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Russia. Moscow. Society, Culture, Geography

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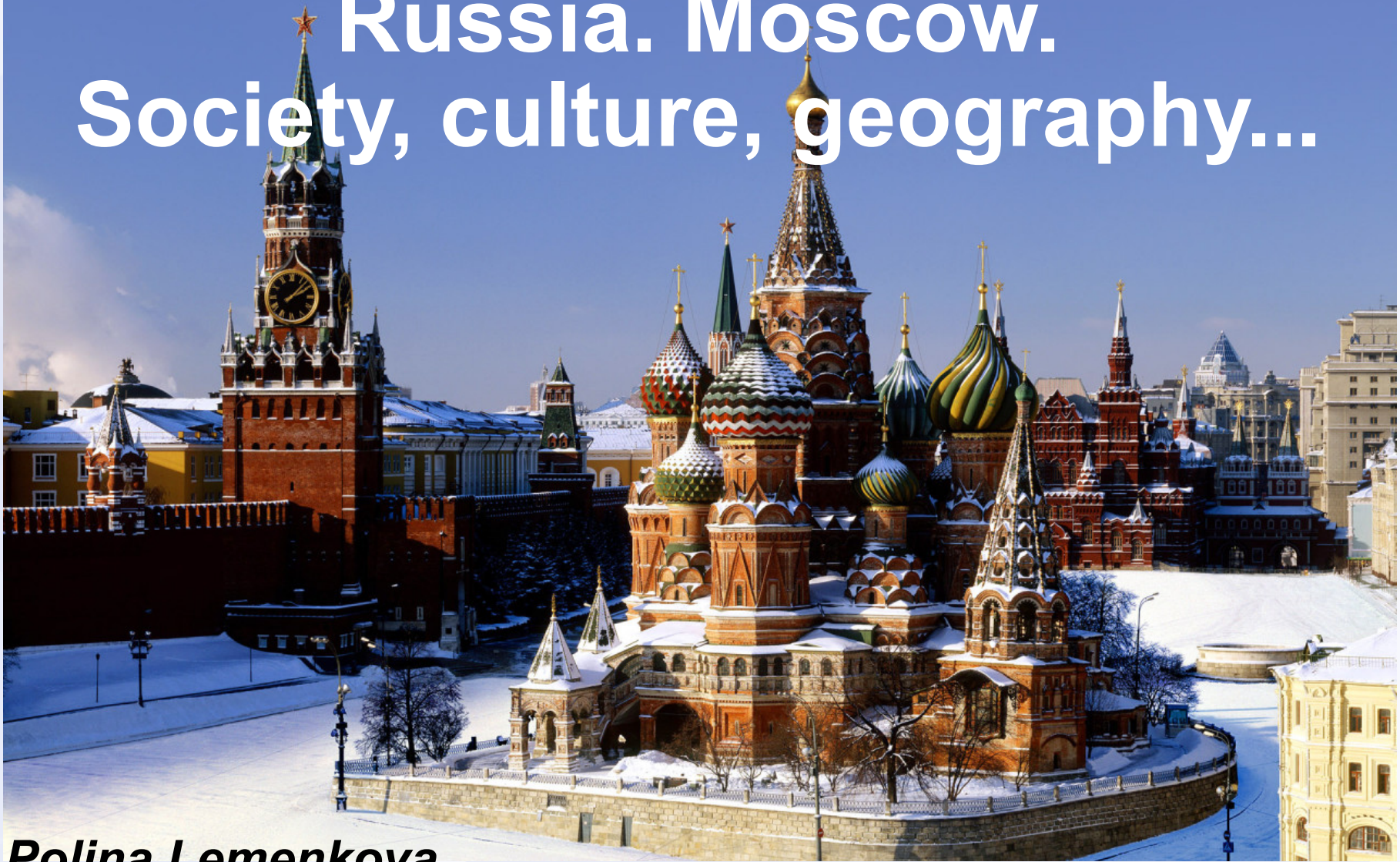
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Russia. Moscow. Society, culture, geography...



***Polina Lemenkova,
visiting researcher at National Taiwan University***

General information about Russia

Russia (the Russian Federation) is located both in Europe and Asia.

