

Kazan Guide

The  Moscow Times

№1 2018

**GOOD
EATS**

**GUIDE
TO
TATAR
CULTURE**

**CITY
SURVIVAL
GUIDE**

**EXPLORE
MORE
ON DAY
TRIPS**

**COOLEST
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CUP
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18+

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Приглашаем Вас в супермаркеты «Бахетле» познакомиться с настоящей татарской кулинарией! Попробовать по-домашнему вкусную выпечку, готовый обед, ужин или национальные сладости в подарочном варианте.

We invite you to the "Bakhetle" supermarkets to get acquainted with genuine Tatar cuisine! Taste home-made delicious pastries, ready-made lunch, dinner or national sweets in a gift version.



Эчпочмак - румяный пирожок треугольной формы с начинкой из говядины, картофеля, лука и специй.

Echpochmak is a golden triangular pastry filled with beef, potatoes, onions and spices.



Чак-чак - традиционное татарское угощение из обжаренного пшеничного теста, пропитанного ароматным мёдом.

Chak-chak is a traditional Tatar treat of fried wheat dough, saturated with flavoured honey.



Кош теле (хворост) - сладкий хрустящий десерт из теста, обжаренный в масле.

Kosh tele (pastry straws) is a sweet crisp dessert made of dough, fried in oil.



Талкыш калеве - небольшие сладкие пирамидки, напоминающие сладкую вату, с душистым ароматом меда и топленого масла.

Talkish kaleve - small sweet pyramids, reminiscent of cotton candy, with a fragrant aroma of honey and melted butter.



Мы готовим конину сами! В двух традиционных для татарской кухни вариантах: аргамак и ойгоз. We cook the horse meat ourselves! In two forms traditional for the Tatar cuisine: argamak and oigoz.



Губадия - традиционный сладкий или мясной праздничный пирог с многослойной начинкой. Gubadiye is a traditional sweet or meat multilayer pie.

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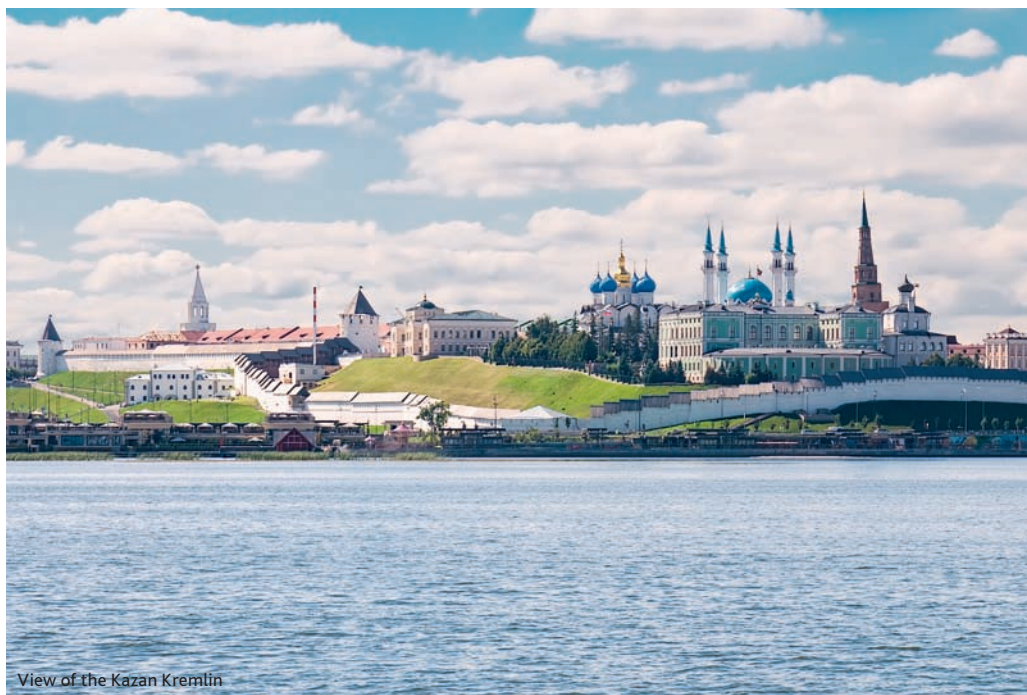
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View of the Kazan Kremlin

The  Moscow Times

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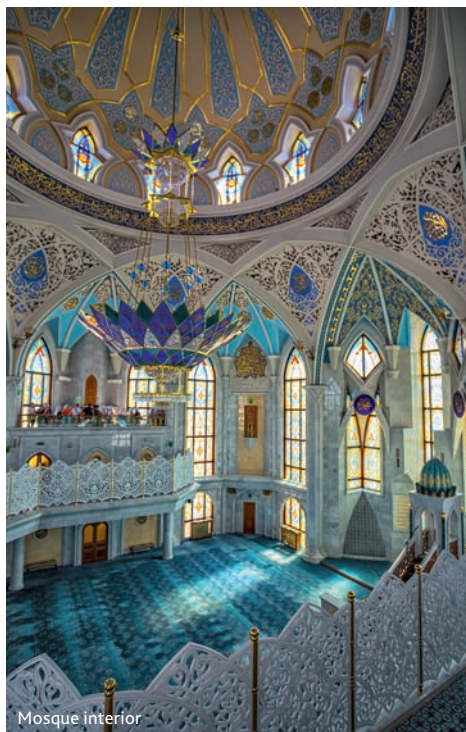
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WELCOME!



Mosque interior

Kazan is one of Russia's most vibrant and multicultural cities, if you're lucky enough to visit during the World Cup, you certainly won't be disappointed.

Kazan officially celebrated its millennium anniversary in 2005, although it remains unclear exactly when the city at the confluence of two rivers, the Volga and the Kazanka, was founded. There's evidence that by the 11th century there was a fortress there, defending the northeastern borders of Volga Bulgaria, a historic Bulgar state. However, a Mongol invasion headed by Batu Khan almost annihilated Volga Bulgaria in 1236.

The etymology of the city's name has perplexed researchers. Though obviously connected with the name of the river Kazanka, it has also been linked to the word "kazan," which means cauldron. There's a popular theory that the city is built on a hill that resembles a cauldron.



Kazan registry office



Kazan Kremlin



The Temple of All Religions

Lake Kaban, in what later became known as the Old Tatar Quarter (Staro-Tatarskaya Sloboda).

Some of Kazan's most famous landmarks were built after the city was taken by Ivan the Terrible, including the new Kremlin walls, as well as Annunciation Cathedral inside the

Despite the constant insurgencies, Volga Bulgaria was incorporated into the Golden Horde Mongol khanate. After its capital, Bulgar, was all but destroyed in a Mongol raid in 1361, Kazan rose to prominence as the new regional center. Enjoying proximity to several trade routes, it quickly expanded into a proper city. When the Golden Horde collapsed, an independent Kazan Khanate was established in 1438.

The Kazan Khanate had an uneasy relationship with its western neighbor, Muscovy. Several wars were fought before Ivan the Terrible's campaign in the early 1550s put an end to the Kazan Khanate. The island city of Sviyazhsk was founded by Ivan the Terrible in 1551 as the launching ground for his troops against Kazan.

In 1552 his troops successfully sieged Kazan. Much of the city was destroyed by the Russian troops, and surviving Tatars were forced to settle beyond the city walls on the shores of

Thanks to its oil deposits, the Republic of Tatarstan is one of the richest and most economically developed regions in the country.

fortress. One of the architects was Postnik Yakovlev, the man behind the Saint Basil's Cathedral on Moscow's Red Square — a church that, ironically, celebrates the victory over Kazan.

There's a legend about the Suyumbike Tower — the most prominent structure within Kazan's Kremlin. Suyumbike was reportedly the niece of Kazan's khan, and Ivan the Terrible wanted to marry her. Suyumbike agreed, but only if the tsar would build the highest tower in the city. When it was completed, she climbed the stairs and threw herself off the top. Many historians dispute this and claim that the tower was built in the 17th century.

All the mosques in the city were destroyed and there was a policy of forced conversion to Christianity, but this changed in the latter half of the 18th century, when Catherine the Great once again allowed mosques to be built. In 1804 Alexander I founded Kazan University, the third institution of higher education in the country. Notable students include Leo Tolstoy and Vladimir Lenin.

After the October Revolution, the Tatars got the chance to have their own political entity once again. The Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was established in 1920. Although officially part of the RSFSR, Tatarstan enjoyed certain freedoms, including official status for the Tatar language, and the preservation of its unique local culture. In the 1940s, several large oil wells were discovered in Tatarstan and oil production remains the major source of income for the region.

In 1992, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the region was renamed the Republic of Tatarstan and is one of the few Russian regions that elects its own president. In 2009 Kazan was allowed to officially brand itself as the "third capital" of Russia.

Thanks to its oil deposits, Tatarstan is one of the richest and most economically developed Russian regions, powering ahead of even its closest neighbors. Tatarstan has recently ventured into the realm of innovative economy by building Innopolis, dubbed "a Russian Silicon valley," in the suburbs of Kazan. As of the end of 2016, the new "city" features a school, kindergarten, university, sports and medical center, supermarket and multi-story apartment blocks.



