



Moscow's location in Russia



Flag



Coat of Arms

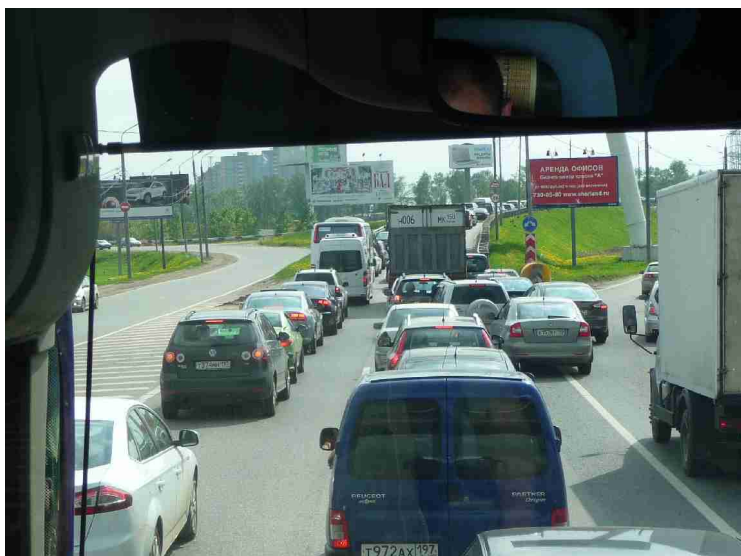
The first reference to [Moscow](#) dates from 1147 when [Yuri Dolgoruki](#) urged the prince of [the Novgorod Republic](#) to come to him, when the city was a small provincial town. Nine years later, in 1156, Prince Yuri Dolgoruky ordered the building of a wooden wall around Moscow. In the period 1237-1238 the Mongols burned the city and killed the inhabitants. Moscow overcame this and became the capital of an independent principality in 1327.

In 1480 [Ivan III](#) won freedom from the Mongol control in [the great stand on the Ugra river](#), which allowed Moscow to become the center of power in Russia. The capital of Russia, which had previously shifted between [Kiev](#) and [Vladimir](#), was at the end of his reign finally determined to be Moscow.

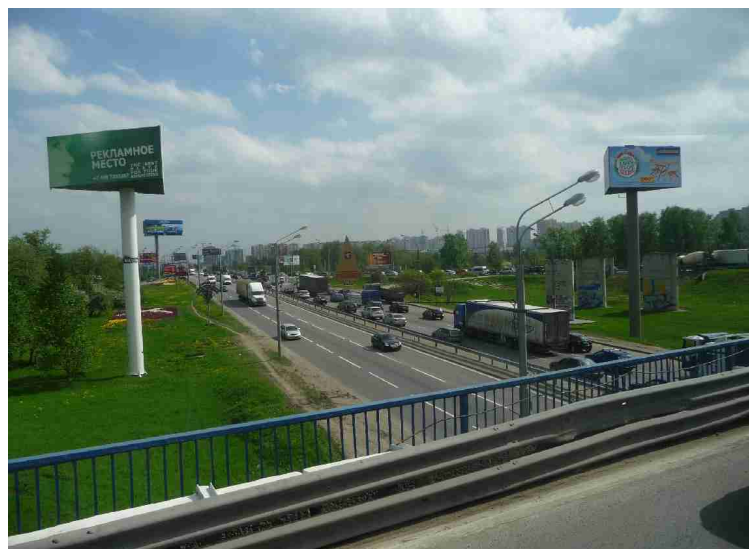
The city ceased to be Russia's capital in 1712 after the founding of [St. Petersburg](#) on the Baltic Sea by Peter the Great in 1703.

When Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812, the Muscovites evacuated the city and burned most of it when Napoleon's troops approached the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. Napoleon's army, plagued by hunger, cold and poor supply lines, was then forced to a quick retreat.

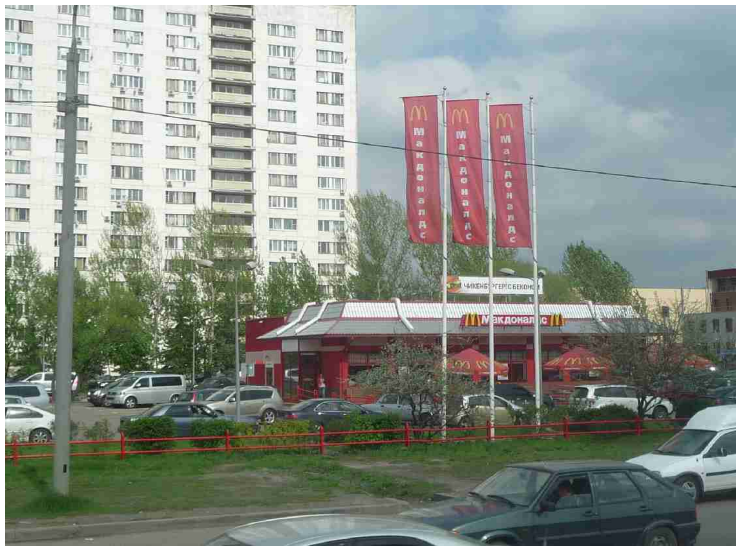
After the Russian Revolution, Moscow became the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1918 the capital of the Russian Federation of Soviet Socialist Republics, which less than five years later became [the Soviet Union](#).



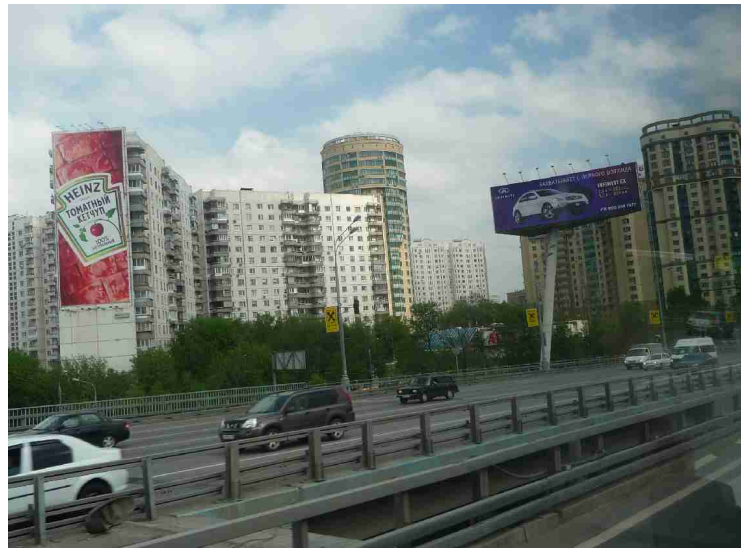
Here we are been fetched at the airport and are on our way to the ship.  
There is heavy traffic.



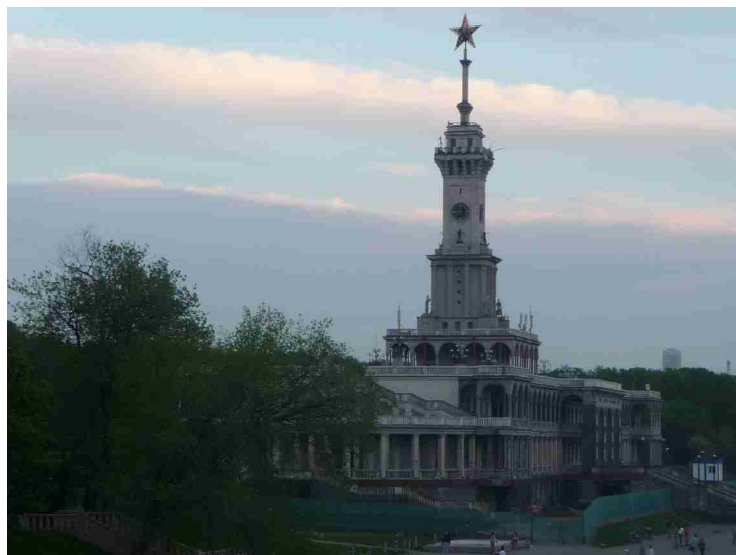
There are some large roads in this area.



Mac Donald's exists in Moscow too.



