[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About)

[Template:Infobox Russian federal subject](/wiki/Template:Infobox_Russian_federal_subject) **Moscow** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); [Template:Lang-rus](/wiki/Template:Lang-rus)) is the [capital](/wiki/Capital_city) and [most populous city](/wiki/List_of_cities_and_towns_in_Russia_by_population) of the [Russian Federation](/wiki/Russia), with 12.2 million residents within the [city limits](/wiki/City_limits) and 16.8 million within the [urban area](/wiki/Urban_area). Moscow has the status of a [Russian federal city](/wiki/Federal_cities_of_Russia).

Moscow is a major political, economic, cultural, and scientific center of Russia and [Eastern Europe](/wiki/Eastern_Europe), as well as the [largest city](/wiki/Largest_cities_in_Europe) entirely on the [European continent](/wiki/European_continent). By broader definitions Moscow is among the [world's largest cities](/wiki/World's_largest_cities), being the [14th largest metro area](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_by_population), the [18th largest agglomeration](/wiki/List_of_agglomerations_by_population), the [15th largest urban area](/wiki/List_of_urban_areas_by_population), and the [11th largest by population within city limits](/wiki/List_of_cities_proper_by_population) worldwide. According to [Forbes 2013](/wiki/Forbes_list_of_billionaires),[[1]](#cite_note-1) Moscow has been ranked as the [ninth most expensive city in the world by Mercer](/wiki/List_of_most_expensive_cities_for_expatriate_employees) and has one of the world's [largest urban economies](/wiki/List_of_cities_by_GDP), being ranked as an [alpha global city](/wiki/Global_city) according to the [Globalization and World Cities Research Network](/wiki/Globalization_and_World_Cities_Research_Network), and is also one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the world according to the [MasterCard Global Destination Cities Index](/wiki/Tourism#World_tourism_statistics_and_rankings). Moscow is the northernmost and coldest [megacity](/wiki/Megacity) and [metropolis](/wiki/Metropolis) on [Earth](/wiki/Earth). It is home to the [Ostankino Tower](/wiki/Ostankino_Tower), the [tallest free standing structure in Europe](/wiki/List_of_tallest_freestanding_structures_in_the_world); the [Federation Tower](/wiki/Federation_Tower), the tallest skyscraper in Europe; and the [Moscow International Business Center](/wiki/Moscow_International_Business_Center). By its territorial expansion on July 1, 2012 southwest into the [Moscow Oblast](/wiki/Moscow_Oblast), the area of the capital more than doubled, going from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and it gained an additional population of 233,000 people.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) Moscow is situated on the [Moskva River](/wiki/Moskva_River) in the [Central Federal District](/wiki/Central_Federal_District) of [European Russia](/wiki/European_Russia), making it the world's most populated inland city. The city is well known for its architecture, particularly its historic buildings such as [Saint Basil's Cathedral](/wiki/Saint_Basil's_Cathedral) with its brightly colored domes. With over 40 percent of its territory covered by greenery, it is one of the greenest capitals and major cities in Europe and the world, having the largest forest in an urban area within its borders—more than any other major city—even before its expansion in 2012.

The city has served as the capital of a progression of states, from the [medieval](/wiki/Medieval) [Grand Duchy of Moscow](/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Moscow) and the subsequent [Tsardom of Russia](/wiki/Tsardom_of_Russia) to the [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire) to the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) and the contemporary [Russian Federation](/wiki/Russian_Federation). Moscow is considered the center of Russian culture, having served as the home of Russian artists, scientists and sports figures and because of the presence of museums, academic and political institutions and theaters.

Moscow is the seat of power of the [Government of Russia](/wiki/Russian_government), being the site of the [Moscow Kremlin](/wiki/Moscow_Kremlin), a medieval city-fortress that is today the residence of the [President of Russia](/wiki/President_of_Russia). The Moscow Kremlin and [Red Square](/wiki/Red_Square) are also one of several [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) in the city. Both chambers of the Russian parliament (the [State Duma](/wiki/State_Duma) and the [Federation Council](/wiki/Federation_Council_of_Russia)) also sit in the city.

The city is served by a transit network, which includes four international [airports](/wiki/Airports), nine railway terminals, numerous trams, [a monorail system](/wiki/Moscow_monorail) and one of the deepest underground rapid transit systems in the world, the [Moscow Metro](/wiki/Moscow_Metro), the fourth-largest in the world and largest outside of [Asia](/wiki/Asia) in terms of passenger numbers, and the busiest in Europe. It is recognized as one of the city's landmarks due to the rich architecture of its 200 stations.

Moscow has acquired a number of [epithets](/wiki/Epithet), most referring to its size and preeminent status within the nation: The [Third Rome](/wiki/Third_Rome) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), The Whitestone One ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), The First Throne ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), The Forty Forties ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), and The Hero City ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)). In old Russian the word "[Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)" (*forty*) also meant a church administrative district, which consisted of about forty churches. The [demonym](/wiki/Demonym) for a Moscow resident is "[Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)" (*moskvich*), rendered in English as *Muscovite*.

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name of the city is thought to be derived from the name of the [Moskva River](/wiki/Moskva_River).<ref name=Vasmer>[Template:Vasmer](/wiki/Template:Vasmer)</ref><ref name=Smol>[Template:Ref-ru](/wiki/Template:Ref-ru) [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> There have been proposed several theories of the origin of the name of the river. The most linguistically well-grounded and widely accepted is from the Proto-Balto-Slavic root \**mŭzg*-/*muzg*- from the Proto-Indo-European \**meu*- "wet",<ref name=Smol/><ref name=Trubach>[Template:Ref-ru](/wiki/Template:Ref-ru) [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[4]](#cite_note-4) so the name *Moskva* might signify a river at a wetland or a marsh.<ref name=Vasmer/> Its [cognates](/wiki/Cognate) include [Template:Lang-ru](/wiki/Template:Lang-ru), *muzga* "pool, puddle", [Template:Lang-lt](/wiki/Template:Lang-lt) and [Template:Lang-lv](/wiki/Template:Lang-lv) "to wash", [Template:Lang-sa](/wiki/Template:Lang-sa) "to drown", [Template:Lang-la](/wiki/Template:Lang-la) "to dip, immerse".<ref name=Vasmer/><ref name=Trubach/> There exist as well similar place names in Poland like [Mozgawa](/wiki/Mozgawa).<ref name=Vasmer/><ref name=Smol/><ref name=Trubach/>

The original Old Russian form of the name is reconstructed as \*[Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), \**Mosky*,<ref name=Vasmer/><ref name=Smol/> hence it was one of a few Slavic [*ū*-stem nouns](/wiki/Wikt:Category:Proto-Slavic_v-stem_nouns). As with other nouns of that declension, it had been undergoing a morphological transformation at the early stage of the development of the language, as a result the first written mentions in the 12th century were [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *Moskovĭ* ([accusative case](/wiki/Accusative_case)), [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *Moskvi* ([locative case](/wiki/Locative_case)), [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *Moskve/Moskvě* ([genitive case](/wiki/Genitive_case)).<ref name=Vasmer/><ref name=Smol/> From the latter forms came the modern Russian name [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *Moskva*, which is a result of [morphological generalization](/wiki/Morphological_leveling) with the numerous Slavic [*ā*-stem nouns](/wiki/Wikt:Category:Proto-Slavic_hard_a-stem_nouns).