Kul Sharif Mosque



Kazan Kremlin

KAZAN'S TOP SIGHTS

The Kazan Kremlin

THE KREMLIN WITH A TWIST

Kazan's number-one sightseeing spot is, of course, the Kremlin. Archaeological evidence suggests that the earliest fortifications here date back to the 12th century, when Volga Bulgars lived in the area. In the 15th century it became the center of the Kazan Khanate, and in 1552 it fell to Ivan the Terrible's troops. After that, the wooden fortress was replaced by one built of white stone.

That's also when construction of Orthodox churches began, with the Annunciation Cathedral being the first. It's still a functioning church and entrance is free. Next to it is the "leaning" 57-meter-tall Suyumbike Tower, named after the khan's widow who supposedly threw herself off its peak rather than marry Ivan the Terrible. But that's nothing more than a

got time
between matches
and fancy exploring
the city?
Don't miss these
sightseeing hotspots!

legend. One of the architects of the new Kremlin was Postnik Yakovlev, who is best known for designing St. Basil's Cathedral on Moscow's Red Square.

The best viewing spot is from behind the Annunciation Cathedral. Check out the newly built Dvoretz Zemledeltsev (Palace of Farmers) just beyond the Kremlin walls, which houses the Agriculture Ministry and has an enormous lit-up tree at the front. Another prominent sight is the huge cauldron-shaped Kazan Family Center (wedding registry office) on the other side of the river Kazanka.


The recently built Kul Sharif Mosque dominates the Kremlin. It's open to everyone, but if you're not here to pray, you can only see the main hall from the balcony. The basement is occupied by the Islamic Museum, which tells the story of Islam in the Volga region

and exhibits several interesting artifacts. There's a viewing platform right behind the mosque; make sure to check out the unique circus building, which looks like a UFO landing site.

At the very top of the Kremlin hill there's a long building, occupied simultaneously by the local branch of the Hermitage (which occasionally organizes good temporary exhibitions), part of the State Museum of Fine Arts of Tatarstan, and the local Natural History Museum.

OPEN daily

TICKETS 200 rubles

 Kazan Kremlin

kazan-kremlin.ru



Ulitsa Baumana

HIP PEDESTRIAN THOROUGHFARE

Kazan's main pedestrian thoroughfare, Ulitsa Baumana, is full of tourists, souvenir shops and street musicians. If you are not into that kind of thing, climb the tall bell tower of the Epiphany Cathedral (Ulitsa Baumana, 78, Bldg. 2) for great views of the city. The inside of the cathedral is mostly unadorned and you can admire the perfect geometry of its architecture. Right next to the Epiphany Cathedral is the statue of famous singer Fyodor Chaliapin, a native of Kazan who once sang in the choir there.

Stop by Dom Chaya (Ulitsa Baumana, 64) for some Tatar pastries and tea. Closer to the other end of the street you can see the ornate domes of the baroque Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral (Ulitsa Musy Dzhaliya, 21), which was at one time or another visited by all the Russian emperors. >



KAZAN'S NUMBER ONE SIGHTSEEING SPOT IS ITS BEAUTIFUL KREMLIN.



Staro-Tatarskaya Sloboda

National Museum of the Republic of Tatarstan

THE OLD TATAR QUARTER

This museum, located right outside the Kremlin walls (Ulitsa Kremlyovskaya, 2), is part of the huge 18th century Gostiny Dvor shopping complex. It has a great archaeology section devoted to the Volga Bulgaria and Kazan Khanate, as well as somewhat less interesting sections on 18th-20th century history. If you are a taxidermy fan (and who isn't?) check out the nature part of the museum and make sure you don't miss the 960-kilogram beluga whale.

OPEN Tues., Wed., Sat., Sun., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thurs., 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday

TICKETS 75 rubles

📍 Kremlyovskaya Ulitsa, 2
tatmuseum.ru

Staro-Tatarskaya Sloboda

THE OLD TATAR QUARTER

When Ivan the Terrible conquered Kazan in 1552, he expelled all ethnic Tatars beyond the city walls. That's how the Old Tatar Quarter (Staro-Tatarskaya Sloboda) was established on the shores of Lake Kaban.

Full of stone mosques, this neighborhood feels like the most authentic one in Kazan. Check out the Al-Mardjani mosque, which follows local architectural customs — its minaret rises from the middle of the main building rather than standing next to it. Make sure to remove your shoes after you enter.

The Al-Mardjani mosque is located on the eponymous street — arguably the most impressive in the Old Tatar Quarter.

OPEN daily

TICKETS 400 rubles

📍 Ul. Kauma Nasryi, 38
tb-kazan.ru



National Museum of Tatarstan

h

Heading to Kazan but don't know much about Tatars, the majority of Tatarstan's population? Check out our guide and wow your friends. Tatars are the second-largest ethnic group in Russia, at more than 5 million people, and constitute the majority of the population of the Republic of Tatarstan. Tatarstan is located at the junction of East and West and its culture has always been at the crossroads of civilizations.



Tatar traditional costume

A TATAR CULTURE PRIMER

Between East and West

The territory of modern Tatarstan was once part of ancient Volga Bulgaria, then the Golden Horde, and for centuries it was part of the Silk Road, where goods and ideas traveled between East and West. In the 16th century, the Tatars lost independence to Ivan the Terrible and became part of an ever-expanding Russia.

Tatarstan's history is reflected in its cultural diversity. After the forced imposition of Russian culture and Orthodox Christianity on the Tatars, as well as the destruction of historical monuments and mosques, there was a huge growth in the sense of Tatar national identity when Catherine the Great again allowed Muslims to freely practice their religion. That national identity can still be seen today.

Tatars in the Soviet Union

Russian and Tatar are both considered official state languages in the Republic of Tatarstan. Before the 1917 revolution, the Tatar language was written in the Arabic alphabet. In the Soviet Union, a new Latin alphabet was first introduced, then in 1939 it was replaced by Cyrillic, which is still in use today.

The majority of Tatars are Sunni Muslims, a denomination that took hold in the region back in the 10th century during the times of the Volga Bulgaria, which adopted Islam as a state religion. As opposed to the Muslims of the North Caucasus, Tatars practice what can be called "Euro Islam," or "reformed Islam" influenced by European culture. Many Tatars don't follow the ritualistic elements of Islam; >



Chak-chak traditional dessert

TATARSTAN'S HISTORY IS REFLECTED IN ITS CULTURAL DIVERSITY



Tatar holidays have their own traditions

the religion simply became part of the culture. For instance, Tatar women never wore a veil and inter-faith marriages make up about a third of the total number.

Nevertheless, patriarchal traditions are still strong and even in modern families the father often has implicit authority, while girls are taught to be submissive to their husbands and do all the household duties.

Artistic Traditions

Islam forbade depictions of people, animals and birds, so up to the end of the 19th century Tatar art was mostly ornamental. The main patterns used were floral, zoomorphic and geometric. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the most popular paintings were religious quotes based on Arabic calligraphy.

Tatars achieved unparalleled craftsmanship in embroidery, jewelry, ceramics, stone and wood carving, and calligraphy. A unique Tatar craft is the art of leather mosaic, which dates from the times of Volga Bulgaria. Traditional Tatar multicolored patterned leather boots called *ichigi* are the most interesting and practical application of the art of mosaic. *Tubeteika*, a cap worn by both men and women, is another item of clothing with patterns. *Chuyvaki* — the local equivalent of flat shoes — are also often made with bright colors and patterns.



Preparation of Tatar dishes

In 1895, the first modern art school opened in Kazan, which fostered the development of European-style fine arts such as painting, drawing and sculpture. The most famous painters from Tatarstan are Nicolai Fechin, who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1920s, as well as Baqi Urmance and Ildar Zaripov. Their works can be found at the Tatarstan State Museum of Fine Arts.

Tatar Literature

Tatar literature is best known for its poetry; the traditions date back to Sufi poetry, which was prevalent from the second half of the 16th to the end of the 19th century. *Gabdulla Tuqay* (1886-1913) is considered the founder of modern poetry and is at the top of the list of Tatar national heroes, along with legendary ballet dancer *Rudolf Nureyev*.

Holidays

Sabantuy is one of the Tatars' most significant pre-Islamic holidays. Translated from Tatar as "festival of the plow," it celebrates the completion of spring sowing works. The holiday has origins in Volga Bulgaria traditions and the celebration includes holding various competitions like running, wrestling, horse racing or fighting with bags on a log.

An important element of Sabantuy is *koresh* — traditional wrestling with belts. Each of the fighters tries to throw the other on his back while holding his wide belt (*kushak*). A clean victory is when one of the parties ends up on his back — otherwise there's a complex evaluation system. *Koresh* has become a proper sport, regular world championships are held in Kazan.

Architecture

Kazan's architecture had been shaped over many centuries and therefore combines

Eastern (leftovers from Volga Bulgaria, Golden Horde and Kazan Khanate), Russian and various European styles that were prevalent in Russia at one time or another. This is particularly reflected in Tatar mosques, some of which were built by Russian architects and look like they could just as well be secular buildings.

Wealthy Kazan merchants built mansions in the art nouveau style in the early 20th century and many of them remain today (one of the most famous is the Tatarstan National Library building). In the Soviet period, Kazan became a city where new, experimental approaches to architecture could be tried out. For example, the Kazan Circus building became the second in the world built in the shape of a truncated cone. There are several interesting examples of constructivism and Soviet modernism.