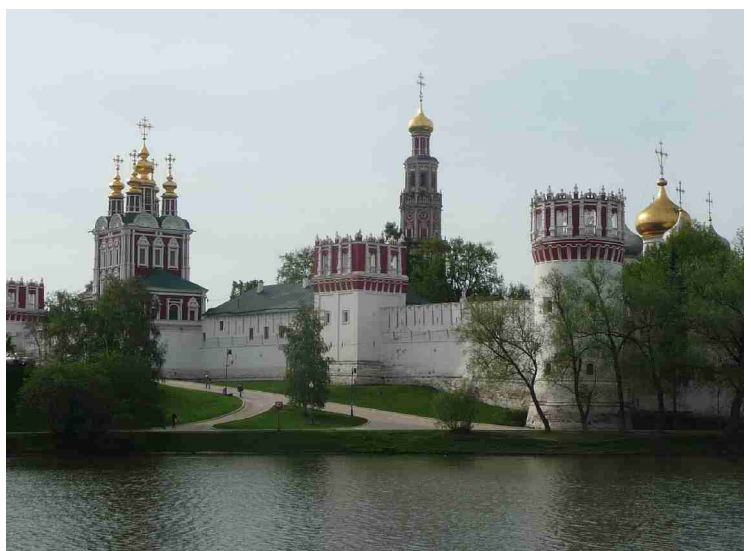
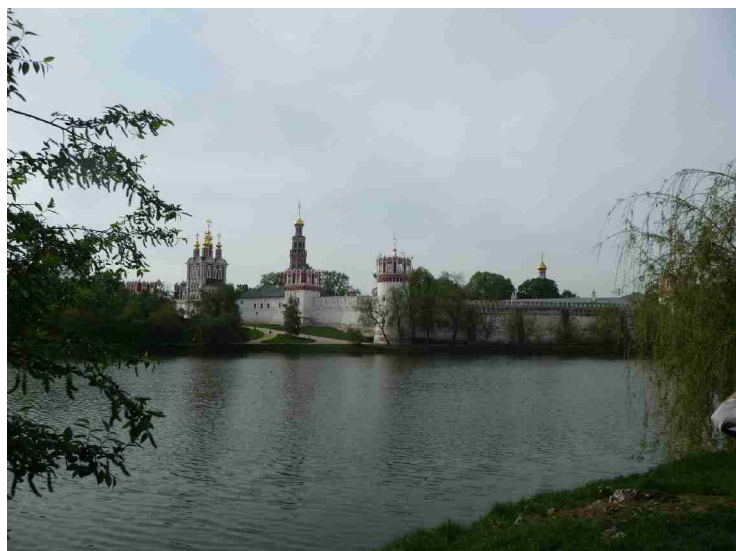
Many apartment buildings.



This is the port terminal. It is not in use any more, men there is talk of restoring it.



The next there is a round trip through the city by bus. The buses are ready.



First stop was at the [Novodevichy Convent](#), also called the New Maidens' Monastery. It was founded in 1524 by [the Grand Duke Vasili III of Moscow](#) to commemorate the conquest of Smolensk in 1514. There was built a fort next to the Moskva river and it became an important part of the capital's southern defense. The convent was known to be a sanctuary for many women in Russian royal families. In 1812 Napoleon I's army made an attempt to blow up the convent, but the nuns succeeded in saving it.





This sculpture is a gift from American children to Russian children. It was handed over by Barbara Bush in 1991.



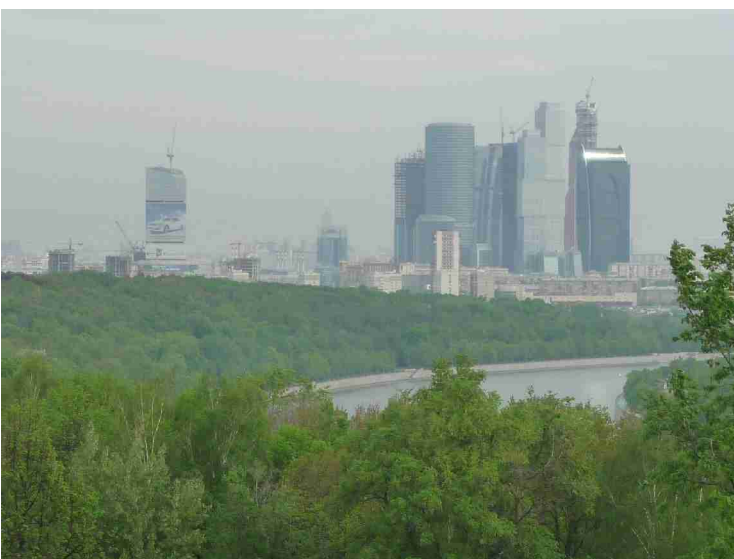
A picture of the park near the convent.



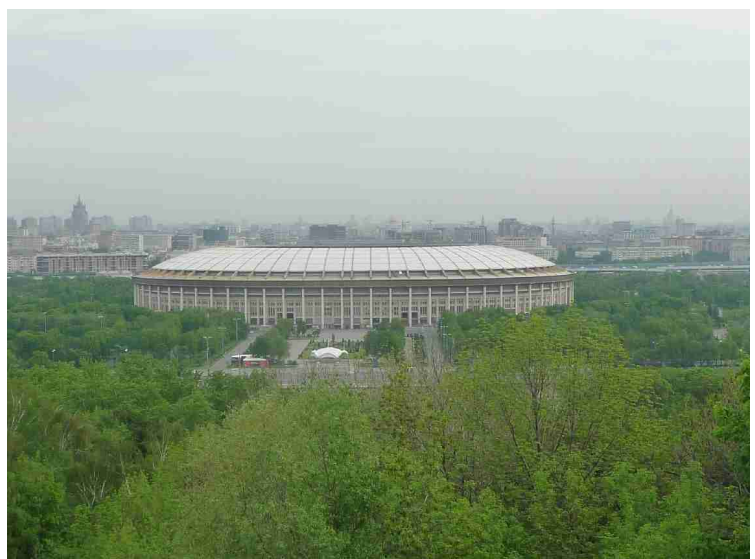
Next stop was on the [Sparrow Hills](#). Here lies [The Moscow State University](#). It was established in 1755. It consists of 30 faculties, 13 scientific institutes, over 40 000 students, 7 000 PhD students, 4 000 teachers and 5 000 scientists.



The Sparrow Hill is one of the highest areas in Moscow and lies 220 m above sea level. Here is a ski jumping hill.



An excellent view over the city.

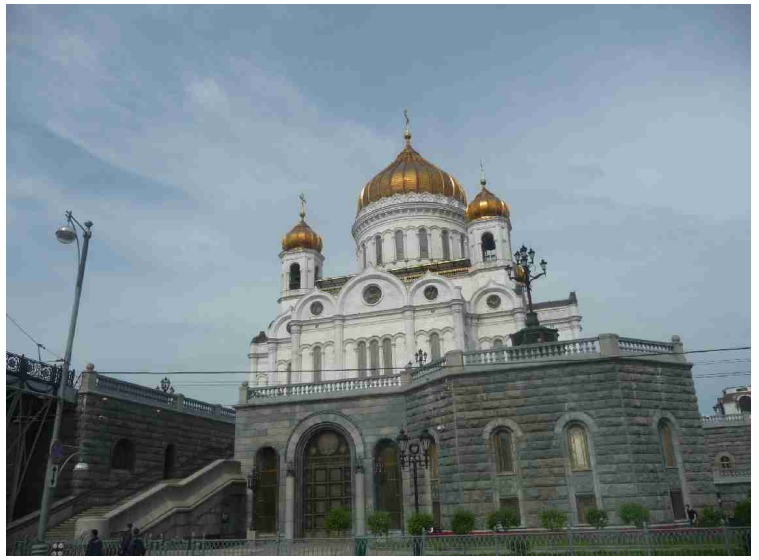


Right below the heights lies [Luzhniki Stadium](#). It is a football stadium and is among others used by [FC Spartak Moscow](#).

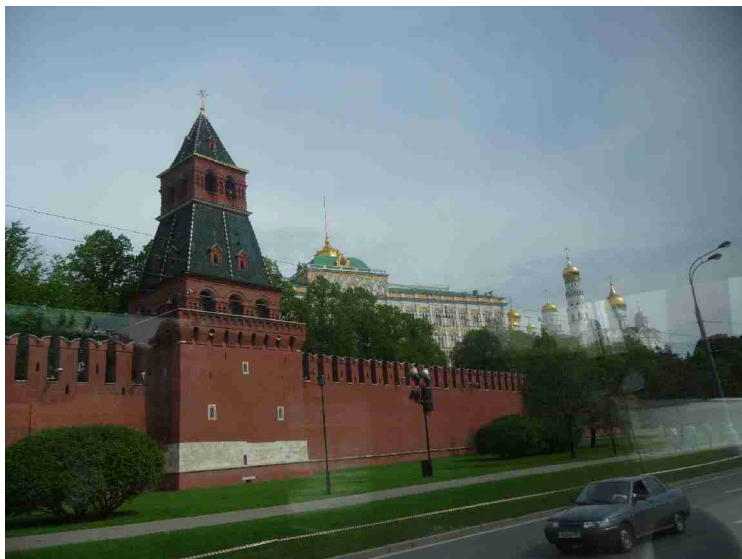




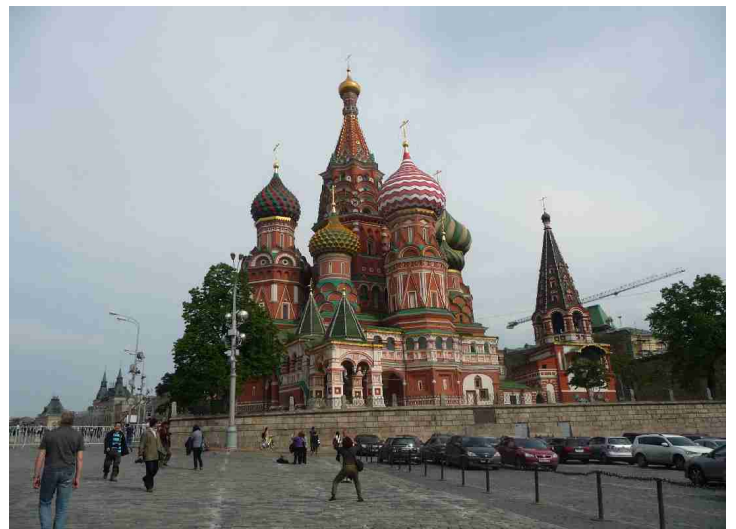
Up here on the Sparrows Hill lies also the Church of the Holy Trinity.



