Moscow

Moscow is the capital and the largest city of Russia, its major political, economic, cultural, religious, financial, educational, and transportation centre. It is a city where every stone breathes history. It was founded in 1147 by the Prince of Suzdal, Yury Dolgoruky. The wise founder, he built the city in the middle of a densely populated country where it is protected by rivers and a fortress. Moscow stands on seven hills, the principal of which is the Borovitsky, the hill where the Kremlin stands.

Moscow’s early architecture was simple, as the larger part of the city was occupied by wooden houses, though fortress walls, bridges, cathedrals were of brick and white stone. Large-scale stone construction was performed during the reign of Catherine the Great when the first-class foreign architects were invited to build a number of architectural monuments in Western style. Some of them have survived to our days. As the time passed, the city’s boundaries expanded considerably and new districts on the outskirts of the city appeared.

A major feature of Moscow’s present development is the establishment of the industries requiring highly-skilled labour, as well as the development of new technologies and know-how. Alongside industrial development much attention is paid by the city administration to the construction of cultural, educational institutions and sport facilities.

In recent years the population of Moscow reached more than 12 million and it is still growing. An increasing number of people are moving to the capital in the hope of having a better life. This results in several big problems every megacity is suffering from. Transport problem is the priority. According to some experts, Moscow can get stuck in several years due to incredible traffic jams. Although the total amount of the roads is constantly increasing, the permanent need for new ways of solving the problem is urgent.

Moscow today is an enormous city whose infrastructure is traditional for every megapolis with first-rate hotels, restaurants, theatres, exhibition halls, shopping malls and gigantic transport arteries. But in spirit Moscow remains its old self, open, hospitable and festive, and, consequently, has the right, as ever, to be called the heart of Russia.