Theater

The first Russian-language theater was founded in Kazan in the late 18th century. Theater in Tatar, on the other hand, only appeared in the early 20th century, before the revolution.

Since Tatarstan did not have its own movie studio, most actors and directors who worked in Tatar were engaged exclusively in the theater, which became immensely important. Tatar-language theater remains strong and often gets Golden Mask awards for its productions. During the World Cup, Kamal Theater will show several performances with translation into English.

**PATRIARCHAL
TRADITIONS ARE
STILL STRONG
IN THE REGION**



Already seen Kazan's tourist hotspots? Craving something a little more off the beaten track? Here are some hidden treasures that only the locals know about.



Kamal Theater

KAZAN'S HIDDEN TREASURES

KAMAL THEATER

Kamal Theater on the shore of Lake Kaban is hard to miss; it's a real masterpiece of Soviet modernist architecture. The theater's sloping roof, tiled in a distinctive pattern, turns the whole building into a kind of sail. It's named after Galiaskar Kamal (1879-1933), a playwright who is considered to be the founder of Tatar theater. All of the performances are in the Tatar language, but they are

dubbed in Russian and English — you just need to rent headphones at the door and connect them to the outlet in your chair.

OPEN varies
TICKETS from 300 rubles

📍 **Ulitsa Tatarstan, 1**
kamalteatr.ru

CHERNOYE OZERO PARK

Chernoye Ozero (Black Lake) Park stands on a spot where a real lake used to be. But with time it turned into marshland and was filled in by the end of the 19th century. Today, the only water reservoir in the park is a small artificial pond. The park has been recently restored, and



Socialist Lifestyle Museum



Lyadsky Garden

has an impressive "Lovers Arch" at one end. A circular wooden pergola was installed in the middle, as well as a few kiosks with food and drinks. Leaning over one side of the park is the well-known dilapidated constructivist building, known among the locals as Mergasovsky after the old name of the street it stands on. Prominent members of

the local elite used to live here, and the whole building is covered with plaques.

The republic's government has promised to restore it to its former glory in the near future. Right next to Chernoye Ozero Park is another green area — Leninsky Sad (Lenin's Garden), which has a fountain and more walking paths.

OPEN 24 hours
TICKETS free admission

 **Ulitsa Dzerzhinskogo**

LYADSKY GARDEN

Lyadsky Garden is a small park in the very center of Kazan. Founded in the late 18th century, the garden was where the first Kazan fountain was built. Shaped like a girl with a jug, the fountain celebrated the introduction of waterworks to the city. Destroyed later, it was recently restored in the middle of the park. The park is also famous for its proximity to a slum called Marusovka, where writer Maxim Gorky once rented a room; one of his best known plays, "The Lower Depths," is partially based on his experiences there. Today, Marusovka is the name of an upscale restaurant in Lyadsky Garden.

OPEN 24 hours a day
TICKETS free admission

 **Ulitsa Shchapova, 37**

SMENA

Smena is a bookstore that doubles as an art gallery and coffee shop. It's located in a red brick building near the train station. The bookstore on the first floor offers a great selection of literature, from non-fiction to comic books, including a healthy dose of Tatar poetry and prose. It is also home to Divan, a coffee shop with one other branch in the city, where you can sip trademark coffee while flipping through the books. A small record store and a showroom of local design brand Qullar are also



Smena

on the first floor. The second floor is usually occupied by changing contemporary art exhibitions and various markets. That's also where various public lectures, film screenings and book presentations take place.

OPEN Bookstore is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., the coffee shop from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and exhibitions from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
TICKETS 300 rubles


 **Ulitsa Burkhana Shakhidi, 7**
smenagallery.ru

CHAK-CHAK MUSEUM

The Chak-Chak Museum is devoted to that ubiquitous Tatar dessert, a deep-fried sugary dough delight. Located in the Old Tatar Quarter, the museum also has on display a model of a traditional Tatar house, divided into male and female quarters. The staff will teach you how to cook a real

chak-chak and there is a tasting of some of the best chak-chak in the city, too. The whole tour lasts about an hour. Chak-chak and tea are included in the price.

OPEN daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call ahead to arrange a tour
TICKETS from 350 rubles

 **Ulitsa Parizhskoy Kommuny, 18A**
muzeino.ru

SOCIALIST LIFESTYLE MUSEUM

Kazan photographer Rustam Valiakhmetov, the museum's founder, started collecting all kinds of Soviet memorabilia about 20 years ago.

He was interested in pretty much everything: postcards, matchboxes, clothing, shoes, books, toys, you name it. Soon his apartment could not contain his collection and he moved it to the basement.

Many Russian rock bands that toured Kazan paid visits to the museum and usually contributed something, expanding the collection.

At some point Kazan's mayor became interested in the museum and the city provided its current premises near the Bulak channel.

OPEN daily 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
TICKETS 250 rubles

 **Universitetskaya Ulitsa, 6**
muzeisb.ru



Kamal Theater



City Sightseeing

Kazan

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DRAFT BEER, CRAFT BEER, ANY BEER – PUBS FOR FOOTBALL LOVERS



K

azan's pedestrianized Ulitsa Baumana is your best bet if you want to go on a pub crawl. It starts at the entrance to the city's historic Kremlin, then runs all the way to the Ploshchad Tukaya metro station, so go for a leisurely stroll and see which places catch your eye. On the other hand, this is also the area in which accommodation is most expensive, so many footballs fans will probably be staying somewhere a little less central and a little more affordable. That's why we've made sure this list also includes venues that are a bit further afield, but where the beer is just as good, and the guests just as enthusiastic about the World Cup as they are in the city center.

1 TRINITY

IRISH PUB WITH MANY SCOTTISH WHISKEYS

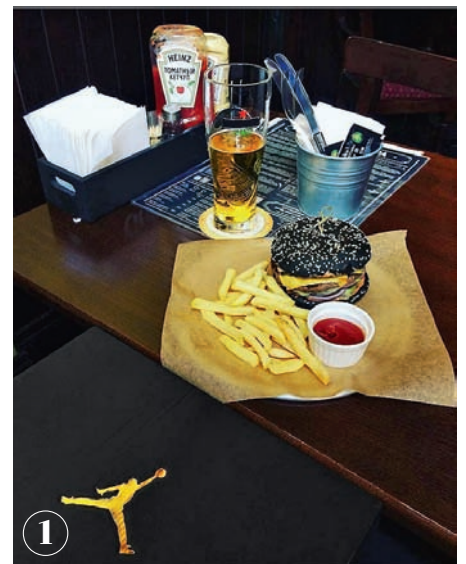
Having a philosophy about the food that's served is something you'd expect from a five-star restaurant, maybe, but not an Irish Pub. Trinity is an exception, though, even if their philosophy can be summed up in just a few words: "tasty food, and lots of it" — an excellent selling point if you're targeting sports fans hungry for steaks, burgers and fries. With its green front and dark wooden interiors, Trinity plays up the Irishness as much as it can. And of course, that means they boast an impressive collection of both single malt and blended whiskeys (better not bring up the fact that most of them are Scottish rather than Irish). You'll probably want to call ahead to reserve a table since the pub is popular and in a central location.

📍 **Ulitsa Baumana, 44/8.**
trinitykazan.ru

2 TWIN PEAKS

HEAVY ON THE TESTOSTERONE

Enter this sports bar in the center of town and you won't know where to look first: at the crop-topped waitresses or the rows and rows of TV screens. This is the ultimate frat house version of a pub, so it gets loud and crowded at match-time, and placing your order can take a bit of effort. On the other hand, it's the one place in Kazan where almost any seat is a good seat to follow the action on the football pitch — if someone blocks your view of one screen, just look at the next one. When it comes to the menu, burgers are a popular order here, as is the plate of "Macho Nachos" — a whole pound of nachos, with ground beef on top. After midnight, Twin Peaks turns into a karaoke bar, with a range of fairly unusual items on the menu: For 1,000 rubles, you'll get to sing a duet with your favorite waitress; for 3,000, she'll sing you a solo song. Invest all of 50,000 rubles and her employer will give her the day off tomorrow! No



guess as to which option she'll prefer. This place is sure to keep any football fan happy, so grab your friends and check it out.

📍 **Ulitsa Baumana, 13.**
twinpeaksrestaurant.ru



3 STARY AMBAR

CHEAP BEER WHEREVER YOU ARE IN KAZAN

Hey, were you raised in a barn? No? Well, here's your chance to at least watch a match there. Stary Ambar, meaning "The Old Barn," is a chain of rustic, down-to-earth pubs that specialize in hearty meals and cheap beer, with a dozen different brands on tap, and bunch of bottled ones to boot. Of course, when you drink beer in Russia it's quasi-obligatory to also order some grenki — large, garlicky, greasy bread croutons to help soak up the alcohol. Here, they'll only set you back 75 rubles, so there's no excuse to not try them at least once. All in all, there are nine "Old Barns" in Kazan alone, all with ample seating and several television screens mounted on the wall. Just be aware that some of those screens are a little on the small side, so get there early to ensure a good seat, especially if you're part of a group.

