



**The Getty Conservation Institute**

## **Field Trip Report**

By F. LeBlanc, Head, Field Projects

### **Moscow, June 24-26, 2007**



**Moaxoq Red Square – Left: the Kremlin; center: Gum department store; right: St-Basil Cathedral**

Beverly Weisblatt and I stopped in Moscow on our way back from Kazan where the GCI was responsible for the organization and delivery of the scientific symposium and the pre-congress course of the Organization of World Heritage Cities world congress. Beverly speaks fluent Russian and this was a blessing for getting around Moscow, especially for using the Metro that is a bit complicated to figure out if you don't understand the language.

#### **Day 1, Sunday June 24**

The flight from Kazan to Moscow only lasts approximately an hour and a half. Both Beverly and I were laden with heavy suitcases as we were bringing back office material used during the OWHC congress. We stayed at the Marco Polo hotel in Moscow, close to downtown, a quite comfortable place.



### ***Gorky's House Museum***

Location: Ulitsa Malaya Nikitskaya, 6/2

Metro: Arbatskaya

Once we got rid of the suitcases, our first visit was to Gorky's House Museum that is located in walking distance from the hotel. The house is a masterpiece of the art-nouveau style of architecture. It was built for the merchant Riabushinski at the beginning of the 20th century. Later Stalin had it renovated and gave it to Maxim Gorky, his favorite "proletarian" writer. Here Gorky spent his last years (1931-1936). The museum is interesting both as a Gorky museum and as an architectural monument.

Maxim Gorky reputedly was most unhappy about living there as he felt it was too ostentatious. The interior decoration is stunning — murals, exquisitely sculpted door-frames, stained glass — and the staircase just amazing, if a little slippery! The pink building, opposite the 1999 fountain and statue created to celebrate Pushkin's 100th birthday, can be entered only from the back. The house retains an aura of intrigue: Gorky was placed under house arrest here not long after he returned to Russia — he was even supplied with doctored editions of Pravda that excluded any news of "The Purges" — and rumors persist that Stalin hastened the author's death by having his ground-floor bedroom's walls impregnated with toxic paint.



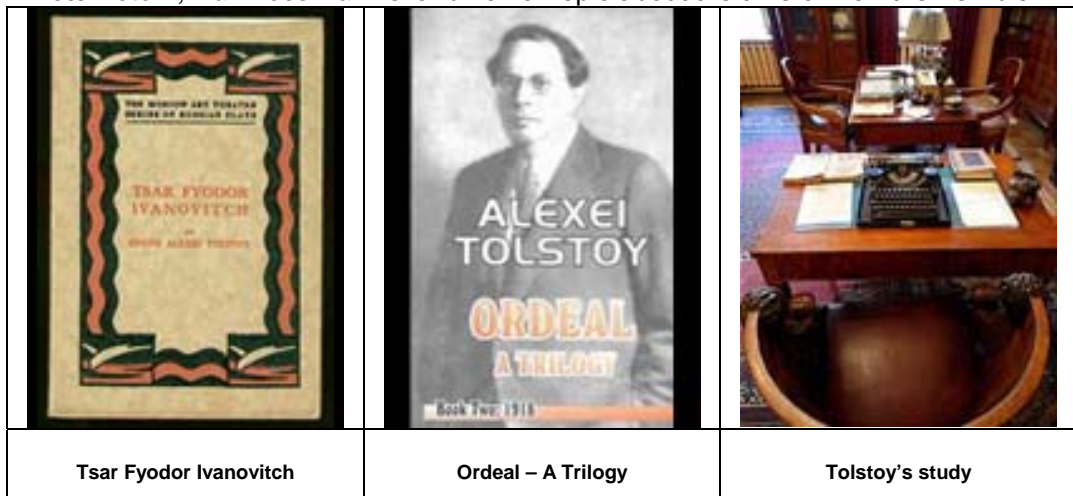


***Alexei Tolstoy Flat-Museum***

The Alexei Tolstoy Flat-Museum is tucked away around the back of the Gorky Museum, mirroring the way its owner lived in the shadow of his illustrious distant relative, Lev Tolstoy. Count Alexei Tolstoy (1882-1945) was a White émigré who returned in 1923 to establish himself as a popular author and later as a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, occupying this flat from 1941 until his death.

It is decorated in the haut-bourgeois style of the nineteenth century, making the copy of Pravda in the drawing room seem an anachronism.

In his columned salon, Tolstoy entertained friends at the grand piano or Lombard table like an aristocrat, while his study was a cozy world of history books, Chinese tea urns and pipes, with a copy of Peter the Great's death mask for inspiration. Here he wrote *Peter I*, *Darkness Dawns* and half an epic about the time of Ivan the Terrible.





