvenir shops at 4 Gorky Street and 13—15 Stoleshnikov Lane. Russian furs (and they are very attractive) are mostly for export but can be purchased.

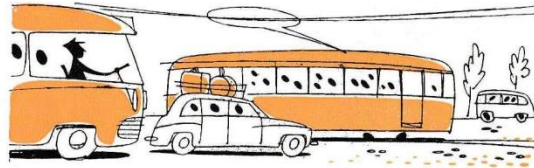
Provision stores are open from 8 AM to 8 PM including Sundays, with a lunch interval between 1 and 2 PM. Most other shops are open from 11 AM to 8 PM (lunch interval from 3 to 4 PM), except Mondays. On Sundays as a rule there is no lunch interval, and the shops close three hours earlier than usual.

### Climate and Clothing

The average daily high in Moscow during July, the warmest month, is 71° F (22° C); the average low in January, the coldest month, is about 5° F (-15° C);



high 14° F (-10° C). Throughout the year the climate varies between these extremes, but for the most part is continental. The climate of the southern regions of the country vary between temperate and sub-tropical. Bring along sturdy, informal, practical clothing. In summer, light clothing will generally do, but it would be wise to include a warm suit or dress. Fur coats and woolen clothes are necessary in winter. Laundry can be had within 24 hours, sometimes even the same day. Pressing services are easily obtained, but dry-cleaning takes time.



### Transportation

For local transportation there are tram cars and buses and the fine Metro underground railway, which is the Moscovite's pride. If you travel in the Intourist de luxe class you will have a car at your disposal for your sight-seeing trips. Metered taxis are freely available and inexpensive.

Travel by train can be a little trying as the speed is usually slow, except for the Moscow—Leningrad railway. Not all trains carry a dining car; better make sure beforehand and have your hotel prepare some food to take along. Tea is available through the train stewardess who will also be prepared to bring hot water (*Kipyatok*) for your instant coffee.



### Public Holidays

January 1 (New Year's), May 1—2 (International Labor Day), November 7—8 (Revolution Days), and December 5 (Constitution Day).



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