

Language

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Just about everyone in Russia speaks Russian, though there are also dozens of other languages spoken by ethnic minorities. Russian and most of the other languages are written in variants of the Cyrillic alphabet. It's relatively easy to find English speakers in St Petersburg and Moscow, but not so easy in small cities and towns.

Russian grammar may be daunting, but your travels will be far more interesting if you at least take the time to learn the Cyrillic alphabet (see p753), so that you can read maps and street signs. For a more in-depth handling of Russian, grab a copy of Lonely Planet's *Russian Phrasebook*.

TRANSLITERATION

There's no ideal system for going from Cyrillic to Roman letters; the more faithful a system is to pronunciation, the more complicated it becomes. The transliteration system used in this language guide differs from that used in the rest of this book (which follows the US Library of Congress System I – good for deciphering printed words and rendering proper names); it's intended to assist you in pronouncing Russian letters and sounds, with an emphasis on practicality. Most letters are transliter-

ated in accordance with the sounds given in the alphabet table. In this system Cyrillic **е** (pronounced 'ye') is written as Roman 'e' except at the start of words where it's written as 'ye' (eg Yeltsin). The combination **кк** becomes 'x'.

Italicised syllables in the transliterations indicate where the stress falls in a word.

PRONUNCIATION

The 'voiced' consonants (ie when the vocal cords vibrate) **б, в, г, д, ж,** and **з** are not voiced at the end of words (eg хлеб, 'bread', is pronounced *khlyep*) or before voiceless consonants. The **р** in the common adjective endings **-ero** and **-oro** is pronounced 'v'; Mayakovskogo, for example, is pronounced 'Maya-kov-skovo'.

Two letters have no sound but are used to modify the pronunciation other letters. A consonant followed by the 'soft sign' **ь** is spoken with the tongue flat against the palate, as if followed by a faint 'y'. The 'hard sign' **ъ** is rarely seen; it occurs after consonants and indicates a slight pause before the next vowel.

ACCOMMODATION

Where's a ...?

gdye ...	Где ...?
boarding house	
pan-si-a-nat	пансионат
camping ground	
kem-ping	кемпинг
hotel	
ga-sti-ni-tsa	гостиница
youth hostel	
ap-shche-zhi-ti-e	общежитие

How much is a room?

skol'-ka sto-it no-mer
Сколько стоит номер?

Do you have a cheaper room?

u vas yest' de-shyev-le no-mer
У вас есть дешевле номер?

What's the address?

ka-koy a-dres
Какой адрес?

Could you write it down, please?

za-pi-shi-te pa-zhal-sta
Запишите, пожалуйста.

THE RUSSIAN CYRILLIC ALPHABET

Cyrillic Roman Pronunciation

А, а	a	as the 'a' in 'father' (in stressed syllable); as the 'a' in 'ago' (in unstressed syllable)
Б, б	b	as the 'b' in 'but'
В, в	v	as the 'v' in 'van'
Г, г	g	as the 'g' in 'god'
Д, д	d	as the 'd' in 'dog'
Е, е	ye/e	as the 'ye' in 'yet' (in stressed syllable and at the beginning of a word); as the 'e' in 'ten' (in unstressed syllable)
Ё, ё	* yo	as the 'yo' in 'yore'
Ж, ж	zh	as the 'z' in 'measure'
З, з	z	as the 'z' in 'zoo'
И, и	i	as the 'ee' in 'meet'
Й, й	y	as the 'y' in 'boy' (not transliterated after ы or и)
К, к	k	as the 'k' in 'kind'
Л, л	l	as the 'l' in 'lamp'
М, м	m	as the 'm' in 'mad'
Н, н	n	as the 'n' in 'not'
О, о	o/a	as the 'o' in 'more' (in stressed syllable); as the 'a' in 'hard' (in unstressed syllable)
П, п	p	as the 'p' in 'pig'
Р, р	r	as the 'r' in 'rub' (rolled)
С, с	s	as the 's' in 'sing'
Т, т	t	as the 't' in 'ten'
У, у	u	as the 'oo' in 'fool'
Ф, ф	f	as the 'f' in 'fan'
Х, х	kh	as the 'ch' in 'Bach'
Ц, ц	ts	as the 'ts' in 'bits'
Ч, ч	ch	as the 'ch' in 'chin'
Ш, ш	sh	as the 'sh' in 'shop'
Щ, щ	shch	as 'sh-ch' in 'fresh chips'
Ъ, ъ	-	'hard sign' (see opposite)
Ы, ы	i	as the 'i' in 'ill'
Ь, ь	'	'soft sign'; (see opposite)
Э, э	e	as the 'e' in 'end'
Ю, ю	yu	as the 'u' in 'use'
Я, я	ya/ye	as the 'ya' in 'yard' (in stressed syllable); as the 'ye' in 'yearn' (in unstressed syllable)

