



Graduate School  
of Business Administration  
Moscow State University

# GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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## Education in Russia

Russian universities offer a wide range of educational programs. Students of all origins are welcome to study. Russian Education System may be different from the one in your home country.

### Primary and High School Education

Elementary education starts at the **kindergarten** (from the age of 3 to 6). It is a form of education for young children which serves as a transition from staying at home to formal schooling. Children develop their basic skills through creative play and social interaction. This type of education is optional and can be both private (paid) and public (free of charge).

Compulsory education starts at **primary school** which takes 3 years (from the age of 7 to 10) and continues with 5 or 7 years of a **high school**. School education in Russia takes either ten (skipping the 4th grade) or eleven years to complete. The major goal of primary school education is achieving basic literacy and numeracy amongst all pupils while high school education is aimed at establishing foundations in almost all disciplines: History, Geography, Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Literature, Russian and foreign languages, Sports, Music etc.

After graduation from the 9th grade, (9 years of school education is compulsory for all Russian citizens), a pupil obtains a **Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education**. After that a pupil has to choose one of the following ways to complete his secondary education: to continue for two more years at the high school and get a **Certificate of Complete Secondary Education** or to pursue an associate degree at a Tradesmen School. The latter variant usually takes three to four years to complete but provides a pupil with a professional qualification that is sufficient for most blue-collar jobs.

To get a **Certificate of Complete Secondary Education** pupils have to pass the **Unified State Exam (USE)**. This type of examination was adopted recently. It is a test which is passed at the end of 11th grade. It consists of three parts: part A consists of a multiple choice test, in part B the correct answer should be written in one word, and no variants are given, and in Part C the student has to write the full solution (as in mathematics) or a composition (as in literature). The answers are written on special blanks, digitally scanned, with parts A and B being checked automatically by the computer software.

An excellent score ranges, depending on the subject, from 65 (mathematics) to 90 (foreign language) out of 100.

### University Education

After obtaining a Certificate of Complete Secondary Education or a degree at a Tradesmen School a student can enter a University. A student can choose a program of higher education with duration of four to six years. The programs are elaborated in accordance with the **State Educational Standards which at present regulate almost 80% of their content**. The other 20% are elaborated by the university itself. This means that students have no chance to choose courses, only from a small amount of electives. But educational reform is on the process now. Educational process in Russia will be more flexible and comparable with western systems by 2020, when the reform will be implemented completely.

There are three different types of degrees that are conferred by Russian universities. The first degree is the **Bachelor Degree**. Bachelor programs last for 4 years of full-time university-level study. The programs include professional and special courses in Science, Humanities and Economic disciplines, professional training, completion of a research paper/project and passing State final exams. The Bachelor degree is awarded in all fields except Medicine after defending a Diploma project prepared under the guidance of a supervisor and passing the final exams. In Medicine, the first stage lasts six years.

Holders of the Bachelor degree are admitted to enter **Master Degree** programs. The Master degree is awarded after successful completion of two years' full-time study. Students must carry out a year of research including traineeships and prepare and defend a thesis which constitutes an original contribution for final examinations.

Bachelor and Master degrees were introduced relatively recently; they did not exist during the Soviet period, when all students got **Specialist degree** after 5 years of studies (6 years for medical students). This program still exists in some universities where students can choose from Specialist or Bachelor and Master programs.

To enter a university enrollees at present have to pass **Unified State Exam**. The scores of several, usually three subjects, are summed up, the total score presents the basis of accepting a student at a university. Students have a chance to apply at several universities and choose one after they get to know if their score is enough to enter this or that university. It is also required to pass inner exams to enter some universities (or some of their faculties).

**The Educational Program** is shaped by 3 or 4 academic disciplines each day 6 times a week. One class lasts 2 academic hours (45 min each). Students have large home assignment to fulfill individually or in small groups. Each student has to write a course paper each year and submit a final paper in the end of each program.

**The Academic year** in Russian universities is divided into two semesters. Fall semester starts in September and ends in December. In January students pass their examination session. Then there are two weeks of holidays. Spring semester starts in February and ends in May with an examination session in June. Then July and August are left for summer holidays.