### ***Christ the Savior Cathedral***

In 1931 the head of the Soviet state and of the Communist Party, Joseph Stalin, vicar of Satan, conceived a bold and symbolic plan against the Russian Orthodox Church. He would strike at Christ the Savior of Russia by destroying His temple on the banks of the Moscow River and replacing it with a new "temple" - a Palace of Soviets atop which would stand a colossal statue of Lenin. The height of the Palace and statue would exceed that of the Empire State Building in New York. In 1931, after removing much of the interior decorations and art works, the temple was blown up and the site cleared for the proposed Palace. Several attempts to construct and to stabilize the foundations were frustrated by the slow movement thereof toward the Moscow River. The construction was abandoned and replaced by a public heated swimming pool in use for several decades.



At the end of the decade of the 1980's the warm wind of perestroika rolled across the plains of Russia banishing the harsh cruelty of the Bolshevik winter. The gates of hell relented and Holy Russia again was free. The Soviet state created by Lenin was swept into the dustbin of history.

The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church under the leadership of Patriarch Alexy II requested the governments of Russia and the City of Moscow to restore the Temple of Christ the Savior in its original location and design. Knowing well the symbolism of the Temple's restoration in repudiating the old Communist Soviet order and

in establishing the new Russian state predicated on the synthesis of "narodnost", "demokrasiya", and Pravoslaviye, (4) Church and State (5) allocated scarce resources to the restoration of Christ the Savior's Temple on the banks of the Moscow River. Moreover the restoration would also serve as a symbol or act of atonement for the past sins of the Russian Church (6) and people during the decades of Soviet rule.

### **New temple under construction**



By 1995 the foundations of the restored temple were laid and construction proceeded quickly. In 1996 the main cupola and the life-giving cross (7) were restored. The lower Church of the Transfiguration was consecrated. A new festive bell was cast and restored to ring out over Moscow announcing the celebration of Divine Services and advising all that Christ the Savior had trampled death and had risen on the Third Day. The high point of the restoration and integral thereto were the glorification and canonization of the Assembly of Russian Martyrs and Confessors on August 19 - 20, 2000 including the canonization of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and children as Holy Passion-Bearers. On Sunday, August 20, following the canonization, the Temple was consecrated to the worship of Christ the Savior during the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy celebrated by Patriarch Alexy II, the members of the Holy Synod and by various Eastern Orthodox hierarchs from around the world. Thus the Temple of Christ the Savior reached its full allegorical significance through its restoration as symbol of the Glorious Resurrection of Christ the Savior.

## **Day 2, Monday June 25**

### ***Moscow Kremlin***

The site has been continuously inhabited since the 2nd millennium BC, and originates from a Vyatich fortified structure on Borovitsky Hill where the Neglinnaya River flowed into the Moskva River. The Slavs occupied the southwestern portion of the hill as early as the 11th century, as testifies a metropolitan seal from the 1090s, which was unearthed by Soviet archaeologists on the spot.

Until the 14th century, the site was known as the grad of Moscow. The word "Kremlin" was first recorded in 1331 and its etymology is disputed (see Vasmer online). The "grad" was greatly extended by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky in 1156, destroyed by the Mongols in 1237 and rebuilt in oak in 1339.

### **Kremlin - Seat of Grand Dukes**

The first recorded stone structures in the Kremlin were built at the behest of Ivan Kalita in the late 1320s and early 1330s, after Peter, Metropolitan of Rus had moved his seat from Kiev to Moscow. The new ecclesiastical capital needed permanent churches. These included the Dormition Cathedral (1327, with St. Peter's Chapel, 1329), the church bell tower of St. John Climacus (1329), the monastery church of the Savior's Transfiguration (1330), and the Archangel Cathedral (1333) — all built of limestone and decorated with elaborate carving, each crowned by a single dome. Of these churches, the reconstructed Savior Cathedral alone survived into the 20th century, only to be pulled down at the urging of Stalin in 1933.



## Kremlin - Buildings



### 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 Robe
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 Kutafiya 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 Moskvoletskaia (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 Manège
42. Okhotny Ryad Shopping and Entertainment Centre
43. GUM Department Store
44. Moscow State M.V. Lomonosov University

- K** Left luggage
- T** Public toilet
- +** First aid
- C** Cash point
- M** Underground station

Existing Kremlin walls and towers were built by Italian masters over the years from 1485 to 1495. The irregular triangle of the Kremlin wall encloses an area of 275,000 square meters (68 acres). Its overall length is 2235 meters (2444 yards), but the height ranges from 5 to 19 meters, depending on the terrain. The wall's thickness is between 3.5 and 6.5 meters.



Originally there were eighteen Kremlin towers, but their number increased to twenty in the 17th century. All the towers are square in plan, except the three with circular sections. The highest tower is the Spasskaya, which was built up to its present height of 71 meters in 1625. Most towers were originally crowned with wooden tents; extant brick tents with strips of colored tiles go back to the 1680s.