* Ё, ё are often printed without dots

How much is it per/for ...?

skol'-ka sto-it za ...	Сколько стоит за ...?
night	
noch'	ночь
two people	
dva-ikh	двоих
week	
ned-yel-yu	неделю

Do you have a ... room?

u vas yest' ...	У вас есть ...?
single	
ad-na-myest-ni no-mer	одноместный номер
double	
no-mer z dvu-spal'-ney kra-va-t'yu	номер с двухспальной кроватью
twin	
dvukh-myes-ni no-mer	двухместный номер

hotel

gas-ti-ni-tsa гостиница

room

no-mer номер

key

klyuch ключ

blanket

a-de-ya-la одеяло

toilet paper

tu-a-lyet-na-ya bu-ma-ga туалетная бумага

The ... isn't working.

... ne ra-bo-ta-et не работает.
electricity	
e-lek-tri-chest-va	электричество
heating	
a-ta-plye-ni-e	отопление
hot water	
ga-rya-cha-ya va-da	горячая вода
light	
svyet	свет
tap/faucet	
kran	кран

Can I see it?

mozh-na pas-mat-ryet' Можно посмотреть?

Where is the toilet?

gdye zdyes' tu-al-yet' Где здесь туалет?

I'm leaving now.

ya sey-chas u-ez-zha-yu Я сейчас уезжаю.

We're leaving now.

mi sey-chas u-ez-zha-em Мы сейчас уезжаем.

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Two words you're sure to use are the universal 'hello', здравствуйте (*zdrast-vuy-te*), and пожалуйста (*pa-zhal-sta*), the word for 'please' (commonly included in all polite requests), 'you're welcome', 'pardon me', 'after you' and more.

Hello.

zdrast-vuy-te Здравствуйте.

Hi.

pri-vyet Привет.

Good morning. <i>do-bra-e u-tra</i>	Доброе утро.
Good afternoon. <i>do-bri dyen'</i>	Добрый день.
Good evening. <i>dob-ri vye-cher</i>	Добрый вечер.
Goodbye. <i>da svi-da-ni-ya</i>	До свидания.
Bye. <i>pa-ka</i>	Пока.
Yes. <i>da</i>	Да.
No. <i>nyet</i>	Нет.
Please. <i>pa-zhal-sta</i>	Пожалуйста.
Thank you (very much). <i>(bal'-sho-e) spa-si-ba</i>	(Большое) спасибо.
You're welcome. <i>pa-zhal-sta</i>	Пожалуйста.
Excuse me. <i>pras-ti-te</i>	Простите.
Sorry. <i>iz-vi-ni-te</i>	Извините.
No problem/Never mind. <i>ni-che-vo</i>	Ничего.
Can you help me? <i>pa-ma-gi-te pa-zhal-sta</i>	Помогите, пожалуйста.
May I take a photo? <i>mozh-na sfa-ta-gra-fi-rat'</i>	Можно фотографировать?
I like ... <i>mnye nra-vits-ya ...</i>	Мне нравится ...
I don't like ... <i>mnye nye nra-vits-ya ...</i>	Мне не нравится ...
Just a minute! <i>mi-nut-ku</i>	Минутку!

When introducing yourself use your first name, or first and last name. Russians often address each other by first name plus patronymic, a middle name based on their father's first name – eg Natalya Borisovna (Natalya, daughter of Boris), Pavel Nikolayevich (Pavel, son of Nikolay).

What's your name? <i>kak vas za-vut</i>	Как вас зовут?
My name is ... <i>me-nya za-vut ...</i>	Меня зовут ...
Pleased to meet you. <i>o-chen' pri-yat-na</i>	Очень приятно.
How are you? <i>kak de-la</i>	Как дела?

Where are you from? <i>at-ku-da vi</i>	Откуда вы?
I'm from ... <i>ya iz ...</i>	Я из ...

DIRECTIONS

House numbers are not always in step on opposite sides of the street. Russian addresses are written back-to-front, with Russia at the top of the address and the addressee at the bottom.

Where is ...? <i>gdye ...</i>	Где ...?
How do we get to ...? <i>kak da-brat'-sya k ...</i>	Как добраться к ...?