📍 **Ulitsa Pravo-Bulachnaya, 33/1 and other locations**
old-ambar.ru

4 TOP HOP

CRAFT BEER FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Let's do a quick test: How many brands of beer can you list off the top of your head? Go on, give it a try. If you run out of names after a dozen or so, Top Hop is where you go to widen your horizon. Yes, there are four TV screens, but more importantly, there are also 40 kinds of beer on tap. Your basic lagers and stouts are well-covered, then there's a strawberry-flavored one no doubt invented by Belgian monks and a grapefruit-infused Weizen from the south of Germany — you name it, and



they'll probably have it. A couple of months ago, they even added a Dutch "hazelnut cupcake" beer to their menu, which boasts notes of nuts, marshmallows, vanilla, licorice, coconut and cocoa. If that's too weird for you, check out their long list of burgers, some of them traditional, some odd and intriguing. So what if Italy didn't qualify for the World Cup? At least here you can have a vitello tonnato burger in their honor.

📍 **Ulitsa Baumana, 36.**
vk.com/tophopbar

5 KHMELNAYA

GERMAN BEER GARDEN STYLE

Located in Kazan's southeastern Gorki district, this is one of five restaurants and cafés in the Turgay restaurant complex. With 220 seats, Khmelnaya is also the largest of the lot. It's supposed to remind you of a German beer garden, so expect Krombacher, Paulaner, Franziskaner, Löwenbräu and Schöfferhofer beers and waitresses in dirndl dresses. They regularly offer "three for the price of two" deals on some brands of beer, meaning you'll pay around 600



rubles for three 0.5-liter beers. This turns drinking with friends into a legitimate money-saving strategy, so if you are traveling on your own, well: Time to meet some new people from among your fellow football fans! Get your joint beer order in, add a sharing plate of homemade sausages while you're at it, and soon you'll all be shouting at the referee in unison. That's what we call a result!

📍 **Ulitsa Yuliusa Fuchika, 64/3.**
turgai-kazan.ru/hmelnaya/restaurant/4

KAZAN GOOD EATS



Tatarskaya Usadba

LOOKING FOR THE BEST PLACES TO EAT IN TOWN? CHECK OUT OUR FAVORITES.



Neft

TATARSKAYA USADBA

UPSCALE TATAR CUISINE WITH A VIEW

Tatarskaya Usadba (Tatar Manor) is an upscale hotel complex with an enormous restaurant and a cafe, located in the center of the Old Tatar Quarter on the bank of Lake Kaban. It's also the perfect place to start exploring Tatar cuisine. Get a table at the main restaurant, under the sign "Tatarskaya Usadba" and try the traditional Tatar flatbread kystybyi with a millet or herb filling (120 rubles for two)

hot from the wood-fired oven. Continue with a plate of beshbarmak: boiled meat, noodles and potatoes (380 rubles). If you are lucky enough to sit next to a window, you can enjoy great views of the lake.

📍 **Ulitsa Shigabutdina Mardjani, 8**
tatusadba.ru

NEFT BEST COFFEE

Neft (Oil) is a small coffee chain with a couple of locations. It can be a good breakfast place — porridge is only



Marusovka

120 rubles and there are also sandwiches (from 120 rubles). Or you can just drop by and get a coffee to go before you start exploring Ulitsa Baumana. Cappuccinos are 120 rubles, flat whites are 150, and there are plenty of alternative options too.

📍 **Universitetskaya Ulitsa, 7**
vk.com/neft_coffee

MARUSOVKA RESTAURANT IN A GORKY SLUM

Marusovka is an upscale restaurant in the recently renovated Lyadsky garden. Funnily enough, it's named after a slum that once stood next to the garden where famous Russian writer Maxim Gorky used to rent a room. His experiences here became the basis of one of his best-known plays, "The Lower Depths." Little eclairs with smoked trout paste are a great starter (390 rubles). The menu is quite international and you can choose anything from Kung Pao chicken (320 rubles) to risotto with white mushrooms and portobellos (470 rubles).

📍 **Ulitsa Shchapova, 37**
facebook.com/Marusovka

VEGAN DAY/ DIVAN COFFEE COFFEE AND VEGAN FOOD

Divan coffee is a small coffee shop chain (with just two locations) and it shares one of them with Vegan Day in the Old Tatar Quarter. It's a great place to rest after seeing the local sights. Coffee is rather cheap, too: cappuccinos are 100 rubles while flat whites are 120. If you are having breakfast, get toast with peanut butter and bananas (100 rubles), and for lunch try the falafel with salad (170 rubles).

📍 **Ulitsa Shigabutdina Mardjani, 18**
veganxday.ru

DOM CHAYA KITSCH MEETS TATAR FOOD

Dom Chaya (Tea House) is an unassuming building in the middle of the pedestrianized Ulitsa Baumana that looks like a teashop on the outside. Inside, it's



Vegan Day/Divan Coffee



Tubatay



Vegan Day/Divan Coffee

flatbreads turn into a sandwich with meat inside (from 185 rubles). Tubatay also has several kiosks shaped like nomads' tents all over Kazan.

📍 **Kremlevskaya Ulitsa, 35**
tubatay.com

ZHAVORONOK

BEST BREAKFAST

If you are looking for a good breakfast place, look no further. "Zhavoronok" (Lark) also means a "morning person" in Russian and it has everything an early riser needs. There is a whole menu of bagels — with cream cheese, veal or avocado (from 102 rubles) and great coffee. Zhavoronok makes both espresso-based drinks (a flat white is 150 rubles) and various "alternative"

coffee options (chemex, aeropress, etc.).

📍 **Ulitsa Professora Nuzhina, 7**
vk.com/zhavoronok_coffee

SEBBIE KITCHEN AND BAR

HEARTY DINNER

Located in the historic center of the city, this restaurant has a stylish and elegant interior and a well-traveled Australian head chef, but will surprise you with its prices (a burger will only set you back 300 rubles). Be sure to try the cod in cabbage, baked on charcoal with a cream sauce. The cocktails are also well worth a try.

📍 **Ulitsa Nekrasova, 11b**
@sebbiekitchen

a cafeteria on the first floor and a cafe with table service on the second. The interior takes the word "kitsch" to a different level: there are plastic flowers everywhere, as well as statues of dogs and swans. Tatar cuisine specializes in baked goods and Dom Chaya has plenty. Try olesh — a round pastry filled with potatoes and meat that comes with a clear soup and greens (116 rubles) or the famous echpochmak pastry with meat (38 rubles).

📍 **Ulitsa Baumana, 64**
+7 (843) 292 5654

PRIYUT KHOLOSTYAKA

BACHELOR'S SHELTER

Priyut Kholostyaka (Bachelor's Shelter) is a veteran of Kazan's food scene; it's been around for about a decade. "Bachelor's Shelter" sounds a bit seedy but, luckily, the only references to the name are a few nude paintings on

the wall. Priyut Kholostyaka serves European classics like vitello tonnato (460 rubles), onion soup (370 rubles) or beef Stroganoff with fried potatoes (470 rubles). There's also a steak menu, as well as a menu with Japanese dishes, so you'll definitely be able to find something you like.

📍 **Ulitsa Chernyshevskogo, 27a**
prihol.ru

TUBATAY

GENUINE TATAR FAST FOOD

The flagship location on Kremlevskaya Ulitsa is a great rest stop after exhausting yourself checking out all the Kremlin sights, which are just a short walk away. Here you can try some of the already-familiar Tatar dishes with a twist: like echpochmak fries, where triangular pastry with various fillings becomes a French-fry-like snack (from 87 rubles) or "kysty-burger," where kystybyi



Zhavoronok

KAZAN IS PARTY CENTRAL



Best cocktail bars

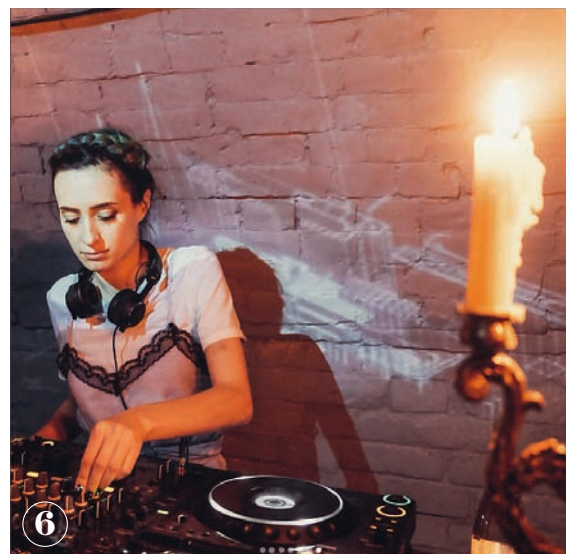
Kazan has a buzzing bar scene. If you're tired of the big TV screens and salty snacks of the sports bars, check out these ultra-hip locations for a serious change of pace.

1 PYATNITSA INVENTIVE COCKTAILS

Pyatnitsa looks like your run-of-the-mill provincial bar plying watered-down gin & tonics and rum & cokes on unsuspecting customers. But follow the staircase down into the basement and you'll find yourself in a semi-secret spot with some of the best cocktails in Kazan. Try the excellent local version of hot toddy "Olezhin chai" (Deer tea) for 260 rubles or "Kuznechik" (grasshopper) with toothpaste flavor (350 rubles) and we guarantee you won't be disappointed.