The Cathedral Square is the heart of the Kremlin. It is surrounded by six buildings, including three cathedrals. The Cathedral of the Dormition was completed in 1479 to be the main church of Moscow and where all the Tsars were crowned. The massive limestone facade, capped with its five golden cupolas was the design of Aristotele Fioravanti. The gilded, three-domed Cathedral of the Annun-

ciation was completed next in 1489, only to be reconstructed to a nine-domed design a century later. On the south-east of the square is the much larger Cathedral of the Archangel Michael (1508), where all the Muscovite monarchs from Ivan Kalita to Ivan V are interred.

There are two domestic churches of the Metropolitans and Patriarchs of Moscow, the Cathedral of the Twelve Apostles (1653-56) and the one-domed exquisite church of the Deposition of the Virgin's Robe, built by Pskov artisans over the years 1484-88 and featuring superb icons and frescoes from 1627 and 1644.



(4) Twelve Apostle Church

The other notable structure is the Ivan the Great Bell Tower on the north-east corner of the square, which is said to mark the exact centre of Moscow and resemble a burning candle. Completed in 1600, it is 81 meters (266 ft) high. Until the Russian Revolution, it was the tallest structure in the city, as construction of buildings taller than that was forbidden. Its 21 bells would sound the alarm if any enemy was approaching.

The oldest secular structure still standing is Ivan III's Palace of Facets (1491), which holds the imperial thrones. Next oldest is the first home of the royal family, the Terem Palace. The original Terem Palace was also commissioned by Ivan III, but most of the existing palace was built in the 17th century. The Terem Palace and the Palace of Facets are linked by the Grand Kremlin Palace. This was commissioned by Nicholas I in 1838. The largest structure in the Kremlin, it cost an exorbitant sum of eleven million rubles to build and more than one billion dollars to renovate in the 1990s. It contains dazzling reception halls, a ceremonial red staircase, private apartments of the tsars, and the lower story of the Resurrection of Lazarus church (1393), which is the oldest extant structure in the Kremlin and the whole of Moscow.

The northeast corner of the Kremlin is occupied by the Arsenal, which was originally built for Peter the Great in 1701. The northwestern section of the Kremlin holds the Armoury building. Built in 1851 to a Renaissance Revival design, it is currently a museum housing Russian state regalia and Diamond fund.

### Political figures of speech

The name Kremlin is often used as a metonymy to refer to the government of the Soviet Union (1922-1991) and its highest members (such as general secretaries, premiers, presidents, ministers, and commissars), in the same way the name Downing Street refers to the British government, or White House refers to the government of the United States. To some extent, it is still used in reference to the government of the Russian Federation. "Kremlinology" referred to the study of Soviet policies.

### Red Square

Red Square is the most famous city square in Moscow. The square separates the Kremlin, the former royal citadel and currently the official residence of the President of Russia, from a historic merchant quarter, known as Kitay-gorod. As major streets of Moscow radiate from here in all directions, being promoted to major highways outside the city, the Red Square is often considered the central square of Moscow and of all Russia.



(31) The Savior Tower, Red Square



(43) Gum department store, Red Square



Reconstructed gates, Red Square



(39) State History Museum, Red Square

### Origin and name

The rich history of Red Square is reflected in many artworks, including paintings by Vasily Surikov, Konstantin Yuon, and others. The land that Red Square is situated on was originally covered with wooden buildings, but cleared by Ivan III's edict in 1493, as those buildings were dangerously susceptible to fires. The newly opened area gradually came to serve as Moscow's primary marketplace. Later, it was also used

for various public ceremonies and proclamations, and occasionally as the site of coronation for Russia's tsars. The square has been gradually built up since that point, and has been used for official ceremonies by all Russian governments since it was established.

The name of Red Square derives not from the color of the bricks around it, nor from the link between the color red and Communism. Rather, the name came about because the Russian word красная (krasnaya) can mean either "red" or "beautiful" (the latter meaning is archaic). The word was originally applied (with the meaning "beautiful") to Saint Basil's Cathedral, and was subsequently transferred to the nearby square. It is believed that the square acquired its current name (replacing the older Pozhar) in the 17th century. Several ancient Russian towns, such as Suzdal, Yelets, or Pereslavl-Zalesky, have their main square named Krasnaya ploshchad, name-sake of Moscow's Red Square.

### Recent history

During the Soviet era Red Square maintained its significance, becoming the main square in the life of the new state. Besides being the official address of the Soviet government, it was renowned as the location for military parades. Kazan Cathedral and Iverskaya Chapel with the Resurrection Gates were demolished to make room for heavy military vehicles driving through the square. There were plans to demolish Moscow's most recognized building, Saint Basil's Cathedral, as well. The legend is that Lazar Kaganovich, Stalin's associate and director of the Moscow reconstruction plan, prepared a special model of Red Square, in which the cathedral could be removed, and brought it to Stalin to show how the cathedral was an obstacle for parades and traffic. But when he jerked the cathedral out of the square, Stalin objected with his famous quote: "Lazar! Put it back!"