Students have to be ready for **different types of examinations**: tests, written and oral exams. Students get examination marks according to the rating system (see below). But there is also a type of examination which is called “pass”, the difference is that for this examination students get only two marks “pass” and “failed”.

**Final diploma** is given to students in the end of the program, when their final thesis is defended and final state exam is passed.

**The rating system** is also different from the European or the American ones. In Russia there are only 4 marks (from 2 to 5). 5 being the highest mark is a normal one for good students. 4 means “good”, 3 is “satisfactory” mark. If a student gets a 2 (an unsatisfactory mark) it means that they fail the exam. In this situation the student has a right to take this exam two more times. If they fail again they are sent down from the university.

All students have two different but important **student documents** which should not be lost. The first one is the student ID card with a photo, name of the student and the information about the university, course year etc. Student ID is needed to insure the status of a student and is necessary to get an access to all university’s facilities or to use student’s discounts in transport, museums and sometimes in shops.

Another document is student’s record’s book where all disciplines and marks are mentioned. This book presents the basis for the final diploma, where all marks obtained are mentioned.

# Moscow State University



## *Some general facts<sup>1</sup>*

### **M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University**

<b>Established</b>	January 25, 1755
<b>Current Rector:</b>	Viktor Sadovnichiy
<b>Faculty:</b>	4,000
<b>Staff:</b>	15,000
<b>Undergraduates:</b>	40,000
<b>Postgraduates:</b>	7,000
<b>Location</b>	Moscow, Russia

## *It is worth finding out:*

### **MSU**

- Moscow State University is the largest university in Russia.
- Founded in 1755, it claims to be the oldest university in Russia.
- First lessons were held on April 26, 1755.
- It was originally located in the Principal Medicine Store on Red Square.
- The university was transferred by Catherine the Great to the present Neoclassical building on the other side of Mokhovaya Street.
- In the 18th century, the university had three faculties: philosophy, medicine, and law.
- The university was renamed in 1940 in honor of its founder Mikhail Lomonosov.
- After 1991, nine new faculties were established. In 1992, the university was granted a unique status: it is funded directly from the state budget (bypassing the ministry of education) which provides a significant level of independence.
- The curricula of all MSU faculties are based on the combination of academic instruction with student's research work and the combination of thorough theoretical knowledge with special skills.
- Moscow State University comprises 39 faculties, over 350 departments, 14 research institutes,
- The historical building on Mokhovaya Street now houses mainly the Faculty of Journalism, the Faculty of Psychology, and the Institute of Asian and African Studies.

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<sup>1</sup> If you want to learn more consult some webpages:

1. <http://www.msu.ru/en/>
2. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow\\_State\\_University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow_State_University)
3. <http://www.ied.msu.ru/index.php?lang=en>

## **MSU Campus and the Main Building**

Since 1953 most of the faculties have been situated on Vorobievsky Gory (Sparrow Hills), in the southwest of Moscow.

