Moscow Travel Guide

from initial booking to venue floor and more

Welcome to Moscow!

Your Moscow travel guide, from initial booking to venue floor and more

We're here to help you prepare for your ITE exhibition in Moscow with total confidence by walking you through exactly what to expect, step by step.

This guide covers everything you need in the order you'll need it: what to sort out before you leave, what happens when you land, how to get from the airport to your hotel and the exhibition venue, and how to make the most of your time in the city once the show floor closes.



Before You Travel

Before You Leave

A little preparation before you fly makes everything that follows easier. Here's what's worth sorting out ahead of time.

Visa and Invitation Letter

As an international visitor, you may need a visa to visit Russia. Check our visa guidelines for current requirements or contact our travel team for guidance.

Money and Payments

Foreign-issued *Mastercards* and *Visa cards* do not currently work in Russia. Not at ATMs, card terminals or the metro. This has been the case since 2022 and remains unchanged.

Plan to carry cash rubles (RUB), withdrawn or exchanged after you land, as your main method of payment throughout your stay.

Before You Travel

Money and Payments

If you're a frequent visitor to Russia, you may be able to open a local debit card with a major Russian bank such as *Sber*, *MTS Bank*, or *T-Bank*. Typically, this requires an in-person branch visit with your passport (with a notarised Russian translation), your migration card, and an activated local SIM card for mobile banking. Some banks may ask for additional documentation. Not practical for a single short exhibition trip, but worth knowing if you travel to Russia regularly.

Inform your bank of your travel dates regardless. This avoids confusion if you attempt any transactions before or after your trip.

Download Yandex Go App Before You Fly

Yandex Go, Russia's equivalent of Uber, is the safest and most convenient way to book taxis in Moscow.

Install the app and set it up before departure. Because foreign cards won't work once you're there, set cash (RUB) as your payment method rather than adding a card.

Before You Travel

Worth installing alongside it: *Yandex Maps*. It's more reliable than Google or Apple Maps for Moscow traffic, walking routes and public transit. Very useful for your whole trip, not just for booking taxis.

Biometric registration is required. Note that full activation can take up to 24 hours due to security procedures, so it won't be usable immediately for booking your first taxi. Airport Wi-Fi covers you in the meantime.

Arrange Your SIM or eSIM

Arrange a local SIM or eSIM or check your roaming allowance, before you travel. If you plan to buy a Russian SIM card on arrival instead, you'll only need your passport to register it.

Insurance

Travel or medical insurance is strongly recommended and may be required as part of your visa application. We recommend medical insurance coverage of at least €30,000. The exact minimum can vary by country, so check the specific requirement for your country before you travel.

Before You Travel

Weather and Packing

Check seasonal weather ahead of your trip. Moscow's climate varies widely between summer and winter exhibition dates.

Pack comfortable footwear; exhibition days involve a lot of walking.

Bring layered clothing to accommodate changing temperatures, especially outside the summer months.

Russia uses Type C and Type F electrical outlets. Pack an adapter if travelling from the UK, US, or other incompatible regions.

On Arrival

When you Land

Your first hour in Moscow sets the tone for the rest of the trip. Here’s exactly what to expect at the airport.

You'll deal with two paper documents during your first days in Russia. Treat them both as carefully as you treat your passport and keep both until you leave.

Migration card — issued and stamped at passport control when you land.

Migration registration slip — proof of your address registration, arranged separately by your hotel (or host) shortly after you check in. You won't receive this at the airport. Ask your hotel about it if they don’t offer it to you automatically.

Take a photo of each document as a back-up, but always carry the originals. You'll need them for hotel check-ins and when you leave the country.

On Arrival

Which Airport Will You Land at?

Moscow is served by three international airports. Before you book connecting travel or a hotel, it's worth knowing that they are not equally convenient for Crocus Expo.

Sheremetyevo (SVO) — closest and most convenient. Around 17 minutes by taxi direct to Crocus Expo, or take the *Aeroexpress* to *Slavyanskiy Bulvar* metro station and continue five stops on the same Line 3 to *Myakinino*. No line change required. If you have a choice of airport, this is the one to pick.

Vnukovo (VKO) — moderate. *Aeroexpress* into central Moscow (to *Kievskaya* station), then onto the metro's Line 3 to *Myakinino*. Note this is also the airport served by the *Radisson Slavyanskaya's* direct Aeroexpress link.

Domodedovo (DME) — furthest, with transfers. *Aeroexpress* into the centre, then a metro connection to *Myakinino*. Journeys of close to two hours are common. Allow extra time or budget for a taxi transfer instead.

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On Arrival

Getting Your First Taxi

Yandex Go is the safest, most convenient option. Book through the app you installed before you left and pay in cash (RUB) rather than by card.

Official taxi stands inside the terminal building are a reliable alternative if you'd rather book in person. Avoid drivers who approach you in the arrivals hall. Their offers are frequently unreliable or overpriced.

Hotel transfers — many of our partner hotels offer a dedicated pickup service. Worth asking about when you book.

To book through the app, you'll need internet access. Use mobile roaming or the airport Wi-Fi while your Russian SIM (if you’re buying one) is still activating.