		
<p>( 40) St-Basil's Cathedral, Red Square</p>	<p>Interior of St-Basil's Cathedral</p>	<p>Red Square victory parade June 1945</p>

	
<p>( 32) Lenin's mausoleum, Red Square</p>	<p>Fur retail store near Red Square</p>

Two of the most significant military parades on Red Square were the one in 1941, when the city was besieged by Germans, and troops were leaving Red Square straight to the front lines, and the Victory Parade in 1945, when the banners of defeated Nazi armies were thrown at the foot of Lenin's Mausoleum.

On May 28, 1987, a German pilot named Mathias Rust landed a light aircraft on St Basils' Descent next to Red Square. In 1990, the Kremlin and Red Square were among the very first sites in the USSR added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Red Square served as a virtual pit stop in the The Amazing Race 9.

In recent years, Red Square has served as a venue for high-profile concerts. Paul McCartney, Pink Floyd, and many other celebrities performed there. For the New Year 2006 and 2007 celebrations, a skating rink was set up on Red Square.

**Sights**




Each building in Red Square is a legend in its own right. One of these is Lenin's Mausoleum, where the embalmed body of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the founder of the Soviet Union is displayed. Nearby is the elaborate bright-domed building of Saint Basil's Cathedral and also the palaces and cathedrals of the Kremlin. On the eastern side of the square is the GUM department store, and next to it the restored Kazan Cathedral. The northern side is occupied by the State Historical Museum, whose outlines echo those of Kremlin towers. The only sculptured monument on the square is a bronze statue of Kuzma Minin and Dmitry Pozharsky, who helped to clear Moscow from the Polish invaders in 1612, during the Times of Trouble. Nearby is the so-called Lobnoye Mesto, a circular platform where public ceremonies used to take place. The square itself is around 330 meters (1100 feet) long and 70 meters (230 feet) wide

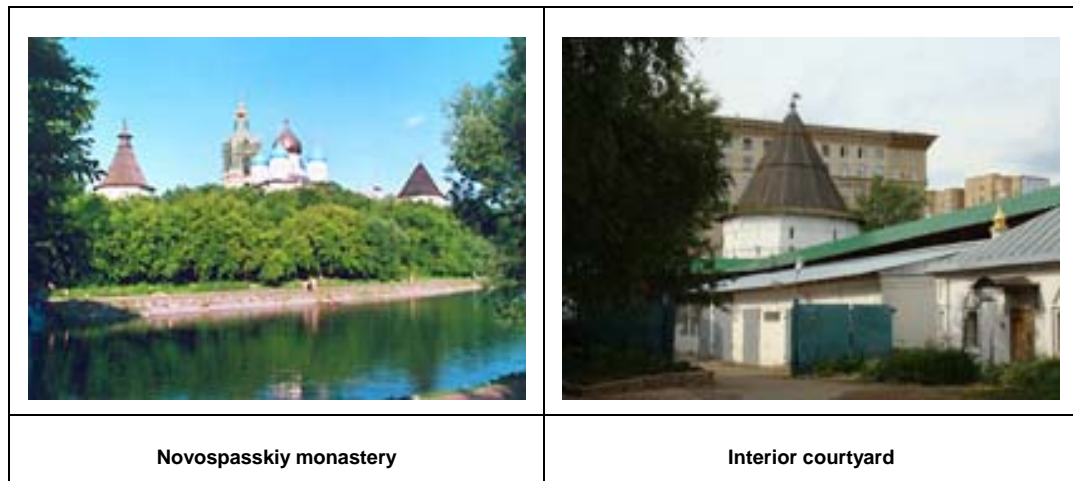
### ***Boat Ride on the Volga***



In the afternoon, we took a boat cruise on the Volga. It is wonderfully relaxing and offers a splendid different view of the city and the Kremlin. It took us to the terminal next to Novospasskiy Monastery, the oldest one in Moscow.

### ***Novospasskiy Monastery***

		
<p><b>Novospasskiy monastery seen from the Volga River</b></p>	<p><b>Interior view</b></p>	<p><b>The Bell Tower</b></p>



Situated in the southeastern Taganka region of Moscow, the Novospassky Monastery claims to be the oldest monastery in Moscow and is thought to have been founded in the 12th century during the reign of Prince Yury Dolgoruky, the founder of Moscow.