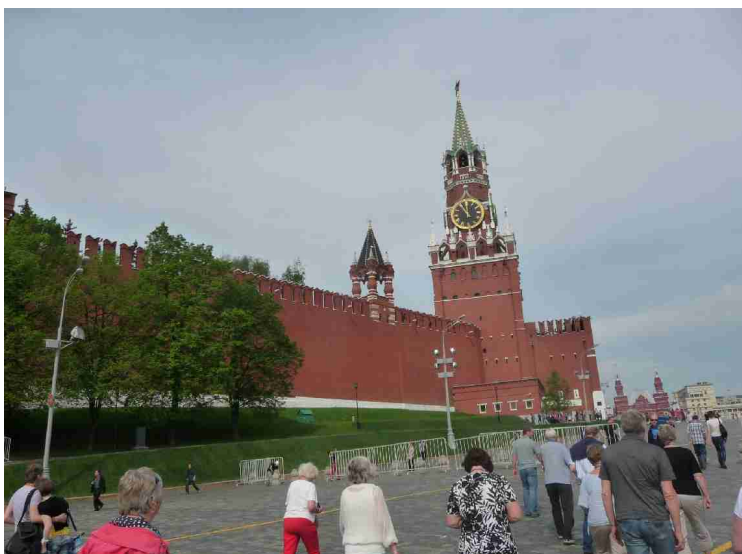
Here we are approaching [The Red Square](#) and [The Kremlin](#).



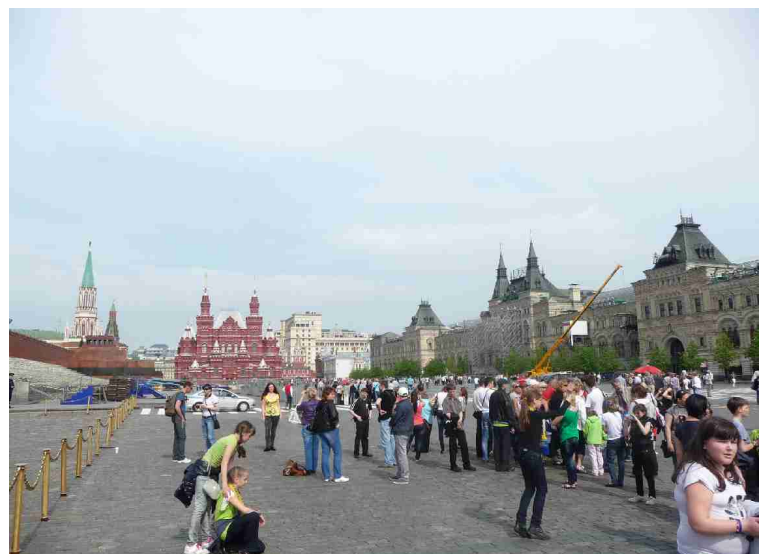
The walls around Kremlin. This tower is a defense tower, which was used for storage of gunpowder. It has been destroyed and rebuilt several times.



This is [The Saint Basil's Cathedral](#) in the end of the Red Square. The church was built by [Ivan the Terrible](#) as a memorial of the conquest of the [Khanate of Kazan](#) in 1552.



[The Walls](#) around Kremlin as seen from [The Red Square](#). The tower is called [The Saviour's \(Spasskaya\) Tower](#) and was built in 1491.

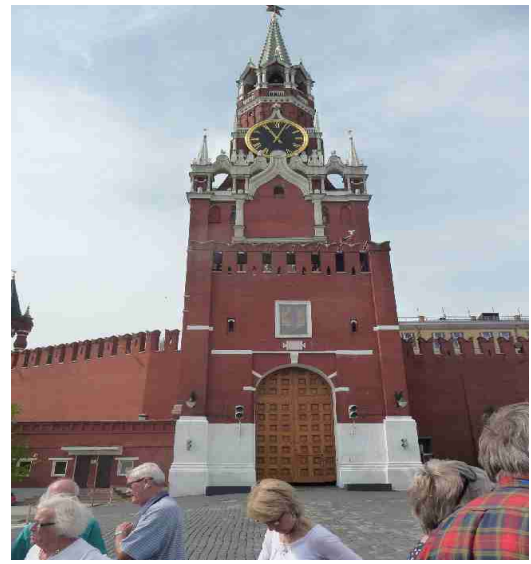


There are a lot of people on the Red Square. During the Soviet era it was used for great military parades. In 1990 it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





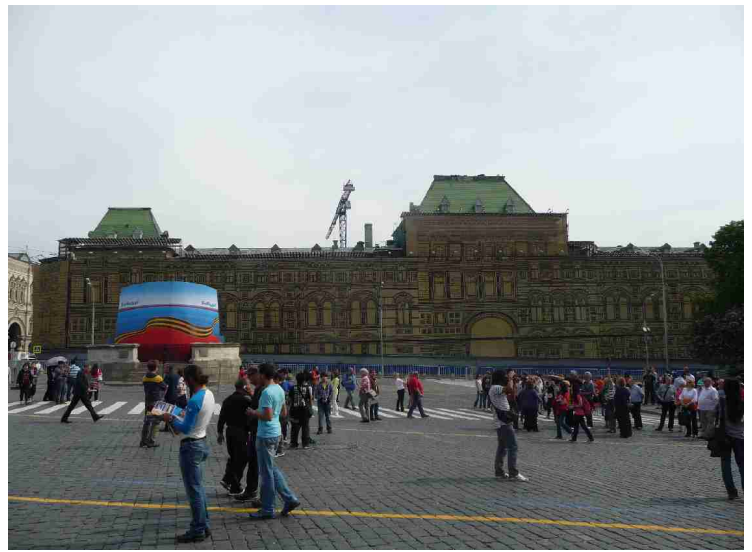
Inside these building is the huge [GUM department store](#).



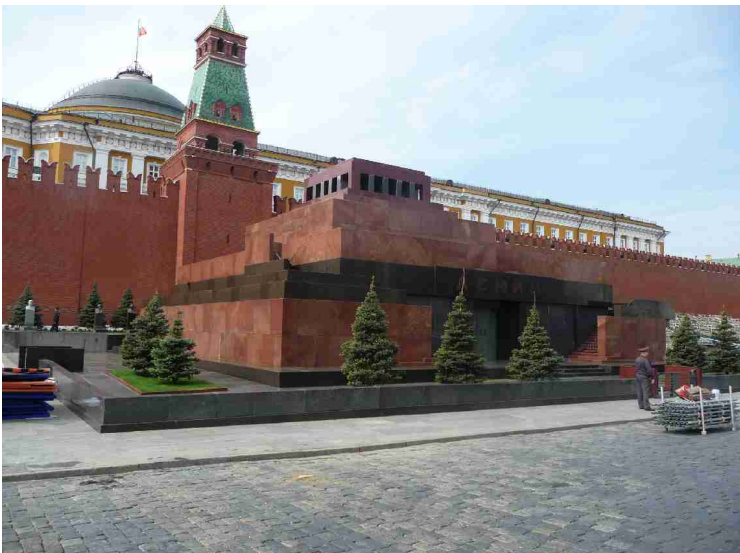
One of the entrances to Kremlin in The Saviors Tower. It is not allowed to be used for tourists.