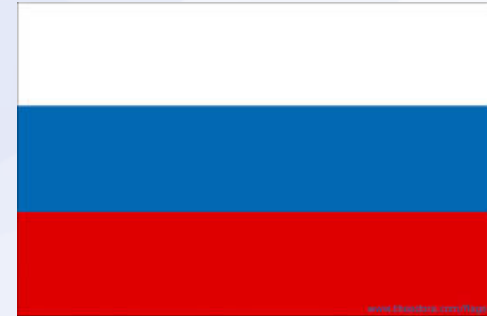
With an area of 17 098 246 km², it is the largest country in the world.

Its capital is Moscow.



Politics of Russia

- Russia borders with 18 countries, which is the largest neighboring number in the world.
- Russia is industrial country with difficult political structure and constantly developing economy
- Russia is notable for extremely high cultural and ethnical diversity and multi-nationality.



Geographic features of Russia

One of the notable features of Russia is water resources: it borders **Pacific** ocean, **Arctic**, and seas from the **Atlantic** ocean (Baltic, Black and Azov)

The Ural Mountains geographically cross the country (and Eurasia continent) into Europe and Asia

75% of the territory is occupied by plains and lowlands. Mountains are mostly located in the south and east.

Major of the territory lies above the 50°N. Northern territories lie beyond the Polar circle. Therefore, the country has 3 major climate types: 1) moderate, 2) sub-Arctic and 3) Arctic climate.

Language and social facts

Population of Russia is 143 M (the 9th in the world).

Official language is Russian (*русский*)

Religion: 75% of the Russian population are Christians (Russian Orthodox Church). Among other religions we have buddhists, muslims, traditional tribe religions, etc.

A traditional Russian costume:



A traditional popular Russian doll “Matryoshka”:



Moscow Metro (MRT)



Very famous is Moscow metro, created since 1935.

The Moscow metro is intensely used. Its “traffic” and passengers capacity is number 4 in the world (after Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing).

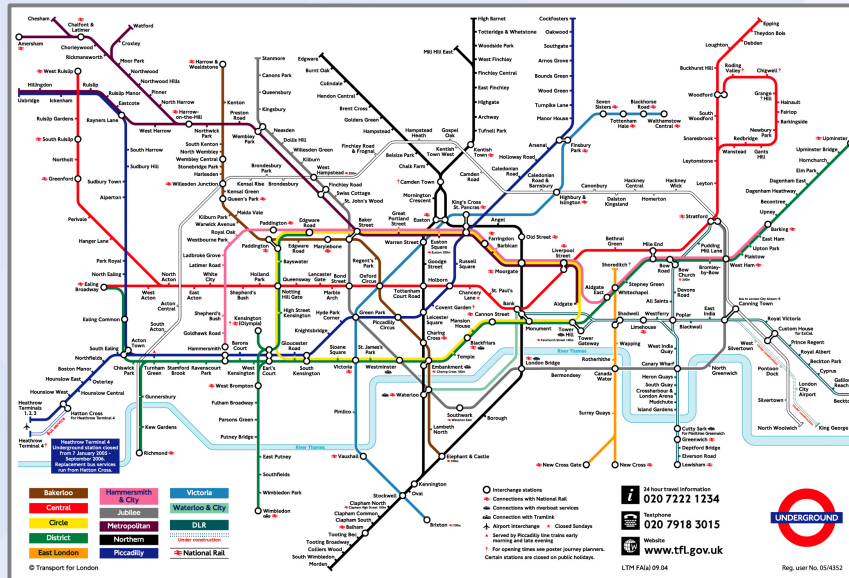
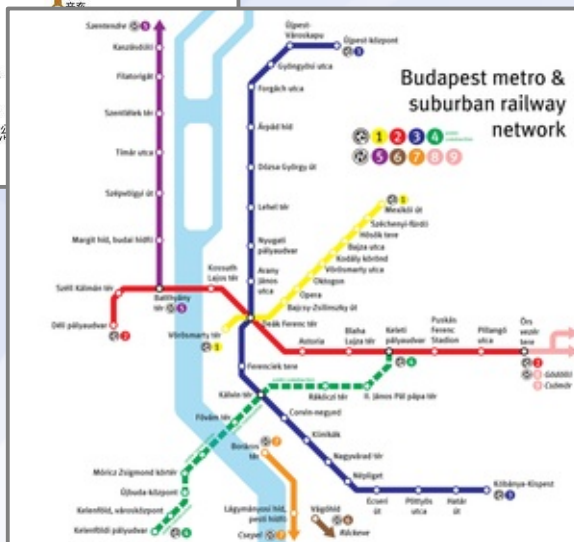
It has complex structure with main circle and radial lines crossing each other.