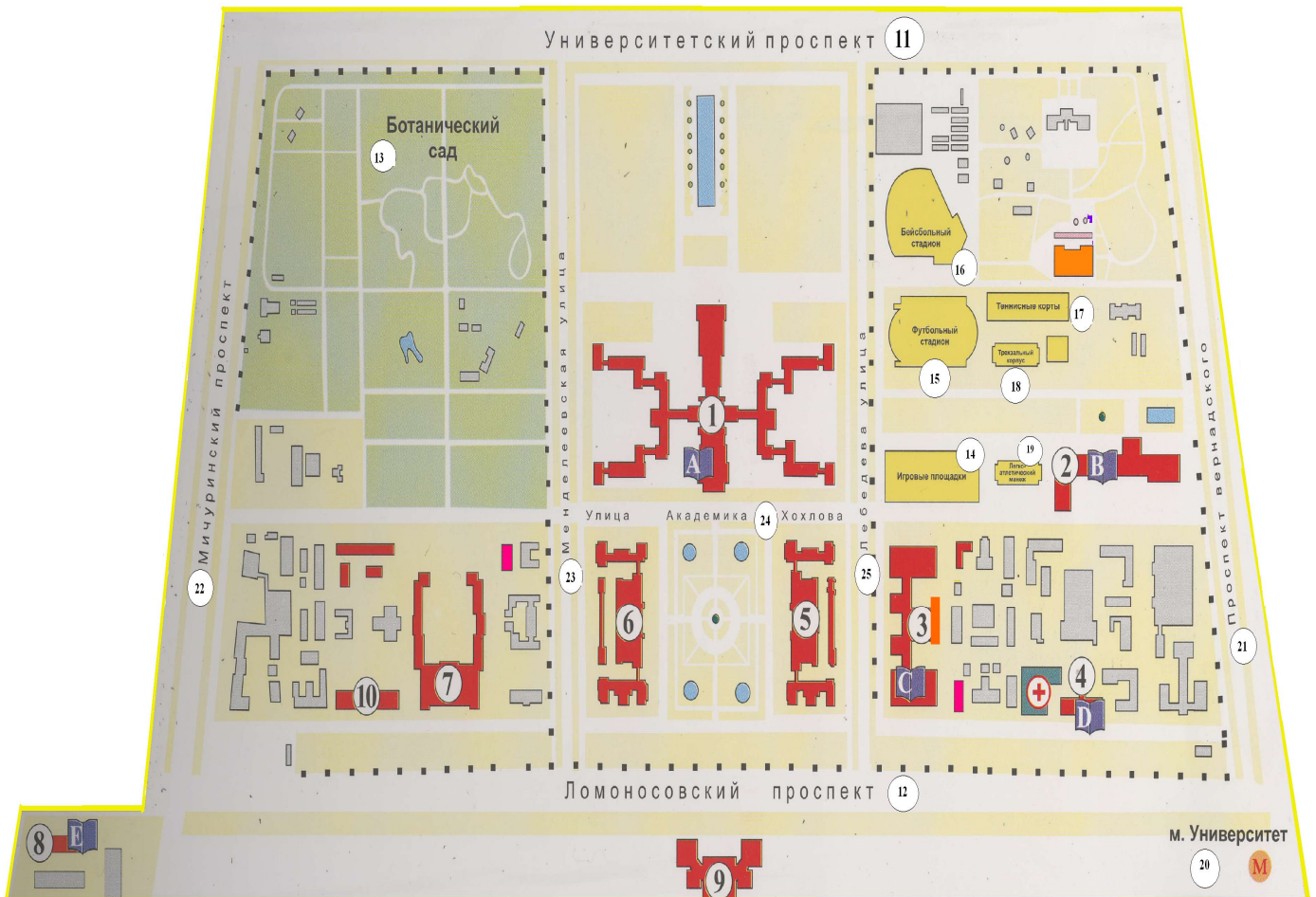
The Main building was designed by architect Lev Vladimirovich Rudnev. In the post-war era, Stalin ordered seven huge tiered neoclassic towers built around the city. The MSU Main building is by far the largest of these. It was also the tallest building in the world outside of New York City at the time of its construction, and it remained the tallest building in Europe until 1988.

The central tower is 240m tall, 36-stories high, and flanked by four huge wings of student and faculty accommodations. It is said to contain a total of 33 kilometers of corridors and 5,000 rooms. Facilities available inside the building include a concert hall, a theatre, a museum, various administration services, a library, a swimming pool, a police station, a post office, a laundry, a hairdresser's salon, several canteens, bank offices and ATMs, shops, cafes, a bomb shelter, etc. Along with the university administration, four of the main faculties - Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics, the Faculty of Geology, the Faculty of Geography, and the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts - now remain in the Main building.

The star on the top of the tower is large enough to include a small room and a viewing platform; it weighs 12 tons. The building's facades are ornamented with giant clocks, barometers, and thermometers, statues, carved wheat sheaves, and Soviet crests (recently renovated). Before the building there is a terrace featuring statues of male and female students gazing optimistically and confidently into the future.

# MSU Campus

Welcome to Moscow State University. On the territory of the campus you can find everything any modern town or city possesses. We can even say that it is 'status in statu'<sup>2</sup>. MSU Campus provides its students with all goods and services that go beyond all the necessities. Thus it makes life more comfortable. On the map you can see some essential services and shops.



<sup>2</sup> The state in the state.