However, the form *Moskovĭ* has left some traces in many other languages, such as [Template:Lang-en](/wiki/Template:Lang-en), [Template:Lang-de](/wiki/Template:Lang-de), [Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr), [Template:Lang-lv](/wiki/Template:Lang-lv), [Template:Lang-ota](/wiki/Template:Lang-ota), [Template:Lang-tt](/wiki/Template:Lang-tt), [Template:Lang-kz](/wiki/Template:Lang-kz), [Template:Lang-cv](/wiki/Template:Lang-cv), etc. In a similar manner the Latin name *Moscovia* has been formed, later it became a colloquial name for Russia used in Western Europe in the 16th–17th centuries. From it as well came English *Muscovy*.

Various other theories (of Celtic, Iranian, Caucasic, Finno-Ugrian origin), having little or no scientific ground, are now largely rejected by contemporary linguists.<ref name=Vasmer/><ref name=Smol/>

There has been as well a naïve scholastic etymology that connected the name of [Mosoch](/wiki/Meshech), a son of [Japheth](/wiki/Japheth), with the name of the city, so that it was thought that the biblical figure was a forefather of Russians as well as other Slavs. The surface similarity of the name *Russia* with *Rosh*, an obscure biblical tribe or country, which is mentioned alongside with Mosoch in Ezekiel (38:2–3, 39:1), strengthened up such etymologies.[[5]](#cite_note-5)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Prehistory[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

The oldest evidence of humans on the territory of Moscow dates from the [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) (Schukinskaya site on the [Moscow River](/wiki/Moscow_River)). Within the modern bounds of the city other late evidence was discovered (the burial ground of the [Fatyanovskaya culture](/wiki/Fatyanovo–Balanovo_culture), the site of the [Iron Age](/wiki/Iron_Age) settlement of the [Dyakovo culture](/wiki/Dyakovo_culture)), on the territory of the [Kremlin](/wiki/Moscow_Kremlin), [Sparrow Hills](/wiki/Sparrow_Hills), [Setun River](/wiki/Setun_River) and Kuntsevskiy forest park, etc.

In the 9th century, the [Oka River](/wiki/Oka_River) was part of the [Volga trade route](/wiki/Volga_trade_route), and the upper Volga watershed became an area of contact between the indigenous Uralic peoples such as the [Merya](/wiki/Merya) and the expanding [Volga Bulgars](/wiki/Volga_Bulgars) (particularly the second son of Khan Kubrat who expanded the borders of the [Old Great Bulgaria](/wiki/Old_Great_Bulgaria)), [Germanic](/wiki/Germanic_people) ([Varangians](/wiki/Varangians)) and [Slavic](/wiki/Early_Slavs) peoples.

The earliest [East Slavic](/wiki/Early_East_Slavs) tribes recorded as having expanded to the upper Volga in the 9th to 10th centuries are the [Vyatichi](/wiki/Vyatichi) and [Krivichi](/wiki/Krivichi). The Moskva River was incorporated as part of [Rostov-Suzdal](/wiki/Rostov-Suzdal) into the [Kievan Rus](/wiki/Kievan_Rus) in the 11th century. By AD 1100, a minor settlement had appeared on the mouth of the [Neglinnaya River](/wiki/Neglinnaya_River).

### Early history (1147–1283)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|160px|The principality on the northeastern periphery of](/wiki/File:Kyivan_Rus'_1220-1240.png) [Kievan Rus'](/wiki/Kievan_Rus'), [Vladimir-Suzdal](/wiki/Vladimir-Suzdal), grew into the Grand Duchy of Moscow

The first known reference to Moscow dates from 1147 as a meeting place of [Yuri Dolgorukiy](/wiki/Yuri_Dolgorukiy) and [Sviatoslav Olgovich](/wiki/Sviatoslav_Olgovich). At the time it was a minor town on the western border of Vladimir-Suzdal Principality.

In 1156, [Knjaz](/wiki/Knjaz) [Yury Dolgoruky](/wiki/Yury_Dolgoruky) fortified the town with a timber fence and a moat. In the course of the [Mongol invasion of Rus](/wiki/Mongol_invasion_of_Rus), the Mongols under [Batu Khan](/wiki/Batu_Khan) burned the city to the ground and killed its inhabitants.

The timber fort *na Moskvě* "on the Moscow river" was inherited by [Daniel](/wiki/Daniel_of_Moscow), the youngest son of [Alexander Nevsky](/wiki/Alexander_Nevsky), in the 1260s, at the time considered the least valuable of his father's possessions. Daniel was still a child at the time, and the big fort was governed by *tiuns* (deputies), appointed by Daniel's paternal uncle, [Yaroslav of Tver](/wiki/Yaroslav_of_Tver).

Daniel came of age in the 1270s and became involved in the power struggles of the principality with lasting success, siding with his brother [Dmitry](/wiki/Dmitry_of_Pereslavl) in his bid for the rule of Novgorod. From 1283 he acted as the ruler of an independent principality alongside Dmitry, who became Grand Duke of Vladimir. Daniel has been credited with founding the first Moscow monasteries, dedicated to the Lord's Epiphany and to Saint Daniel.

### Grand Duchy (1283–1547)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

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[thumb|](/wiki/File:0_4707b_6549aa91_spasskaya.jpg)[Spasskaya Tower](/wiki/Spasskaya_Tower) was built in 1491

Daniel I ruled Moscow as Grand Duke until 1303 and established it as a prosperous city which would eclipse its parent principality of Vladimir by the 1320s.

On the right bank of the Moskva River, at a distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the Kremlin, not later than in 1282, Daniel founded the first monastery with the wooden church of St. Daniel-Stylite. Now it is the Danilov Monastery. Daniel died in 1303, at the age of 42. Before his death he became a monk and, according to his will, was buried in the cemetery of the St. Daniel Monastery.

Moscow was stable and prosperous for many years and attracted a large numbers of refugees from across Russia. The Rurikids maintained large landholdings by practicing [primogeniture](/wiki/Primogeniture), whereby all land was passed to the eldest sons, rather than dividing it up among all sons. By 1304, [Yury of Moscow](/wiki/Yury_of_Moscow) contested with [Mikhail of Tver](/wiki/Mikhail_of_Tver) for the throne of the principality of [Vladimir](/wiki/Vladimir,_Russia). [Ivan I](/wiki/Ivan_I_of_Russia) eventually defeated [Tver](/wiki/Tver) to become the sole collector of taxes for the [Mongol](/wiki/Mongol) rulers, making Moscow the capital of [Vladimir-Suzdal](/wiki/Vladimir-Suzdal). By paying high tribute, Ivan won an important concession from the [Khan](/wiki/Khan_(title)).

While Khan of the [Golden Horde](/wiki/Golden_Horde) initially attempted to limit Moscow's influence, when the growth of the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Lithuania) began to threaten all of Russia, the Khan strengthened Moscow to counterbalance Lithuania, allowing it to become one of the most powerful cities in Russia. In 1380, prince [Dmitry Donskoy](/wiki/Dmitry_Donskoy) of Moscow led a united Russian army to an important victory over the Mongols in the [Battle of Kulikovo](/wiki/Battle_of_Kulikovo). Afterwards, Moscow took the leading role in liberating Russia from Mongol domination. In 1480, [Ivan III](/wiki/Ivan_III_of_Russia) had [finally broken the Russians free](/wiki/Great_standing_on_the_Ugra_river) from Tatar control, and Moscow became the capital of an empire that would eventually encompass all of Russia and [Siberia](/wiki/Siberia), and parts of many other lands.