Dedicated to the Savior and established initially on the site of the present-day Danilov Monastery, Novospassky was transferred to the Kremlin complex in 1300 by Ivan The Terrible and then relocated back to its present site in 1490 by Ivan III, hence its name "New Monastery of the Savior" or "Novospassky Monastery". The monastery's original buildings were razed to the ground by the Tartars and most of the structures still standing today date from the 17th century, when thick fortress walls and bastions were built to protect the complex from further Tartar attacks during the Time of Troubles.

During the 20th century the monastery played a more sinister role in Russia's history, serving the Bolsheviks as a concentration camp, the NKVD as an archive, housing a furniture factory and finally a alcoholics' rehabilitation center, before eventually being returned to the church in 1991.

The monastery complex consists of a thick defensive wall with seven bastions surrounding a courtyard cluttered with various ecclesiastical and secular buildings. As you pass through the monastery's main gateway, guarded by a gigantic four-tiered bell tower, you see that impressive medieval-style facade of the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Savior.

An interesting story linked to the monastery is that of Princess Tarakanova, whose remains are interred in a small tent-roofed chapel to the north of the main cathedral. The Princess, Sister Inokeniya Dosieeya, was the illegitimate child of Empress Elizabeth and Count Razumovsky. On being sent abroad to be educated, a Polish adventurer emerged and tried to claim her identity and her right to inherit the throne. The impostor was revealed and imprisoned, but Empress Catherine the Great thought it best to lure Tarakanova back to the country and confine her to a nunnery for the good of Russia. To this task she entrusted her favorite lover, Count Orlov, who seduced the young heiress aboard a ship before locking her in her cabin and ensuring her return to Russia.




Although one version of the story insists that the unlucky princess was imprisoned in the Peter and Paul Fortress and drowned during a flood, she was in fact brought to

the Ivanovsky Convent and confined there for 25 years until Catherine's death, whereupon she had come to accept her fate and chose to stay.

Also in the monastery complex visitors will see a large pond, near the western wall of the fortifications, which once supplied the resident monks with fish but whose banks were later used by the NKVD to bury foreign Communists secretly shot during the purges of the 1930s.

## Day 3 Tuesday June 26

### *Tretyakov Gallery*

		
<p>P. M. Tretyakov oil portrait</p>	<p>Portrait of Tolstoy 1887 by I. E. Repin</p>	<p>Icon by Andrei Rublev 1420</p>

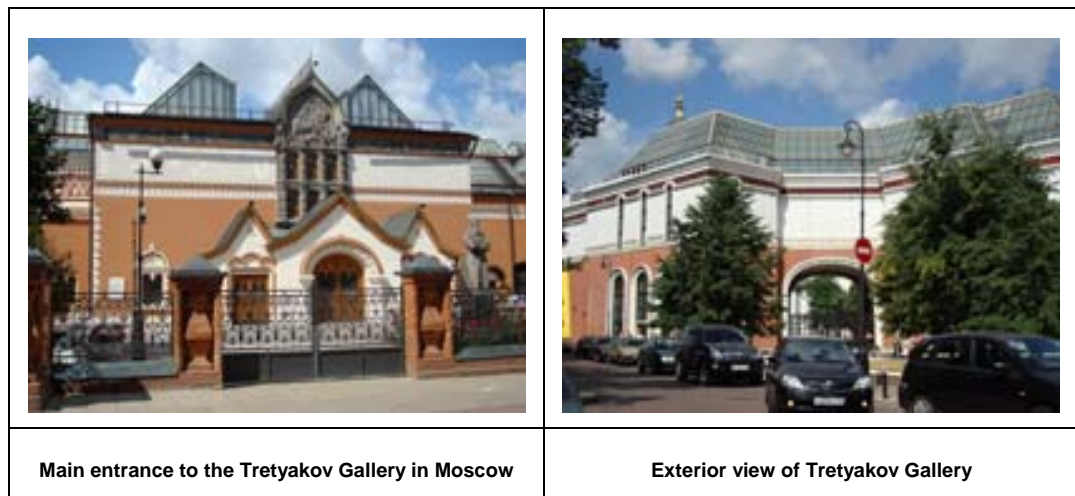
The State Tretyakov Gallery was the object of our first visit on Tuesday morning. It is the national treasury of Russian fine art and one of the greatest museums in the world. It is located in one of the oldest districts of Moscow – Zamoskvorechye, not far from the Kremlin. The Gallery's collection consists entirely of Russian art and artists who have made a contribution to the history of Russian art or been closely connected with it. This is how it was conceived by its founder, the Moscow merchant and industrialist Pavel Mikhailovich Tretyakov (1832-1898) and how it has remained to this day.

The date of its foundation is usually taken to be 1856 when the young Tretyakov first acquired works by Russian artists of his day with the aim of creating a collection, which might later grow into a museum of national art. "For me, a true and ardent lover of painting, there can be no finer wish than to found a universally accessible repository of the fine arts, which will benefit many and give pleasure to all," wrote the collector in 1860, adding "I... should like to leave a national gallery, that is, a gallery with pictures by Russian artists".

