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## Sleeping ■

# Sleeping

The optimal area to stay in Moscow is the city centre. Unfortunately, this privilege is reserved for travellers with either deep pockets or generous expense accounts. Fortunately for the rest of us, a few midrange options exist within the Garden Ring, which guarantees easy access to major sights and plenty of dining and entertainment options. The Tverskoy and Arbat districts are particularly lively, but Zamoskvorechie and Chistye Prudy are also very pleasant.

If you do find yourself far from the centre (which may be the case if you are on a tighter budget), look for easy access to the metro. An underground ride will whisk you from almost any stop into the centre in 20 minutes or less.

## Accommodation Styles

There are no camping grounds around Moscow – but staying at many cheap hotels is much like camping! Hotels in this price range are grey places that were poor relations even in Soviet times. Midrange and budget hotels are primarily Soviet-era properties that have weathered the transition to a market economy with varying measures of grace. Many are huge labyrinths that lack any charm; however, with a bit of spirit, a stay in these places can be part of the Russian adventure. Many of these hotels have undertaken some degree of renovation. As a result, the quality of rooms can vary widely, and prices usually do, too (even within the same hotel).

The top-end hotels in Moscow provide international-standard comfort and service. Most are managed by Western hotel chains and cater mainly to businesspeople. Expect satellite TV, wireless access, air-con, minibar and room service in very comfortable modern rooms, as well as a range of expensive restaurants, shops, bars and services. Many top-end hotels have health clubs or exercise rooms with pool, sauna, massage and the like.

## Price Ranges

Moscow doesn't provide much value for money when it comes to the hospitality industry. Luxury hotels are indeed top-notch, but they have prices to match. Expect to pay upwards of R8000 for a night at one of Moscow's top-end hotels. If you can forgo a degree of luxury, you can stay in a classy, comfortable and centrally located hotel for R4000 to R6000 for a double. Midrange travellers can choose from a range of hotels outside the centre, which offer decent rooms and amenities for R2500 to R3000 for a double. To stay in the centre at the same price, you will give up many of your creature comforts. A few budget options outside the city centre are available for less than R1500 per night. Most hotels accept credit cards.

Many hotels set their prices in *uslovie yedenitsiy* (often abbreviated as y.e.), or standard units, which is equivalent to euros or US dollars. Prices in this chapter are quoted in roubles, as you will always be required to pay in roubles. Prices listed here include the 20% value-added tax (VAT), but not the 5% sales tax, which is charged mainly at luxury hotels.

Happily, the dual-pricing system (whereby foreign visitors pay significantly higher rates than Russian citizens) has largely disappeared in Moscow. Be aware, however, that some cheaper hotels may charge a 'reservation fee' (as much as 50%) for the first night's stay.

Check-in and check-out times vary, but check-in is usually around 4pm and check-out is around 11am or noon.

### TOP FIVE SLEEPS THAT WON'T BUST YOUR BUDGET

- **Altay Hotel** (p180), North of the Centre. Nice facilities near the Botanical Gardens.
- **Danilovsky Hotel** (p179), Zamoskvorechie. Moscow's holiest hotel.
- **Hotel Belgrad** (p170), Arbat District. Close to historic ulitsa Arbat.
- **Ozerkovskaya Hotel** (p179), Zamoskvorechie. A small, homey hotel near Paveletsky vokzal.
- **Warsaw Hotel** (p179), Zamoskvorechie. Brand new and bright blue.

## FIND A FLAT

Hotels in Moscow can easily break your bank. In response to the shortage of affordable accommodation, some entrepreneurial Muscovites have begun renting out flats on a short-term basis. Flats are equipped with kitchens and sometimes with other useful amenities such as Internet access. Often, a good-sized flat is available for the price of a hotel room or less. It is an ideal solution for travellers in a group, who can split the cost.

Several websites provide information about apartments for rent. The quality of apartments varies widely of course but many have photos available online. The cost of renting is around US\$80 to US\$120 per night, with prices decreasing for longer stays. Expect to pay more for fully renovated, Western-style apartments.

**www.apartmentres.com** Bills itself as providing gay-friendly lodging. Most flats include free airport transfers and international phone calls.

**www.enjoymoscow.com** Apartments rented by Rick are off the Garden Ring between Sukharevskaya and Tsvetnoy Bulvar metro stations in Petrovsky.

**www.flatmates.ru/eng** A site for travellers looking for somebody to share short- or long-term accommodation in Russia.

**www.hofa.ru** Has apartments from US\$50 per night and homestays from US\$25 per night.

**www.rentline.ru** Offers online reservations for a variety of centrally located flats, starting from US\$80 per night.

**www.unclepasha.com** Uncle Pasha is an unbelievable grouch, but his flat – at US\$75 per night – is a great deal. He also maintains an extensive list of other budget accommodation options and will help you locate one.

