

Информация о месте проведения для иностранных участников.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The name Vladivostok loosely translates from Russian as "rules the East".

Zone time: +7 from Moscow one.

Population: about 610 thous.

The capital of the Primorsky Territory, - Vladivostok, - is one of the most picturesque and interesting cities in the Russian Far East.

The city was founded in 1860 and its mission was defense of south-eastern border of Russia from invasion. During the Soviet time Vladivostok, as the home base of the Pacific Fleet, was a closed city. Only in 1992 Vladivostok was officially opened for visit by foreigners.

Vladivostok is located as an Asian city. (By plane, you get the city for just hours from Japan, Seoul (Korea) and China. Air travel to Moscow, however, takes as much as 8 hours. But its historical center is very original. Not a single building repeats another in its architecture. Gothic, German Baroque, Modern and Russian style can be seen together in a unique ensemble.

The famous Transsib railway begins from Vladivostok. It was laid by the heir to the Russian throne, future emperor Nikolai 2, in 1891 and became the main road of Siberia, that connected the center of Russia with its outlying districts.

Vladivostok is Russia's largest port city on the Pacific Ocean and the administrative center of Primorsky Region. It is situated at the head of the Golden Horn Bay, not far from Russia's border with China and North Korea. It is the home port of the Russian Pacific Fleet.

Vladivostok is home to the football club FC Luch-Energiya Vladivostok, who play in the Russian First Division, and basketball club Spartak Primorje, who play in the Russian Basketball Super League.

In 2012 Vladivostok will host the 24th Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. In preparation for the event, the infrastructure of the city is being renovated and improved. Two giant cable-stayed bridges are currently under construction in Vladivostok, namely the Zolotoy Rog bridge over the Zolotiy Rog. Bay in the center of the city, and the Russky Island Bridge from the mainland to Russky Island, where the summit will take place. The latter bridge will become the longest cable-stayed bridge in the world upon completion.

The highest point is Mount Kholodilnik, the height of which is 257 m. Eagle's Nest Mount is often called the highest point of the city; however, with the height of only 199 m (214 m according to other sources), it is the highest point of the downtown area, but not of the whole city.

Vladivostok shares the same or approximate latitude with Sapporo, Sukhumi, Almaty, Florence, Marseille, Boston and Toronto.

Railroad distance to Moscow is 9,302 km. The direct distance to Moscow is 6,430 km. Direct distance to Bangkok is 5600 km, to Darwin — 6,180 km, San Francisco — 8,400 km, Lisbon — 10,100 km, London — 8,500 km, to Seoul — 750 km, to Tokyo — 1,050 km, to Beijing — 1,331 km.

CLIMATE

Mean annual temperature: 4.8 °C (40.6 °F)

Average temperature in January: -13.2 °C (8.2 °F)

Average temperature in August: 20.6 °C (69.1 °F)

Average annual precipitation: 799 mm (31.5 in) (strong summer maximum)

CITY'S MAIN INDUSTRIES

The city's main industries are shipping, commercial fishing, and the naval base. Fishing accounts for almost four-fifths of Vladivostok's commercial production. Other food production totals 11%.

A very important employer and a major source of revenue for the city's inhabitants is the import of Japanese cars. Besides salesmen, the industry employs repairmen, fitters, import clerks as well as shipping and railway companies. The Vladivostok dealers sell 250,000 cars a year, with 200,000 going to other parts of Russia. Every third worker in the Primorsky Krai has some relation to the automobile import business. The main export items were fish, timber products, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and ships. The main import items were food products, medicine, clothing, footwear, automobiles, household technical items, and ships.

TRANSPORT

Air routes connect Vladivostok International Airport with Japan, People's Republic of China, North Korea, South Korea and Vietnam. It is possible to get to Vladivostok from several of the larger cities in Russia.

Airport – the airport is located 40 km out of the city, and a taxi mob is waiting in the arrivals terminal. The real price should be between 800 and 1000 rubles, though you may be offered 2-3 times that if they find out you are a foreigner. The ride takes about an hour. If you're on a budget, you can take a bus for 60 rubles.

Buses depart from the airport parking lot, to the right when you step out of the airport (next to a small café, marked «кафе» in red letters). Bus 107 stops at several central locations, including the train station. It departs from the airport every hour and its schedule is posted on a board next to the café (although the schedule is not always exactly abided by). The ride will take between 1 hour 20 minutes to 2 hours depending on traffic. It's a good way to see the city coming in.