📍 Profsoyuznaya Ulitsa, 14
vk.com/cocktailbarpiatnica





2 MELLOW BEER & WINE

UPSCALE GASTROBAR ON PROFSOYUZNAYA

Mellow Beer & Wine positions itself as a gastrobar, with 22 beers on tap (mostly imported), 100 bottled beers and 150 different wines. Located in the same building as Fomin, it takes up the expansive basement of the bread market building as well as the ground floor. It's perfect for wine tasting, as it offers most wines in 75 ml portions. There are also plenty of good snacks, including locally produced cheeses (from 230 rubles) and open-face sandwiches (from 250 rubles).

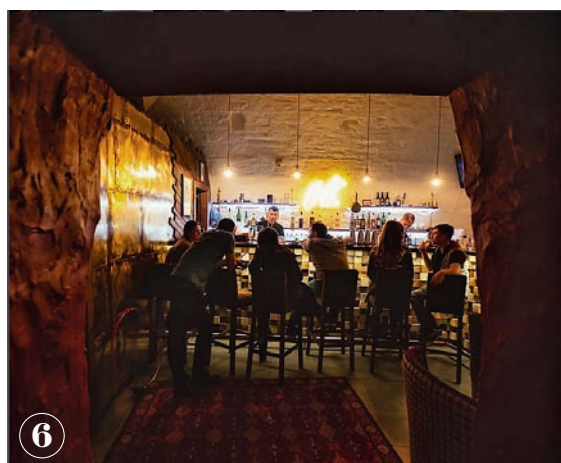
📍 10/14 Ulitsa Profsoyuznaya
mellowbar.ru

3 VOLNA

A DIVE BAR

Volna (Wave) is a proper Russian dive bar. There's very little food — mostly pickles and buterbrodi (open-face Russian sandwiches) — since the focus is on beer, vodka infusions (try the mint one) and shots. Volna followed the example of Sol bar on the same street and introduced some Bugulma-based shots as well (from 100 rubles). On weekends you can also catch local bands playing on a makeshift stage in the corner.

📍 Profsoyuznaya Ulitsa, 3
vk.com/ryumochnayavolna



4 FOMIN BAR & SHOP

BEER GEEKS WELCOME

It's not all about Bugulma on Profsoyuznaya! Fomin Bar & Shop is the place for true beer geeks. Located in a former bread market building constructed in the late 18th century, Fomin is all exposed brick and windows overlooking abandoned storage facilities. Fomin carries Russian, imported and even local craft beer from Tatarstan. Try the James Blond or sweet stout Pastila (from 130 rubles). You can also get both draft and bottled beer to go, and there are DJ sets on the weekends.

📍 Ulitsa Profsoyuznaya, 10
facebook.com/aleandcraftkazan

5 SOL

THE FIRST ON THE BLOCK

The opening of Sol (Salt) transformed Ulitsa Profsoyuznaya into party central in Kazan and changed the city's cocktail cul-

ture forever. The people behind Sol also came up with the inspired idea to use Bugulma, a local herbal liquor that tastes a bit like Hungary's Unicum, for various shots and cocktails.

Try "Tatarsky pryantik" (Tatar gingerbread) or Babai shots (200 rubles each). If Bugulma is not your thing, go for a regular cocktail, like hot buttered rum (300 rubles). The food here is also decent: burgers start from 280 rubles while snacks like cheese sticks start from 150 rubles. There are DJ sets and live music on the weekends.

📍 Ulitsa Profsoyuznaya, 22
barsol.ru

6 KULT

COCKTAILS IN THE OLD TATAR QUARTER

Of course, not all of the cocktail bars are on Ulitsa Profsoyuznaya, though it may seem like it at times! If you feel like exploring more of the city, Kult is located in one of the less likely places: in the middle of Tatarskaya Sloboda (Old Tatar Quarter), a short walk from the famous Mardjani mosque. Here the bartenders will create a special cocktail in accordance with your preferences (500-600 rubles), or you can order one from the menu (from 350 rubles). The food is great, too: try bruschetta with Kamchatka crab (490 rubles) or one of the pizzetas, which are small inventive pizzas (from 230 rubles). You can chat with a bartender at the bar or sit at one of the tables and smoke a shisha.

📍 3 Kayuma Nasyri
vk.com/cultbarkzn



CHEBUREKI

BELOVED STREET SNACK

as the third capital, Kazan offers a fascinating cross-section of the Russian Federation's polyglot and multi-ethnic population. Today Kazan is emerging as a dynamic alternative to Moscow and St. Petersburg, with an exciting food scene all its own.

Kazan's signature dish is also Russia's most beloved street food: chebureki. These savory, deep-fried meat pies are also associated with the Crimean Tatars and every Russian over a certain age experiences a visceral, almost Proustian recollection of seaside holidays with the first bite of a cheburek and the inevitable spray of hot juice.

Making chebureki can be daunting; the dough has to be stretched very thin to achieve the desired crispiness, and ideally you need an industrial-grade deep fryer. I might never have attempted to replicate them but for a hack that I explored when a Russian friend described chebureki as "Russian empanadas." Purely as a scientific experiment, I cobbled together a batch of chebureki from raw tortillas fried in my cast iron skillet. The result, if not exactly Proustian, was certainly delicious.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Grate the onion in a food processor or using the smallest holes on a box grater. Retain any juice.
2. Put the onion in a large, non-reactive mixing bowl. Add the lamb, beef, garlic, sumac, Aleppo Pepper, ginger, allspice and salt and knead the mixture together with your hands until combined.
3. Cover the mixture with a clean towel and set aside for 30 minutes.

INGREDIENTS

- 12 raw tortillas
- 1 lb (500 grams) ground lamb (shoulder or leg)
- 1/2 lb (240 grams) beef (85% lean)
- One yellow onion
- 4 cloves garlic, grated
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp Aleppo Pepper
- 2 tsp sumac
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 1 tbsp salt
- 4 tbsp fresh cilantro, leaves separated from stems and minced
- 2 tbsp salted butter, finely diced
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup (240 ml) ice water
- Grapeseed oil for frying

4. Add the butter, egg and fresh cilantro and knead gently with your hands.

5. Spoon mixture over one half of the raw tortilla, leaving a 1/2-inch lip around the edge.

6. Brush ice water around the perimeter of the tortilla, then fold the two halves together to form a half moon. Crimp the edges with the tines of a fork.

7. Pour 3/4 of an inch of oil into your pan — you don't want to completely submerge the cheburek under the oil. Wait until a deep-fat thermometer reaches 375°F (190°C) or a small piece of the filling sizzles and fries.

8. Fry the chebureki until they are golden on one side, then flip them — about 2 minutes on each side. Use a spatula to remove to a serving platter lined with parchment paper to let them drain. Serve hot.

Jennifer Eremeeva is a long-time expatriate who writes about Russian history, cuisine, travel and culture at jennifereremeeva.com



Sviyazhsk church

Want to get out of the city and explore more of the surrounding region? We've got the perfect spots for you.

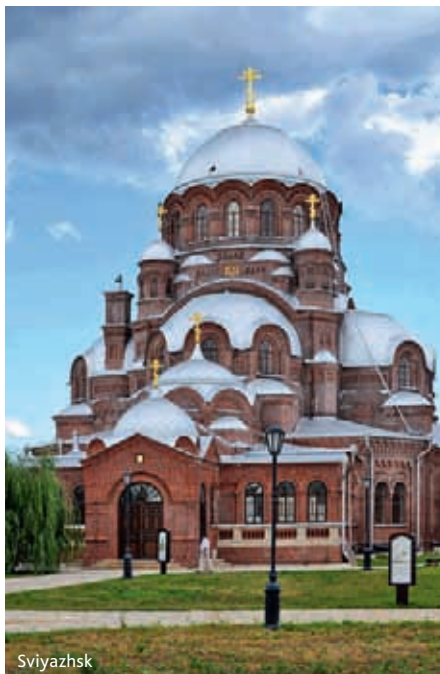
Sviyazhsk

Sviyazhsk, just 58 kilometers from Kazan, is an ideal day trip. The best and most picturesque way to get there is on a boat called an omik, and it only takes an hour and a half to get to the place. Formerly a military fortress in the war between Russia and the Kazan Khanate, today it's a quiet museum town with 16th and 17th century churches and monasteries.

Sviyazhsk was founded in 1551 by Ivan the Terrible as the launching ground for the siege of the Kazan Khanate capital. Wood for the fortress was cut near Uglich and

DAY TRIPS

FROM KAZAN



Sviyazhsk

rafted down the Volga river. The fortress at the top of the hill went up in a matter of mere days; Kazan fell a few months later.

Sviyazhsk is also considered the place where the "Red Terror" started in earnest during the Civil War, where Leon Trotsky ordered every tenth Red Army soldier executed for failing to defend Kazan against Czech soldiers on the side of the White Army.

Sviyazhsk wasn't always an island city. Construction of the Kuybyshev hydroelectric plant in the middle of the 20th century led to the creation of a large water >



Bolgar mosque

reservoir, which separated Sviyazhsk from the shore. In 2008, a dam was built, and today it's much easier to reach the island.