Comparing with other metros...



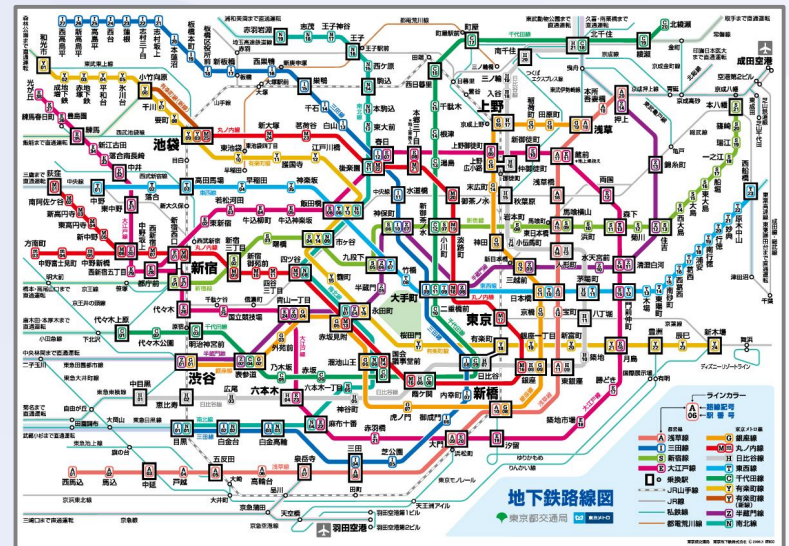
Taipei

Budapest



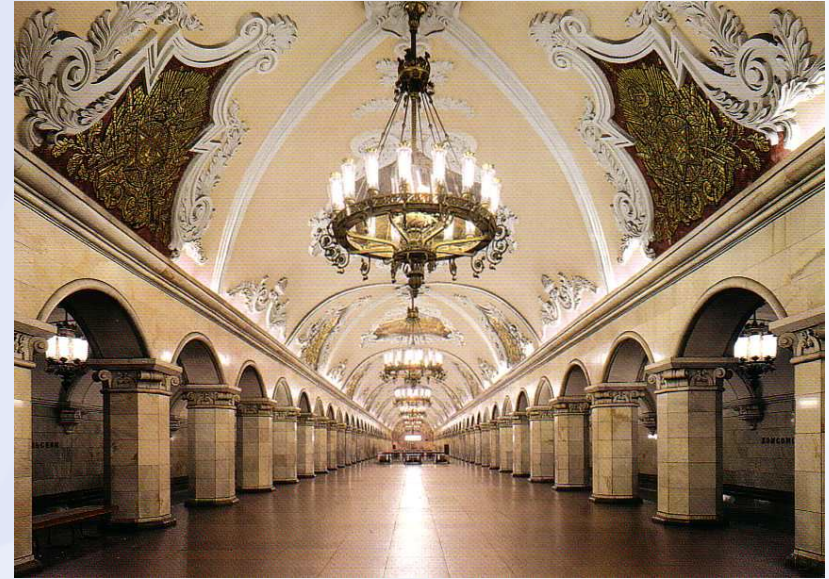
London

Tokyo

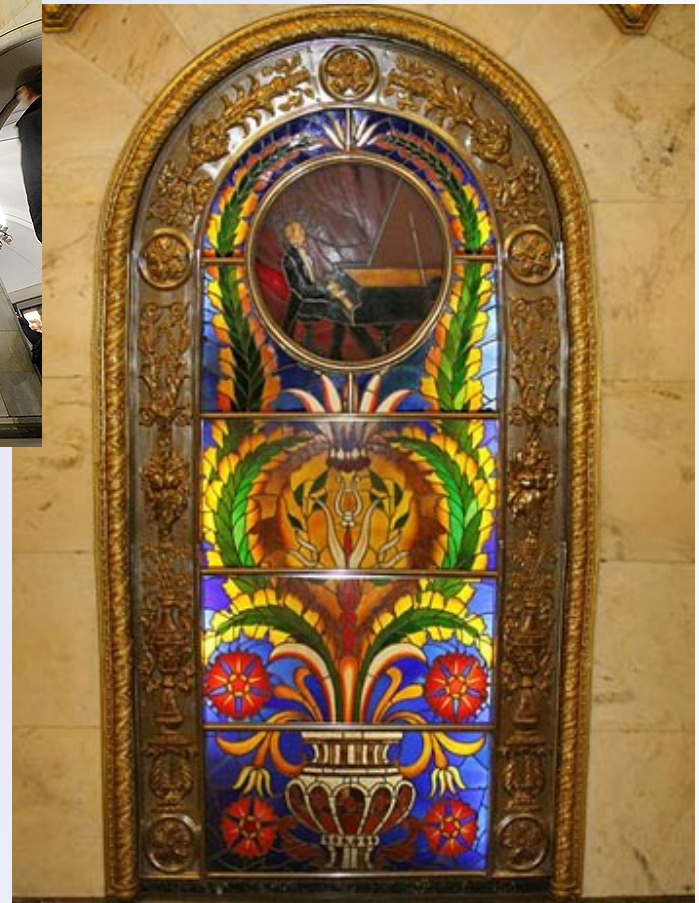


Moscow Metro

Moscow metro is known for its outstanding beauty in classic palace-style: marble & granite columns, paintings, splendid lighters, stone fretwork, stained glass... 44 of the existing 188 stations are considered to be the objects of Russian Cultural Heritage



A bit more pictures of metro...

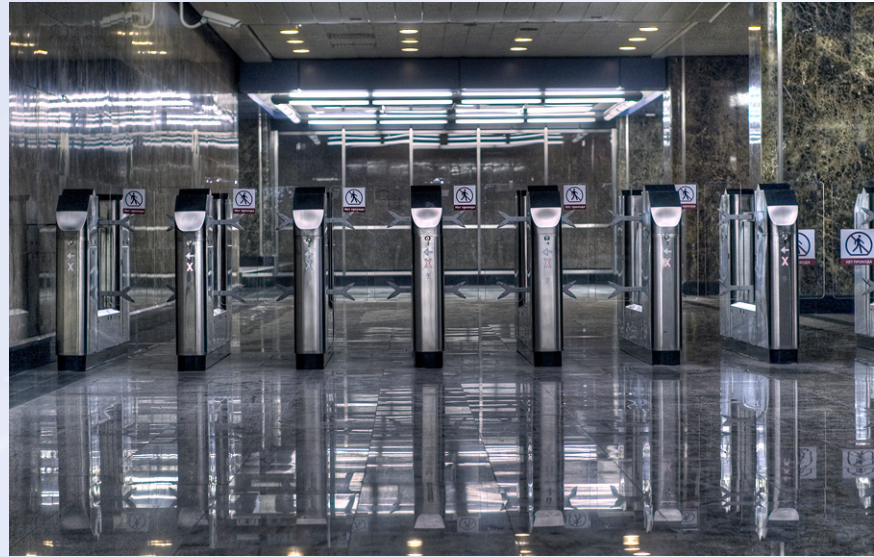


Visiting Moscow metro...

Many tourist groups visiting Moscow will go downstairs to look at the stations' interior and take pictures.

One single metro ticket costs 30 RUB (~ NTD 28). There are smart-card available for use (similar to EasyCard in Taipei MRT).

However, in rush hours (7-9 AM and 6-7 PM) it is very crowded..... :



Science. Space.

The Russian contribution to the development of space industry is well-known.

Some facts about Russian cosmos exploration:

- 1) Y. Gagarin is a first man on the Earth who traveled in outer space (April 12, 1961).
- 2) Soviet space program contributed to the cosmos exploration. The “Roscosmos” Russian Federal Space Agency is one of the leading space organizations (as ESA, NASA, etc).