## CITY CENTRE

Within walking distance from Moscow's most famous sights, the city centre is certainly prime real estate. Unfortunately, with the reconstruction of the Hotel Moskva and the closing of the Hotel Rossiya, only top-end options remain in this area. And 'top end' in Moscow's means the tippety-top – prepare for prices to rival the world's most expensive cities.

### ARARAT PARK HYATT

Map pp248-9 Hotel

% 783 1234; [www.moscow.park.hyatt.com](http://www.moscow.park.hyatt.com);

Neglinnaya ul 4; r from R20,000; i s p a n ;

m Teatralnaya

Moscow's newest deluxe hotel is an archetype of contemporary design: its glass-and-marble façade is sleek and stunning, yet blends effortlessly with the classical and baroque buildings in the surrounding area. The graceful, modern appearance extends inside to the atrium-style lobby and the luxurious rooms. Guests enjoy every imaginable amenity, not the least of which is the Italian marble bathrooms, each with a separate shower and tub. The service in the Ararat Park is top-notch (twice-daily house-keeping!). Of the hotel's many restaurants, don't miss the Conservatory Lounge, which offers panoramic views of Teatralnaya ploshchad.

### HOTEL METROPOL

Map pp248-9 Hotel

% 927 6000; [www.metropol-moscow.ru](http://www.metropol-moscow.ru);

Teatralny proezd 1/4; s/d from R9900/11,500;

i s a n ; m Teatralnaya

Nothing short of an Art Nouveau masterpiece, the historic Metropol brings an artistic touch to every nook and cranny, from the spectacular exterior (see the boxed text, p166) to the grand lobby and the individually decorated rooms. The overall effect is breathtaking, but the charm lies in the details such as stained-glass windows, Oriental rugs and the early-20th-century furnishings.

### HOTEL SAVOY Hotel

Map pp248-9

% 929 8500; [www.savoy.ru](http://www.savoy.ru); ul Rozhdestvenka 3;

i s p a n ; m Lubyanka

Built in 1912, the Savoy is a historic hotel that maintains an atmosphere of prerevolutionary privilege for its guests. It is more intimate than the other luxury hotels, with just 70 elegant rooms. After a recent renovation, all rooms are equipped with marble bathrooms, king-sized beds and wi-fi access. The state-of-the-art health club includes a glass-domed 20m swimming pool, complete with geysers and cascades to refresh tired bodies. Postrenovation tariffs were not yet set at the time of research, but expect prices to rival neighbouring hotels.

small restaurant, a 'mini' fitness centre and a few meeting rooms, but the hotel is a far cry from the enormous enterprises that dominate Moscow's hospitality industry.

### HOTEL BUDAPEST Map pp248-9 Hotel

% 923 1060; [www.hotel-budapest.ru](http://www.hotel-budapest.ru); Petrovskiy linii 2/18; s/d with breakfast R3850/5450; i s a n ; m Kuznetsky Most or Teatralnaya  
The chandelier-decked lounge and the marble lobby still retain an air of grandeur, albeit slightly faded. Unfortunately, the grandeur does not extend to the rooms, unless you dish out some extra cash for the deluxe rooms (from R5775). The Hotel Budapest is expanding: in early 2006 an additional wing will open with 136 new rooms, fitness centre and restaurant. Let's hope this doubling in size does not diminish the level of intimacy and service for which this place is known.

### RENAISSANCE MOSCOW HOTEL

Map pp248-9 Hotel

% 931 9000; [www.renaissancehotels.com/mowrn](http://www.renaissancehotels.com/mowrn); Olimpiyskiy pr 18/1; r Fri & Sat/Sun-Thu from R6000/8400; i s p a ; m Prospekt Mira  
This gigantic complex, now operated by Marriott, was originally built for the 1980 Olympics, as was the enormous indoor Olympic Sports Complex next door. The hotel has more than 500 rooms, five different restaurants and the Dome Cinema, which shows films in English. Thanks to its athletic origins, the hotel also boasts one of the best fitness clubs in Moscow. While the Renaissance is a bit of a trek from the centre, it has a peaceful location and offers a complimentary shuttle bus to Pushkinskaya ploshchad for easy access to the major sights.

### CHEAP SLEEPS IN CHRISTY PRUDY

Galina's Flat (Map p254; % 921 6038; galinas.flat@mtu-net.ru; ul Chaplygina 8, No 35; dm/s/d R300/540/750; i ; m Chistye Prudy) is just that – a private, Soviet-era flat with a few extra rooms that Galina rents out. Staying at Galina's feels like staying in your friend's crowded apartment – cosy, comfortable and convivial. She has a total of six beds, as well as kitchen and laundry facilities, but she does not provide visa support.

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### HOTEL VOLGA Map p254 Hotel

% 280 7729; [www.hotel-volga.ru](http://www.hotel-volga.ru); Dokuchaev per 2; s/d from R3600/5000, ste with kitchen from R4700; p ; m Sukharevskaya  
This characterless but comfortable hotel complex, run by Moscow's city government, is on a quiet corner northeast of the centre. The location isn't too convenient, except for its close proximity to the highly acclaimed restaurant Sirena (see p126). Most of the rooms are actually suites with several rooms and a kitchen, making the Volga ideal for small groups or families.