There are two medieval monasteries in Sviyazhsk — John the Baptist and Uspensky (Assumption) — but both have only partially survived. After the October Revolution in 1917, Uspensky first became a prison and then a mental hospital. The Assumption Cathedral in Uspensky has been reconstructed and is one of the main attractions of the island city. St. Nicholas Church, which was also part of Uspensky Monastery and built in the 16th century, also survives. The wooden Church of the Holy Trinity, which was once part of the John the Baptist monastery, is probably the most authentic sight, also constructed in the 16th century.

The largest church on the island is the Cathedral of the Icon of the Virgin, “Joy of All Who Grieve.” Built in 1898-1906 in the neo-Byzantine style, it's one of the sights visible from the river when you approach Sviyazhsk by boat. Tourists can also visit stable yards, craft villages and historical reconstruction sites.

OPEN Tues. to Thurs. and Sun.
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fri. and Sat.
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TICKETS from 500 rubles

📍 Boat leaves from Kazan river port (Ulitsa Devyatayeva, 1) at 8:20 a.m. You can also take the commuter train to Sviyazhsk station and then the bus. ostrovgrad.org

Bolgar

Bolgar is a small town located 191 kilometers from Kazan; it is best reached by boat or car (taxi or a rental). Bolgar was built in the 1950s (first called Kuybyshev) near the site of ancient Bolgar or Great Bolgar, which was founded in the 10th century and at one point was the main city of Volga Bulgaria.

The site of ancient Bolgar has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List and all the main sights have been restored. Bolgar boasts the world's largest Koran, as well as a 16-meter-high minaret that's ironically called the Small Minaret (climb to get a good view of the ancient Bolgar site, built in the 12th century. There's a khan's mausoleum right next to it.



Camel farm

The main Congregational Mosque has also been restored, complete with the Tall Minaret. The original building dates back to the 13th century. The 14th century Northern Mausoleum is located right next to it. There are also several ruins in the area; they are the vestiges of palaces and baths that you can explore on foot.

Bolgar's largest landmark is the newly built White Mosque, which has been nicknamed the "Tatar Taj Mahal." There's also a Museum of Bread, which provides total immersion into the life of a Tatar village at the turn of the 20th century, as well as a brand new museum devoted to the life of

the nobility of the Spassky district, where Bolgar is located.

If archeology and history are not your thing, you can visit the camel farm and try some camel milk.

GREAT BULGAR MUSEUM

OPEN Mon. to Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TICKETS 50 rubles

📍 Ulitsa Nazarovikh, 67

MUSEUM OF BREAD

OPEN daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

📍 Ulitsa Lenina, 1a
muzeji-hleba.ru

CAMEL FARM

OPEN daily

TICKETS 150 rubles

📍 Ulitsa Baumana, 60
laidoya.ru



Sviyazhsk

IF YOU'RE VISITING KAZAN WITH CHILDREN, BE SURE TO VISIT THE CAMEL FARM IN BOLGAR.



At 27, Natalia Fishman is one of the best-known names in Kazan. She was raised in Samara, but moved to Moscow to study at MGIMO. Fishman had a spectacular career in the capital, she became adviser to Sergei Kapkov, head of the culture department at Moscow City Hall, at just 19. She moved to Kazan three years ago at the invitation of the president of Tatarstan.

NATALIA FISHMAN,
HEAD OF THE
TATARSTAN URBAN
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE



I WOULD ADVISE TOURISTS TO VISIT THE KREMLIN AT NOON.

WHY WOULD A SUCCESSFUL MUSCOVITE MOVE TO KAZAN?

Rustam Minnikhanov [the president of Tatarstan] was on a visit to Moscow and I showed him around the renovated Gorky Park and the Moscow River embankment, then I took him to the Jewish Museum. Sometime later he called me with a job offer.

Minnikhanov is a great boss and Tatarstan has the highest standard of living in Russia after Moscow and St. Petersburg. I'm talking about things like food, clothing, medical services, beauty salons — all of the above is available here and some of it is of better quality. The traffic situation is way better than in Moscow, too. The only area in which Kazan is lacking is culture.

WHAT DOES THE TATARSTAN URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE DO?

Over the last three years, we have overseen the construction and restoration of 267 sites all around Tatarstan: parks, embankments, boulevards and squares. Last year we organized the first-ever Russian Youth Architectural Biennale.

I believe that one of the key problems in our society is that we don't know how to listen to each other, how to negotiate, how to recognize that other groups might have different interests. For instance, imagine a residential building that has a courtyard: one of the neighbors wants to turn it into a parking lot, another one wants a children's playground and the third one wants none of the above. When we plan a new urban

space we start by talking to the residents and we clear all the architectural designs with them. And I think these negotiations that we organize are the most important things we do.

WHICH SITES HAVE YOU FOUND MOST INTERESTING TO WORK ON?

We are getting the new embankment on Lake Kaban ready in time for the World Cup. We are doing it in partnership with a Chinese company and there will be waterfalls that will also act as purifiers; it's a very environmentally friendly project. Another project I'm proud of is Black Lake Park in the very center of Kazan — we restored it with Wowhaus, a Moscow architectural firm. It's actually the oldest park in the city.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE PLACES IN KAZAN?

I would recommend that visitors go to the Kremlin at noon, because that's when you can hear azan (the call to prayer from the minaret of Kul Sharif) at the same time as the tolling of the bells at Spasskaya Tower. For me, this is the essence of Tatarstan. I was absolutely stunned when I heard it for the first time. It's really one of the very few places where something like this is possible, where people of different faiths live so comfortably alongside each other.

I also like to visit the Hazine Gallery, which is part of the Tatarstan Fine Arts Museum, and look at the paintings by Kazan impressionist Nicolai Fechin.

Another favorite spot is Kazan's Gorky Park. I like to take a coffee to go from Uragan-Sarai and just walk around or sit on a bench.

If people are tired of the city rush, I'd suggest the Gorkinsko-Ometevsky forest — it's a unique place, with 90 hectares of land that were supposed to be razed to the ground in order to clear space for a six-lane highway and several high rises. But local activists protested this new development and won, and a park was built instead of a highway.



MATCHES

FRANCE : AUSTRALIA
JUNE 16

IRAN : SPAIN
JUNE 20

POLAND : COLOMBIA
JUNE 24

SOUTH KOREA : GERMANY
JUNE 27

X ROUND OF 16
JUNE 30

X QUARTER-FINALS
JULY 6



KAZAN'S STADIUM

AN IMPRESSIVE ARENA IN RUSSIA'S SPORTING CAPITAL



HISTORY

The **Kazan Arena** was the first venue to be completed for the World Cup, opening in 2013 after just three years of construction. It became the premier arena in a city already well-stocked with sporting facilities. For a city that considers itself to be the sporting capital of Russia, the alacrity was unsurprising. Kazan boasts highly ranked teams in football, hockey, basketball and volleyball, and it was a no-brainer to include this city as a host for the 2018 World Cup.

LEGION-MEDIA

Among the first events to be held here were the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2013 Summer Universiade. Since then it has housed Kazan's top-tier football team, FC Rubin. It was also one of the venues for last year's Confederation Cup.

In 2015, FC Rubin was briefly kicked out of its stadium to make room for the World Aquatics Championships, when two swimming pools took over the main pitch.

ARCHITECTURE AND LOCATION

The 45,000-seat **Kazan Arena** might be most impressive when seen from above, where it has the shape and color of a water lily, floating right next to the Kazanka River. From the front, it boasts the largest TV screen installed on any stadium in Europe, at 3,700 square meters (roughly half the area of a football field). The screen should be in tip-top shape when the crowds of sports fans descend upon the city in June; it is being serviced, and washed, at a price tag of \$45,000.



GETTING THERE

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

On game days, traffic around Kazan Arena will be restricted, so plan on taking the bus. The following buses and trams will be stopping at the intersection of **Ulitsa Adoratskogo** and **Prospekt Yamasheva**: buses 33, 46, 49, 60, 10A, 15, 18, 35, 35A, 36, 44, 45, 62, 76, and tram 5. Additional shuttle buses will also be running from the airport, Kazan-1 Station and Kazan-2 Station. From the bus stop it is a **12-15 minute walk to the stadium**.

Ulitsa
Mullanura Vahitova

M
KOZYA SLOBODA

Ulitsa
Sibgata Hakima

KYRLAI PARK



ULITSA DEKABRISTOV

Ulitsa Dzerzhinskogo



KUL SHARIF MOSQUE

Kremlevskaya Naberezhnaya

DRAGON
ZILANT



Pravo-Bulachnaya
Ulitsa
Levo-Bulachnaya
Ulitsa



M
KREMLEVSKAYA





KAZAN FAMILY CENTER
VIEWPOINT

Ulitsa Adoret'skogo

KAZAN ARENA
STADIUM



KAZANKA
RIVER



MUSA JALIL



Ulitsa Pushkina

OPERA
AND BALLET
THEATER

ULITSA M.GORKOGO

AIRPORT





Art in the Kazan Kremlin

KAZAN

CULTURAL AGENDA

LOOKING FOR THE HOTTEST EVENTS IN THE CITY? **HERE ARE OUR PICKS.**

art

SMENA ART CENTER

OPEN from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.,
the coffee shop from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.,
and exhibitions from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TICKETS 300 rubles

📍 Ulitsa Burkhana Shakhidi
7. smenagallery.ru



Hazine Gallery

TEAM TOY: DIFFICULT CHILDHOOD

FROM JUNE 24

Team TOY is an anonymous artistic duo from Nizhny Novgorod who started out as street artists, tagging their name in different contexts. In 2015 they were residents at the Museum of Street Art in St. Petersburg and took part in the Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow. Recently, TOY switched to painting. Their style can be best described as pop art and the theme is growing up in the 1990s.