Turn (at the) ... <i>pa-ver-ni-te ...</i>	Поверните ...
corner <i>za-u-gal</i>	за угол
left <i>na-lye-va</i>	налево
right <i>na-pra-va</i>	направо
traffic lights <i>na sve-ta-fo-re</i>	на светофоре

straight ahead	<i>prya-ma</i>	прямо
here	<i>tut</i>	тут
there	<i>tam</i>	там
near	<i>da-le-ko</i>	далеко
far	<i>blis-ka</i>	близко
behind ...	<i>za ...</i>	за ...
in front of ...	<i>pye-ret ...</i>	перед ...
next to ...	<i>rya-dam s ...</i>	рядом с ...
opposite ...	<i>na-pro-tif ...</i>	напротив ...

SIGNS

Вход	Entrance
Выход	Exit
Мест Нет	No Vacancy
Справки	Information
Запрещено	Prohibited
Открыт	Open
Закрыт	Closed
Касса	Cashier/Ticket Office
Больница	Hospital
Милиция	Police
Туалет	Toilet
Мужской (М)	Men
Женский (Ж)	Women

EMERGENCIES

Help! <i>pa-ma-gi-te</i>	Помогите!
Thief! <i>vor</i>	Вор!
Fire! <i>pa-zhar</i>	Пожар!
I'm lost. <i>ya za-blu-dil-sya/za-blu-di-las'</i> (m/f)	Я заблудился/заблудилась.
Leave me alone! <i>pri-va-li-vay</i>	Приваливай!
There's been an accident. <i>pra-i-za-shol ne-shas-ni slu-chay</i>	Произошёл несчастный случай.
Call ...! <i>vi-za-vi-te ...</i>	Вызовите ...!
a doctor <i>vra-cha</i>	врача
the police <i>mi-li-tsi-yu</i>	милицию

north	<i>sye-ver</i>	север
south	<i>yuk</i>	юг
east	<i>vas-tok</i>	восток
west	<i>za-pad</i>	запад

avenue	<i>pras-pyekt</i>	проспект (просп.)
beach	<i>plyazh</i>	пляж
bridge	<i>most</i>	мост
boulevard	<i>bul'-var</i>	бульвар
castle	<i>za-mak</i>	замок
cathedral	<i>sa-bar</i>	собор
church	<i>tsyer-kof</i>	церковь
highway	<i>sha-sye</i>	шоссе
island	<i>ost-raf</i>	остров
lake	<i>o-ze-ra</i>	озеро
lane	<i>pe-re-u-lak</i>	переулок (пер.)
market	<i>ri-nak</i>	рынок
museum	<i>mu-zzey</i>	музей
palace	<i>dvar-yets</i>	дворец
ruins	<i>raz-va-li-ni</i>	развалины
sea	<i>mo-re</i>	море
square/plaza	<i>plo-shchat'</i>	площадь (пл.)
street	<i>u-li-tsa</i>	улица (ул.)
theatre	<i>te-atr</i>	театр
tower	<i>bash-nya</i>	башня

HEALTH

I'm ill. <i>ya bo-len/bal'-na</i> (m/f)	Я болен/больна.
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I need a doctor. <i>mnye nu-zhen vrach</i>	Мне нужен врач.
It hurts here. <i>zdyes' ba-lit</i>	Здесь болит.

Where's the nearest ...?

<i>gdye bli-zhay-sha-ya ...?</i>	Где ближайшая ...
chemist (night) <i>ap-tye-ka (nach-na-ya)</i>	аптека (ночная)
dentist <i>zub-noy vrach</i>	зубной врач
doctor <i>vrach</i>	врач
hospital <i>bal'-ni-tsa</i>	больница

I need a doctor (who speaks English).

<i>mnye nu-zhen vrach (an-gla-ga-va-ryash-chi)</i>	Мне нужен врач (англоговорящий).
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I have (a) ...

<i>u me-nya ...</i>	У меня ...
diarrhoea <i>pa-nos</i>	понос
fever <i>tem-pe-ra-tu-ra</i>	температура
headache <i>ga-la-vna-ya bol'</i>	головная боль
pain <i>bol'</i>	боль
stomachache <i>ba-lit zhe-lu-dak</i>	болит желудок

I'm allergic to ...