1. The main building of MSU  
Faculty of Geology Faculty of Geography Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts
2. The First Humanities Building of MSU  
Faculty of Philology Faculty of Philosophy Faculty of Law Faculty of Public Administration Faculty of History
3. The Second Educational Building of MSU  
Faculty of Computational Mathematics and Cybernetics Faculty of Economics Faculty of World Politics
4. The Third Educational Building of MSU  
Faculty of Sociology
5. Faculty of Physics
6. Faculty of Chemistry, Faculty of Materials Science
7. Faculty of Biology, Faculty of Soil Science
8. Faculty of Foreign Languages and Area Studies
9. Main Library Building
10. Faculty of Bioengineering and Bioinformatics

**Literature and reference material, recommended by tutors of MSU, for**

- A. Faculty of Geology Faculty of Geography Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics, applicants (school leavers) of MSU
- B. Faculty of Philology Faculty of Philosophy Faculty of Law Faculty of Public Administration Faculty of History
- C. Faculty of Computational Mathematics and Cybernetics Faculty of Economics
- D. Faculty of Sociology
- E. Faculty of Foreign Languages and Area Studies

13. Botanical Gardens
14. Playgrounds
15. Football Playgrounds
16. Baseball Playgrounds
17. Tennis lawns
18. Three Hall Building
19. Track-and- field halls

11. University Avenue
12. Lomonosov Avenue
20. “Universitet” Metro Station
21. Vernadskiy Avenue
22. Michurin Avenue
23. Mendeleevskaya Street
24. Academician Khokhlov Street
25. Lebedev Street

