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## **Moscow Metro Tour**

This document is to assist you during Moscow metro tour organized by Bair Travels. It is very hard to make a good metro tour for large groups, so please print this out if you travel with a big crowd of friends!

## **Rules of Moscow Metro**

- you are allowed taking pictures, but not video
- you are not allowed taking pictures of police officers
- drinking alcohol in metro is strictly forbidden

## **History of Moscow metro**

The Moscow metro station was conceived and built starting from 1930s and symbolizes the might of the Socialistic Soviet Union. The metro system of the 1930s has a clear ideological message: before the revolution the luxury of palaces was only for the chosen ones, while in the Soviet Union all people could enjoy the beauty of underground palaces when going to work. Thus, metro stations were built like palaces in the period of 1930s-1950s.

The metro system was officially opened on May 15, 1935 and is the second busiest metro system in the world after Tokyo metro system.

Total number of lines: 12  
Total number of stations: 177 (including monorail system)  
Number of travelers per day, average: 8,17 million  
Number of travelers per day, maximum: 9,55 million  
Number of travelers per year, 2007: 2,529 billion

Moscow was the capital city of the Soviet Union, so quite many stations are named after the important historical events, cities and republics of the Soviet Union.

## **Route of our tour:**

Square of Revolution – change line to Teatralnaya – Belorusskaya – Kievskaya. Please refer to Moscow metro map in your travel brochure.

## ***Площадь Революции (Ploshad Revolutsii) Square of Revolution (1938)***

This metro station was completed in 1938. The amazing statues of the station symbolize the 20 years of the Soviet State in Russia. The statues are arranged in groups of four, proceeding from the birth of the Soviet Russia to its present and future.

All statues are depicted in a very realistic manner, down to details of weapons, uniforms and badges.

The first four statues are the soldier, the peasant, the worker and sailor. They symbolize the four main social groups that took part in the revolution and made birth of the Soviet State possible.

The next group of four statues are the people who protect the Soviet Union: the border guard, the sailor, the airborne soldier and a young woman with a small-caliber rifle proudly displaying her Voroshilov Sharpshooter Badge.

The Border Guard is dressed in Red Army uniform model 1935 with a traditional Red Army *budyonnovka* winter hat. **It is considered to be good luck for students to touch the nose of his guard dog. Don't miss your luck! ☺**

The young lady with a rifle shows a Voroshilov Sharpshooter Badge, which was a very hard badge to get and was extremely prestigious among young people in the USSR in 1930s. One had to be very skilful shooter in order to get this badge.

The airborne soldier symbolizes the buildup of the Soviet Air Force and technical modernization of the Red Army.

The next group of statues are the people who build the Soviet Union: The engineer, the tractor driver, the miner and a kolkhoz farm female worker

The next group symbolizes the young people of the Soviet Union – the students and the young athletes. Sports and healthy lifestyle were very popular in the USSR in 1930s. **Another tradition of this metro station – if you touch beautiful leg of female student, your bad luck in love will be over ;-)**

The last group of statues symbolizes the future of the Soviet Union – the families with children and schoolchildren, dressed in Young Pioneer uniforms.

After the end of excursion at this station, please proceed to the center of the hall and walk the corridor to the green line, *Театральная* Teatralnaya metro station.

The beautiful passage between Square of Revolution and Teatralnaya stations was complete in 1946. Apparently, there was a statue of Stalin in the niche of the passage on the right, but now the niche is empty.

When entering Teatralnaya station, please move to the platform on **YOUR RIGHT!**

### ***Маяковская* Mayakovskaya**

**Please note that we only stop at this station if there is time! Follow instructions of your tour leader!**

The station is named after famous Russian futuristic poet Vladimir Mayakovski. Mayakovski supported the Soviet revolution and became one of its most famous poets. After his death several streets were named after him. Mayakovskaya metro station can be found in Moscow and St Petersburg metro systems.

The station was officially opened on September 11, 1938 and won Grand-Prix at New-York international exhibition. The station, which is now partially under restoration, has unusual décor with metallic arches separating the main gallery from the platforms. Semi-precious pink orlets stone from Urals is used in decoration of the station between the arches. Mosaics with depictions of might of Soviet Air Force are in the niches in the ceiling. The common theme of the mosaics is “24 hours of the Soviet Sky”.

The station has been on cultural monument list of Moscow city from 2001.

During WWII the station was used as bomb shelter. On November 6, 1941, when the German Army was approaching Moscow and German air raids on the city were common, Joseph Stalin held a speech in this station, where a session of Defence Committee was summoned. In his speech Stalin congratulated the nation on the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of October Revolution. His message from Mayakovskaya metro station was broadcast across the whole nation and gave people new hope. The Soviet counter-offensive began on December 5, 1941 and was the first major Soviet victory over Germany in WWII.

### **Белорусская Belorusskaya (1952)**

The station is named after Belorussia, one of the republics of the Soviet Union, now an independent state under notorious President Lukashenko.

The station is richly decorated with traditional Belorussian ornaments. When you change from Belorusskaya metro station to the Ring Line, please note a large monument to Belorussian Resistance of WWII in the passage. During the German occupation in the WWII Resistance in Belorussia was very widespread, and so were German punishment operations carried out both by German troops and local collaborators. Many villages of Belorussia were burnt during these punishment operations together with their dwellers. Out of all the Soviet republics, Belorussia is considered the worst damaged by the occupation both in terms of destruction of property and death toll among civilian population.

### **Киевская Kievskaya (1954)**

The station is named after Kiev (Kiyv in Ukrainian), the ancient city and capital of Ukraine.

The station is decorated with fantastic mosaics and traditional Ukrainian ornaments. They depict different stages of history of Ukraine and its part in history of Russia and the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, the station is crowded most of the time so we recommend that you explore the mosaics individually and then head for the exit.

After exiting the station please walk to the right towards the Square of Europe (you will see flags of all European countries there) and follow your tour leader to the embankment closely. As you walk towards the flags, you will see that one of the entrances to the metro station is built in exactly the same way as in Paris.

Your bus will wait for you at the embankment of Moscow River.

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