[left|200px|thumb|Ivan III](/wiki/File:Ivan_III_of_Russia.jpg)

In 1462 [Ivan III, known as Ivan the Great](/wiki/Ivan_III_of_Russia) (1440–1505) became Grand Prince of Moscow (then part of the medieval Muscovy state). He began fighting the Tatars, enlarged the territory of Muscovy, and enriched his capital city. By 1500 it had a population of 100,000 and was one of the largest cities in the world. He conquered the far larger principality of Novgorod to the north, which had been allied to the hostile Lithuanians. Thus he enlarged the territory sevenfold, from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). He took control of the ancient "[Novgorod Chronicle](/wiki/Novgorod_Chronicle)" and made it a propaganda vehicle for his regime.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) The original [Moscow Kremlin](/wiki/Moscow_Kremlin) was built during the 14th century. It was reconstructed by Ivan, who in the 1480s invited architects from [Renaissance Italy](/wiki/Renaissance_Italy), such as [Petrus Antonius Solarius](/wiki/Petrus_Antonius_Solarius), who designed the new Kremlin wall and its towers, and [Marco Ruffo](/wiki/Marco_Ruffo) who designed the new palace for the prince. The Kremlin walls as they now appear are those designed by Solarius, completed in 1495. The Kremlin's Great Bell Tower was built in 1505–08 and augmented to its present height in 1600.

A trading settlement, or *posad*, grew up to the east of the Kremlin, in the area known as *Zaradye* (Зарядье). In the time of Ivan III, the [Red Square](/wiki/Red_Square), originally named the Hollow Field (Полое поле) appeared.

In 1508–1516, the Italian architect [Aleviz Fryazin (Novy)](/wiki/Aloisio_the_New) arranged for the construction of a moat in front of the eastern wall, which would connect the [Moskva](/wiki/Moskva_River) and [Neglinnaya](/wiki/Neglinnaya_River) and be filled in with water from Neglinnaya. This moat, known as the [Alevizov moat](/wiki/Alevizov_moat) and having a length of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), width of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and a depth of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) was lined with limestone and, in 1533, fenced on both sides with low, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) cogged-brick walls.[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

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### Tsardom (1547–1721)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|View of 17th-century Moscow (1922 drawing by](/wiki/File:Расцвет_Кремля._Всехсвятский_мост_и_Кремль_в_конце_XVII_века._1922,_бумага_на_картоне,_уголь,_акварель,_карандаш.jpg) [Apollinary Vasnetsov](/wiki/Apollinary_Vasnetsov))

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the three circular defenses were built: [Kitay-gorod](/wiki/Kitay-gorod) (Китай-город), the White City (Белый город) and the Earthen City (Земляной город). However, in 1547, two fires destroyed much of the town, and in 1571 the [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Tatars) [captured Moscow](/wiki/Russo-Crimean_Wars), burning everything except the Kremlin.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The annals record that only 30,000 of 200,000 inhabitants survived.

The [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Khanate_of_Crimea) attacked again in 1591, but this time were held back by new defense walls, built between 1584 and 1591 by a craftsman named [Fyodor Kon](/wiki/Fyodor_Kon). In 1592, an outer earth rampart with 50 towers was erected around the city, including an area on the right bank of the Moscow River. As an outermost line of defense, a chain of strongly fortified monasteries was established beyond the ramparts to the south and east, principally the [Novodevichy Convent](/wiki/Novodevichy_Convent) and [Donskoy](/wiki/Donskoy_Monastery), [Danilov](/wiki/Danilov_Monastery), [Simonov](/wiki/Simonov_Monastery), [Novospasskiy](/wiki/Novospassky_Monastery), and [Andronikov](/wiki/Andronikov_Monastery) monasteries, most of which now house museums. From its ramparts, the city became poetically known as *Bielokamennaya*, the "White-Walled". The limits of the city as marked by the ramparts built in 1592 are now marked by the [Garden Ring](/wiki/Garden_Ring).

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Basil-cathedral-morning.jpg)[Saint Basil's Cathedral](/wiki/Saint_Basil's_Cathedral) 1561

Three square gates existed on the eastern side of the Kremlin wall, which in the 17th century, were known as: Konstantino-Eleninsky, Spassky, Nikolsky (owing their names to the icons of Constantine and Helen, the Savior and St. Nicholas which hung over them). The last two were directly opposite the Red Square, while the Konstantino-Elenensky gate was located behind Saint Basil's Cathedral.

The [Russian famine of 1601–03](/wiki/Russian_famine_of_1601–03) killed perhaps 100,000 in Moscow. From 1610 through 1612, troops of the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](/wiki/Polish-Lithuanian_Commonwealth) occupied Moscow, as its ruler [Sigismund III](/wiki/Sigismund_III_Vasa) tried to take the Russian throne. In 1612, the people of [Nizhny Novgorod](/wiki/Nizhny_Novgorod) and other Russian cities conducted by prince [Dmitry Pozharsky](/wiki/Dmitry_Pozharsky) and [Kuzma Minin](/wiki/Kuzma_Minin) rose against the Polish occupants, [besieged the Kremlin, and expelled them](/wiki/Time_of_Troubles). In 1613, the [Zemsky sobor](/wiki/Zemsky_sobor) elected [Michael Romanov](/wiki/Michael_I_of_Russia) tsar, establishing the [Romanov dynasty](/wiki/Romanov_dynasty). The 17th century was rich in popular risings, such as the liberation of Moscow from the Polish–Lithuanian invaders (1612), the [Salt Riot](/wiki/Salt_Riot) (1648), the [Copper Riot](/wiki/Copper_Riot) (1662), and the [Moscow Uprising of 1682](/wiki/Moscow_Uprising_of_1682).

During the first half of the 17th century, the population of Moscow doubled from roughly 100,000 to 200,000. It expanded beyond its ramparts in the later 17th century. By 1682, there were 692 households established north of the ramparts, by [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians) and [Belarusians](/wiki/Belarusians) abducted from their hometowns in the course of [Russo-Polish War (1654–1667)](/wiki/Russo-Polish_War_(1654–1667)). These new outskirts of the city came to be known as the *Meshchanskaya* [*sloboda*](/wiki/Sloboda), after Ruthenian *meshchane* "town people". The term *meshchane* (мещане) acquired pejorative connotations in 18th-century Russia and today means "petty bourgeois" or "narrow-minded philistine".[[9]](#cite_note-9) The entire city of the late 17th century, including the [slobodas](/wiki/Sloboda) which grew up outside of the city ramparts, are contained within what is today Moscow's [Central Administrative Okrug](/wiki/Central_Administrative_Okrug).

Numerous disasters befell the city. The [plague](/wiki/Black_Death) epidemics ravaged Moscow in 1570–1571, 1592 and 1654–1656.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The plague killed upwards of 80% of the people in 1654–55. Fires burned out much of the wooden city in 1626 and 1648.[[11]](#cite_note-11)

### Empire (1721–1917)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:Panorama](/wiki/Template:Panorama) [thumb|125px|The coat of arms of](/wiki/File:Coat_of_Arms_of_Moscow_gubernia_(Russian_empire).png) [Moscow Governorate](/wiki/Moscow_Governorate). [thumb|left|265px|Moskva riverside in the 19th century.](/wiki/File:Moskva_riverfront.jpg)

Moscow ceased to be Russia's capital (except for a brief period from 1728 to 1732 under the influence of the [Supreme Privy Council](/wiki/Supreme_Privy_Council)) when [Peter the Great](/wiki/Peter_I_of_Russia) moved his government to the newly built [Saint Petersburg](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg) on the Baltic coast in 1712.

After losing the status as capital of the empire, the population of Moscow at first decreased, from 200,000 in the 17th century to 130,000 in 1750. But after 1750, the population grew more than tenfold over the remaining duration of the Russian Empire, reaching 1.8 million by 1915.