 Graduate School of Business Administration

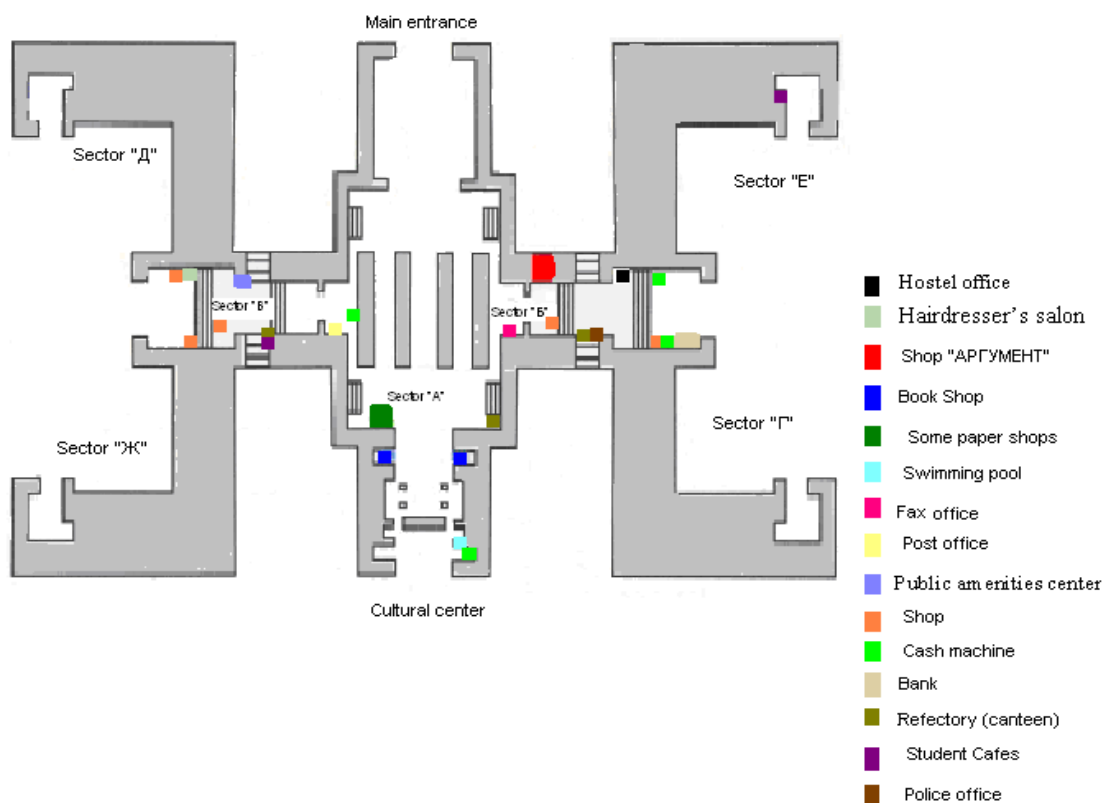
 Canteens



Hospital № 202

*MSU Information : +7 (495) 939-10-00*

# MSU Main Building



## **Public amenities center provides following services:**

- Various shoe repair services
- Clothes repair and tailor services
- Repair of jewelry
- Leather items repair
- Photography
- Electric home appliances repair
- Eye glasses repair and making by order
- Metal items repair
- TV, video and audio appliances repair
- Laundry
- Repair of watches and clocks
- Key making

# Getting Around

## **Airports**

There are three airports in Moscow area: **Sheremetyevo** (Air France, Aeroflot, Lufthansa, Finnair, etc.), **Domodedovo** (Transaero, British Airways etc.) and **Vnukovo** (served mostly by local carriers).

A very developed net of public transportation will help you to get around Moscow. You can either use public transportation, private taxi or rent a car.

## **Metro**

Metro (underground) is one of the most popular types of transportation in Moscow. It is inexpensive and usually the quickest and most reliable way to go from one point to another.

Even if you are not going to use Metro as a transport you should go down to look around. Some stations are really beautiful. To find a Metro station look for big red letter "M" or ask somebody "Metro?".

All lines are coded by color and by number. Unfortunately, all signs and announcements including those of stations are in Russian only. You can find the map of the line you are on and maps of the entire Metro system on the car walls both in Russian and English.

Metro operates from 6.00 am to 1.00 am (in some directions from 5.30 am to 1.30 am) with the transfer passages between lines closing at 1.00 a.m. Trains usually run every 2-3 minutes. Usually distance between stations is about 2-3 minutes. Add the same time for transfer between lines and you'll be able to calculate roughly your travel time.

## **Tickets and prices**



*Example of a ticket*

You can buy tickets only at ticket offices before going down to the station. The ticket cost (26 RUR) doesn't depend on how much time you spend in Metro or how many transfers you do from one line to another.

Additional information: <http://engl.mosmetro.ru/>

# Metro map



## City Buses & Trolley Buses & Trams & Taxis

**Tickets and prices** are the same for bus, trolleybus or tram. The single fare is 24 RUR when you buy a ticket from a ticket booth at the stop and 28 RUR if the driver sells it to you.

You have to enter bus/trolley/tram through the front door and then to run your ticket (face and arrow down) through a slot in a turnstile and take it back.

To get off at any of the intermediate stops, you have to buzz the driver by using any of the buzzer buttons near exits.

Note that **trams** are not so reliable as they could be because car drivers often block tram ways.

**Trolley Buses** are slow so use them only if you have no other mode of transportation available.

**Private Buses** are quick but often not very safe. You pay the driver/assistant about 20-30 RUR.

### **Taxis**

It is better not to use taxis on the road (expensive and not safe).

But you can call a taxi company and order a taxi service.

If you need more information visit these pages:

<http://www.world66.com/europe/russia/moscow/gettingaround>

**To buy an air-ticket you can search the webpage:** <http://pososhok.ru/>

## Russian Holidays

Russian holidays present a motley picture – new and old, official and unofficial, professional and private, religious and secular. All occasions warrant a celebration. We'll describe here only major Russian holidays, in chronological order.