### KAZAKH EMBASSY HOTEL

Map p254 Hotel

% 208 0994; Chistoprudny bul 3; s/d with breakfast R2700/3000; m Chistye Prudy  
This institution caters – as you might guess – to the guests and workers of the nearby Kazakh embassy. But anybody can stay at this imposing, modern building that fronts the Boulevard Ring. Kazakhstan may be independent, but its embassy hotel has not shed its Soviet mantle: rooms, however comfortable and clean, have no style. The whole place is well maintained and pleasant enough, in a post-Soviet sort of way.

### LENINGRADSKAYA HOTEL

Map p254 Hotel

% 975 3032; fax 975 1802; Kalanchevskaya ul 21/40; s/d from R2800/3600; m Komsomolskaya  
This showpiece Soviet hotel is expected to re-open in early 2007 after an extensive renovation. Until its recent closure, it had retained its grand 1950s' style in its lobbies and staircases; the rooms also retained their 1950s' style, though there was not much grandeur there. This has always

been a convenient place to stay if you are arriving or departing by train, due to its proximity to three stations. Unfortunately, the seedy atmosphere that surrounds the train stations had seeped into the hotel. Let's hope the repairs result in improved atmosphere and amenities without greatly affecting affordability. This seems unlikely considering the hotel will sport a new moniker: Le Meridien Leningradskaya.

## PETROVSKY DISTRICT

The Petrovsky District is home to some fancy digs – appropriate for this high-rent and swanky shopping district. If you want to save your money to spend at the boutiques, there are also one or two more affordable accommodation options.

### AKVAREL Map pp248-9 Boutique Hotel

Watercolour hotel; % 502 9430; [www.hotelakvarel.ru](http://www.hotelakvarel.ru); Stoleshnikov per 12; s/d with breakfast R6900/7500; i p a n ; m Chekhovskaya  
Stoleshnikov pereulok is one of Moscow's most prestigious lanes, home to exclusive boutiques, upmarket restaurants and the grand Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel. Now it is also home to this more intimate business-class hotel, offering 23 simple but sophisticated rooms. The friendly Akvarel has a

### LE ROYAL MERIDIEN NATIONAL

Map pp248-9 Hotel

% 258 7000; [www.national.ru](http://www.national.ru); Okhotny ryad 14/1; s/d from R10,240/11,840; i s a n ; m Okhotny Ryad  
For over a century, the National has occupied this choice location at the foot of Tverskaya ulitsa, opposite the Kremlin. The handsome building is somewhat of a museum from the early 20th century, displaying frescoed ceilings and antique furniture. The rooms are decorated and laid out uniquely – some have spectacular views into the Kremlin. While the place reeks of history, service and amenities are up to modern-day five-star standards.

## CHISTYE PRUDY

The serene residential area surrounding Chistye Prudy is one of Moscow's most attractive neighbourhoods. Here, you will find a handful of affordable accommodation options within walking distance (or a quick metro ride) of the city's main attractions. But this area offers its own pleasant ambience, as well as some worthy dining and entertainment options, that make it enticing in its own right.

### HOTEL SVERCHKOV Map p254 Hotel

% 925 4978; Sverchkov per 8; s/d with breakfast from R2600/3000; m Chistye Prudy  
On a quiet residential lane, this is a tiny 11-room hotel in a graceful 18th-century building. The hallways are lined with green-leaved plants, and paintings by local artists adorn the walls. Though the rooms are nothing special, this place is a rarity for its intimacy and hominess.

### MAMONTOV'S METROPOL

The Hotel Metropol, among Moscow's finest examples of Art Nouveau architecture, is another contribution by famed philanthropist and patron of the arts, Savva Mamontov. The decorative panel on the hotel's central façade, facing Teatralny proezd, is based on a sketch by the artist Vrubel. It depicts the legend of the *Princess of Dreams*, in which a troubadour falls in love with a kind and beautiful princess and travels across the seas to find her. He falls ill during the voyage and is near death when he finds his love. The princess embraces him, but he dies in her arms. Naturally, the princess reacts to his death by renouncing her worldly life. The ceramic panels were made at the pottery workshop at Mamontov's Abramtsevo estate (see p193).

The ceramic work on the side of the hotel facing Teatralnaya ploshchad is by the artist Golovin. The script is a quote from Nietzsche: 'Again the same story: when you build a house you notice that you have learned something.'

During the Soviet era, these wise words were replaced with something more appropriate for the time: 'Only the dictatorship of the proletariat can liberate mankind from the oppression of capitalism.' Lenin, of course.