The years passed and the young collector's desire was brilliantly put into practice. In 1892 Moscow, and with it the whole of Russia was presented by Tretyakov with a large and already famous gallery containing about 2,000 paintings, drawings and sculptures of genuine works of Russian art.




Nowadays, the Gallery's Collection contains more than 130 000 works of painting, sculpture and graphics, created throughout the centuries by successive generations of Russian artists. Two separate buildings at different locations – at Lavrushinskiy Pereulok, and at Krymskiy Val, – house the works selected for display.

Russian art works, ranging in date from the 11th to the early 20th century, are on the show in Gallery's historic building on Lavrushinskiy Pereulok. Here one can see the outstanding collection of Russian Medieval icon painting, works by best-known Russian artists of the 18th – first half of the 19th century, masterpieces of national art dating to second half of the 19th century, collection of art works of the turn of the 19th century.



***Novodevichiy Cemetery and Convent***  
**Novodevichiy Convent**



		
<p align="center"><b>Architectural detail</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Wall towers</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>UNESCO World Heritage List bronze plaque</b></p>

The Novodevichiy Convent was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2004. It is located in southwestern Moscow. It was built in the 16th and 17th centuries, and was part of a chain of monastic ensembles that were integrated into the defense system of the city. The Convent was directly associated with the political, cultural and religious history of Russia, and closely linked to the Moscow Kremlin. Women of the Tsar’s family and of the aristocracy used it. Members of the Tsar’s family and entourage were also buried in its cemetery. The Convent provides an example of the highest accomplishments of Russian architecture with rich interiors and an important collection of paintings and artifacts.

It was inscribed because it is the most outstanding example of the ‘Moscow Baroque’, which became a fashionable style in the region of Moscow. Apart from its fine architecture and decorative details; the site is characterized by its town-planning values. It is also an outstanding example of an exceptionally well-preserved monastic complex. It integrates the political and cultural nature of the existing World Heritage site of Moscow Kremlin. It is itself closely related to Russian Orthodoxy, as well as with the Russian history especially in the 16th and 17th centuries.







Here, Irina Godunova retired after the death of her imbecilic husband, Fyodor I, and her brother Boris Godunov was proclaimed Tsar. Ravaged during the Time of Troubles, the convent was rebuilt in the 1680s by the Regent Sofia, who was later confined here by Peter the Great, along with his unwanted first wife. Bequests made Novodevichiy a major landowner with fifteen thousand serfs, but after the Revolution its churches were shut down and in 1922 the convent was turned into a museum, which spared it from a worse fate until the cathedral was returned to the Church in 1945 as a reward for backing the war effort.

Restoration began in the 1960s and in 1988 an Episcopal see was established here. Though still officially a museum, Novodevichiy is once again a convent, whose nuns and novices keep a low profile.

**Novodevichiy Cemetery**

The cemetery was inaugurated in 1898, when it was judged that there were too many burials within monastery walls. One of the first notables to be buried there was Anton

Pavlovich Chekhov, whose gilded tomb is the work of Fyodor Shekhtel. Today, the cemetery holds the tombs of Russian authors, musicians, playwrights, and poets, as well as famous actors, political leaders, and scientists. During the spring of 2004, Boris Yeltsin, the former President of Russia and the famous cellist Mstislav Leopoldovich Rostropovich died. Their remains were buried in this cemetery. More than 27,000 are buried at Novodevichiy. It has a park-like ambience, dotted with small chapels and large sculpted monuments.

		
<p><b>Tomb of a famous ballerina</b></p>	<p><b>Tomb of a famous writer</b></p>	<p><b>Mstislav Rostropovich the famous cellist is buried here</b></p>
		
<p><b>Tomb of former President of Russia Boris Yeltsin</b></p>	<p><b>Boris Yeltsin</b></p>	<p><b>Tombs of famous Russians – 27,000 are buried here</b></p>

### ***Leo Tolstoy House Museum (1828-1910)***

Address 21 Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo

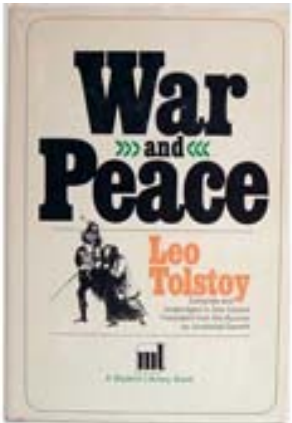

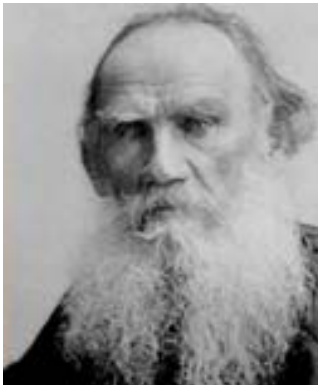
This is a most interesting Moscow house museum, laden with original belongings and details that help you reenact the long winters that Leo Tolstoy, his wife, and their 13 kids spent here from 1882 to 1901. The museum includes the stable yard, Tolstoy's treasured garden, and a souvenir shop in the room where he stored his printing press. The dining table is laid out with the family's English china, and the walls are still covered with some of the original oilcloth wallpaper. The children's toys and etch-