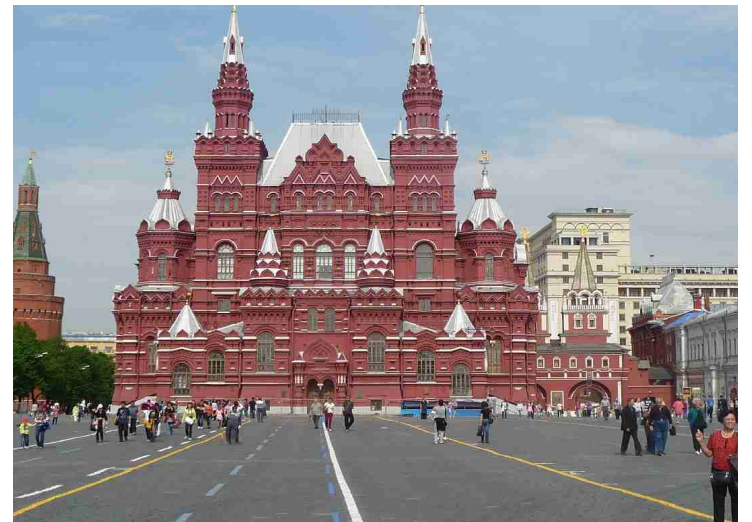
The [statues](#) in front of the Saint Basil's Cathedral is representing the butcher Kuzma Minin and Prince Dmitri Pozharski, the two heroes from the war against Poland in 1612.



This is a large building, too.



[Lenin's Mausoleum](#) lies at one side of The Red Square. The tower behind it is [The Senate Tower](#) (Senatskaya).

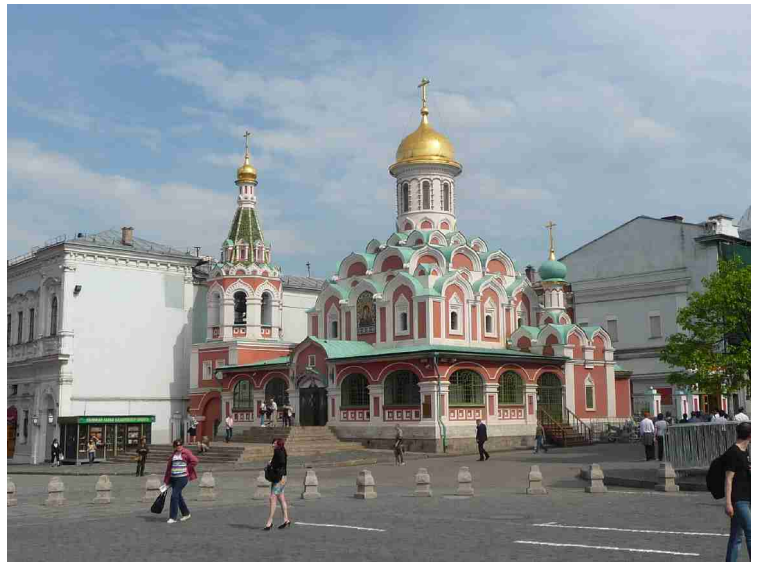


In the north end of The Red Square lies [The State Historical Museum](#), with Russian history from the stone age until today. The museum was founded in 1872 and has over four million subjects.

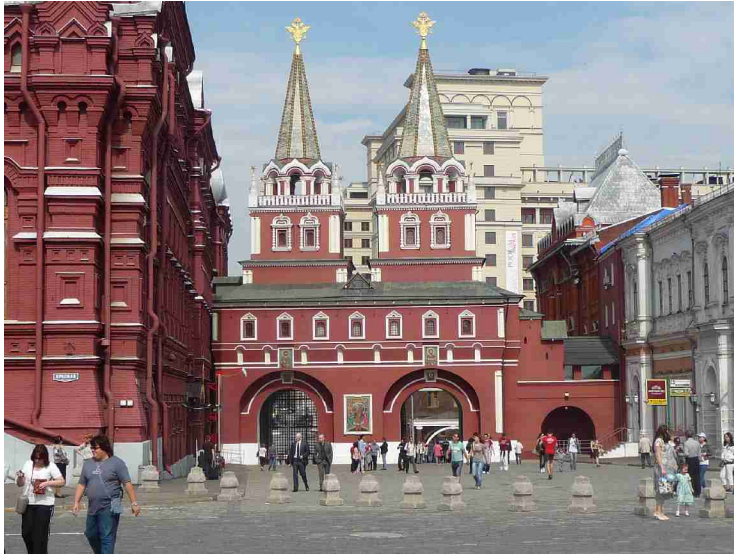




Kremlin's walls with the [St. Nicholas Tower](#) in the middle. This tower has been destroyed and rebuilt several times.



[The Kazan Cathedral](#). The original cathedral was commenced early in the 1630s to mark Moscow's liberation from the Poles.



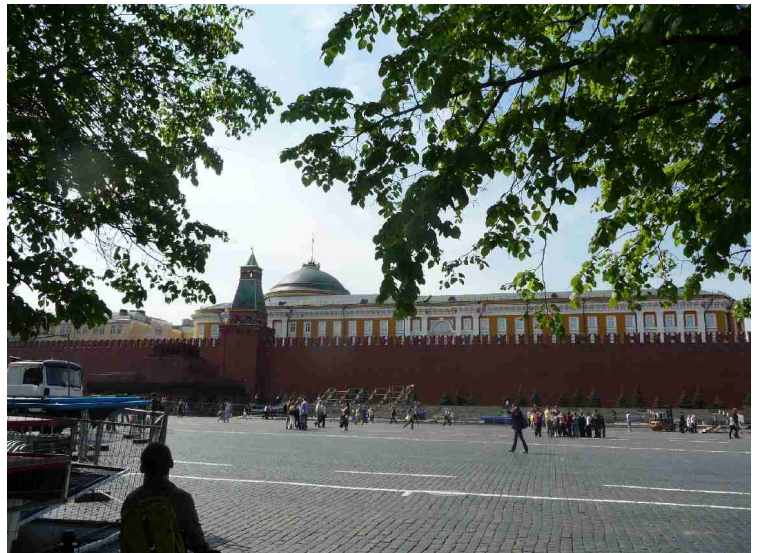
[The Resurrection Gate](#).



We had some time on our own before we were going to meet again. We went to this restaurant that lies outside GUM.



Here Kjell is sitting, waiting for the wine, which we ordered. It cost 140 NOK pr. glass and that is the most expensive wine we have ever had. We got a small amount in the glass and it was not particularly good either.

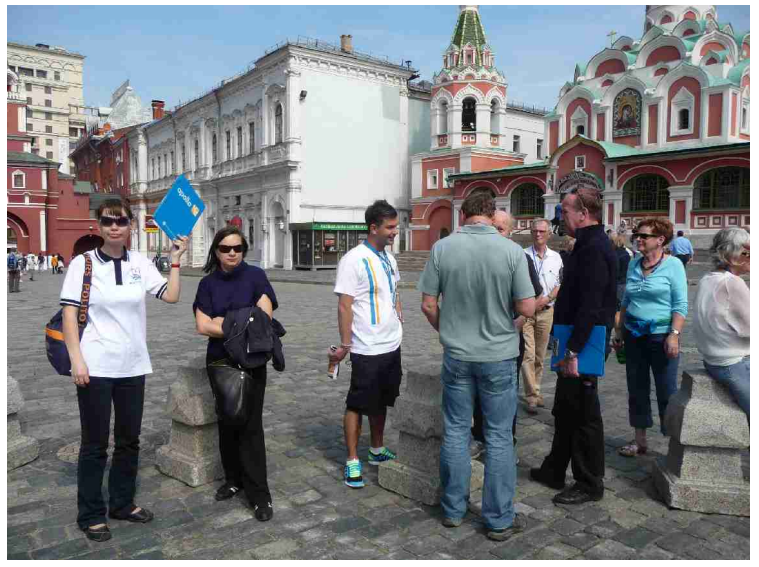


View from the restaurant towards the walls around Kremlin and the buildings there.

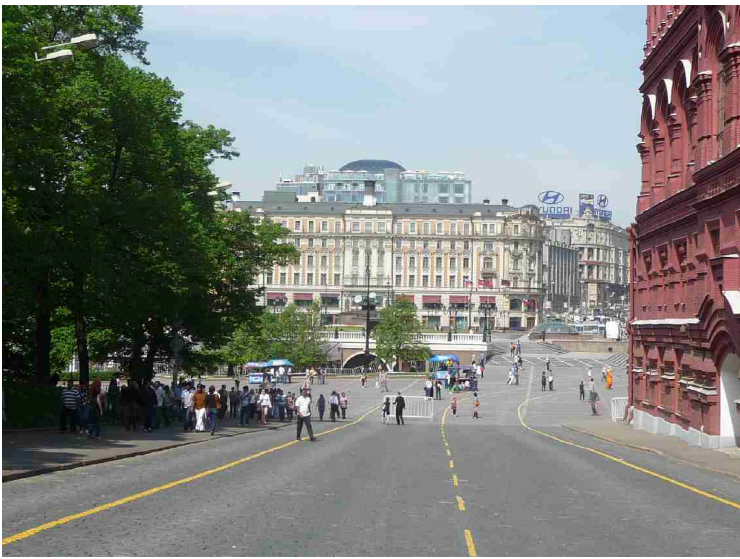




The wall of GUM seen from the restaurant.



The group is gathering again.