Science. Space. The important facts.

USSR (the Soviet Union) did fantastically successful results in space exploration. Some important facts that are done in space science by Russia for the humanity:

- 1) intercontinental ballistic missile (1957),
- 2) first satellite (Sputnik-1),
- 3) first animal in space (the dog Laika on Sputnik 2),
- 4) first spacewalk (cosmonaut A. Leonov on Voskhod 2),
- 5) first Moon impact (Luna 2),
- 6) first image of the far side of the moon (Luna 3)
- 7) unmanned lunar soft landing (Luna 9),
- 8) first space rover,
- 9) first space station, and
- 10) first interplanetary probe.
- 11) first human in space and Earth orbit (cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin on Vostok 1),
- 12) first woman in space and Earth orbit (cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova on Vostok 6)



Science. Exploration of Polar regions

Russia has large territories and aquatories in Arctic. Russian scientists (together with U.S. and Canada) made colossal contribution into the studies of cold regions.

The Arctic contains enormous natural resources. For example, the oil that is stored in Arctic shelf area is about 90 billions of barrels. At the same time, the exploration of natural resources in Polar regions is both highly difficult and dangerous.



Science. Exploration of Arctic.

The difficulty of Arctic exploration is caused by specific climate, vulnerability of the ecosystems and high risk of technical accidents, faults and emergency situations in cold climate and Polar night.

For that special devices and vessels have been created by the Russian scientists (e.g. **Atomic (nuclear) ice-breakers**, as on the picture below).

Russia is the first and the only country which has an **Arctic Drifting Research Station “Barneo”**- created directly in the pack ice in the deep Arctic Ocean (89° N).



Culture (I): Music in Russia

Musical education is important tradition in Russian society. Many families let their children attend Music School and learn to play piano or violin (or other instruments), or sing in a chorus.



Both classic music and modern one (jazz, techno, pop, etc) are popular.

There are many jazz clubs and didjeys playing fun music.

Also various musician groups visit Moscow to give concerts.

Culture (II): Arts

One cannot talk about Russia and not mention ballet.

The first ballet performance took place in 1672 in Moscow.

Since then it developed to its highest state of the art.

Now it is a world-known “visit card” of Russian dance arts and highest achievement of Russian culture.

Modern Russian ballet has classic tradition with European dance techniques & styles.



Why does the Russian ballet is world-known ?

The world reputation of Russian ballet is caused by the combination of **romance in performance** and **virtuosity of dance technique**.

The dance style is achieved by the special difficult **training system** in the ballet schools, formed during XIX-XX centuries.

The most famous ballet school is *Moscow State Academy of Choreography*.

The ballet education starts at 6 years and lasts until 18 years.



Russian greatest theaters

Bolshoi (“the Great”) Theater, Moscow

Two most important and famous Russian theater are:

- 1) **Bolshoi** (“The Great”) Theater (Moscow)
- 2) **Mariinsky** Theater (St.-Petersburg).

These theaters have both operas and ballets.

In Moscow there are 165 (!) various “smaller” theaters in total.



Theaters in Russia (continue)

Mariinsky Theater, St.-Petersburg

The level of the performance is comparable with the best scenes of the world (e.g. *La Scala* in Milano, *Metropolitan Opera* in New York, *Sydney Opera Hall* in Australia, *Viennese State Opera* in Austria, etc.).



Culture (III): Architecture

Moscow center has different architectural styles. This include:

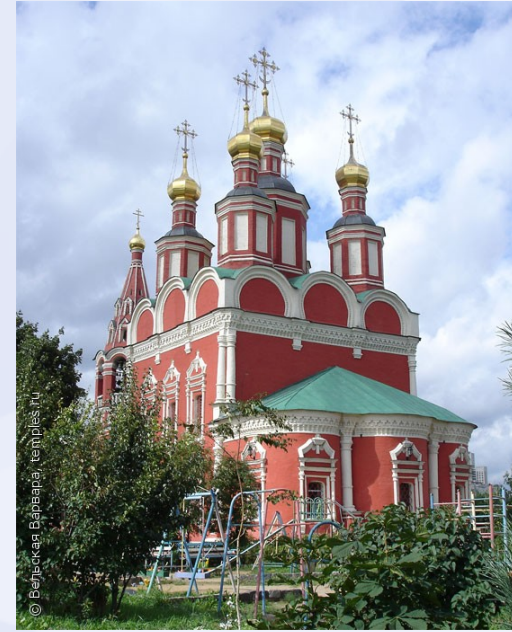
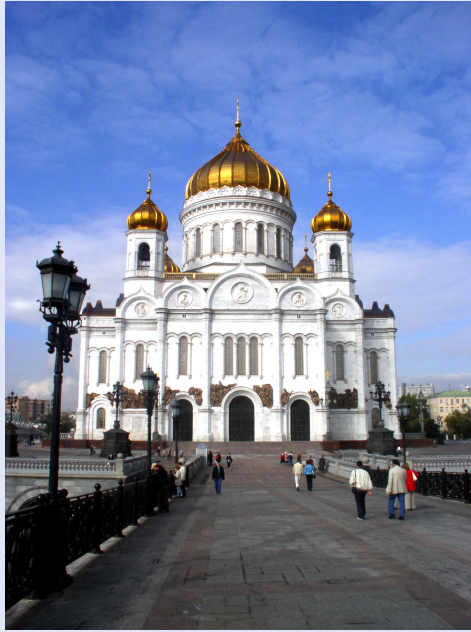
- Soviet-style “Stalin-époque” buildings,
- buildings of XIX century and older,
- modern office center and mega-malls
- typical 5-10-store “living” buildings where residents live
- churches
- cultural & governmental buildings

Some photos of Moscow streets and examples of different architecture styles are shown on the next slides...

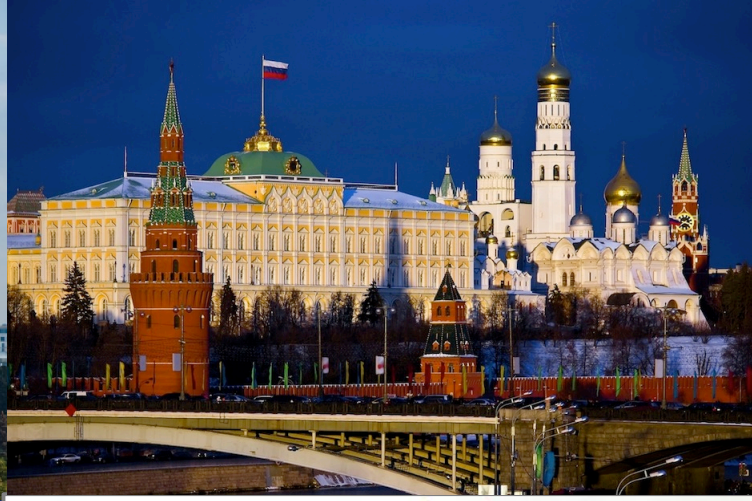
Soviet-style classic



Christian Churches



Moscow Kremlin



Old city. Arbat street.



Moscow = old + new city...



Russian cuisine: meals

Russian cuisine is a combination of diverse styles: Ukrainian, Siberian, Central Russian, European, Asian. Normally, the lunch has a soup (meat or fish & vegetables), a main dish and a salad.

Famous Russian soup: "Borsch"



Vermicelli, vegetables & meat soup



Fish salmon soup



Russian cuisine: pancakes

Though we don't prepare them every day, but **pancakes** are one of the most popular and favorite meals.

They can be both sweet (e.g. with honey, strawberry jam, etc.)



... or nourishing (with meat), cheese, fish, etc. :



Russian cuisine: pies (“pirogi”)

Pies are very popular in Russian cuisine. We buy them “ready made” in many small cafeterias as well as prepare by themselves (in an oven).



Moscow: coffeehouses

There are also adopted style of food that are popular in modern Russia: Sushi bars, Italian Pizzerias, many different European cafés, Irish bars, Indian and Chinese restaurants, Starbucks, etc.



The most known coffeehouses in Moscow are “**Shokoladnitsa**” :

...and “**Kofemania**”:



**Thank you for your attention !
Questions ?**