ings give the whole house an intimate feel. For literature buffs, the most powerful room is Tolstoy's study, where he penned *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, among other works.

Born on the family's country estate at Yasnaya Polyana in Tula Province, 210 kilometers south of Moscow, the young Lev Tolstoy experienced an idyllic childhood despite the early deaths of many of his close relatives, including his mother. After failing to complete his studies in first Oriental Languages and then Law at Kazan University, Tolstoy turned to private study and became particularly interested in literature and ethics and the writings of the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the English novelists Laurence Sterne and Charles Dickens.

He joined the army and took part in the Crimean War (1853-1856), which was to have a great influence on his early published works, and traveled to Paris before marrying the daughter of a prominent Moscow physician in 1862 and settling down on the family estate for his most creative period and for most of the remainder of his life. *"War and Peace"*, commonly regarded as one of the finest novels ever written, was penned during the 1860s and combines a historical account of the Napoleonic Wars, the intricate exploration of the novel's principal characters and discussions on Tolstoy's personal theories on the philosophy of history and historical progression.

The great novel *"Anna Karenina"* was also written at the estate, along with the novelist's remaining works. Having fathered 13 children, only 10 of who survived infancy, Tolstoy's marriage soured as he became more and more drawn to Christianity as a means of facing a growing fear of death, and he gradually developed his own system of religious beliefs. Tolstoy eventually died in 1910 after having achieved fame not just as a remarkable writer, who explored the most diverse approaches to human experience in his novels and whose literary works still endure at the summit of realist fiction, but as a renowned historical philosopher and moral and religious teacher.

		
<p>1400 pages – 530 characters</p>	<p>Famous novel Anna Karenina</p>	<p>Leo Tolstoy 1900</p>



### ***Donskoy Monastery***

Our Lady of the Don, by Theophanes the Greek Donskoy is a major monastery in Moscow, founded in 1591 in commemoration of Moscow's deliverance from an imminent threat of Khan Kazy-Girey's invasion. Commanding a highway to the Crimea, the monastery was intended to defend southern approaches to the Moscow Kremlin. It is located near the Shabolovskaya metro station.