Vladivostok is starting point of Ussuri Highway (M60) to Khabarovsk, the eastern most part of Trans-Siberian Highway that goes all the way to Moscow and Saint Petersburg via Novosibirsk. The other main highways go east to Nakhodka and south to Khasan. The Trans-Siberian Railway was built to connect European Russia with Vladivostok, Russia's most important Pacific Ocean port. Finished in 1905, the rail line ran from Moscow to Vladivostok via several of Russia's main cities. Part of the railroad, known as the Chinese Eastern Line, crossed over into Manchuria, China, passing through Harbin, a major city in Manchuria. During the Soviet era, Vladivostok's status as a closed city meant that ferry-passenger tourists arriving from Japan to travel the Trans-Siberian railway westbound had to embark in Nakhodka. Today, Vladivostok serves as the main starting point for the Trans-Siberian portion of the Eurasian Land Bridge.

Train Station – the train station is in the center of the city, at Aleutskaya 6. To buy tickets to long-distance locations, the kassa (ticket office) is located in the back of the train station near where the trains leave from. It's most easily accessed by walking down the steps next to the front entrance and around the building – just follow the signs pointing to the “Kassovoi Zal” (ticket hall). To buy tickets for the elektrichka to close villages and regions, the kassa is right inside the front entrance to the left.

Public transport - Within downtown, walking is always the fastest due to the traffic jams that plague the city. If you have a way to go you'll need to take a bus or trolley – busses are a little faster and cover more areas. One ride costs 11 rubles and you pay the driver as you disembark.

Taxis - It's better to use a company than call a gypsy cab as you know the price is fair (not to mention it's safer). It shouldn't cost any more than 250 rubles to get anywhere inside the city.

On 28 June 1908, Vladivostok's first tram line was started along Svetlanskaya Street from the railway station in Lugovaya Street. On 9 October 1912, the first wooden cars manufactured in Belgium entered service. Today, Vladivostok's means of public transportation include trolleybus, bus, tram, train, funicular, ferryboat and cutter. The main urban traffic lines are City Center—Vtoraya Rechka, City Center—Pervaya Rechka—3ya Rabochaya—Balyayeva, and City Center—Lugovaya Street.

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS

Over fifty newspapers and regional editions to Moscow publications are issued in Vladivostok. The largest newspaper of the Primorsky Krai and the whole Russian Far East is *Vladivostok* with a circulation of 124,000 copies at the beginning of 1996. Its founder, joint-stock company Vladivostok-News, also issues a weekly English-language newspaper *Vladivostok News*. Another source of information on the city is the online daily *Vladivostok Times*. The subjects of the publications issued in these newspapers vary from information around Vladivostok and Primorye to major international events. Newspaper *Zolotoy Rog (Golden Horn)* gives every detail of economic news. Entertainment materials and cultural news constitute a larger part of *Novosti (News)* newspaper which is the most popular among Primorye's young people. Also, new online mass media about Russian Far East for foreigners *Far East Times*. This source invites everyone to take part in informational support of RFE for visitors, travellers and businessmen.

There are more than fifteen channels broadcasting.

There are also more than seven radio stations, the most popular being 24-hour VBC (612 kHz, 101.7 MHz) and Europa+ (738 kHz, 104.2 MHz). Europa+ normally broadcasts popular modern British-American music, while the ratio of Russian and foreign songs over VBC is fifty-fifty. Every hour one can hear local news over these radio stations. Radio Vladivostok (1098 kHz) operates from 06:00 till 01:00. It broadcasts several special programs which are devoted to the music of the 1950s-1980s as well as New Age.

TELEPHONE CALLS

To make an international telephone call dial “8”; upon receiving the dial tone, dial “10”, the country code, the telephone area (city) code and the number required.

Telephone codes of some foreign countries:

Australia 1
Brazil 55
China 86
Cyprus 357
Denmark 45
Finland 358
France 33
Germany 49
Greece 30
India 91
Ireland 353
Israel 972
Italy 39
Japan 81
Netherlands 31

New Zealand 64
North Korea 850
Russia 7
South Africa 27
Sweden 81
Switzerland 41
United Kingdom 46
USA 1

MONEY and EXCHANGE

The national Russian currency is Ruble (RUR). One Ruble is equal to 100 kopecks.