[thumb|Book shops at the Spassky bridge. By](/wiki/File:Kniznije_lavki.jpg) [Apollinary Vasnetsov](/wiki/Apollinary_Vasnetsov)

By 1700, the building of cobbled roads had begun. In November 1730, the permanent street light was introduced, and by 1867 many streets had a gaslight. In 1883, near the [Prechistinskiye Gates](/wiki/Prechistinskiye_Gates), arc lamps were installed. In 1741 Moscow was surrounded by a barricade [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long, the [Kamer-Kollezhskiy barrier](/wiki/Kamer-Kollezhskiy_barrier), with 16 gates at which customs tolls were collected. Its line is traced today by a number of streets called *val* (“ramparts”). Between 1781–1804 the [Mytischinskiy water-pipe](/wiki/Mytischinskiy_water-pipe) (the first in Russia) was built. In 1813 a Commission for the Construction of the City of Moscow was established. It launched a great program of rebuilding, including a partial replanning of the city-center. Among many buildings constructed or reconstructed at this time were the [Grand Kremlin Palace](/wiki/Grand_Kremlin_Palace) and the [Kremlin Armoury](/wiki/Kremlin_Armoury), the [Moscow University](/wiki/Moscow_University), the [Moscow Manege](/wiki/Moscow_Manege) (Riding School), and the [Bolshoi Theatre](/wiki/Bolshoi_Theatre). In 1903 the [Moskvoretskaya water-supply](/wiki/Moskvoretskaya_water-supply) was completed.

In the early 19th century, the Arch of Konstantino-Elenensky gate was paved with bricks, but the Spassky Gate was the main front gate of the Kremlin and used for royal entrances. From this gate, wooden and (following the 17th-century improvements) stone bridges stretched across the moat. Books were sold on this bridge and stone platforms were built nearby for guns – "raskats". The [Tsar Cannon](/wiki/Tsar_Cannon) was located on the platform of the [Lobnoye mesto](/wiki/Lobnoye_mesto).

The road connecting Moscow with St. Petersburg, now the [M10 highway](/wiki/M10_highway_(Russia)), was completed in 1746, its Moscow end following the old [Tver](/wiki/Tver) road which had existed since the 16th century. It became known as [*Peterburskoye Schosse*](/wiki/Leningradsky_Prospekt) after it was paved in the 1780s. [Petrovsky Palace](/wiki/Petrovsky_Palace) was built in 1776–1780 by [Matvey Kazakov](/wiki/Matvey_Kazakov) as a railway station specifically reserved for royal journeys from Saint Petersburg to Moscow, while coaches for lesser classes arrived and departed from [Vsekhsvyatskoye](/wiki/Vsekhsvyatskoye) station.

When [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon_I_of_France) [invaded](/wiki/Napoleon's_invasion_of_Russia) Russia in 1812, the Moscovites were evacuated. It is suspected that the [Moscow fire](/wiki/Fire_of_Moscow_(1812)) was principally the effect of Russian sabotage. Napoleon’s [*Grande Armée*](/wiki/Grande_Armée) was forced to retreat and was nearly annihilated by the devastating Russian winter and sporadic attacks by Russian military forces. As many as 400,000 of Napoleon's soldiers died during this time.[[12]](#cite_note-12) [thumb|left|210px|](/wiki/File:Chumbunt.png)[Moscow plague riot of 1771](/wiki/Moscow_plague_riot_of_1771)

[Moscow State University](/wiki/Moscow_State_University) was established in 1755. Its main building was reconstructed after the 1812 fire by [Domenico Giliardi](/wiki/Domenico_Giliardi). The [*Moskovskiye Vedomosti*](/wiki/Moskovskiye_Vedomosti) newspaper appeared from 1756, originally in weekly intervals, and from 1859 as a daily newspaper.

The [Arbat Street](/wiki/Arbat_Street) had been in existence since at least the 15th century, but it was developed into a prestigious area during the 18th century. It was destroyed in the fire of 1812 and was rebuilt completely in the early 19th century.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Fire_of_Moscow_1812.jpg)[French invasion of Russia](/wiki/French_invasion_of_Russia) in 1812, [Fire of Moscow](/wiki/Fire_of_Moscow_(1812)), painting by A.F. Smirnov 1813

In the 1830s, general [Alexander Bashilov](/wiki/Alexander_Bashilov) planned the first regular grid of city streets north from Petrovsky Palace. [Khodynka](/wiki/Khodynka_Field) field south of the highway was used for military training. Smolensky Rail station (forerunner of present-day [Belorussky Rail Terminal](/wiki/Belorussky_Rail_Terminal)) was inaugurated in 1870. [Sokolniki Park](/wiki/Sokolniki_Park), in the 18th century the home of the tsar's falconers well outside of Moscow, became contiguous with the expanding city in the later 19th century and was developed into a public municipal park in 1878. The suburban [Savyolovsky Rail Terminal](/wiki/Savyolovsky_Rail_Terminal) was built in 1902. In January 1905, the institution of the City Governor, or [Mayor](/wiki/Mayor), was officially introduced in Moscow, and [Alexander Adrianov](/wiki/Alexander_Adrianov) became Moscow's first official mayor.

When Catherine II came to power in 1762, the city's filth and smell of sewage was depicted by observers as a symptom of disorderly life styles of lower-class Russians recently arrived from the farms. Elites called for improving sanitation, which became part of Catherine's plans for increasing control over social life. National political and military successes from 1812 through 1855 calmed the critics and validated efforts to produce a more enlightened and stable society. There was less talk about the smell and the poor conditions of public health. However, in the wake of Russia's failures in the Crimean War in 1855–56, confidence in the ability of the state to maintain order in the slums eroded, and demands for improved public health put filth back on the agenda.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

### Soviet era (1917–1991)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [upright|thumb|Plan of Moscow, 1917](/wiki/File:Plan_of_Moscow_1917.jpg) [thumb|170px|December 1941. Fresh forces going to the front from Moscow.](/wiki/File:RIAN_archive_429_Fresh_forces_going_to_the_front.jpg) [left|thumb|150px|Kalininsky Propekt in New Arbat Avenue, build in 1968.](/wiki/File:New_Arbat_Ave.jpg) [thumb|150px|left|Soviet poster, issued on the 800th anniversary of Moscow. The inscription reads: "glory to you, invincible Moscow, beauty and pride of the Russian people".](/wiki/File:Moskve-plakat.jpg)

[Template:External media](/wiki/Template:External_media)

Following the success of the [Russian Revolution of 1917](/wiki/Russian_Revolution_of_1917), [Vladimir Lenin](/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin), fearing possible foreign invasion, moved the capital from Saint Petersburg back to Moscow on March 5, 1918. The Kremlin once again became the seat of power and the political centre of the new state.

During the [Great Patriotic War](/wiki/Great_Patriotic_War), the [Soviet](/wiki/USSR) State Committee of Defense and the General Staff of the [Red Army](/wiki/Red_Army) were located in Moscow. In 1941, 16 divisions of the national volunteers (more than 160,000 people), 25 battalions (18,000 people) and 4 engineering regiments were formed among the Muscovites. In November 1941, German [Army Group Centre](/wiki/Army_Group_Centre) was stopped at the outskirts of the city and then driven off in the course of the [Battle of Moscow](/wiki/Battle_of_Moscow). Many factories were evacuated, together with much of the government, and from October 20 the city was declared to be in a state of siege. Its remaining inhabitants built and manned antitank defenses, while the city was bombarded from the air. On May 1, 1944 a medal "For the defense of Moscow" and in 1947 another medal "In memory of the 800th anniversary of Moscow" were instituted.