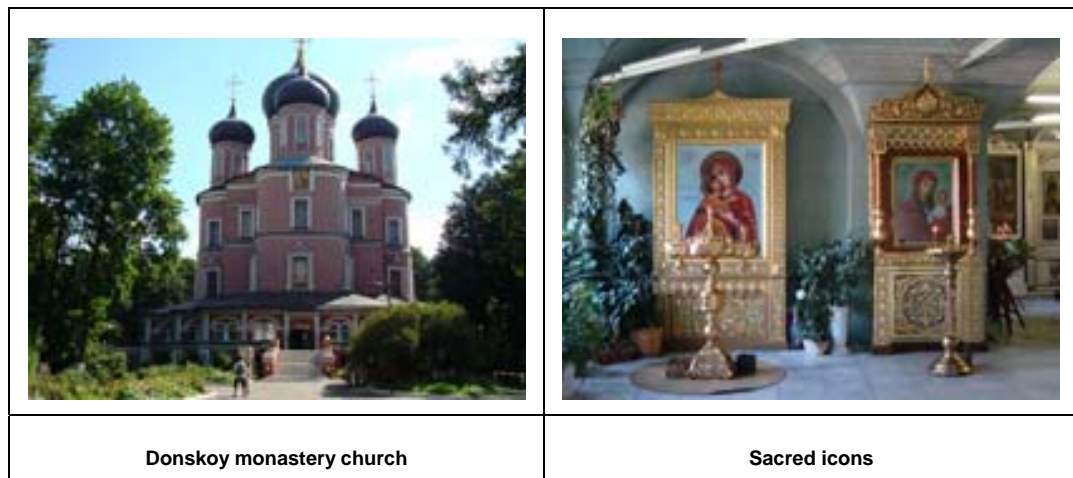
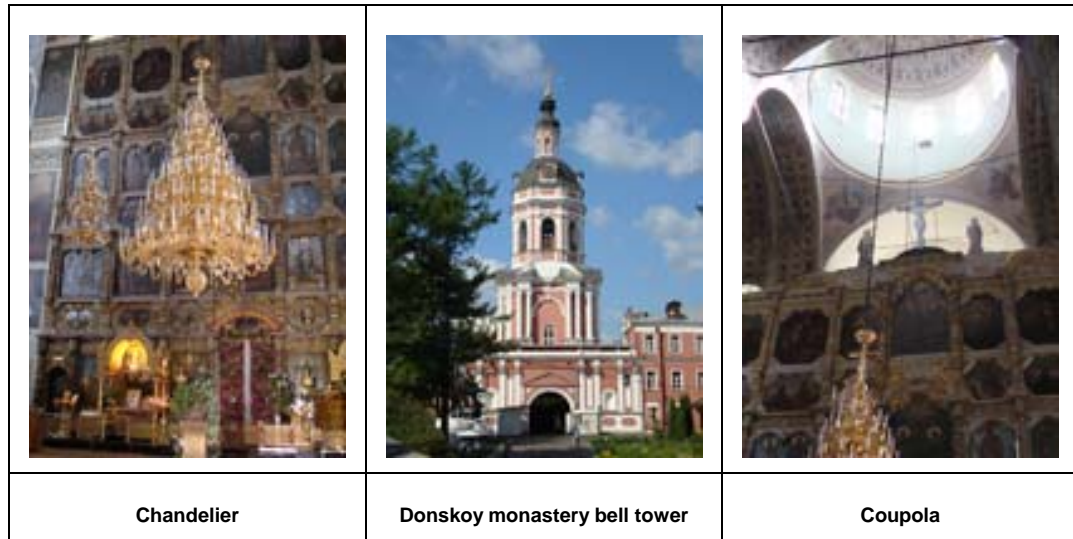
The massive redbrick walls of the Monastery call to mind the Red Fort at Agra or a Crusader castle in Palestine. Their height and thickness reflect a historic fear of Mongols shooting catapults and fire-arrows rather than of European armies fielding massed cannons, as do the dozen towers spaced at regular intervals. The monastic enclosure covers 42,000 square meters, with plenty of room for an old graveyard that shouldn't be confused with a newer cemetery down the road.

### **Architecture**

When the monastery was established, Boris Godunov personally laid the foundation stone of its cathedral, consecrated in 1593 to the holy image of Our Lady of the Don. This diminutive structure, quite typical for Godunov's reign, has a single dome crowning three tiers of zakomara. In the 1670s, they added two symmetrical annexes, and a refectory leading to a tented bell tower. Its iconostasis, executed in 1662, formerly adorned one of Moscow churches demolished by the Communists. From 1930 to 1946, the cathedral was closed for services and housed a factory.

The New (or the Great) Cathedral, also dedicated to the Virgin of the Don, was started in 1684 as a votive church of Tsarevna Sophia Alekseyevna. After she fell into disgrace, its construction was funded by private donations. The masons and artisans were invited from Ukraine, which explains some of the cathedral's unusual features. For the first time in Moscow, the five domes were arranged according to the four corners of the Earth (as was the Ukrainian custom). The Old Believers felt offended by this and called the cathedral "Antichrist's Altar". Eight tiers of its ornate baroque iconostasis were carved by Kremlin masters in 1688–1698. The iconostasis' central piece is a copy of the Virgin of the Don, as painted in the mid-16th century. The cathedral frescoes are the first in Moscow to be painted by a foreigner. They were executed by Antonio Claudio in 1782–1785.

After the monastery lost its defensive importance, its walls were reshaped in the red-and-white Muscovite baroque style, reminiscent of the Novodevichiy Convent. Eight square and four circular towers with red-blood crowns were put up in 1686–1711. The Holy Gates of the monastery (1693) are topped with the Tikhvin church (1713–1714), noted for its wrought iron grille. A lofty belfry was erected over the western gates from 1730–1753 after designs by Pietro Antonio Trezzini and other prominent architects.



## Moscow Metro Stations

The Moscow metro with its beautiful stations called the “underground palaces” of Moscow is one of the main attractions of the city. Used in their decoration are more than twenty varieties of marble coming from the Urals, Altai, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Ukraine, as well as labradorite, granite, porphyry, rhodonite, onyx and other natural stones. The magnificent, festive-looking halls and vestibules are adorned with sculpture, basreliefs, mosaics, paintings, stained glass panels and murals executed by the best artists.



**Kiyevskaya-Koltsevaya station - 1954**



In a city of eleven million people the metro system is vital to the economy; it is used by millions every day



**Komsomolskaya-Koltsevaya - 1952**



**Ploshchad Rrevoliutsii - 1938**



**Arhatskaya - 1953**



**Taganskaya-Koltsevaya - 1950**



**Beverly Weilblatt at the Kremlin**



**Beverly Weisblatt at Gorky's house**



**Francois LeBlanc at Red Square**