IVAN GORSHKOV

FROM AUG. 10

Ivan Gorshkov is an up-and-coming contemporary artist from Voronezh best known for his colorful abstract sculptures. Last year he was chosen as artist of the year at Cosmoscov, Moscow's preeminent art fair. Gorshkov is one of the most prominent representatives of the "Voronezh wave of contemporary art." He is also one of the co-founders of the Voronezh Center of Contemporary Art (a non-commercial, artist-led institution). Gorshkov uses various media for his sculptures, from corrugated iron to wood to soft toys.



Kazan Kremlin

KAZAN KREMLIN

OPEN Open Tues. to Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thurs. to 8 p.m.

TICKETS from 200 rubles

kazan-kremlin.ru

'THE ITINERANTS' FROM THE TRETYAKOV GALLERY

EARLY JUNE

One of the most anticipated exhibitions to open in time for the World Cup is "The Itinerants." In this exhibition, 57 paintings by first-rate artists such as Viktor Vasnetsov, Ivan Kramskoy, Konstantin Korovin, Isaac Levitan and Valentin Serov will be on loan from one of the leading art museums in the country — the Tretyakov Gallery. "The Itinerants," or "The Wanderers" (peredvizhniki) was a group of Russian realist painters who opposed the restriction of academic art in the 19th century. Fourteen peredvizhniki quit the Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg and then founded the Society for Traveling Art Exhibitions in 1870.



Open Space Market

HAZINE GALLERY

OPEN Tues. to Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thurs. to 8 p.m.

TICKETS from 200 rubles

izo-museum.ru

NAILYA KUMYSNIKOVA

TILL JULY 29

Hazine Gallery is a branch of the Tatarstan Fine Arts Museum located within the Kremlin walls. This summer it will host an exhibition of works by Nailya Kumysnikova, who practices the unique Tatar art of leather mosaic, the origins of which date back to the times of Volga Bulgaria. Kumysnikova is first and foremost a well-known theater set designer, and in her leather mosaics she refers to traditions from the golden age of this craft, which took place from the end of the 18th century to the mid-19th century. She uses monochrome color combinations, trying to emulate the natural colorants of that time.

theater

KAMAL THEATER

OPEN hours depending on schedule

TICKETS from 300 rubles

[Ulitsa Tatarstan, 1](http://ulitsa-tatarstan-1)

kamalteatr.ru

Kamal Theater will perform 11 of its productions during the time of the World Cup. All of the performances are in the Tatar language, but they are dubbed in Russian and English — you just need to rent headphones at the door and connect them to a socket in your chair.

Here's a selection of productions that will introduce you to the wonderful world of Tatar theater.

THE LIGHT OF MY EYES

JUNE 14

"The Light of My Eyes" is a reinvention of the fairytale "Shurale," written by Gabdulla Tuqay (1886-1913), the founder of modern Tatar poetry. In the updated version it's not "shurale," a forest spirit, which threatens travelers, but humans, who threaten the



KAZAN HAS A BUZZING CULTURE SCENE TO OFFER VISITORS TO THE CITY.

forest with all the creatures in it. The production, a powerful tale about the environment, has been continuously performed for 20 years.

AND THIS IS LIFE?

JUNE 17

The main character of "And This Is Life?" wants to serve people, but instead he's busy with his fantasies. The young clergyman presents himself as a kind of Don Quixote while finding comfort in intimacy with a neighbor. After completing his studies and obeying his father, he becomes a mullah in a village. His plans, aimed at the good of the people, fall apart one by one, and he comes to a moral collapse.

THE ROOSTER FLEW UP ON THE FENCE

JUNE 28

"The Rooster Flew Up On the Fence" is a classic story about a Tatar village in the Soviet period, with lots of singing. The plot revolves around a family feud that started from simple jealousy and wanting to have all the best things — the fanciest car, the newest fridge — and turns into full-fledged rivalry.

THE BLUE SHAWL

JULY 6

"The Blue Shawl," based on a play by Karim Tinchurin, has all the trademark elements of Tatar theater. It has been a hit for almost 90 years straight. The current version was directed by Farid Bikchantayev, the theater's artistic head, who further strengthened the folklore component of the performance.



music

KURSIV

JUNE 6-9

An alternative culture festival that will include live music, an all-night party and an extended art program. Festival headliners are Smerz from Norway, rising stars of electronic pop music who recently played a concert at the Tate Modern museum. Another headliner is a neo-academic music collective — Kymatic. At night there will be live electronic experiments by Zurkas Tepla, as well as a DJ set by Artem Slesarev. Anton Bundenko will hold a three day art exhibition entitled "The Future Is Now."

VENUE TBD

TICKETS from 500 rubles

vk.com/kursiv_1

FIFA FAN FEST

JUNE 14-JULY 15

Kazan FIFA Fan Fest will take place near the huge cauldron-shaped Kazan Family Center, one of the most popular new landmarks in the city. The space can easily accommodate up to 25,000 people. Every day there will be match viewings, as well as other activities. On July 4, Zemfira, one of the most popular Russian singer-songwriters, will perform at the FIFA Fan Fest. Two more musicians will perform on July 4 — Mujuice (real name Roman Litvinov), who started out as an indie rocker but switched to more electronic music and recently collaborated with Zemfira; and Anton Belyaev, aka Therr Maitz, who skyrocketed to fame after making it to the semi-finals in "Golos," the Russian version of American show "The Voice." The rest of the schedule is yet to be confirmed.

[4 Ulitsa Sibgata Khakima](https://vk.com/4UlitsaSibgataKhakima)
kzn2018.com/en/fanfest

other

SMENA BOOK FESTIVAL

JUNE 10-11

The Smena Summer Book Festival will once again take place at Black Lake Park. It's a big open-air event that combines a book fair, public lectures on culture and science, family workshops, various performances and live music.

ENTRANCE FREE

[Ulitsa Dzerzhinskogo](https://vk.com/ulitsadzerzhinskogo)

OPEN SPACE MARKET

JUNE 10-11

Open Space Market is a regular event in Kazan that is extremely popular with young people. Up-and-coming designers from all over Russia come to present their best products. Last time there were 159 designers from 22 cities. You can get everything from pottery and nice souvenirs to vintage shoes and designer dresses. There's also a food market with various stalls peddling their innovative fare, with dishes often rooted in Tatar cuisine.

VENUE TBD

ENTRANCE FREE

vk.com/openspacemarket



KAZAN UNIVERSITY

Kazan Landmark

Kazan Federal University is one of the three oldest classical universities in Russia (after the St. Petersburg and Moscow state universities) and the first one to be built outside the two capitals. It was founded in 1804 during the reign of Tsar Alexander I.

Located in the very heart of the city, it occupies a whole block on Kremlyovskaya Ulitsa. It is considered a historical and architectural landmark and is open to tourists. The main entrances are on Kremlyovskaya, Profsoyuznaya and Universitetskaya streets.

Once inside the university grounds, you will find an ethnographic museum, established in 1815 as a storage facility for various antiquities, and an observatory, which doubles as a platform from which to see the rest of Kazan. Sit there with the local students, enjoying the views of central Kazan.

Kazan University played an important role in establishing a printing industry in the region, as well as founding the region's first newspaper and contributing to the establishment of local theaters.

Nikolai Lobachevsky, the world-renowned mathematician and father of non-Euclidean geometry, taught here for 40 years — and for 19 of those years he also served as the university's president. He made Kazan University one of the premier locations for higher education in Russia.

Tolstoy and Lenin

Leo Tolstoy spent quite a bit of time in Kazan. He moved here in 1841 with his two older brothers and his sister, under the guardianship of his aunt when he was just 13. In 1844 he started at Kazan University and

Kazan hosts one of Russia's oldest universities, which has a fascinating history and counts a number of familiar faces among its alumni. It's also an important Kazan landmark.

began studying at the philosophy department, but he transferred to law school the following year.

While in Kazan, Tolstoy spent a lot of time at various social events and balls. He grew increasingly uninterested in his classes because of their extreme formalist nature and finally quit university in 1847. He also decided to leave Kazan at this point and moved to the Yasnaya Polyana family estate.

In 1887 the future leader of the Bolsheviks, Vladimir Ulyanov (Lenin) studied at Kazan University, but not for long. In the spring of the same year, before Lenin started university, his brother Alexander Ulyanov was arrested and executed for an assassination attempt on Tsar Alexander III. Lenin was unable to attend university in St. Petersburg or Moscow because of the event.

In December 1887, local newspapers published a statement about student riots in Moscow. This prompted Kazan students to organize a protest of their own; Lenin played a significant role.

University inspectors took note of the most active students during the protests and tracked Lenin in particular. After the protest, he was suspended from the university, arrested and exiled to a village near Kazan. That is

how Lenin's brief Kazan period ended, all before he was 18 years old.