<i>u men-ya a-ler-gi-ya na ...</i>	У меня аллергия на...
antibiotics <i>an-ti-bi-o-ti-ki</i>	антибиотики
aspirin <i>a-spi-rin</i>	аспирин
penicillin <i>pe-ni-tsi-lin</i>	пеницилин
bees <i>pche-li-ni u-kus</i>	пчелиный укус
nuts <i>ar-ye-khi</i>	орехи
peanuts <i>a-ra-khi-si</i>	арахисы

antiseptic <i>an-ti-syep-tik</i>	антисептик
condom <i>pre-zer-va-tif</i>	презерватив

contraceptives <i>pra-ti-va za-cha-tach-ni-e sryets-tva</i>	противо-зачаточные средства
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BELARUSIAN

Russian is by far the most dominant language in Belarus. No matter how noble it may be of you to try a little Belarusian, be aware you're more likely than not to be greeted with consternation and confusion – it's far less problematic to use Russian.

Belarusian belongs to the Eastern Slavonic branch of Indo-European, closely related to both Russian and Ukrainian, though its written form shares with Ukrainian only its ancestor in the now extinct language called Ruthenian. It began to differ from Old Russian (also called Church Slavonic) in the Middle Ages. It's normally written with the Cyrillic alphabet, but there does exist a written form using accented Latin characters. This latter is dubbed Lacinka, and it is different than transliterated Belarusian. While Russian and present-day Belarusian are very close, there are significant differences in pronunciation and spelling, and some case endings and many words are completely different; a Russian-speaker would at best understand 60% of spoken Belarusian heard for the first time.

Belarusian, like Ukrainian (but not Russian), has the letter *i*, pronounced *ee*. It also has the unique letter *ŷ*, pronounced like 'w' in the word 'west'. Transliteration is also different, with *ŷ* transcribed as *j*, *ю* as *ju*, *я* as *ja* and *ѣ* as *io*. **Г** is pronounced and transcribed *h*. The Russian letter **о** is often written as **a** in Belarusian – making, for example, Komsomolskaya into Kamsamolskaja, which looks closer to its pronunciation in any case. The Russian Gogolya becomes Hoholja in Belarusian.

You'll see an apostrophe used in written Belarusian to separate a consonant from the syllable that follows it.

Hello.	<i>do-bree dzhen</i>	Добры дзень.
Goodbye.	<i>da pa-ba-chen-nyu</i>	Да пабачэньня.
Yes.	<i>tak</i>	Так.
No.	<i>nye</i>	Не.
Please.	<i>ka-lee las-ka</i>	Калі ласка.
Thank you.	<i>dzya-koo-uee</i>	Дзякуй.
good	<i>dob-ree</i>	добры
bad	<i>dren-nee</i>	дрэнны

Saturday	<i>su-bo-ta</i>	субота
Sunday	<i>nyad-ze-lyu</i>	нядзеля
Belarus	<i>be-la-roos</i>	Беларусь
Entrance	<i>u-va-khod</i>	Уваход
Exit	<i>vy-khad</i>	Выход
Information	<i>da-ved-ka</i>	Даведка
Left Luggage Room	<i>ka-mera za-khau-vannya ba-ha-zha</i>	Камера Захоўвання Багажа

Belarusian on Signs & Timetables

Monday	<i>pan-ya-dzel-ak</i>	панядзелак
Tuesday	<i>aut-o-rak</i>	аўторак
Wednesday	<i>se-ra-da</i>	серада
Thursday	<i>chats-ver</i>	чацвер
Friday	<i>pyat-ni-tsa</i>	пятніца

on even days	<i>pa tsot-nykh</i>	па цотных
on odd days	<i>pa nya-tsot-nykh</i>	па няцотных
daily	<i>shtod-zyo-nna</i>	штодзюнна
departure	<i>ad-prau-len-nje</i>	адпраўленне
arrival	<i>pry-by-tsjje</i>	прыбыцце

nausea	<i>tash-na-ta</i>	тошнота
sunblock cream	<i>soln-tse-zash-chit-ni kryem</i>	солнцезащитный крем
tampon	<i>tam-pon</i>	тампон

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?

vi ga-va-ri-te pa an-gli-ski
Вы говорите по-английски?

Does anyone (here) speak English?

kto-ni-bud' ga-va-riit pa-an-gli-ski
Кто-нибудь говорит по-английски?

I don't speak Russian.

ya nye ga-va-ryu pa rus-ki
Я не говорю по-русски.

I understand.

ya pa-ni-ma-yu
Я понимаю.

I don't understand.

ya nye pa-ni-ma-yu
Я не понимаю.

What does 'nyn' mean?

shto a-baz-na-cha-et slo-va pup
Что обозначает слово 'пуп'?

How do you say ... in Russian?

kak bu-det ... pa-ru-ski
Как будет ... по-русски?

Could you write it down, please?

za-pi-shi-te pa-zhal-sta
Запишите, пожалуйста?

Can you show me (on the map)?

pa-ka-zhi-te mnye pa-zhal-sta (na kar-te)
Покажите мне, пожалуйста (на карте).