### JANUARY

#### 1<sup>st</sup> of January – New Year

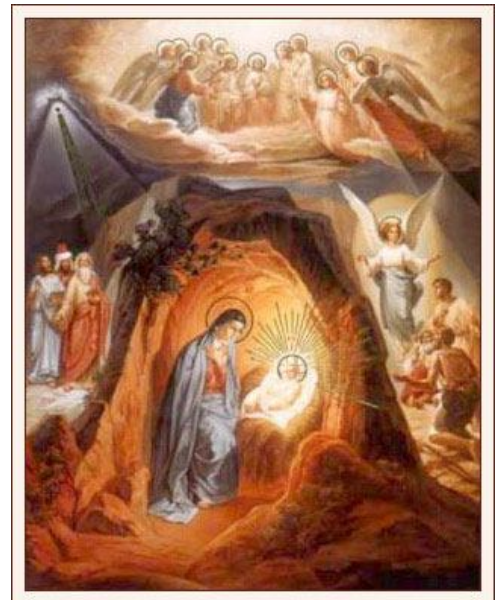


New Year's Day is one the most favorite holidays in Russia. Both grown-ups and children are happy on this day. On the Eve of this holiday or just on this very day everybody give presents to each other, have fun, make fireworks, decorate pine and fur-trees, cook delicious things and lay the holiday table. The unchangeable participants of this holiday are Farther Frost and his granddaughter "Snegurochka"(a snow girl). The holiday lasts till next morning. Everyone who believes in good says an intimate wish and thanks God for everything good that had happened that year. For the first time this holiday was announced by Peter the First's

order. This order gave the detailed instructions how to celebrate New Year's Day. Many people used to see the New Year on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January (according to the old calendar). And the tradition of telling fortunes at this night is very popular among young ladies and fellows, who are willing to know at least a little bit about their near future.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> of January – Christmas

This period from 7<sup>th</sup> till 19<sup>th</sup> of January is the best period for telling fortunes, as it is the Saint Christmas week, when people have fun, ware fancy-dresses and walk from one home to another asking for favor. In the night of the 7th of January (according to the orthodox calendar) is Christmas. In Christmas holidays people try to be better, purer (cleaner). It is the time when Christian values take peculiar importance (meaning), it is time for good deeds. Christmas is the holiday of waiting for miracles. As once it had happened in Vifliem – the Rescuer of humanity was born, so it must happen every year on this day. That's why both grown-ups and children are waiting for Christmas with such impatience and even though miracle doesn't take place the holiday is very nice with its unique mixture of folk and Christian customs and tradition.



#### 13<sup>th</sup> of January - Old New Year

Holiday in memory of Old Calendar New Year celebrated as a family holiday.

### 25<sup>th</sup> of January – Student's Day (Tatyana's Day)

In Russia it is a merry holiday of the students as on this very day January, 25th 1775 Emperor Elizabeth signed the decree (prepared by count Shuvalov) of the establishment of the Moscow University.



## FEBRUARY

### 14<sup>th</sup> of February – St. Valentine's Day



Christian martyr Valentine was condemned to the capital punishment by Roman pagans but even in such cruel conditions he didn't stop thinking of his lover – the jailer's daughter. He sent her a message full of love and tenderness. This holiday, inherited from the Western culture, is now very popular in Russia.

### 23d of February – Protector of Motherland Day

This holiday is celebrated on the 23rd of February. It is our tribute of respect to all the generations of Russian soldiers from the ancient times till nowadays to those who defeated courageously our motherland from invaders. On this day all the masculine representatives from boys to old men receive congratulations and presents and the military men greet each other. Women have a happy opportunity to say the warmest and the sweetest words to their lovers and to please them with sings of attention.



### 14<sup>th</sup> of February till the beginning of March – The Pancake Day

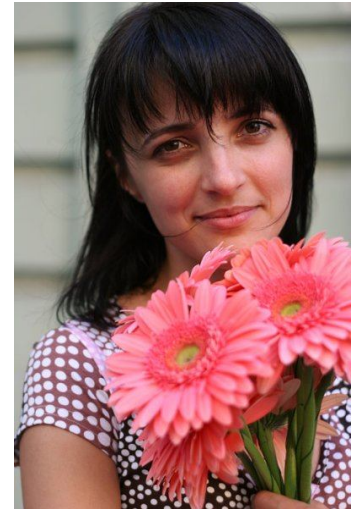


It is a holiday of ancient Slavs in honor to east pagan God of fertility (Vles). It is a holiday of farewell to the winter and welcome to the spring. The Orthodox Church considers the Pancake Day to be a Christian holiday the so-called cheese week. It is previous to the Fast and it is celebrated 7 weeks before Easter. It is a merry folk holiday when old rubbish or hey scarecrow is burnt. Most people put on skins of animals and soil their faces with soot to drive away wicked spirits.