Troubled Writer

Another important figure in Russian and Soviet literature, whose fate is connected to Kazan University, is Maxim Gorky. Alexei Peshkov, which was Gorky's real name, came to Kazan in 1884 and applied to study at Kazan University. However, in the end he was rejected, because in that year the number of places for students from poor backgrounds had been decreased drastically. Peshkov also had problems providing proof that he had attended high school.

Instead of entering university, Peshkov started working at the docks, where he met revolutionary-minded young people. From 1885 he switched to working at bakeries, which were connected to illegal leftist self-education clubs.

In 1887, 19-year-old Peshkov tried to commit suicide on the banks of Volga River, shooting himself with a rifle.

The bullet went through his lung and although the surgery was successful, it later affected his health. At the hospital, Peshkov made one more attempt to end his life, by drinking a vial with chloral hydrate. He was saved by hospital staff, who pumped his stomach.

Gorky later described these events in his literary works "My Universities" and "An Incident From the Life of Makar." For the suicide attempt and the refusal to show penitence, Peshkov was excommunicated from the Orthodox Church for four years. In 1888 he left Kazan and became involved with revolutionary activists, promoting their cause among the lower classes.

GETTING AROUND IN RUSSIAN



Russian is not the easiest language to learn quickly — even the alphabet takes a few days to master. But the good news is that Russians tolerate mistakes and bad pronunciation. To understand the reply, show a map, give the person pen and paper, or point in a direction so the person will either nod “yes” or correct you.

BASICS

Hello!

Здравствуйтe!
Zdrastvuite!

Good morning/day/ evening

Доброе утро/добрый день
добрый вечер
**Dobroye utro/dobry den/
dobry vecher**

Goodbye

До свидания.
Do svidaniya

Please!

Пожалуйста!
Pozhaloosta!

Thank you!

Спасибо!
Spaseebo!

Help!

Помогите!
Pomogeete!

I don't understand

Я не понимаю
Ya ne ponimayu

Open/Closed

Открыто/Закрыто
Otkryto/Zakryto

Entrance/Exit

Вход/Выход
Vkhod/Vykhod

BASICS

Here/There

Здесь/Там
Zdes/Tam

Cashier/Ticket desk

Касса
Kassa

Toilet

Туалет
Tualet (M = men Ж = women)

I feel ill

Мне плохо
Mne plokho

Where is ...

Где ...
Gde ...

... hotel (Name)?

... гостиница (Name)?
... gostinitsa (Name)?

... a pharmacy?

... аптека?
... apteka?

... a grocery store?

... продуктовый магазин?
... produktovy magazeen

... a mall?

... торговый центр?
... torgovy tsender?

BASICS

... the museum (Name)?

... музей (Name)?
... muzei (Name)?

... a café?

... кафе?
... kafe?

... the restaurant (Name)?

... ресторан (Name)?
... restoran (Name)?

MONEY

How much does it cost?

Сколько стоит?
Skolko stoet?

Write down the cost, please

Напишите цену, пожалуйста
Napeesheete tsenu, pozhaloosta

Can I pay with a credit card?

Можно платить картой?
Mozhno plateet kartoi?

I'd like to exchange money

Я хочу обменять деньги
Ya khochu obmenyat dengee

Where is the exchange office?

Где обменный пункт?
Gde obmenny poonkt?

KAZAN

GIFTS FROM TATARSTAN

In the capital of Tatarstan, you can expect to find different shopping opportunities than in the rest of Russia. Here you'll want to pick up traditional Tatar clothing and snacks to take back for family and friends.



Traditional headwear

TRADITIONAL HEADWEAR

For starters, make sure to try on a tubeteika, a traditional men's velvet hat that often features fine embroidery. These hats can be found all across Central Asia, but every nationality has its own specific variation. For women, there is the kalfak (also made of embroidered velvet), which resembles a smurf hat in shape.

FOOTWEAR

Another part of the traditional Tatar costume are ichigi, or lightweight leather boots. Many are quite colorful, with red, blue and green patterns, and they are made for both men and women. For around the house you can also nab a pair of slippers. Some are made from leather and some from felt, and you can find the same decorations as on the ichigi. You

might also come across slippers with upturned toes, which are believed to have originated in the Far East.

FOR A SWEET TOOTH

In Russia, Tatars are known for having delicious food, and perhaps the most iconic dish (which happens to be eminently transportable) is chak-chak. This highly addictive sweet is made of fried dough balls drenched in honey. It is now available all over Russia, but the best, of course, can be found in Tatarstan.

FOOD AND DRINK

In Tatarstan, horse culture is highly developed and Tatars, traditionally, were highly dependent on their steeds for both transportation and food. And since Islam forbids pork, the Tatars made their salamis, or kazylyk, out of horse



GETTING THERE



CENTRAL STADIUM
Ulitsa Tashayak, 2A
Metro Kremlyovskaya
store.rubin-kazan.ru
+7 (843) 292 5070



meat. The moratorium on alcohol was less effective, however, and Tatarstan and Bugulma balsams, made from herbs, are widely available and make great gifts.

CAT FACTS

There is a legend in Kazan that Empress Elizabeth once heard there were no mice in the city, which she attributed to the diligent work of the city's cats. The musophobic empress ordered a number of the cats to be brought to St. Petersburg as residents of the Winter Palace, which was under construction at the time; to this day, the cats still live in the palace (though they are now confined to

the basement). In honor of the cats, there is a monument on Ulitsa Baumana, and cat dolls make popular souvenirs.

SOUVENIR SPOTS

You can find a wide selection of these souvenirs in the Kazan Kremlin, right near the entrance to the Kul Sharif mosque, and on Bauman Street.

FOR FOOTBALL FANS

Kazan is also the host city to the Rubin football team. Get your red, white and green Rubin swag (coincidentally, also the colors of the Tatar flag) at the Central Stadium.



KAZAN

CITY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Find your way around Russia's third capital and see the fascinating mix of Slavic and Tatar cultures that make Kazan a vibrant and dynamic city.

THE KAZAN METRO

It takes 22 minutes to travel the entire length of Kazan's single metro line. The metro is open from **6 a.m. until midnight** and trains run every 5-6 minutes. Purchase a **single-ride** smart token for **25 rubles** or buy a smart card at the ticket office or self-service terminal. The smart card can be topped up with up to **49 rides** and each ride will **cost 23 rubles**. A city travel card is also available.

BUSES, TROLLEYBUSES AND TRAMS

Bus is the preferred method of transportation in Kazan. Most of the buses run **from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day**, and some routes stay open until 11.30 p.m. Kazan's high-speed streetcars are supposed to be faster than buses, yet some routes intersect with roads and pedestrian crossings, so they can be a mixed bag. Take

trolleybus No. 2 to get a general overview of the city. The stops are announced in Tatar, Russian and English on all vehicles. A ride on a bus, trolleybus or streetcar will cost 25 rubles and can be paid by cash or travel card.

TAXIS

Uber operates in Kazan. Or, if you feel like giving your Russian a try, experience the local taxi service and dial **+7 (843) 567 1567** — order in Russian and show the written address on your mobile phone to the driver.

SAFETY

Kazan is a safe city, so there is no need to exercise higher-than-usual levels of caution. The city's most dangerous area is the triangle between the streets Profsoyuznaya, Kremlyovskaya, Bauman and Pravobulachnaya, where the abundance of nightclubs

creates a potential problem area. Avoid the outskirts of the city and remain vigilant of pickpockets around tourist attractions.

PHARMACIES

The two biggest pharmacy chains are **Farmland** and **Apteka Zdorovya**. Most pharmacies are kiosks where English is rarely spoken and you have to order from the assistant.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

There are no Western-owned clinics in Kazan, but the Kazanskaya and **Medel** clinics have great facilities and are centrally located. Both clinics are private; public medical facilities are best avoided.

GROCERY SHOPPING

Sample Tatar national dishes at Bahetle — a chain of supermarkets famous all

over Russia for its wide selection of delicacies and a homemade-food takeaway section that rivals even restaurant food. The prices are high, but the experience is worth it. The two centrally located **Bahetle shops** are at **Moskovskaya Ulitsa, 2** and **Ulitsa Gabdully Tukaya, 64**. **Perekrestok** shops are also popular in Kazan and offer a basic selection of snacks, vegetables, meat and fish.

CLOTHES SHOPPING

Kazan makes shopping easy. The selection of international brands is limited, but basic clothes can be found in the Mega Kazan and Park House shopping malls. For an upscale shopping experience, head to Suvar Plaza and **TSUM** — the two shopping centers where the prices remain high even during sales. Young fashionistas will also be drawn to Alafuzovskaya Factory, where local designer clothes and accessories are sold.

REPAIR SERVICES

Look for the signs *masterskaya po remontu odezhd* for clothes-repair services, and *masterskaya po remontu obuvi* for shoe-repair services. Repair shops are everywhere in Kazan but the chances of finding an English-speaking person are slim.

INFORMATION CENTERS

Explore Kazan with the help of the staff at the three tourism information centers. Two of the centers are located at **Kazan International Airport**, and another is at **Kremlyovskaya Ulitsa, 15/25**. Apart from providing information on events, routes, transportation, museums and attractions, the employees at the information centers are trained to handle emergency situations.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

If you require urgent medical assistance, the police or the fire department, dial the free **112** emergency number. The number is accessible from both landlines and mobile phones, even if there is no SIM card or if your number has been blocked. Operators speak Russian and English.

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