Both [German](/wiki/German_casualties_in_World_War_II) and [Soviet casualties](/wiki/World_War_II_casualties_of_the_Soviet_Union) during the battle of Moscow have been a subject of debate, as various sources provide somewhat different estimates. Total casualties between 30 September 1941, and 7 January 1942, are estimated to be between 248,000 and 400,000 for the [Wehrmacht](/wiki/Wehrmacht) and between 650,000 and 1,280,000 for the Red Army.[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16) During the postwar years, there was a serious housing crisis, solved by the invention of [high-rise apartments](/wiki/Tower_block). There are about 13,000 [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) of these standardized and prefabricated apartment block, housing the majority of Moscow's population. Apartments were built and partly furnished in the factory before being raised and stacked into tall columns. The popular Soviet-era comic film [*Irony of Fate*](/wiki/Irony_of_Fate) parodies this construction method.

The city of [Zelenograd](/wiki/Zelenograd) was built in 1958 at 37 km from the city center to the north-west, along the [Leningradskoye Shosse](/wiki/Leningradskoye_Shosse), and incorporated as one of Moscow's [administrative ogrkugs](/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_Moscow). [Moscow State University](/wiki/Moscow_State_University) moved to its campus on [Sparrow Hills](/wiki/Sparrow_Hills) in 1953.

On May 8, 1965 due to the actual 20th [anniversary of the victory](/wiki/Victory_Day_(9_May)) in [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) Moscow was awarded a title of the [Hero City](/wiki/Hero_City). In 1980 it hosted the [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/1980_Summer_Olympics).

The [MKAD](/wiki/MKAD) ring road was opened in 1961. It had four lanes running 109 km along the city borders. The MKAD marked the administrative boundaries of the city of Moscow until the 1980s, when outlying suburbs beyond the ring road began to be incorporated. In 1980, it hosted the [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/1980_Summer_Olympics), which were boycotted by the [United States](/wiki/United_States) and several other Western countries due to the Soviet Union's involvement in [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan) in late 1979. In 1991 Moscow was the scene of a [coup attempt](/wiki/Soviet_coup_attempt_of_1991) by conservators opposed to the [liberal reforms](/wiki/Perestroika) of [Mikhail Gorbachev](/wiki/Mikhail_Gorbachev).

### Metro[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Mayakovskaya_after_renewing_2010.jpg)[Mayakovskaya station](/wiki/Mayakovskaya_(Moscow_Metro)) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Novokuz-mm.jpg)[Novokuznetskaya station](/wiki/Novokuznetskaya)

The [Moscow Metro](/wiki/Moscow_Metro) opened in 1935 and immediately became the centerpiece of the transportation system. More than that it was a Stalinist device to awe and control the populace, and give them an appreciation of Soviet realist art. It became the prototype for future Soviet large-scale technologies. [Lazar Kaganovich](/wiki/Lazar_Kaganovich) was in charge; he designed the subway so that citizens would absorb the values and ethos of Stalinist civilization as they rode. The artwork of the 13 original stations became nationally and internationally famous. For example, the Sverdlov Square subway station featured porcelain bas-reliefs depicting the daily life of the Soviet peoples, and the bas-reliefs at the Dynamo Stadium sports complex glorified sports and the physical prowess of the powerful new "Homo Sovieticus." (Soviet man).[[17]](#cite_note-17) The metro was touted as the symbol of the new social order—a sort of Communist cathedral of engineering modernity.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Soviet workers did the labor and the art work, but the main engineering designs, routes, and construction plans were handled by specialists recruited from the London Underground. The Britons called for tunneling instead of the "cut-and-cover" technique, the use of escalators instead of lifts, and designed the routes and the rolling stock.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The paranoia of Stalin and the NKVD was evident when the secret police arrested numerous British engineers for espionage—that is for gaining an in-depth knowledge of the city's physical layout. Engineers for the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Company were given a show trial and deported in 1933, ending the role of British business in the USSR.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Until nowadays Moscow metro is one of the most important heritage of architecture of the USSR period. The most inspiring [metro stations](http://www.sputnik8.com/en/activities/279) of the Stalin’s era are Revolution Square, Kievskaya, Beloruskaya, Mayakovskaya, Novoslobodskaya, Dostoevskaya, Prospekt mira, Komsomolskaya and Taganskaya.

### Recent history (1991 to present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumbnail|](/wiki/File:Фонтаны_центральной_аллеи_ВДНХ_02.JPG)[VDNKh](/wiki/VDNKh_(Russia)), nowadays [thumb|left|Tanks shelling the White House](/wiki/File:Tanks_before_Russian_White_house.jpg)

When the USSR was dissolved in the same year, Moscow became the capital of the [Russian Federation](/wiki/Russian_Federation). Since then a market economy has emerged in Moscow, producing an explosion of Western-style retailing, services, architecture, and lifestyles.

The city has continued to grow during the 1990s to 2000s, its population rising from below nine to above ten million. Mason and Nigmatullina argue that Soviet-era urban-growth controls (before 1991) produced controlled and sustainable metropolitan development, typified by the greenbelt built in 1935. Since then however, there has been a dramatic growth of low-density suburban sprawl, created by a heavy demand for single-family dwellings as opposed to crowded apartments. In 1995–1997 the MKAD ring road was widened from the initial four to ten lanes. In December 2002 [Bulvar Dmitriya Donskogo](/wiki/Bulvar_Dmitriya_Donskogo) became the first Moscow Metro station that opened beyond the limits of MKAD. The [Third Ring Road](/wiki/Third_Ring_Road_(Moscow)), intermediate between the early 19th-century [Garden Ring](/wiki/Garden_Ring) and the Soviet era outer ring road, was completed in 2004. The greenbelt is becoming more and more fragmented, and satellite cities are appearing at the fringe. Summer dachas are being converted into year-round residences, and with the proliferation of automobiles there is heavy traffic congestion.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Multiple old churches and architecture that had been demolished during Stalin era has been restored such as [Cathedral of Christ the Saviour](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Christ_the_Saviour).

## Geography and climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

### Location[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|left|upright|Satellite image of Moscow and suburbs](/wiki/File:Moscow_satellite_image.jpeg) [thumb|Moscow aerial view](/wiki/File:Moscow_aerial_view_looking_towards_the_south-east.JPG)

Moscow is situated on the banks of the [Moskva River](/wiki/Moskva_River), which flows for just over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) through the [East European Plain](/wiki/East_European_Plain) in central Russia. [49 bridges](/wiki/List_of_bridges_in_Moscow) span the river and its canals within the city's limits. The [elevation](/wiki/Elevation) of Moscow at the All-Russia Exhibition Center (VVC), where the leading Moscow weather station is situated, is 156 m (512 ft). Teplostanskaya highland is the city's highest point at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[22]](#cite_note-22) The width of Moscow city (not limiting [MKAD](/wiki/MKAD)) from west to east is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and the length from north to south is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

### Time[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|Moscow time (light green) among European time zones](/wiki/File:Time_zones_of_Europe.svg)

Moscow serves as the reference point for the timezone used in most of Central Russia, including Saint Petersburg, Belarus, and the [Republic of Crimea](/wiki/Republic_of_Crimea). The areas operate in what is referred to in international standards as *Moscow Standard Time (MSK, мск)*, which is 3 hours ahead of [UTC](/wiki/UTC), or [UTC+3](/wiki/UTC+3). [Daylight saving time](/wiki/Daylight_saving_time) is no longer observed. [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Moscow has a [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Dfb*) with long, cold (although average by Russian standards) winters usually lasting from mid-November through the end of March, and warm summers. Weather can fluctuate widely with temperatures ranging from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the city and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in suburbs to above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the winter, and from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the summer.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Typical high temperatures in the warm months of June, July and August are around a comfortable [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), but during heat waves (which can occur between May and September), daytime high temperatures often exceed [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), sometimes for a week or two at a time. In the winter, average temperatures normally drop to approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), though almost every winter there are periods of warmth with day temperatures rising above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and periods of cooling with night temperatures falling below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). These periods usually last about a week or two.