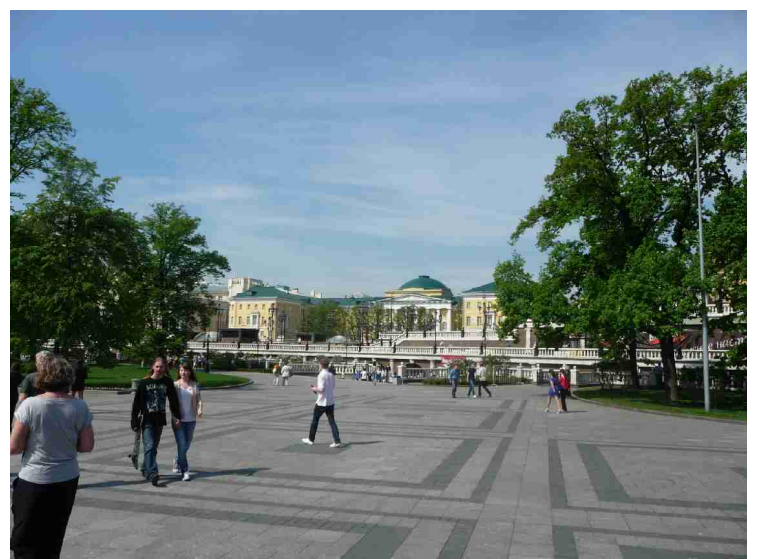
This is north of The Red Square.



Big buildings.

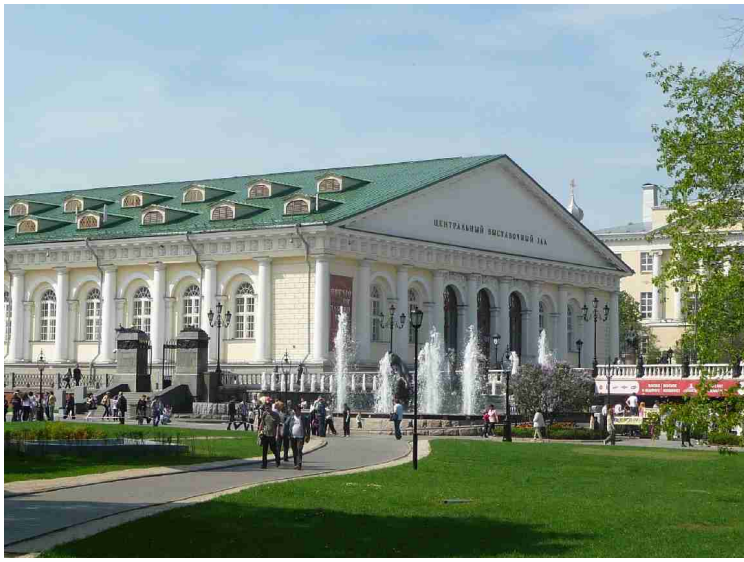


On our way to the Kremlin, we go into [The Alexander Garden](#).

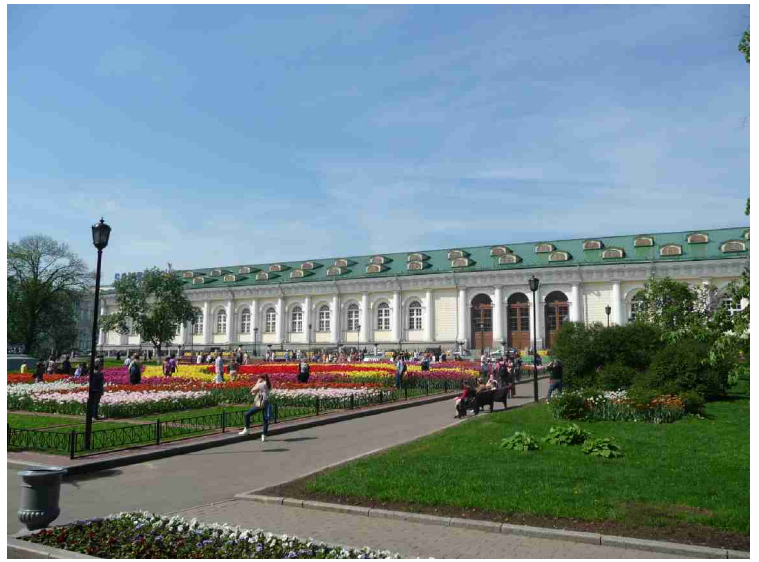


Enough space in the garden.

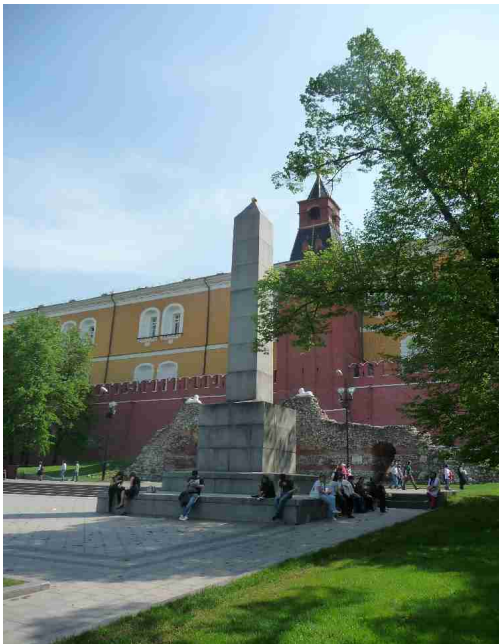




Moscow Manege. Was originally used as a riding school, but is now used for art exhibitions.



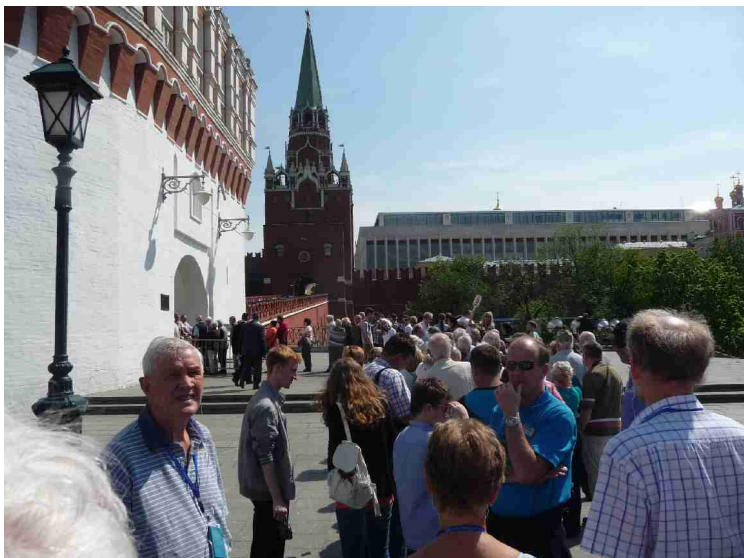
The Manege.



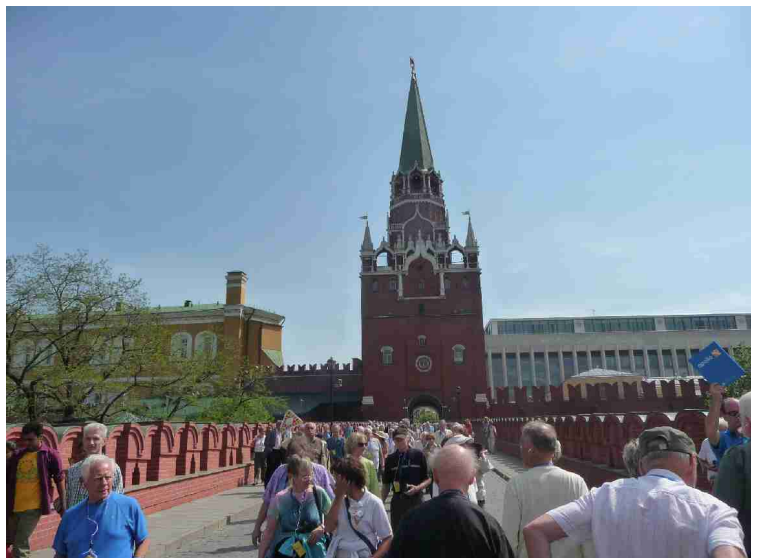
An obelisk, which was erected in 1914 to celebrate the Romanov dynasty. The stone is of Finnish granite.



Many tulips in the park.