On Arrival

Exchanging Currency

ATMs in the arrival halls of all major Moscow airports (Sheremetyevo, Domodedovo, Vnukovo) generally offer the better exchange rate. Be aware, however, that you can only withdraw cash from an ATM if you have a bank card issued in Russia, a *MIR* card or a *UnionPay* card. Whenever possible, withdraw cash rubles here rather than at a currency exchange office.

Currency exchange offices are available in every arrivals hall if you would still prefer to change cash directly.

To Your Hotel and the Venue

Getting to Your Hotel and Crocus Expo

Moscow's metro is fast, inexpensive and connects directly to Crocus Expo. This is the option we'd recommend for most of your stay.

Using the Metro

Buy a Troika card at any metro ticket office. It works across the metro, buses, trams, and the Moscow Central Circle, and is the most reliable way to pay.

Contactless bank cards with PayPass/PayWave also work at the turnstiles, but foreign Mastercards and Visa cards do not. The Troika card is the safer bet for the length of your stay.

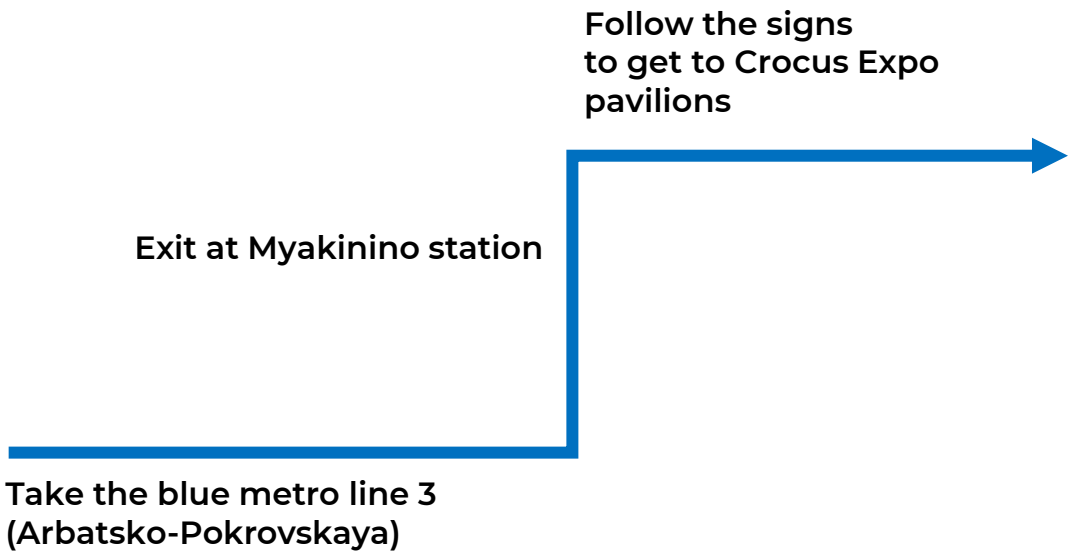
To Your Hotel and the Venue

Metro route to Crocus Expo

Board *Line 3*, the blue one, from a central station such as *Kievskaya* or *Smolenskaya*.

Stay on the train through to *Myakinino*, the terminal station. The full journey from central Moscow takes roughly 30–40 minutes.

Use the direct station exit. It leads straight into the Crocus Expo complex, no further walking required.



To Your Hotel and the Venue

Choosing Your Hotel

Check our **website** or **visa guidelines** for a list of recommended partner hotels.

While You're Here: Discover Moscow

If your schedule allows, why not extend your trip? There's plenty to see and do in Moscow if you can stay a little longer. Our official travel partner, **Visa-Russian.ru**, can help you make the most of your stay.

Practical Essentials

Language



Russian is the official language, and English is widely spoken at exhibition venues, partner hotels, and across the city centre.

A translation app is a useful backup for everything else.

Staying safe

Moscow is, on the whole, a straightforward city to navigate as a visitor. But, as you would in any major capital, keep an eye on your belongings in crowded areas, on public transport, and around tourist landmarks.

Emergency contact

112 — Russia's single emergency number, reachable from any mobile phone, 24/7. Operators speak English and can connect you to police, medical services or the fire brigade. Save this number in your phone before you arrive.

Frequently Asked Questions

How Far in Advance Should I Apply for My Visa?

Processing times vary by country and consulate. We recommend applying at least 30–45 days before departure to allow time for processing and any extra documentation.

Will My Bank Card Work in Moscow?

Foreign-issued *Mastercards* and *Visa cards* do not currently work in Russia. This applies to ATMs and on the metro. Plan to carry cash rubles and consider a *Troika card* for local transport.

Can I extend my stay and book tours?

Absolutely. Our official travel partner, Visa-Russian.ru, can help you arrange tours and extend your trip around your exhibition schedule.

What if I have a travel problem during my visit?

Travel-related problems are handled by our official travel partner, Visa-Russian.ru. Contact them directly or reach us by email or phone and we'll put you in touch.

Who issues my invitation letter?

Invitation letters are issued by ITE's official travel partner, Visa-Russian.ru and not by ITE directly.

Get in Touch

Visa support

If you require assistance with your visa application, you will find the contact details you need on our website ite.group.