Like other Russian cities, Vladivostok requires roubles for any public payments. The exchange rate may vary from one counter to the other. At this time Russian rouble is quite stable currency. It is not a problem in Vladivostok to change U.S. dollars or euros into roubles for reasonably good rates. So if you planning a trip, it's a good idea to have your funds in dollars. Dollars and Euros are the most commonly used exchange currency. Only new bills, that are not worn or torn, are accepted in banks. Do not change your money on the street. By doing so, you can be robbed.

Credit cards are still unpopular in Vladivostok. Be ready to find lot of shops and restaurants not accepting cards. Lot of Russians use their cards only for getting cash money from ATM. Probably it is also a good way for you: get cash roubles from ATM and use them for payment. Russian word for ATM is “bankomat” (банкомат), so if you look for ATM ask people for bankomat.

VISA and Mastercard are most widely accepted. I heard nothing about American Express or Diner's Club service in Vladistok.

POST AND E-MAIL

Post Office and Telegraph

Central post offices in Russia also sell stamps, envelopes, fax services, Internet time, and Telegraph services. Address: 2a Verhneportovaya St., Vladivostok, Russia Tel.: +7 4232 400909. Several post offices in Vladivostok offer Internet time.

Private mail services

DHL has an office in Vladivostok. There are also some less expensive private mail services established mainly for expats – usually they advertise in the local English

papers. If you will be in town for several months and need to receive important documents it is worth opening an account. Otherwise, it's just not worth it, given the easy access to email these days. For sending postcards and letters, the Russian post is just fine although slow, but know that packages sent from America sometimes still have "difficulties" getting to recipients in Russia.

Internet Cafés

There is an Internet café located in the Kodak Center near the FENU dorms (ul. Fokina 6) and another in the Central Post Office (see above).

For Wi-Fi and a more interesting atmosphere, you might try Phone Club (Pavlenko per. 6a. Tel: 404447), where besides Wi-Fi each table is equipped with a telephone and an address book for the other tables – you're allowed to call the other tables in the club free-of-charge.

Other options include Iguana at ul. Svetlanskaya 23a (inside the Svetochny Passazh; note it is only open until 10 pm) and Matrix (ul. Svetlanskaya 5).

FOOD

Traditional Russian. *Nostalgia* (Pervaya Morskaya, 6/25) - located near the train station, this well-known restaurant serves good quality Russian dishes for fair prices, and is also an art gallery and souvenir shop. For a cheaper Russian option head to *Blinnaya* (Ul. Admirala Fokina, 18).

Italian. In the Primorye hotel, *Pizza M* (Ul. Posetskaya, 20) has decent Italian-style pizza. A meal will cost you between 450 and 750 rubles. *Mauro Gianvanni* (Ul. Admirala Fokina, 16 and Okeansky Pr., 9) – run by an Italian, this restaurant, which has two locations, has arguably the best pasta in town, with homemade noodles. It's a bit pricier than Pizza M.

Japanese. *Yamota* (Ul. Admirala Fokina, 23b) has a large sushi selection and the staff is super friendly. Floor to ceiling windows give the place great natural lighting as well as make this a good people-watching spot. You can eat in or order inexpensive sushi to go at *Tochka Sushi* (Pervaya Morskaya, 6) – they have a delivery service (Tel: 711-711).

Indian. You'll find mouth watering Indian food at *Bombey* (Ul. Fontannaya, 15/2).

Fast and Cheap. *Magic Burger* (Ul. Svetlanskaya, 44) offers Russian-style fast food. They pre-make the burgers, then grab them from a bin already bagged and toss it into the microwave for 25 seconds, bag and all. The burger (actually more of a small, fat cutlet) comes with mayonnaise, ketchup, sauerkraut, and pickles. The taste is surprisingly not bad, and it's worth it to come here just to check out the rag-tag crowd that shows up. If you're looking for something that resembles a

more Western idea of a fast-food hamburger, you'll have more luck at *Royal Burger* (Ul. Batereynaya, 3a; Okeansky, 88; Svetlanskaya, 56). which also offers veggie burgers and is open all night. *Ali Baba Fast Food* (Ul. Pogranichnaya, 6/3) is likely be a vegetarian's favorite with middle eastern fast food like Falafel!