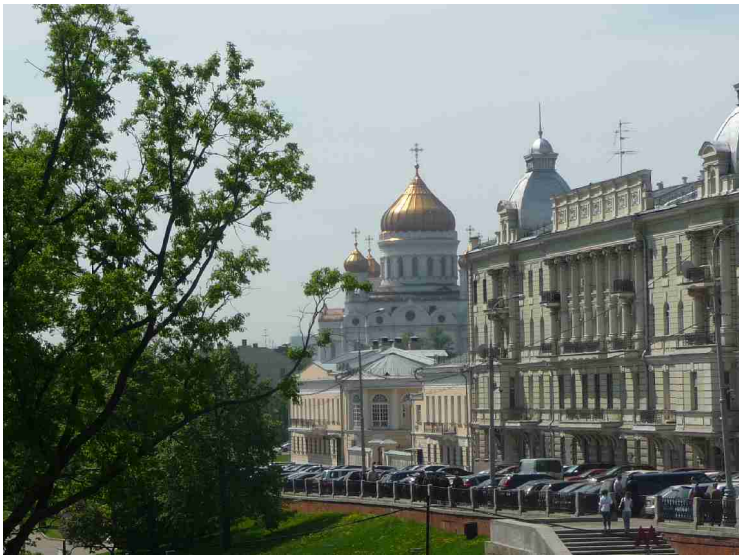


We are gathering to go into the Kremlin.

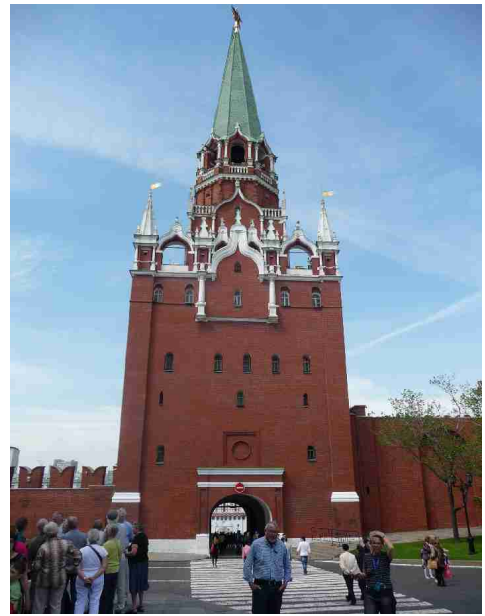


On the bridge, which is leading into Kremlin. In getting so far we had to go through a security control.

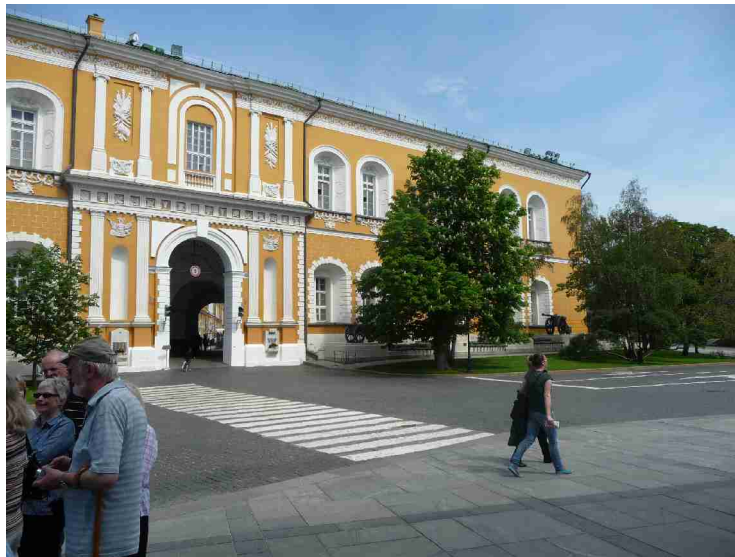




Churches in the background, photographed from the bridge.



[The Trinity Tower](#) where we went in.



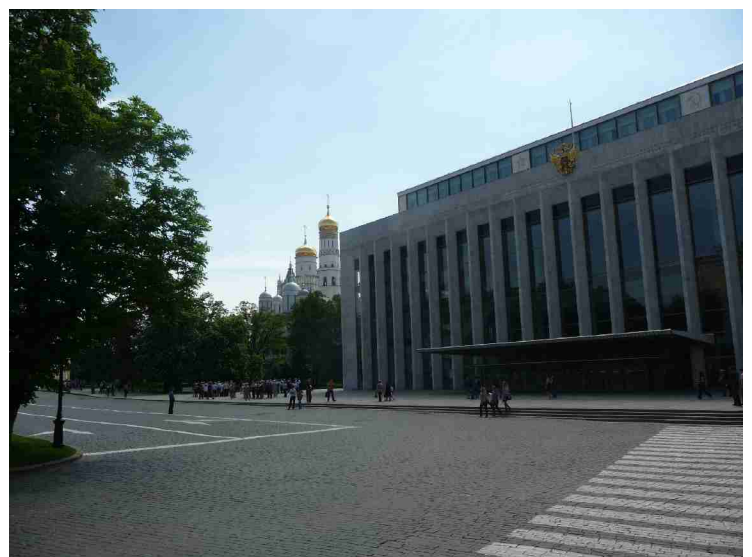
This is [The Kremlin Arsenal](#). It was not finished until 1736, but burned down already the next year. It has been destroyed and rebuilt several times.



Trophy canons outside the Arsenal.



Small canons outside the Arsenal.

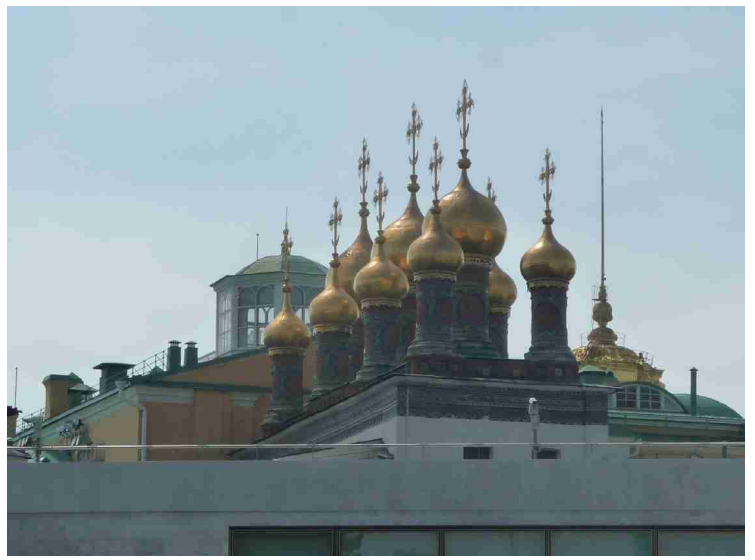


[Kremlin Palace of Congresses](#). It was finished in 1961.

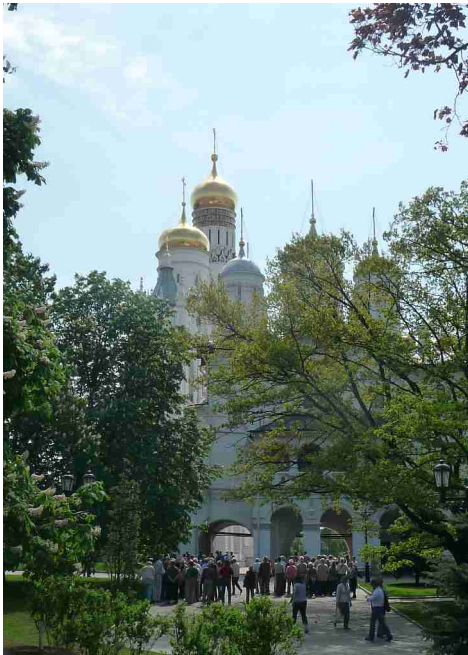




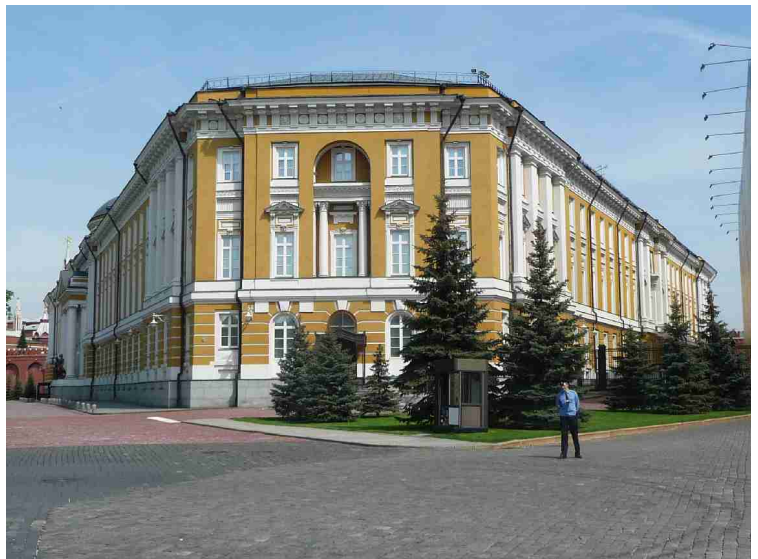
Kremlin Palace of Congresses.