The highest temperature ever recorded was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)[[24]](#cite_note-24) at the [VVC weather station](/wiki/VVC_weather_station) and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the center of Moscow and [Domodedovo airport](/wiki/Domodedovo_airport) on July 29, 2010 during the unusual [2010 Northern Hemisphere summer heat wave](/wiki/2010_Northern_Hemisphere_summer_heat_wave). Record high temperatures were recorded for January, March, April, May, July, August, November and December in 2007 – 2014.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The average July temperature from 1981–2010 is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The lowest ever recorded temperature was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in January 1940. Snow, which is present for about five months a year, often begins to fall at the mid of October, while snow cover lies in November and melts in the beginning of April.

On average Moscow has 1731 hours of sunshine per year, varying from a low of 8% in December to 52% from May to August.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Between 2004 and 2010, the average was between 1800 and 2000 hours with a tendency to more sunshine in summer months, up to record 411 hours in July 2014, 79% of possible sunshine.

Temperatures in the centre of Moscow are often significantly higher than in the outskirts and nearby suburbs, especially in winter. For example, if the average February temperature in the north-east of Moscow is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), in the suburbs it's about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[27]](#cite_note-27) The temperature difference between the centre of Moscow and nearby areas of [Moscow Oblast](/wiki/Moscow_Oblast) can sometimes be more than 10 C° (18 F°) at the frosty winter nights. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) [Template:Moscow weatherbox](/wiki/Template:Moscow_weatherbox)

#### Climate changes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

This is 1961–1990 normals table. The annual temperature rose from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in new 1981–2010 normals. In 2015, the average annual temperature has reached a record [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)

[Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

Moscow, being in the mid-latitudes of the northern hemisphere, is a place with the most expressed signs of [global warming](/wiki/Global_warming). Thus the climate becomes less stable, but the average yearly temperature is growing. So, the period from July until the beginning of August has become considerably warmer. During these time periods of extreme heat are often observed in the city (2001, 2002, 2003, [2010](/wiki/2010_Northern_Hemisphere_summer_heat_wave), 2011). Winter also became significantly milder: for example, the average January temperature in the early 1900s was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), while now it is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[28]](#cite_note-28) At the end of January–February it is often colder, with frosts reaching [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) a few nights per year (2006, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013). The last decade was the warmest in the history of meteorological observations of Moscow. Temperature changes in the city are depicted in the table below: [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

### Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations) According to the results of the 2010 Census, the population of Moscow was 11,503,501;[[29]](#cite_note-29) up from 10,382,754 recorded in the [2002 Census](/wiki/Russian_Census_(2002)).[[30]](#cite_note-30) At the time of the official 2010 Census, the ethnic makeup of the city's population whose ethnicity was known (10,835,092 people) was:[[29]](#cite_note-29)\* Russian: 9,930,410 (91.65%)

* Ukrainian: 154,104 (1.42%)
* Tatar: 149,043 (1.38%)
* Armenian: 106,466 (0.98%)
* Azeri: 57,123 (0.5%)
* Belarusian: 39,225 (0.4%)
* Georgian: 38,934 (0.4%)
* Uzbek: 35,595 (0.3%)
* Tajik: 27,280 (0.2%)
* Moldovan: 21,699 (0.2%)
* Mordvin: 17,095 (0.2%)
* Chechen: 14,524 (0.1%)
* Chuvash: 14,313 (0.1%)
* Ossetian: 11,311 (0.1%)
* Others: 164,825 (1.6%)
* 668,409 people were registered from administrative databases, and could not declare an ethnicity. It is estimated that the proportion of ethnicities in this group is the same as that of the declared group.[[31]](#cite_note-31)

The official population of Moscow is based on those holding "[permanent residency](/wiki/Resident_registration_in_Russia)." According to Russia's Federal Migration Service, Moscow holds 1.8 million official "guests" who have temporary residency on the basis of visas or other documentation, giving a legal population of 13.3 million. The number of [undocumented migrants](/wiki/Illegal_immigration_in_Russia), the vast majority originating from [Central Asia](/wiki/Central_Asia), is estimated to be an additional 1 million people,[[32]](#cite_note-32) giving a total population of about 14.3 million.

Total fertility rate:[[33]](#cite_note-33)\* 2009 – 1.22

* 2010 – 1.25
* 2011 – 1.25
* 2012 – 1.32
* 2013 – 1.33
* 2014 – 1.34
* 2015 – 1.40(e)
  + Births (2015): 142 390 (11.7 per 1000)
  + Deaths (2015): 121 954 (10.0 per 1000)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Cathedral_of_Christ_the_Saviour-1.jpg)[Cathedral of Christ the Saviour](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Christ_the_Saviour), demolished during the Soviet period, was reconstructed during 1990–2000 [thumb|A preserved part of the original Christ the Saviour Cathedral](/wiki/File:Christ_the_Saviour_Cathedral,_preserved_part_no._3,_Donskoy_Monastery,_Moscow.jpg) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Moscow_Cathedral_Mosque_01-2016.jpg)[Moscow Cathedral Mosque](/wiki/Moscow_Cathedral_Mosque) (new)

[Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) is the predominant religion in the city, of which the [Russian Orthodox Church](/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church) is the most popular. Moscow is Russia's capital of [Eastern Orthodox Christianity](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church), which has been the [country’s traditional religion](/wiki/Religion_in_Russia) and was deemed a part of Russia's "historical heritage" in a law passed in 1997.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Other religions practiced in Moscow include [Armenian Apostolicism](/wiki/Armenian_Apostolic_Church), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism_in_Russia), [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism_in_Russia), [Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Russia), [Islam](/wiki/Islam_in_Russia), [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism), [Yazidism](/wiki/Yazidism), [Old Believers](/wiki/Old_Believers), [Protestantism](/wiki/Protestantism_in_Russia), and [Rodnovery](/wiki/Rodnovery).

The [Patriarch of Moscow](/wiki/Patriarch_of_Moscow_and_all_Rus') serves as the head of the church and resides in the [Danilov Monastery](/wiki/Danilov_Monastery). Moscow was called the "city of 40 times 40 churches"—*"город сорока сороков церквей"*—prior to 1917. In 1918 the Bolshevik government declared Russia a [secular state](/wiki/Secular_state), which in practice meant that religion [was repressed](/wiki/Persecution_of_Christians_in_the_Soviet_Union) and society was to become atheistic. During the period of 1920-1930s a [great number of churches in Moscow were demolished](/wiki/USSR_anti-religious_campaign_(1921–28)), including historical [Chudov Monastery](/wiki/Chudov_Monastery) in the Kremlin, dating from the 14th century, [Kazansky Cathedral](/wiki/Kazan_Cathedral,_Moscow) on the Red Square, the [Cathedral of Christ the Savior](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Christ_the_Savior), constructed in the 19th century in memory of a victory over Napoleon's army in 1812, and many more. This continued even after the Second World War, in 1940-1970s, when persecutions against religion in the Soviet Union became less severe. Most of the surviving churches and monasteries were closed and then used as clubs, offices, factories or even warehouses. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 many of the destroyed churches have been restored and traditional religions are once again gaining popularity. Among the churches reconstructed in the 1990s is an impressive new Cathedral of Christ the Savior which once more has become a landmark. It was built on the site of the old demolished cathedral, where there had been a huge open swimming-pool until 1994.

