



Moscow - post Elbrus and overnight stays

It is possible to spend a few days in Moscow after the expedition to Elbrus. The normal length of time is 3 days following this programme:

- Day 1 - Arrival Moscow pm from Mineralnye Vody, transfer to Izhmailovo Hotel
- Day 2 - Moscow sightseeing and shopping, possible evening visit to circus or concert or ballet
- Day 3 - Kremlin tour, visits, shopping
- Day 4 - Depart am, flight departs around noon, arriving London at the same time GMT

We generally advise that people pay for their own expenses during this part of the trip because there are so many options, and many of them are best decided at the time and paid in cash. You will need to pay for items in roubles but you can change any currency in Moscow. The ATM's will take Visa cards and offer you the option of withdrawing roubles or dollars.

Exchange rates are currently: 48 roubles to £1, 36 roubles to 1 euro and 24 roubles to \$1.

Our Moscow organiser Andrey Panin will accompany you in Moscow and he can be employed as a city guide on an hourly basis. We recommend that you use a Russian-speaking guide because English is not widely spoken and nor are any signs in English. We also recommend using the Metro for travelling around Moscow since hiring a car plus driver at an hourly rate is expensive. Please note that if you want to stay in Moscow we **need to know in advance to organise your visa** for the extra days in Russia.

These are some of the prices:

Airport transfer:

Minibus from Sheremetevo airport to hotel for 4 - 10 people for 2 journeys = 5000 Rb
Car from Sheremetevo airport to hotel up to 4 people for 2 journeys = 3200 Rb
From Domodedovo airport (BMI flights) there is a train to Moscow city centre.
Domodedovo and Sheremetevo are on opposite sides of Moscow.

Guide (Andrey Panin):

600 Rb per hour (note that there is an additional special guide required for entering the Kremlin Armoury)

Excursions:

Estimate around 2000 Rb for two days of entrance fees to the main sights. For a complete view of what is available check www.moscowweekend.ru.

Some city favourites include:

Moscow Kremlin, 2 Cathedrals and Armoury (note that going into the Armoury is additional to the main Kremlin area, and takes about 2 hours). Arbat St for shopping and excursion in metro. The Red Square, St Basils Cathedral and Lenin's mausoleum (only open for two hours per day)

Evening entertainment at the "Bolshoi Theatre" or Circus (Andrey can advise what shows are the most popular and help book your seat) Visit to house museum of Leo Tolstoy in Khamovniki or the Literature museum of Leo Tolstoy at Prechistenka Str Kolomenskoe state architecture museum and the Tretyakov Gallery of Fine Art museum named after Pushkin or the War Memorial, slightly on the outskirts of town

Meals:

Estimate around 400 Rb for a lunch at a Russian buffet place like Yolky Palky, and around 800 Rb for a reasonable dinner. There are plenty of Macdonalds, TGI Fridays, and Rostiks which provide western fast food, and there are many stand-up cafes which sell a very cosmopolitan range of food. Around Red Square the restaurants are very expensive and a meal can cost 2000 Rb.

Hotel:

Twin room at Izhmailovo Hotel = 3000 Rb per weekday night or 2600 Rb for the weekend. You can book hotel accommodation with us in advance or you can book online through Eye Vista Agency at <http://www.hotelbooker.ru/eng/catalog/izmaylovo/> but please be aware of the following points with booking online:

- a) You do not need Eye Vista to provide your visa, you will already have one from us for your whole stay in Russia
- b) Eye Vista can arrange the hotel to provide your airport transfer if you wish but it is easier if everyone travels together so we prefer you let us provide the transport.
- c) You will need to provide the following information for the online reservation system: Hotel name, room type, dates of arrival and departure (please, specify the date of check-in and check-out), your full name, citizenship, payment details (bank transfer, credit card or cash), your e-mail address or Fax number (please specify area and country code).
- d) The full payment for accommodation should be made in advance before the date of arrival .
- e) Eye Vista Travel accepts major credit cards or a wire transfer (please note that you should cover all charges of your, intermediate and Russian banks).
- f) For a payment effected by your credit card Eye Vista Travel will ask you to fill, sign and send by Fax the special "Credit Card Payment Agreement" form (Credit Card authorisation form).
- g) If your payment is delayed or you have made mistakes in payment or travel dates Eye Vista Travel has the full right to cancel reservations and services and will not take responsibility for your further stay in Russia.

If you would like us to book the hotel for you there will be a 5% surcharge to cover our booking charges. The cost can then added to your Mt Elbrus invoice.

Airport Hotels

Some people may be staying only overnight and wish to have a hotel room next to the airport. In this case we recommend the following:

Sheremetevo Airport Hotel:

http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Novotel_Sheremetyevo_2_Hotel_Moscow.htm

Domodedovo Airport Hotel: http://www.airhotel.ru/index_en.asp

Summary:

- If you're interested in staying in Moscow for a few days after Mt Elbrus this can be organised on a 'pay as you go' basis due to many differing tour options.
- Hotels can be self booked or organised through Adventure Alternative
- Andrey Panin will meet you at the airport, transfer you to the hotel and act as your guide.
- Costs for guides, tours, entries, food etc are 'pay as you tour' payable to Andrey.
- Prices quoted above are a guide and only accurate at time of print.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us on 02870 831258 (UK) or 04870 831258 (RoI) or on office@adventurealternative.com