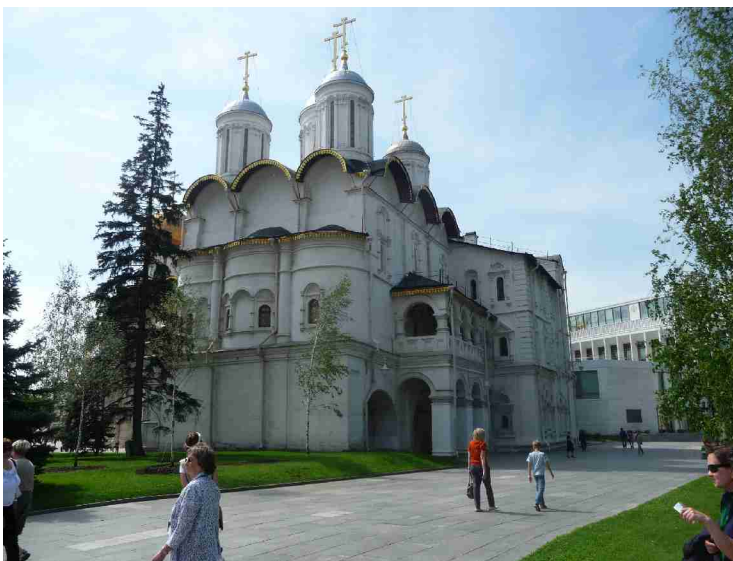
Many onion domes.



Here we can see a couple of the churches in the Kremlin.



This is the Senate.  
Today it is housing the Russian presidential administration.



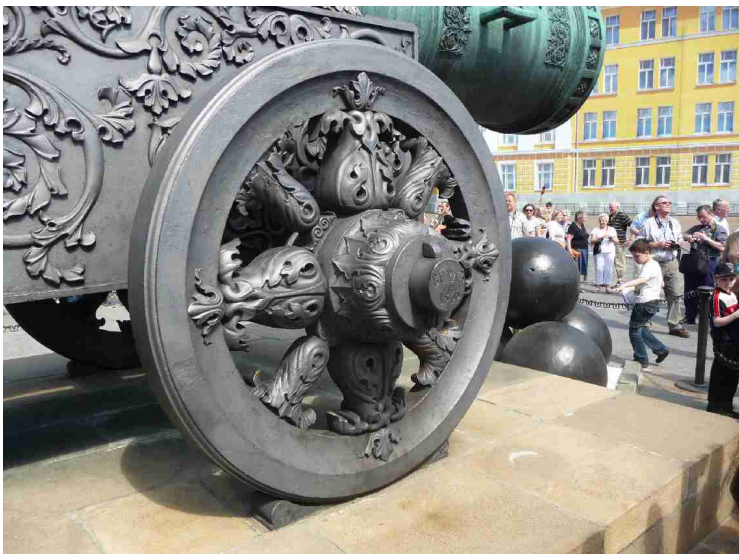
The Cathedral of the Archangel.

The church was a burial church for the Grand Dukes and the Tzars, and their coffins are standing dispersed on the floor.



Anne Berit in front of the larger Tzar Cannon.  
It was ordered by Tzar Fyodor Ivanovich in 1586, but it was never used in combat.

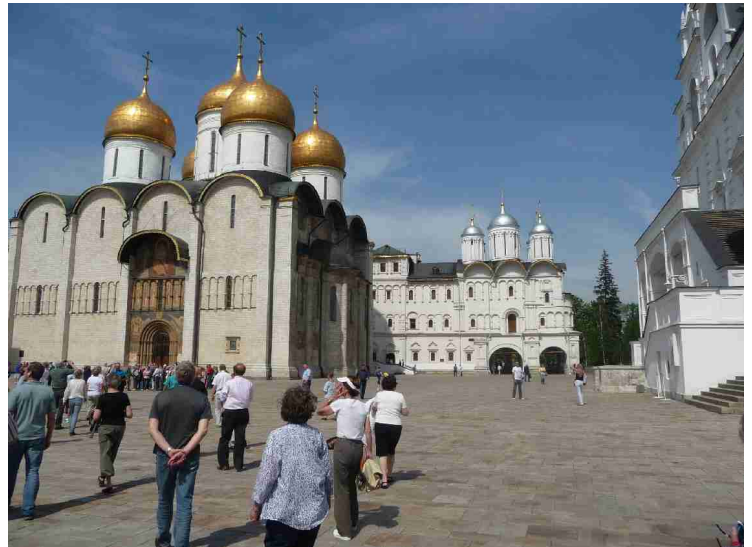
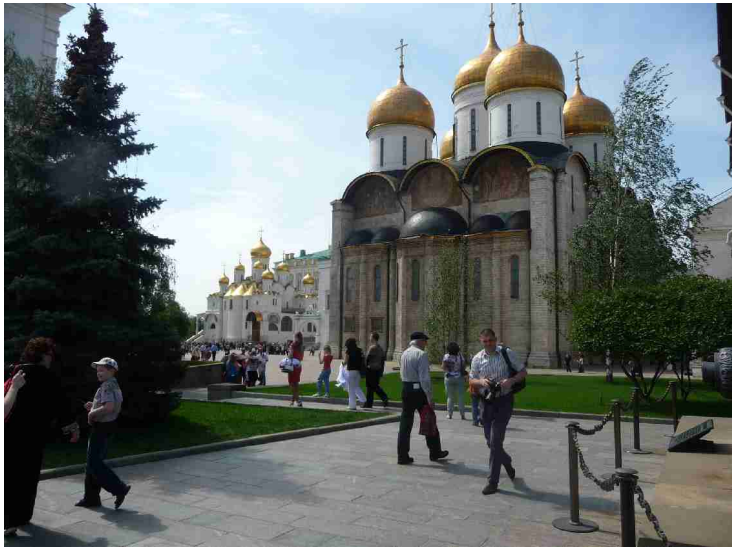




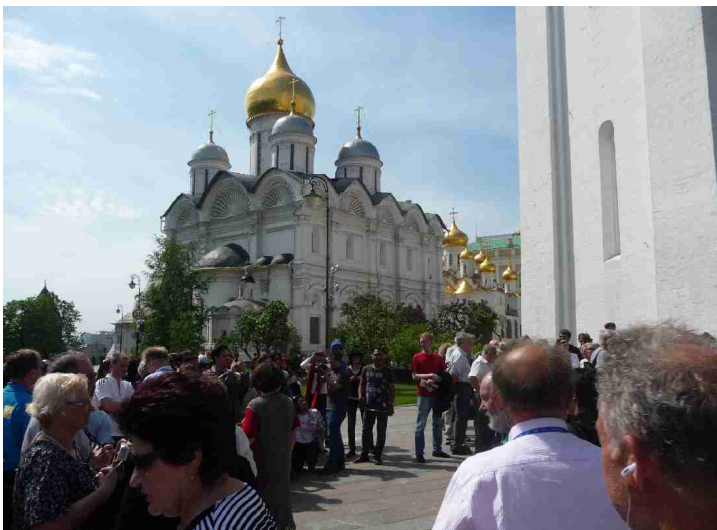
A lot of decorations on the carriage.



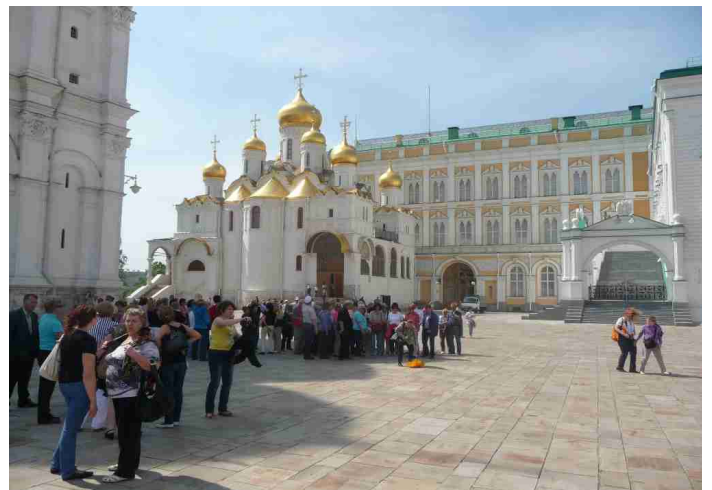
This is the world's largest church bell, the [Tsar Bell](#). It weighs 216 tons. It was destroyed by fire in the foundry.



The [Dormition Cathedral](#) was commenced in 1326. It was crumbling at the end of the 1400s, so there was started construction of a new cathedral in 1472, but it was destroyed by an earth quake in 1474. It was finished in 1479. After 1721 all Tzars have been consecrated in this church. We can see the Cathedral of the Archangel in the background.



The Dormition Cathedral.