**SRETEENSKAYA HOTEL** Map pp248-9 Hotel  
 % 933 5544; [www.hotel-sretenskaya.ru](http://www.hotel-sretenskaya.ru);  
 ul Sretenka 15; s/d with breakfast R7260/7920;  
 p a n ; m Sukharevskaya  
 Special for its relatively small size and friendly atmosphere, the Sretenskaya boasts a romantic, Russian atmosphere. Rooms have high ceilings and tasteful, traditional décor. This place is particularly welcoming in winter, when you can warm your bones in the sauna, or soak up some sun in the tropical 'winter garden'. Discounts are available on weekends.

## TVERSKOY DISTRICT

Busy, bustling Tverskaya ulitsa, and the smaller streets around it, are home to a whole slew of places to stay – from elegant prerevolutionary palaces to Soviet-style skyscrapers and cool and contemporary boutique hotels. This neighbourhood also offers Moscow's best selection of eating and entertainment options, as well as easy access to the city centre.

### EAST-WEST HOTEL

Map pp248-9 Boutique Hotel  
 % 290 0404; [www.eastwesthotel.ru](http://www.eastwesthotel.ru);  
 Tverskoy bul 14/4; s/d with breakfast R4800/6500;  
 i a ; m Pushkinskaya or Tverskaya  
 Located on the loveliest stretch of the Boulevard Ring, this small hotel evokes the atmosphere of the 19th-century mansion it once was. Inside and out, architectural details and period furnishing are reminders of an aristocratic lifestyle that once thrived on this street. It is a kitschy but charming place with 26 individually decorated rooms and a lovely fountain-filled courtyard. Despite the old-fashioned appeal, the East-West is up-to-date with its amenities, offering satellite TV, Internet access and other services associated with an upscale hotel.

**GOLDEN APPLE** Map pp248-9 Boutique Hotel  
 % 980 7000; [www.goldenapple.ru](http://www.goldenapple.ru);  
 ul Malaya Dmitrovka 11; r from R9000;  
 i a n ; m Pushkinskaya or Chekhovskaya  
 While calling itself 'Moscow's first boutique hotel' might be an exaggeration, this smallish, slick hotel is indeed a novelty. The location is excellent – in the heart of Moscow's shopping district and just steps from the

serenity of Hermitage Gardens. A classical edifice fronts the street, but the interior is sleek and sophisticated. The rooms are decorated in a minimalist, modern style – subdued whites and greys punctuated by contrasting coloured drapes and funky light fixtures. Comfort is also paramount, with no skimping on luxuries such as heated bathroom floors and down-filled duvets. This is the best of New Russia: contemporary, creative and classy.

### MARCO POLO PRESNYA

Map pp248-9 Hotel  
 % 244 3631; [www.visit-m.ru](http://www.visit-m.ru); Spiridonovskiy per 9; s/d with breakfast from R6750/7425;  
 i a n ; m Pushkinskaya  
 Once a prominent hotel for high-ranking Communist Party officials, this small hotel is now an excellent, straightforward business hotel operated by the Moscow city government. It is situated in Moscow's most prestigious residential neighbourhood, home to expats and diplomats. The restaurant scene is lively, and Patriarch's Ponds is right around the corner.

**PEKING HOTEL** Map pp248-9 Hotel  
 % 209 2215; [www.hotelpekin.ringnet.ru](http://www.hotelpekin.ringnet.ru), in Russian; Bolshaya Sadovaya ul 5/1; r from R2800;  
 m Mayakovskaya  
 With renovation ongoing, this Stalinesque building boasts a prime location towering over Triumphalnaya ploshchad. It's hard to see past the flashing lights and raucousness of the casino, but this place is blessed with high ceilings, parquet floors and a marble staircase. The upgraded rooms (R4800) – elegantly decorated in jewel tones – are worth the investment.

## BARRIKADNAYA

Mayor Luzhkov has big plans for this part of town: skyscrapers are going up at lightning speed, and soon a new metro line will make this a prime location.

**ALEXANDER BLOK** Map pp248-9 Boat Hotel  
 % 255 9278; [www.nakorable.ru](http://www.nakorable.ru), in Russian;  
 Krasnopresnenskaya nab 12A; r R2500; a ;  
 m Ulitsa 1905 Goda  
 You wanted to go on a cruise, but somehow you ended up on vacation in Moscow

instead. If this is you, consider staying on board the good ship *Aleksandr Blok*, named after the esteemed Soviet poet. Restaurant, bar, nightclub, casino and hotel – all are housed within this cruise ship moored on the Moscow River. The cabins are clean but cramped – unless you spring for the captain's quarters (R6600). The *Alexander Blok* will occupy quite the hot spot once the new 'Moscow City' metro line opens up; whether it will survive this development remains to be seen.

**HOTEL MIR** Map pp248-9 Hotel  
 % 290 9504; [www.otelmir.ru](http://www.otelmir.ru); Novy Arbat ul 36/9; s/d with breakfast R3500/5000;  
 i p a ; m Krasnopresnenskaya  
 Steps from the White House, this futuristic building once hosted top-ranking officials from the far-flung Soviet empire. Now it is something of an anachronism: marble floors and crystal chandeliers adorn a grand lobby, but the rooms retain their bland, Soviet style. Clearly Hotel Mir was a posh place back in its day, but these days it is decidedly middle class. Nonetheless, reception at the hotel is warm and welcoming, without a hint of post-Soviet sourness.