The Moscow mufti council claimed that [Muslims](/wiki/Muslims) numbered around 1.5 million of 10.5 millions of the city's population in 2010.<ref name=Spie>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> There are four [mosques](/wiki/Mosque) in the city.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Moscow Cathedral Mosque has been built at the site of the former one. It was officially inaugurated on September 23, 2015. The new mosque has the capacity of ten thousand worshippers. Presidents of Russia [Vladimir Putin](/wiki/Vladimir_Putin), of Turkey [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](/wiki/Recep_Tayyip_Erdoğan), of Palestinian territories [Mahmoud Abbas](/wiki/Mahmoud_Abbas) and local Muslim leaders participated in the inauguration ceremony of this mosque.[[36]](#cite_note-36)

#### Religious statistics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Religions and beliefs in Moscow (2012)[[37]](#cite_note-37) | |
| **Religion or belief** | **%** |
| Russian Orthodox Church | 53 |
| Christianity, but do not adhere to any church | 3 |
| Orthodox Christianity, but do not adhere to the Russian Orthodox Church | 2 |
| Russian Old Believers | 1 |
| Protestant | <1 |
| Islam, but neither Sunni, nor Shia | 1 |
| Sunni Islam | 2 |
| Shia Islam | <1 |
| Polytheism, animism | 1 |
| Other | 1 |
|  |  |
| Believe in God (or some highest being), but do not follow any religion | 19 |
| Do not believe in God | 12 |

## Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) [thumb|View from the Central Children's Store](/wiki/File:Lubyanka_CDM_view_from_Panoramic_view_point_05-2015_img04.jpg)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:RedSquare_SaintBasile_(pixinn.net).jpg)[Saint Basil's Cathedral](/wiki/Saint_Basil's_Cathedral) in Moscow, the masterpiece of [Russian architecture](/wiki/Russian_architecture)

Moscow's architecture is world-renowned. Moscow is the site of [Saint Basil’s Cathedral](/wiki/Saint_Basil's_Cathedral), with its elegant [onion domes](/wiki/Onion_dome), as well as the [Cathedral of Christ the Savior](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Christ_the_Savior) and the [Seven Sisters](/wiki/Seven_Sisters_(Moscow)). The first Kremlin was built in the middle of the 12th century.

Medieval Moscow's design was of concentric walls and intersecting radial thoroughfares. This layout, as well as Moscow's rivers, helped shape Moscow's design in subsequent centuries.

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:New_Arbat_Avenue.jpg)[New Arbat Avenue](/wiki/New_Arbat_Avenue)

The Kremlin was rebuilt in the 15th century. Its towers and some of its churches were built by Italian architects, lending the city some of the aura of the renaissance. From the end of the 15th century, the city was embellished by masonry structures such as monasteries, palaces, walls, towers, and churches.

The city's appearance had not changed much by the 18th century. Houses were made of pine and spruce logs, with shingled roofs plastered with sod or covered by birch bark. The rebuilding of Moscow in the second half of the 18th century was necessitated not only by constant fires, but also the needs of the nobility. Much of the wooden city was replaced by buildings in the classical style.[[38]](#cite_note-38) For much of its architectural history, Moscow was dominated by Orthodox churches. However, the overall appearance of the city changed drastically during Soviet times, especially as a result of [Joseph Stalin's](/wiki/Joseph_Stalin) large-scale effort to "modernize" Moscow. Stalin's plans for the city included a network of broad avenues and roadways, some of them over ten lanes wide, which, while greatly simplifying movement through the city, were constructed at the expense of a great number of historical buildings and districts. Among the many casualties of Stalin's demolitions was the [Sukharev Tower](/wiki/Sukharev_Tower), a longtime city landmark, as well as mansions and commercial buildings The city's newfound status as the capital of a deeply [secular](/wiki/Secular) nation, made religiously significant buildings especially vulnerable to demolition. Many of the city's churches, which in most cases were some of Moscow's oldest and most prominent buildings, were destroyed; some notable examples include the [Kazan Cathedral](/wiki/Kazan_Cathedral,_Moscow) and the Cathedral of Christ the Savior. During the 1990s, both were rebuilt. Many smaller churches, however, were lost.[[39]](#cite_note-39) While the later Stalinist period was characterized by the curtailing of creativity and architectural innovation, the earlier post-revolutionary years saw a plethora of radical new buildings created in the city. Especially notable were the constructivist architects associated with [VKHUTEMAS](/wiki/VKHUTEMAS), responsible for such landmarks as Lenin's Mausoleum. Another prominent architect was [Vladimir Shukhov](/wiki/Vladimir_Shukhov), famous for Shukhov Tower, just one of many [hyperboloid towers](/wiki/Hyperboloid_structure) designed by Shukhov. It was built between 1919 and 1922 as a transmission tower for a Russian broadcasting company.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Shukhov also left a lasting legacy to the [Constructivist](/wiki/Constructivism_(art)) architecture of early Soviet Russia. He designed spacious elongated shop galleries, most notably the [GUM](/wiki/GUM_(department_store)) department store on [Red Square](/wiki/Red_Square),[[40]](#cite_note-40) bridged with innovative metal-and-glass vaults.

[250px|thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Kremlin_from_Bolshoy_kamenny_bridge.jpg)[Moscow Kremlin](/wiki/Moscow_Kremlin) [thumb|220px|upright|right|](/wiki/File:Novodevichy_Convent_Night.jpg)[Novodevichy Convent](/wiki/Novodevichy_Convent)

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Ostankino_Tower,_2015.JPG)[Ostankino Tower](/wiki/Ostankino_Tower), the tallest freestanding structure in [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and [8th tallest in the world](/wiki/List_of_tallest_freestanding_structures_in_the_world) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Монумент_«Покорителям_космоса»_(14006733426).jpg)[Monument to the Conquerors of Space](/wiki/Monument_to_the_Conquerors_of_Space)

Perhaps the most recognizable contributions of the Stalinist period are the so-called [Seven Sisters](/wiki/Seven_Sisters_(Moscow)), comprising seven massive skyscrapers scattered throughout the city at about an equal distance from the Kremlin. A defining feature of Moscow’s skyline, their imposing form was allegedly inspired by the [Manhattan Municipal Building](/wiki/Manhattan_Municipal_Building) in [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City), and their style—with intricate exteriors and a large central spire—has been described as [Stalinist Gothic architecture](/wiki/Stalinist_architecture). All seven towers can be seen from most high points in the city; they are among the tallest constructions in central Moscow apart from the [Ostankino Tower](/wiki/Ostankino_Tower), which, when it was completed in 1967, was the highest free-standing land structure in the world and today remains the world’s seventy-second tallest, ranking among buildings such as the [Burj Khalifa](/wiki/Burj_Khalifa) in Dubai, [Taipei 101](/wiki/Taipei_101) in Taiwan and the [CN Tower](/wiki/CN_Tower) in Toronto.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The Soviet goal of providing housing for every family, and the rapid growth of Moscow's population, led to the construction of large, monotonous housing blocks. Most of these date from the post-Stalin era and the styles are often named after the leader then in power (Brezhnev, Khrushchev, etc.). They are usually badly maintained.

Although the city still has some five-story apartment buildings constructed before the mid-1960s, more recent apartment buildings are usually at least nine floors tall, and have [elevators](/wiki/Elevator). It is estimated that Moscow has over twice as many elevators as New York City and four times as many as [Chicago](/wiki/Chicago). Moslift, one of the city's major elevator operating companies, has about 1500 elevator mechanics on call, to release residents trapped in elevators.[[42]](#cite_note-42) [Stalinist-era buildings](/wiki/Stalinist_architecture), mostly found in the central part of the city, are massive and usually ornamented with [Socialist realism](/wiki/Socialist_realism) motifs that imitate [classical](/wiki/Classical_architecture) themes. However, small churches – almost always [Eastern Orthodox](/wiki/Orthodox_Church)– found across the city provide glimpses of its past. The Old [Arbat Street](/wiki/Arbat_Street), a tourist street that was once the heart of a bohemian area, preserves most of its buildings from prior to the 20th century. Many buildings found off the main streets of the inner city (behind the Stalinist [façades](/wiki/Façade) of [Tverskaya Street](/wiki/Tverskaya_Street), for example) are also examples of [bourgeois](/wiki/Bourgeoisie) architecture typical of Tsarist times. [Ostankino Palace](/wiki/Ostankino_Palace), [Kuskovo](/wiki/Kuskovo), [Uzkoye](/wiki/Uzkoye) and other large estates just outside Moscow originally belong to nobles from the Tsarist era, and some [convents and monasteries](/wiki/Template:Cloisters_of_Moscow), both inside and outside the city, are open to Muscovites and tourists.