Coffee. *Five-O'Clock* (Ul. Fokina, 6) – run by a British guy named Barry, you can get a decent cup of coffee and a brownie (or other homemade dessert or pastry) for under 50 rubles, the best price in Vladivostok (at most places coffee usually costs 70 rubles alone). It also opens at 8 am, two hours earlier than most other coffee joints. *Coffee Cup* (Aleutskaya, 27 - inside the Aleutskaya Shopping Center, 2nd floor) offers good coffee and desserts. We recommend the Napoleon cake – you won't be sorry! If you're looking for a large cup of coffee and more of a traditional coffee shop atmosphere, head to *Presto* (Ul. Svetlanskaya, 15). *Belle Bazar* (Ul. Pervaya Morskaya, 6/25), a sit down café-restaurant, offers a large coffee menu (including alcoholic coffee drinks) and European cuisine.

Hookas. *La Ruzh* (Ul. Svetlanskaya, 21) is the most centrally located place to get a hookah (middle eastern tobacco bong), not to mention the hookah is fabulous. Their seating area is very small, however. *Myatnyi Truffl* (Ul. Aleutskaya, 11) also has good hookas with an upscale atmosphere and face control.

Clubs and Bars. Grand Café (Nizhneportovaya Ul., 1) is an upscale restaurant during the day and a prestigious club at night. Expect face control. *Street Bar* (Ul. Svetlanskaya, 83.) is another popular hangout/club that plays dance music. Entrance fees on the weekends is usually 200 rubles. There are two sports bars in town, *SSSR* (Prospekt Krasnogo Znameni 111) and *Champion* (50a Propekt Stolet).

SHOPPING AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

For shopping, Svetlanskaya Ul. is the center of town. We recommend you simply take a walk and stop by GUM (the main store at ul.Svetlanskaya 35). You'll also find plenty of shopping complexes all over the city

Theatres and Concerts. For more cultural affairs, you might try one of Vladivostok's theaters. Tickets may be bought at the theater or from kiosks or even small tables in the streets selling tickets. These are legitimate sellers (at least every time we have tried). Try [The Philharmonic Theater](#) (ul. Svetlanskaya, 15) for music, [The Gorky Theater](#) (ul. Svetlanskaya, 49) for drama or [The Primorsky Puppet Theater](#) (ul. Petra Velikogo, 8) for kid's puppet shows (fun!) or the circus (ul. Svetlanskaya, 103).

Art: You can find local artists' work at the *Primorye Regional Picture Gallery* (Ul. Aleutskaya, 12). They also produce their own newsletter, which you can pick up for free at the gallery. *Arsenyev Regional Museum* (Ul. Svetlanskaya, 20). Entrance for students is 50 rubles and houses a hodge-podge collection on the first

two floors, including paintings, stuffed animals that you find in the region, clothing, etc. Presentation is well done. The third floor is an art gallery.

Museums: There are several great museums around, though exhibits are always in Russian. A few include:

Military-Historical Museum (Ul. Svetlanskaya, 66.). Entrance for students is 30 rubles, and their two story collection boasts paintings, weapons, boat models, photos, letters written by sailors about their experience at sea, and a good amount of military equipment, much of which is sitting out back. Rooms are in chronological order, starting with the late 19th century.

Memorial S-56 Submarine (Korabelnaya Naberezhnaya). Entrance is 100 rubles. Crawl through the Soviet sub that sank 10 enemy ships in WWII. Prone to unexpectedly shut down “for technical reasons,” we suggest you don’t leave this one for the last minute. Outside the museum you’ll find a monument to the soldier-sailors from the Primorye region who lost their lives in WWII.

Museum of Military Glory of the Border Troops. Entrance is 50 rubles for students. It contains four floors worth of stuff so you’re bound to find something you find interesting. The fourth floor boasts a set of binoculars you can use to spy on the street below.

Fort No.7. Only accessible by pre-arrangement, this is a must if you’re interested in the military history of the city. It is one of 16 forts built around the city about 100 years ago, with 1.5 km of tunnels.

HEALTH

Tap Water - don't drink it. Either boil it for ten minutes or buy bottled water.