**MEZHDUNARODNAYA** Map pp248-9 Hotel  
 % 258 2122; [www.wtcmoscow.ru](http://www.wtcmoscow.ru);  
 Krasnopresnenskaya nab 12; r from R9000;  
 i s p a n ; m Ulitsa 1905 Goda  
 Fondly called 'the Mezhl', this huge hotel occupies the bulk of the World Trade Centre (WTC) Moscow. The complex contains a little bit of everything, from an expo centre to aqua park (room rates often increase during expositions), plus restaurants to suit every taste. (For a long time, it was neces-

sary for the WTC to provide so many services because it was rather isolated from the rest of the city.) With the opening of the new metro line, however, the complex will have its own metro stop, with the Mezhl at the centre of it all.

## ARBAT DISTRICT

While there aren't any hotels along the historic ulitsa Arbat itself, its namesake district offers a wide variety of accommodation, including a few surprisingly affordable options. Most of the hotels are located on the district's busiest streets and squares, but they still provide easy access to the quaint, quiet streets of this aristocratic area.

**ARBAT HOTEL** Map pp252-3 Hotel  
 % 244 7628; fax 244 0093; Plotnikov per 12; s/d with breakfast from R4320/5130; m Smolenskaya  
 One of the few hotels that manage to preserve some appealing Soviet kitsch – from the greenery-filled lobby to the mirrors behind the bar. For better or for worse, the guest rooms are decorated tastefully and comfortably. But the whole place has an anachronistic appeal. Its location is also very charming – on a quiet residential street, just steps from ulitsa Arbat.

**GOLDEN RING HOTEL** Map pp252-3 Hotel  
 % 725 0100; [www.hotel-goldenring.ru](http://www.hotel-goldenring.ru);  
 Smolenskaya ul 5; s/d R9240/9800;  
 p a n ; m Smolenskaya  
 At the foot of the Arbat, the Golden Ring Hotel overlooks busy Smolenskaya ploshchad. It doesn't look like much from the outside, but the interior is luxurious and modern. Rooms vary in size but they are all

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decorated in warm tones and rich fabrics. Soundproofed windows keep out the noise from the square. Of the hotel's four restaurants, the highlight is the Panorama, which – on the 22nd floor – boasts fantastic views of the city.

**HOTEL BELGRAD** Map pp252-3 **Hotel**  
% 248 1643; www.hotel-belgrad.ru; Smolenskaya ul 8; s/d from R2560/2880; p ;m Smolenskaya  
The big block on Smolenskaya ploshchad has no sign and a stark lobby, giving it a ghost-town aura. The rooms are similar – poky but functional – unless you pay for upgraded 'tourist' or 'business-class' accommodation (R4160 to R5280). The advantage is the location, which can be noisy but convenient to the western end of ulitsa Arbat.

**HOTEL UKRAINA** Map pp248-9 **Hotel**  
% 933 5656; www.ukraina-hotel.ru; Kutuzovskiy pr 2/1; s/tw from R4050/4650; p ;m Kievskaya  
At 206m (including the steeple), this imposing Stalinist skyscraper was the tallest hotel in Russian when it was built in 1957. It sits majestically on the banks of the Moscow River, facing the White House, meaning fantastic vistas from some rooms. The hotel boasts that it has preserved the atmosphere of the 1950s, which is no empty assertion. It offers parquet floors and old wooden furniture, a vast lobby and banquet halls, and sometimes Soviet-style service – all reminiscent of bygone days. Rooms on the 28th floor, known as the 'business floor', have been wired for Internet access, a sign that the Ukraina may be moving into the 21st century.

**RADISSON SLAVYANSKAYA HOTEL** Map pp252-3 **Hotel**  
% 941 8020; www.radissonmoscow.com; Yevropeyskaya pl 2; r from R5600;  
i s p a n ;m Kievskaya  
More like a shopping mall than a hotel, this huge complex includes a large business centre, loads of restaurants and shops and a movie theatre (see p149) – not to mention more than 430 guest rooms, all equipped with wireless Internet access. If you do venture out of the hotel (not that you need to), you can walk across the pedestrian bridge and over to the Arbat. Otherwise, the location next to Kievskiy vokzal (Kyiv station) does not have much to offer.

## KROPOTKINSKAYA & KHAMOVNIKI DISTRICT

Kropotkinskaya and Khamovniki – stretching southwest of the Kremlin along the Moscow River – are packed with Orthodox monuments and museums, but not hotels. Choose from one of two options.