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Red_Square_in_Moscow_(1801)_by_Fedor_Alekseev.jpg)[*Red Square*](/wiki/Red_Square), painting by [Fedor Alekseev](/wiki/Fedor_Alekseev), 1801

Attempts are being made to restore many of the city’s best-kept examples of pre-Soviet architecture. These restored structures are easily spotted by their bright new colors and spotless façades. There are a few examples of notable, early Soviet [avant-garde](/wiki/Avant-garde) work too, such as the house of the architect [Konstantin Melnikov](/wiki/Konstantin_Melnikov) in the Arbat area. Many of these restorations were criticized for alleged disrespect of historical authenticity. [Facadism](/wiki/Facadism) is also widely practiced.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Later examples of interesting Soviet architecture are usually marked by their impressive size and the semi-[Modernist](/wiki/Modernist) styles employed, such as with the [Novy Arbat](/wiki/Novy_Arbat) project, familiarly known as "false teeth of Moscow" and notorious for the wide-scale disruption of a historic area in central Moscow involved in the project.

Plaques on house exteriors will inform passers-by that a well-known personality once lived there. Frequently, the plaques are dedicated to Soviet celebrities not well-known outside (or often, like with decorated generals and revolutionaries, now both inside) of Russia. There are also many "museum houses" of famous Russian writers, composers, and artists in the city.

Moscow's skyline is quickly modernizing with several new towers under construction.

In recent years, the city administration has been widely criticized for heavy destruction that has affected many historical buildings. As much as a third of historic Moscow has been destroyed in the past few years[[44]](#cite_note-44) to make space for luxury apartments and hotels.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Other historical buildings, including such landmarks as the 1930 Moskva hotel and the 1913 department store Voyentorg, have been razed and reconstructed anew, with the inevitable loss of historical value. Critics blame the government for not enforcing conservation laws: in the last 12 years more than 50 buildings with monument status were torn down, several of those dating back to the 17th century.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Some critics also wonder if the money used for the reconstruction of razed buildings could not be used for the renovation of decaying structures, which include many works by architect Konstantin Melnikov[[47]](#cite_note-47) and [Mayakovskaya](/wiki/Mayakovskaya_(Moscow_Metro)) metro station.

Some organizations, such as Moscow Architecture Preservation Society[[48]](#cite_note-48) and Save Europe's Heritage,[[49]](#cite_note-49) are trying to draw the international public attention to these problems.[[50]](#cite_note-50)

### Parks and landmarks[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[center|1053px](/wiki/File:Moscow_July_2011-49.jpg)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:RedSquare_(pixinn.net).jpg)[Red Square](/wiki/Red_Square) is one of the [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Russie_-_Moscou_-_Novodevichy_4.jpg)[Novodevichy Convent](/wiki/Novodevichy_Convent) is one of the [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) [thumb|Ascension church in](/wiki/File:Храм-Вознесения.jpg) [Kolomenskoye](/wiki/Kolomenskoye), a UNESCO World Heritage Site [thumb|](/wiki/File:Парк_культуры_и_отдыха_им._М.Горького.JPG)[Gorky Park](/wiki/Gorky_Park_(Moscow)) [thumb|Victory Park on](/wiki/File:Voitonpuisto_Moskovassa.jpg) [Poklonnaya Hill](/wiki/Poklonnaya_Hill)

There are 96 parks and 18 gardens in Moscow, including four botanical gardens. There are [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of green zones besides [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of forests.[[51]](#cite_note-51) Moscow is a very green city, if compared to other cities of comparable size in Western Europe and North America; this is partly due to a history of having green "yards" with trees and grass, between residential buildings. There are on average [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of parks per person in Moscow compared with 6 for [Paris](/wiki/Paris), 7.5 in [London](/wiki/London) and 8.6 in New York.[[52]](#cite_note-52) [Gorky Park](/wiki/Gorky_Park_(Moscow)) (officially the [Central Park of Culture and Rest](/wiki/Gorky_Park_(Moscow)) named after [Maxim Gorky](/wiki/Maxim_Gorky)), was founded in 1928. The main part (689,000 square meters[Template:\](/wiki/Template:\) 170 [acres](/wiki/Acre))[[52]](#cite_note-52) along the Moskva river contains [estrades](/wiki/Architectural_glossary#Estrade), children's attractions (including the *Observation Wheel* water ponds with boats and water bicycles), dancing, tennis courts and other sports facilities. It borders the [Neskuchny Garden](/wiki/Neskuchny_Garden) (408,000 square meters[Template:\](/wiki/Template:\) 101 acres), the oldest park in Moscow and a former imperial residence, created as a result of the integration of three estates in the 18th century. The Garden features the Green Theater, one of the largest open amphitheaters in Europe, able to hold up to 15 thousand people.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Several parks include a section known as a "Park of Culture and Rest", sometimes alongside a much wilder area (this includes parks such as Izmaylovsky, Fili and Sokolniki). Some parks are designated as Forest Parks (lesopark).

[Izmaylovsky Park](/wiki/Izmaylovsky_Park), created in 1931, is one of the largest urban parks in the world along with [Richmond Park](/wiki/Richmond_Park) in London. Its area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is six times greater than that of [Central Park](/wiki/Central_Park) in New York.[[52]](#cite_note-52) [Sokolniki Park](/wiki/Sokolniki_Park), named after the [falcon](/wiki/Falcon) hunting that occurred there in the past, is one of the oldest parks in Moscow and has an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). A central circle with a large fountain is surrounded by birch, maple and elm tree alleys. A labyrinth composed of green paths lies beyond the park's ponds.

[Losiny Ostrov National Park](/wiki/Losiny_Ostrov_National_Park) ("Elk Island" National Park), with a total area of more than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), borders Sokolniki Park and was Russia's first national park. It is quite wild, and is also known as the "city taiga" – elk can be seen there.

Tsytsin Main [Botanical Garden of Academy of Sciences](/wiki/Moscow_Botanical_Garden_of_Academy_of_Sciences), founded in 1945 is the largest in Europe.[[54]](#cite_note-54) It covers territory of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) bordering the All-Russia Exhibition Center and contains a live exhibition of more than 20 thousand species of plants from around the world, as well as a lab for scientific research. It contains a rosarium with 20 thousand rose bushes, a dendrarium, and an oak forest, with the average age of trees exceeding 100 years. There is a greenhouse taking up more than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of land.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The All-Russian Exhibition Center (Всероссийский выставочный центр), formerly known as the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition (VSKhV) and later Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy (VDNKh), though officially named a "permanent trade show", is one of the most prominent examples of Stalinist-era monumental architecture. Among the large spans of recreational park areas are scores of elaborate pavilions, each representing either a branch of Soviet industry and science or a USSR republic. Even though during the 1990s it was, and for some part still is, misused as a gigantic shopping center (most of the pavilions are rented out for small businesses), it still retains the bulk of its architectural landmarks, including two monumental fountains (*Stone Flower* and *Friendship of Nations*) and a 360 degrees panoramic cinema. In 2014 the park returned to the name Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy.[[55]](#cite_note-55)