

Botanical Gardens of Moscow.



Moscow is rich not only with the sights, but also with the beautiful public city gardens, where you can relax your soul and let your eyes enjoy a huge number of the most diverse and rare trees, plants and shrubs. The Capital is famous for its three main botanical gardens, which are more or less known to everyone, but I will be

happy to tell you a bit more about each of them.

Main Botanical Garden named after Tsitsin of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Founded back in 1945 and located at an altitude of 149 meters above the sea level, this park is the largest botanical garden in Europe - the total area covers 361 hectares, which have been transferred to the garden for permanent use.

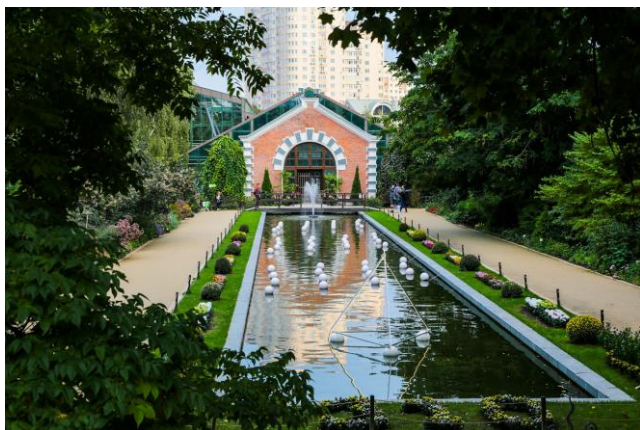


The first mention of these lands dates back to 1584, when they were in the possession of the princes of Cherkassy. Later, these lands were transferred to the Sheremetev family as a dowry to Varvara Cherkasskaya, who married Pyotr Sheremetyev, the owner of the famous Moscow estates Kuskovo and Ostankino. His son, Count Nikolai Sheremetev, decided to turn part of the park adjacent to the estate into the English Garden and even specially invited an English gardener to take care of the garden.

Today, the Main Botanical Garden has several main expositions, including six botanical and geographical zones of Russia, as well as the Stock Greenhouse (part of the collection of plants in it belonged to Hermann Goering and was taken from Germany after the war) and the famous Japanese Garden, in which

sakura traditionally blooms in early May, the first of which was planted by the passed away Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe back in 1986.

Botanical Garden of Moscow University "Pharmaceutical Garden".



This garden is the oldest one, since it was founded by Peter I back in 1706. The state vegetable garden was moved to its current place from under the walls of the Kremlin, in which medicinal plants grew for the needs of the pharmacy, which was located in Gostiny Dvor - hence the name of the garden. Peter I also personally

took part in the creation of the garden - he planted three conifers in the new garden - spruce, fir and larch, of which the larch is still alive.

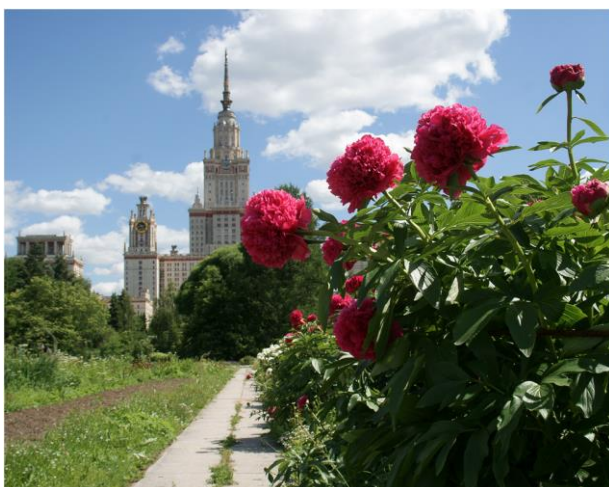
For almost a hundred years, the best gardeners and botanists of Europe were invited to manage the garden, and in the late 1790s, the garden was replenished with a large number of new specimens from the garden of Prokofiy Demidov – a mining industrialist, philanthropist and a great lover of gardening. Unfortunately, the garden suffered several times throughout its history - it was affected by the fire of 1812, and during the revolution and the civil war the situation of the garden deteriorated so much that 10 out of 12 greenhouses had to be closed due to the inability to heat them. It is a great happiness that in the process of preparation for the World Agricultural Exhibition during the Soviet period the situation began to improve - new greenhouses were rebuilt and thanks to the supply of plants from foreign collections it became possible to restore the greenhouse funds.

On the territory of the garden there is a large variety of collections, including the oldest collection of tropical plants in the country in the Palm Greenhouse (built in 1891), and one of the largest collections of orchids in Russia (despite the fact that it is kept in the greenhouse branches which are closed to the public, the employees take out the most interesting specimens for demonstration in the Palm Greenhouse) and, of course, the largest and oldest

collection of desert plants, which includes more than 2 thousand species of succulents of various forms.

Also, one of the main and invariable attractions of the Pharmaceutical Garden are the cats that officially live in the garden and are descendants of the royal cats of the Peter I times. One of the main symbols of the garden is the Main Flower Cat, which is jokingly called "His Flower Majesty".

Botanical Garden on Sparrow (Lenin) Hills.



And this garden is the youngest of all - the order to establish a garden on an area of 30 hectares was signed on October 6, 1950. It is also the only one botanical garden, the entrance to which is possible only as part of an excursion group or individually with a guide.

From the first year of the inception of the Garden, expeditions began to be organized to collect plants for the collection - in 1953 there was a successful trip to Central Asia, and in 1954 from a trip to the Far East were brought a great variety of plants that are still preserved in the plantings of the arboretum - among them you can find ginseng, honeysuckle and alder. Such business trips showed themselves from a significant side and were carried out further - there were trips to the Caucasus, to the Volgograd and Lugansk regions.

As for the collection – the best examples of domestic and foreign varieties of fruit and berry plants have been partially bred and grow in the garden, the harvests of which in Soviet times were actively used in seasonal dishes of the general dining room of the Moscow State University of Lomonosov. The real diamond of the garden is the largest collection of lilacs in Russia - there are more than 130 varieties of these beautiful flowers.

On the territory there are thematic excursions to different parts of the garden, there is a small Tea House (a separate tour allows you to touch the culture of



classical Chinese tea drinking) and the School of the Young Gardener. Also, it will be interesting to visit the store by the Botanical Garden, where you can find a variety and the most exquisite seedlings of all kinds of plants that grow in the garden itself, while botanical consultants will be happy to give advice on the specifics of plants.

Enjoy the flora in Moscow, dear friends!

Kirill Kolchak
PR Executive
Les Clefs d'Or Russia