## MARCH

### 8<sup>th</sup> of March – International Women’s Day

Born at a time of great social turbulence and crisis, the International Women's Day (IWD) inherited a tradition of protest and political activism. In the years before 1910, from the turn of the 20th century, women in industrially developing countries were entering paid work in some numbers. Their jobs were sex segregated, mainly in textiles, manufacturing and domestic services where conditions were wretched and wages worse than depressed. In Europe, the flames of revolution were being kindled. March 8 became the first spring holiday in Russia. Up to this day, it is an official day off and both men and women of Russia are looking forward to this holiday. It has long lost its political meaning and is looked upon as a day to celebrate the unconditional love, sacrifice, patience, wisdom, and beauty of the Russian women.



## APRIL

### 1<sup>st</sup> of April – Fool Day (The Day of Laughter)



They say it is not a sin to laugh at everything that seems to be fun. The medical men confirm that laughter prolong the life. It is considered that those who can laugh at themselves achieve a lot. Recently this fun holiday didn't celebrate everywhere but nowadays it has become a custom. Everybody tries to play a trick on others.

### Two weeks after Catholic Easter - Orthodox Easter

It is the main Christian holyday established in honor to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ crucified on the cross and to the Outcome of the Jews from Egypt. Easter is held on the 1st Sunday after the vernal equinox and it is celebrated solemnly and merrily. The date of Easter is usually determined by the church calendar and is calculated according to so-called Paschalis - the special tables.



## MAY

### 1<sup>st</sup> of May – Spring and Labor Day



...  
The 1st of May is the traditional holiday of spring. It opens the sequence of other May holidays. This is the day of triumph of the nature which is full of blossom, of birds' singing, of multicolored flowers and small balls. People have a rest both from the long frosty winter and winter troubles looking forward the summer and summer joys.

## 9<sup>th</sup> of May – Victory Day

It is the greatest holiday for Russian people. It is both joy and sorrow. But there is much more on this day because we managed to defend our independence and we won "the brown plague" and stood the test of war with dignity. Great gratitude to those who lost their lives for today's peace and happiness. And eternal memory will last forever.



## JUNE

### 1<sup>st</sup> of June – The International Day of Children's Defence



What is sunnier, joyful, and memorable than the childhood? A child gets to know the world, learns good and friendship and finds out new in familiar things. A child is happy when he is loved, warmed fed and understood. The children are the future of the mankind. Tomorrow is in their hands. Their right for life and dignity must be respected and defended. Trinity is the unity of three God's faces: God Father, God Son and Sacred Spirit. It is a Christian holiday. It is celebrated on the 50th day after Easter hence it follows its another name- Pyatidesyatnitsa (the 50th day). On this day Holy Spirit went down on the Apostles and gave them Christ's instructions to spread news of Christianity to all the peoples and languages.

This holiday is hold according to folk rites. The dwellings are decorated with twigs of birch. People remember the deceased. In the evening people sing and dance in rings. In Russia Whitsunday merged with the Semic holiday. It is the esteem of plant Spirits. People also celebrate the Parents' Saturday.

### 12<sup>th</sup> of June – Independence Day

Russia's newest holiday which commemorates the adoption in 1991 of the Declaration of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation.



## SEPTEMBER

### 1<sup>st</sup> of September – The Day of Knowledge



Every year after a kind hot summer on the 1st of September pupils go to their classes to continue their journey to the Land of Knowledge. While growing up they comprehend the depths of Wisdom of this Land to enter the adult life being armed with thorough Knowledge. On this day the doors of colleges, universities, institutes, lyceums are also open. Our country is under special goodwill and guarding of God's Mother. The esteem of the Virgin (Our Lady) is extremely typical for Our people. That's why during some years side by side with traditional holiday of the 8th of March people celebrate the Mother's Day.

## OCTOBER

### 5<sup>th</sup> of October – Teacher's Day

This special day was created to focus the World's attention on the contributions and achievements of teachers as well as their concerns and priorities.



## DECEMBER

### 12<sup>th</sup> of December – The Constitution Day



On this date in 1993 the new Constitution of the Russian Federation was approved, a fundamental law of the state, one of the most important democratic institutions.

## Some places near “Universitet” Metro station where you can have meal