**HOTEL YUNOST** Map pp252-3 **Hotel**  
% 242 4860; www.yunost-hotel.ru; ul Khamovnicheskiy val 34; s/d from R2450/2800;  
p ;m Sportivnaya  
Yunost – meaning 'youth' – looks very 1961, which is when it was built. The humourless security guard at the front and the slow-moving staff at reception also hearken back to these times. The Soviet-style rooms are clean and comfortable, but won't win any design awards. Nonetheless, this place is a decent option for the money. It's just around the corner from Novodevichy Convent.

**TIFLIS HOTEL** Map pp252-3 **Hotel**  
% 733 9070; www.hoteltiflis.com; ul Ostozhenka 32; s/d with breakfast from R7100/9200;  
i s a n ;m Park Kultury or Kropotkinskaya  
Georgians know hospitality. The proof is in the fine restaurants – such as the landmark Tiflis (see p136) – and now also in this hotel of the same name. With only 30 rooms, this refined four-star place offers an intimate atmosphere and personalised service. Ask for a room with a balcony overlooking the fountain-filled patio.

## ZAMOSKVORECHIE

The charming, old, narrow streets of Zamoskvorechie are lined with art galleries, old churches, trendy restaurants and more than a few places to stay. The area around Paveletskaya ploshchad, especially, is the target of development, with many new hotels – small and large – opening in the vicinity.

**ALROSA ON KAZACHY** Map pp252-3 **Hotel**  
% 745 2190; www.alrosahotels.ru;  
1-ya Kazachy per 4; s/d from R7000/8050;  
i s a n ;m Polyanka  
Set in the heart of Zamoskvorechie, one of the oldest and most evocative parts

(Continued from page 170)

of Moscow, the Alrosa re-creates the atmosphere of an 18th-century estate. The light-filled atrium, bedecked with crystal chandelier, and 15 classically decorated rooms provide a perfect setting for old-fashioned Russian hospitality.

**BALTSCHUG KEMPINSKI** Map pp248-9 **Hotel**  
% 230 6500; www.kempinskimoscow.com; ul Baltyshchug 1; r Fri & Sat/Sun-Tue with breakfast from R9450/13,125; i s a n ;m Kitay Gorod or Ploshchad Revolutsii  
If you want to wake up to views of the sun glinting off the Kremlin's golden domes, this luxurious property on the Moscow River is the place for you. It is another historic hotel, built in 1898, with 230 high-ceilinged rooms that are sophisticated and sumptuous in design. The on-site restaurant is famous for its Sunday brunch, or 'Linner' if you prefer, as it's served from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. Russian champagne and live jazz accompany an extravagant buffet.

**DANILOVSKAYA HOTEL** Map pp246-7 **Hotel**  
% 954 0503; hotdanil@cityline.ru; s/d with breakfast from R3300/3900; i s n ;m Tulskaaya  
Moscow's holiest hotel is on the grounds of the 12th-century Danilovsky Monastery (see p98) – where the exquisite setting comes complete with 18th-century churches and well-maintained gardens. The modern five-storey hotel was built so that nearly all the rooms have a view of the monastery grounds. The rooms themselves are simple but clean; breakfast is modest: there's no greed, gluttony or sloth to be found here.

**KATERINA-CITY HOTEL** Map p255 **Hotel**  
% 795 2444; www.katerina.msk.ru/eng/; Shlyuzovaya nab 6; s/d with breakfast R8000/11,000;  
i p a n ;m Paveletskaya  
Swedish-built and Russian-operated, this smallish hotel advertises 'European comfort and Russian hospitality'. It is indeed a delightful combination. The simple, stylish rooms feature bold colours and understated Scandinavian design, while the overall atmosphere is warm and welcoming. Perks available at the hotel include a fitness centre with both Finnish and Turkish saunas.

**OZERKOVSKAYA HOTEL** Map p255 **Boutique Hotel**  
% 951 9753; www.cct.ru; Ozerkovskaya nab 50; s/d from R3960/4220; p ;m Paveletskaya  
This comfy, cosy hotel has only 25 rooms, including three that are tucked up under the mansard roof. The rooms are simply decorated, but parquet floors and comfortable queen-sized beds rank it above the standard post-Soviet fare. Add in attentive service and a central location (convenient for the express train to Domodedovo airport), and you've got an excellent-value accommodation option. Discounts are sometimes available, especially on weekends.

**TATIANA HOTEL** Map p255 **Hotel**  
% 721 2500; www.tatiana-hotel.ru; Stremyanny per 11; r with breakfast R6500;  
i p a n ;m Paveletskaya  
This attractive new business hotel is on a quiet street near Paveletskiy vokzal – again, convenient for travellers flying in or out of Domodedovo. Built in 2002, the hotel features an airy, atrium-style lobby and 72 spacious rooms. They are all characterised by contemporary furnishings and warm pastels, not to mention perks such as heated bathroom floors.