Pharmacy and eyeglass kiosks are located throughout the city. They sell medication for just about everything, but mostly in brands you’ve never heard of before. Eyeglass kiosks sell contact lens solution and cleaners in brands you know. Some kiosks can even cut new glasses for you or sell disposable contacts. Make sure you know your eye prescription before you leave home, there is no doctor visit needed.

Exercise - Around town are several *Sportivni Zali* (Sports Clubs - sometimes *Sportivni Klubi*). Many of them will demand you have a physical before joining. Two hotels offer fitness clubs: the Hyundai Hotel (ul. Semenovskaya, 29) and the Gavan Hotel (ul. Krigina 2). There is also a World Class (ul. Batareinaya 8) gym (part of an international chain) in Vladivostok as well.

WHAT TO SEE IN VLADIVOSTOK

Our company is glad to offer you to make Vladivostok tour. We encourage you to begin your Trans-Siberian travel in our city. Vladivostok is the Far Eastern point on historical Trans-Siberian train route and it is a major seaport for the Pacific Rim countries. Vladivostok is the capital of the Primorsky Territory and one of the most picturesque and interesting cities in the Russian Far East.

We designed interesting tours of Vladivostok; you can read more about our tours on the page Vladivostok tour. The most popular tours are Vladivostok walking tour and Vladivostok car tour.

During 4 hour sightseeing tour around you will visit Museum of Regional History and famous Museum-Submarine "C-56", take a look at Vladivostok and Golden Horn Bay from the hills, where there are special view points. You will stroll along the main historical street Svetlanskaya and Korabelnaya Naberezhnaya. You will see the end of famous Trans-Siberian rail road and how the rails go into the sea. Our professional guide will accompany you during excursion and tell history of Russians coming in our region, about mysterious countries Bohai and Djurdjeny, about Soviet time and about ordinary people's live.

Our company suggests you two variants of Vladivostok tour.

The Fortress of Vladivostok

Open from 10.00 to 18.00 (from 1 April till 1 November)

Open from 10:00 to 17.00.

Address: 4A, Batareinaya street

In the 19th century our region was the wide uninhabited land. It was in need of defense because it was in thousands of kilometers from the central part of Russia. The concrete fortifications were built on the tops of the hills of Vladivostok. The fortress was designed to protect the city and the railway (the famous Tran Siberian railway) from sea and land attacks. The fortress was built in the light of the fortification achievements of the 19th century and specialists considered it to be one of the most impregnable fortresses of their time by right. Its guns didn't fire a shot but the fortress keeps safe the city from military attacks.

The museum "The fortress of Vladivostok" in the center of the city and the museum "The fort №7" at the edge of the city help you to see and understand this unique and grandiose object.

The Museum of "Submarine C-56"

Open from 10.00 to 20.00.

Address: Karabelnaya naberzhnaya street.

It was time of the World War II. The group of submarines left Vladivostok to Murmansk for military actions in the north of the USSR. They were to go across the Pacific Ocean along the bent of America across the Panama Canal and the Atlantic. It was the perilous voyage because seas had a lot of mines. Then they fought in the cruel battles. "C-56" was the only submarine that had escaped damage. It came back to the home city across the Arctic. So it was the first submarine in the world that had made circum navigation.

The Arseniev Museum of Regional Studies

Open from 10.00 to 19.00 (from 1 June till 1 September)

Open from 09:30 to 18.00. Closed on Monday.

Address: 20, Svetlanskaya street

It is the biggest museum of the Russian Far East that was founded over 100 years ago. His halls tell you about the ancient history of region, the mysterious countries Bhai and Djurdjny, about wonderful nature of the region and the history of coming Russians in this wild area.

HOTELS IN VLADIVOSTOK

Due to increasing interest to Vladivostok, here hotel business is growing rapidly. Hotels in Vladivostok offer wide list of services and prices.

There are hotels in the center and at suburbs, so it is not so easy sometimes to choose hotel in Vladivostok.

For some guests the most actual is conference hall, possibility to organize seminar, and Internet access.

For some guests important things are hotel location and price.

HOW TO REGISTER THE RUSSIAN VISA

Upon your arrival to any city of Russia you need to register your visa within three working days. If you stay at a hotel, the hotel registers your visa for all period when you live at the hotel. If you stay at your friends or another place, the Russian travel company that made the invitation for you must help to register your visa, it may be for additional payment.