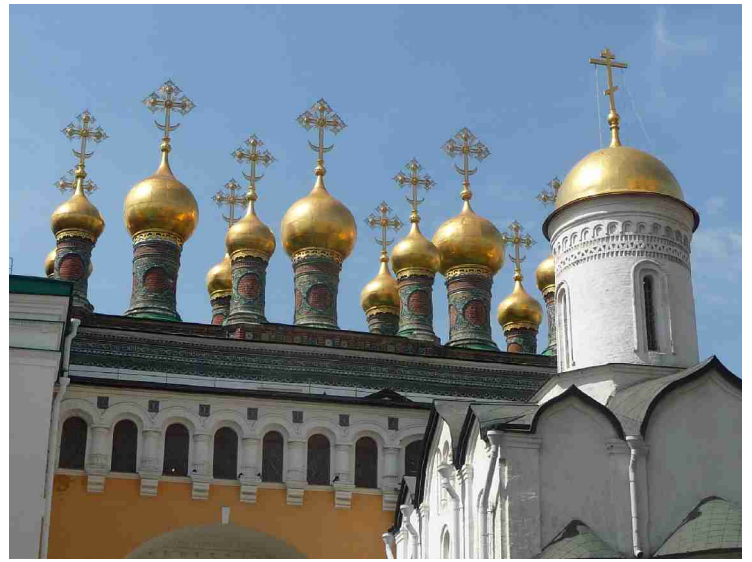


[The Cathedral of the Annunciation](#). The cathedral was used for baptism and weddings in the Tzar family.





This is the [Palace of Facets](#) on the Cathedral Square. Inside is a hall, which is used as a reception hall at the Tzar's banquets.



There is in abundance of onion domes on another church.



A few pictures from inside the Dormition Cathedral.



Inside the Dormition Cathedral.





The Dormition Cathedral.



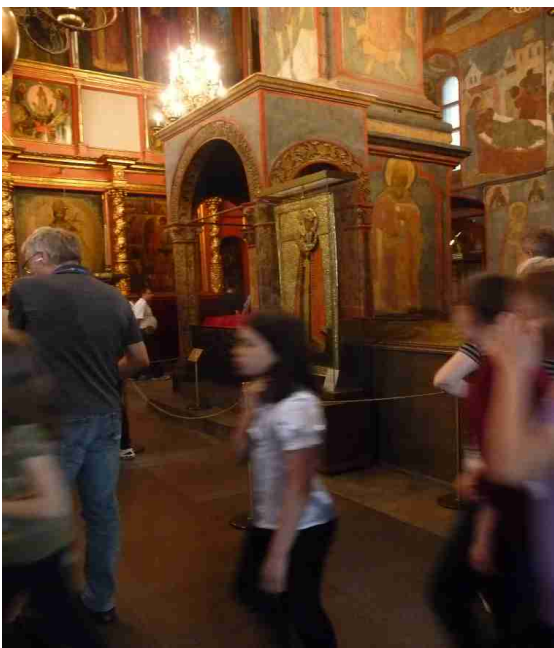
Outside the Dormition Cathedral again. We can see Ivan the Great Bell-Tower and Belfry to the left.



Here we are on our way in to the Cathedral of the Archangel.



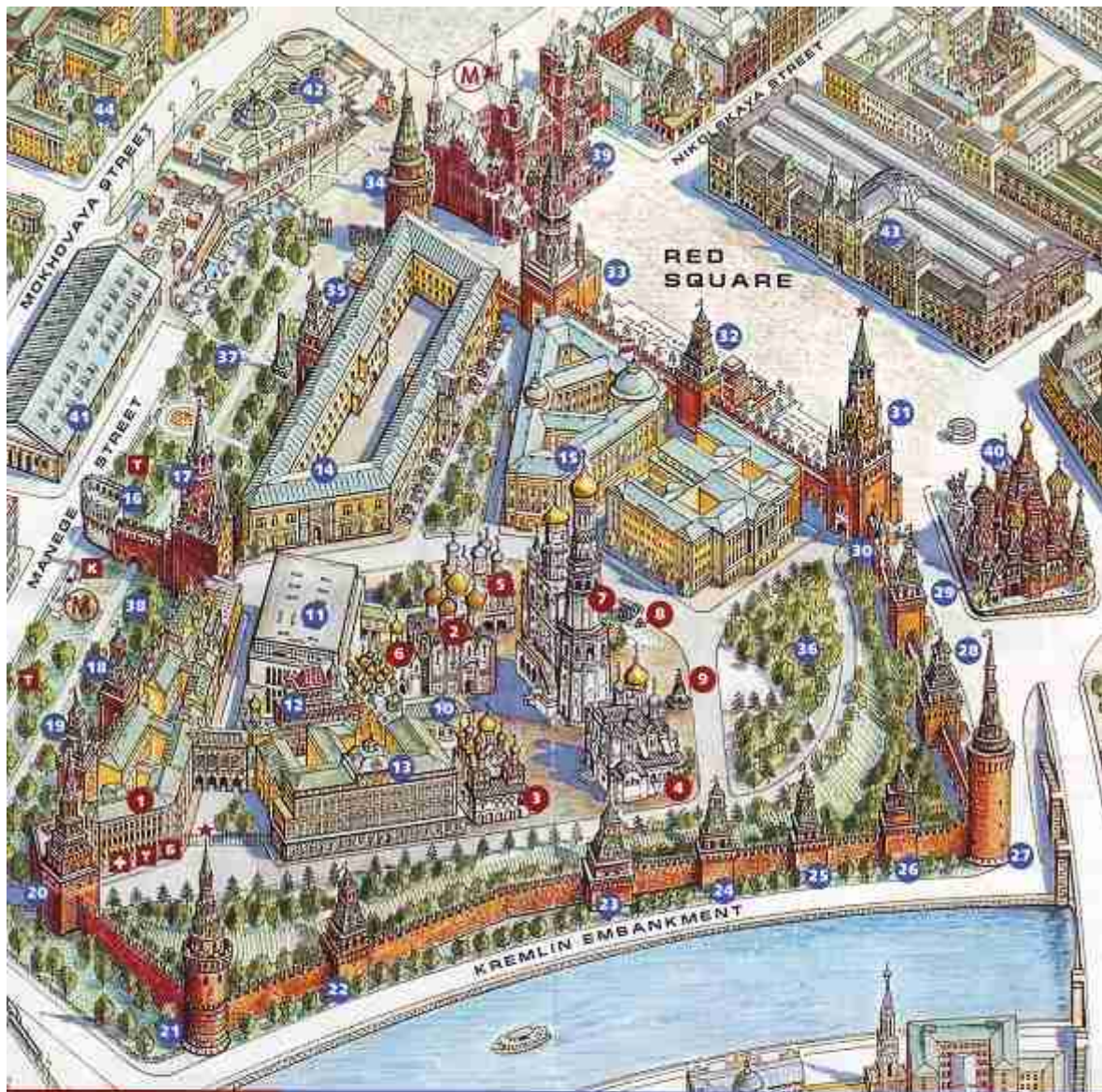
There is only a couple of pictures inside, because it was not allowed to take pictures.



On the way back to the ship we had a car in front of us with a wedding wreath on the roof.



To finish: An overview of the Red Square and Kremlin.



#### MOSCOW KREMLIN MUSEUMS

1. The Armoury Chamber
2. The Assumption Cathedral
3. The Annunciation Cathedral
4. The Archangel's Cathedral
5. The Patriarch's Palace, the Twelve Apostles' Church and One-Pillar Chamber
6. The Church of Laying Our Lady's Holy Babe
7. The Ivan the Great Bell-Tower, the Assumption Belfry and the Filaret Annex
8. The Tsar Cannon
9. The Tsar Bell

#### THE MOSCOW KREMLIN

10. The Faceted Chamber
11. The State Kremlin Palace
12. The Terem Palace
13. The Grand Kremlin Palace
14. The Arsenal
15. The Senate
16. The Kutafya Tower
17. The Trinity Tower
18. The Commandant Tower
19. The Armoury Tower
20. The Borovitskaya (Grove) Tower
21. The Water-Supplying Tower
22. The Annunciation Tower
23. The Secret Tower
24. The First Nameless Tower

25. The Second Nameless Tower
26. The Peter's Tower
27. The Moskvoretskaya (Moscow River) Tower
28. The Sts Constantine & Helen Tower
29. The Alarm Bell Tower
30. The Tsar Tower
31. The Saviour Tower
32. The Senate Tower
33. The St Nicholas Tower
34. The Corner Arsenal Tower
35. The Middle Arsenal Tower
36. The Secret Gardens
37. The Alexander Gardens
38. Gift shop and excursion centre

#### MOSCOW CITY CENTRE

39. The State History Museum
40. The Church of the Intercession (St Basil's Cathedral)
41. The Manege
42. Okhotny Ryad Shopping and Entertainment Centre
43. GUM Department Store
44. Moscow State M.V. Lomonosov University

-  Left luggage
-  Public toilet
-  First-aid
-  Cash point
-  Underground station