**WARSAW HOTEL** Map pp252-3 **Hotel**  
% 238 7701; warsaw@sovintell.ru; Leninskiy pr 2; s/d/ste with breakfast R2500/3650/5000; m Oktyabrskaya  
The Warsaw sits at the centre of Oktyabrskaya ploshchad, voted by Muscovites as the ugliest square in the city. Nonetheless, the location is the main drawcard here: it offers lots of restaurants, easy access to the metro and a short walk into the heart of Zamoskvorechie. The hotel itself does not exactly add to the aesthetics of the square. However, the interior has recently undergone extensive renovations, as evidenced by the sparkling, space-age lobby, adorned with lots of chrome, blue leather furniture and spider-like light fixtures. The new rooms are surprisingly good value for the location.

## OUTER MOSCOW

The majority of budget accommodation options are located on the outskirts of the city. Moscow is vast, but the places listed here are all within walking distance of the metro,

(Continued on page 179)

which will whisk you into the centre in 15 to 20 minutes. And even Outer Moscow has its charms, including the lovely grounds of old country estates, a few museums, the city's best markets and the vast exhibition centre at VDNKh.

## NORTH OF THE CENTRE

**ALTAY HOTEL** Map pp246-7 Hotel

☎ 482 5703; Botanicheskaya ul 41; altayhotel@comail.ru; s/d with breakfast R2200/2890; i a ;m Vladykino

This is the classiest place to stay in the 'hotel district' near the Botanical Gardens. The hotel has been completely revamped, from the elegant lobby – with chandeliers and a fireplace – to the tastefully decorated guest rooms. Only a few old-style rooms remain (R800/1250) but they are often booked out.

**HOTEL COSMOS** Map pp246-7 Hotel

☎ 234 1206; www.hotelcosmos.ru; Prospekt Mira 150; s/d from R2240/2800; i s a ;m VDNKh This gargantuan hotel opposite the All-Russia Exhibition Centre is a universe unto itself (appropriately enough for a place called 'Cosmos'). The avant-garde glass-and-steel structure houses more than 1700 rooms, countless restaurants and bars and a state-of-the-art fitness centre. Not surprisingly, a wide range of rooms is available, some with fantastic views.

**OKSANA (DINAODA) HOTEL** Hotel

Map pp246-7  
☎ 980 6100; www.dinaoda.ru; Yaroslavskaya ul 15/2; s/d from R3630/4300; i a ;m VDNKh A classical, six-storey building, the Oksana (also known as the Dinaoda) is a brand new hotel catering to business travellers. The rooms benefit from natural sunlight and spacious interiors; some are wheelchair accessible. The manicured miniature golf course is perhaps out of place in this elegant setting, but your children will appreciate it.

**SOVIETSKY HOTEL** Map pp246-7 Hotel

☎ 960 2000; www.sovietsky.ru; Leningradsky pr 32/2; r from R4960; i s a n ;m Dinamo Built in 1952, this historic hotel shows Stalin's tastes in all its architectural details, starting from the gilded hammer and sickle and the enormous Corinthian columns

flanking the front door. The sumptuous lobby is graced with grand sweeping staircases, crystal chandeliers and plush carpets, while even the simplest rooms have ceiling medallions and other ornamentation. The hotel's legendary restaurant 'Yar' (p138) – complete with old-fashioned dancing girls – is truly over-the-top. The location isn't super convenient, but this throwback is still a fun experience for a Soviet-style splurge.

## Cheap Sleeps

**HOSTEL SHERSTONE** Map pp246-7 Hostel

☎ 711 2613; www.sherstone.ru; Gostinichny proezd 8/1, 3rd fl; dm/s/d R600/1200/1550;m Vladykino The name of this tree-lined street west of the Botanical Gardens means 'Hotel Way'. The Sherstone is a friendly hostel occupying one floor of a hotel by the same name. Its main advantage is the English-speaking staff, but rooms and services are also satisfactory.

**HOSTEL TRAMP** Map pp246-7 Hotel

☎ 771 0755, 551 2876; www.hostelling.ru; Selskohozaistvennaya ul 17/2, Bldg 4, No 225; s/d R900/1000; m Botanicheskaya Sad Like most 'hostels' in Moscow, the Tramp is actually a travel agency affiliated with a budget hotel. In this case, it's the Hotel Turist, a pleasant, friendly hotel complex in its own right. Booking through Hostel Tramp, your room might be in any one of six red-brick buildings set amid shady grounds and located near the Botanical Gardens. Unfortunately, the place lacks the

## AIRPORT ACCOMMODATIONS

Here are a couple of options for transit travellers who might need somewhere to crash between flights:

- **Aerotel Domodedovo** (☎ 795 3868; fax 795 3569; Domodedovo airport; r with breakfast from R3500; s a n ) A brand new hotel within walking distance of its namesake airport; excellent value. The express train to Paveletsky vokzal links the airport to the city.
- **Sheremetevo-2** (☎ 578 5753/4; fax 739 4464; Sheremetevo-2 airport; r with breakfast from R3450; m Rechnoy Vokzal, then minibus to airport) An option that's more affordable than the nearby Novotel. You can walk here from the airport, or use the Novotel's free shuttle.

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camaraderie of a traditional hostel, as there is no common area and you're not likely to run into other travellers unless you hang around the office.

**HOTEL GLOBUS** Map pp246-7 Hotel

☎ 286 4189; www.hotelglobus.ru; Yaroslavskaya ul 17; ste from R1700; i s p a ;m VDNKh Just around the corner from Hotel Cosmos, this 'apartment-hotel' provides two-room suites with kitchen and bathroom – convenient for families and small groups. The kitchens are equipped with basic appliances such as fridges and electric kettles, but no stoves, limiting your cooking possibilities. The facility is sufficiently modern, but not particularly stylish or friendly. The 10 'pol-luks' suites (R2400) – with newer furnishings and facilities – are definitely worth the extra cash.

**HOTEL ZARYA** Map pp246-7 Hotel

☎ /fax 788 7277; Gostinichnaya ul 4/9; s/d from R1350/1500; m Vladykino The Zarya is a complex of short brick buildings, also located near the Botanical Garden. Renovation of the rooms is ongoing, so the cheapest ones are pretty plain. However, the receptionists are welcoming and the atmosphere is cosy. Upgraded

rooms with new furniture and bathrooms are R2100/2700.

## TRAVELLERS GUEST HOUSE

Map pp246-7 Hostel

☎ 631 4059; www.tgh.ru; Bolshaya Pereyaslavskaya ul 50, 10th fl; dm/s R690/1350, d with shared/private bathroom R1650/1800; i ;m Rizhskaya This guesthouse calls itself Moscow's 'first and only' budget accommodation. Perhaps the first but no longer the only, this place is still one of the better options for budget travellers. Despite its location on the 10th floor of a drab hotel, it manages to maintain a vibrant, hostel-like atmosphere, thanks to the many travellers hanging out in the common room and also the services available through the affiliated Infinity Travel Agency (see p226). To get here from Rizhskaya metro, walk past the market and turn right to cross underneath the highway. Pass a church on the right-hand side, and continue south to the unmarked hotel on the left-hand side.

**ZOLOTOY KOLOS** Map pp246-7 Hotel

☎ 217 6356; www.zkolos.ru; Yaroslavskaya ul 15; s/d from R1090/1345; a ;m VDNKh Outshined by its richer neighbour, the Oskana (aka the Dinaoda), this old-style hotel still has something to offer with its pleasant service and affordable rooms. Meaning 'Golden Grain', it once catered to agricultural types. Because of its location near the All-Russia Exhibition Centre, it is often booked by travelling businesspeople.

## EAST OF THE CENTRE

### Cheap Sleeps

**G&R HOSTEL ASIA** Map pp246-7 Guesthouse

☎ 378 0001; www.hostels.ru; Zelenodolskaya ul 2/3; s/d with shared bathroom from R875/1400; i ;m Ryazansky Prospekt It calls itself a hostel, but it's really a travel agency hiding out in a big old Soviet hotel. Unlike at the other 'hostels', your room might be anywhere in this monolith. After your metro ride from the centre, exit the station and look for the 15-storey Hotel Asia, which houses this establishment. It has English-speaking staff (sort of) and a HI affiliation, but reviews from readers have been mixed.

**HOTEL IZMAYLOVO****(GAMMA-DELTA)** Map pp246-7

Hotel

☎ 737 7187, 737 7104; www.izmailovo.ru; Izmaylovskoe sh 71; s/d from R1440/1540;

и ;m Partizanskyaya

Built for the 1980 Olympics, this hotel has 8000 beds, apparently making it Europe's biggest hotel. Four of its five buildings provide budget accommodation, but the Gamma-Delta option is the snazziest and most service-oriented. If you need to escape the frenetic atmosphere that surrounds Izmaylovo Market, the hotel is just a few steps from lovely Izmaylovsky Park.

**SOUTH OF THE CENTRE****HOTEL ORLYONOK** Map pp246-7

Hotel

☎ 939 8888; www.orlenok.ru; ul Kosygina 15; s/d from R5250/5850; и p a ;m Vorobyovy Gory

The location, not far from Moscow State University amid the Sparrow (Vorobyovy)

Hills, allows for fantastic views of the Moscow city skyline from some rooms. Otherwise, the rooms are sufficiently comfortable, if not luxurious. Security is tight, but the attached casino still attracts prostitutes and gamers. There are several authentic Korean restaurants on the ground floor (see p138). Room prices increase during 'exhibition period', which is one week out of every month, so try to avoid these times.

**HOTEL SPUTNIK** Map pp246-7

Hotel

☎ 930 3097; www.hotelsputnik.ru; Leninsky pr 38; s/d from R1960/2660; m Leninsky Prospekt

This hulk of a hotel is rather Soviet-style, but its setting south of the centre has some appeal. It's just a short walk to Sparrow Hills and the leafy campus of Moscow State University. Among the many services available, the on-site Indian restaurant Darbar (p138) is one of Moscow's best.

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