NUMBERS

How much/many?

<i>skol'-ka</i>	Сколько?
1	<i>a-din</i> один
2	<i>dva</i> два
3	<i>tri</i> три
4	<i>che-ti-re</i> четыре
5	<i>pyat'</i> пять
6	<i>shyest'</i> шесть
7	<i>syem'</i> семь
8	<i>vo-sem'</i> восемь
9	<i>dye-vyat'</i> девять
10	<i>dye-syat'</i> десять
11	<i>a-di-na-tsot'</i> одиннадцать
12	<i>dve-na-tsot'</i> двенадцать
13	<i>tri-na-tsot'</i> тринадцать
14	<i>che-tir-na-tsot'</i> четырнадцать
15	<i>pyat-na-tsot'</i> пятнадцать
16	<i>shest-na-tsot'</i> шестнадцать
17	<i>sem-na-tsot'</i> семнадцать
18	<i>va-sem-na-tsot'</i> восемнадцать
19	<i>de-vyat-na-tsot'</i> девятнадцать
20	<i>dva-tsot'</i> двадцать
21	<i>dva-tsot' a-din</i> двадцать один
22	<i>dva-tsot' dva</i> двадцать два
30	<i>tri-tsot'</i> тридцать
40	<i>so-rak</i> сорок
50	<i>pyat'-des-yat</i> пятьдесят
60	<i>shihs-des-yat</i> шестьдесят
70	<i>syem'-des-yat</i> семьдесят
80	<i>vo-sem'-des-yat</i> восемьдесят
90	<i>de-vya-no-sta</i> девяносто
100	<i>sto</i> сто
1000	<i>ti-sya-cha</i> тысяча
1,000,000	<i>(a-din) mi-li-on</i> (один) миллион

PAPERWORK

name	<i>ri-nak</i>	рынок
nationality	<i>na-tsi-a-nal'-nast'</i>	национальность
date of birth	<i>da-ta razh-dye-ni-ya</i>	дата рождения
place of birth	<i>mye-sta razh-dye-ni-ya</i>	место рождения
passport	<i>pas-part</i>	паспорт
visa	<i>vi-za</i>	виза

QUESTION WORDS

Who?	<i>kto</i>	кто
What?	<i>shto</i>	что
When?	<i>kag-da</i>	когда

Where?	<i>gdye</i>	где
Which?	<i>ka-koy</i>	какой
Why?	<i>pa-che-mu</i>	почему
How?	<i>kak</i>	как

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I need ...	<i>mnye nuzh-na ...</i>	Мне нужно ...
Do you have ...?	<i>u vas yest' ...</i>	У вас есть ...?
How much is it?	<i>skol'-ka sto-it</i>	Сколько стоит?
Can I look at it?	<i>pa-ka-zhi-te pa-zhal-sta</i>	Покажите, пожалуйста.
I'm just looking.	<i>ya pros-ta smat-ryu</i>	Я просто смотрю.
Do you have any others?	<i>u vas yest' dru-gi-e</i>	У вас есть другие?
That's too expensive.	<i>e-ta o-chen' do-ra-ga</i>	Это очень дорого.
I'll take it.	<i>vaz'-mu</i>	Возьму.

Do you accept ...?

vi pri-ni-ma-e-te a-pla-tu ...
Вы принимаете оплату ...?

credit cards

kre-dit-nay kar-tach-kay кредитной карточкой

travellers cheques

da-razh-nim chye-kam дорожным чеком

good

kha-ra-sho хорошо

bad

plo-kha плохо

more/bigger

bol'she больше

less/smaller

myen'she меньше

bookshop

knizh-ni ma-ga-zin книжный магазин

department store

u-ni-ver-sal'-ni ma-ga-zin универсальный магазин

market

ri-nak рынок

newsstand

ga-zet-ni ki-ost газетный киоск

pharmacy

ap-tye-ka аптека

bank

bank банк

currency exchange

ab-myen va-lyu-ti обмен валюты

money		
<i>dyen'gi</i>	деньги	
small change		
<i>raz-myen</i>	размен	
travellers cheques		
<i>da-rozh-ni-e chy-e-ki</i>	дорожные чеки	

post office		
<i>poch-ta</i>	почта	
postcard		
<i>at-krit-ka</i>	открытка	
stamp		
<i>mar-ka</i>	марка	
telephone		
<i>te-le-fon</i>	телефон	
fax		
<i>fax/te-le-fax</i>	факс/телефакс	
telephone office		
<i>te-le-fon-ni punkt</i>	телефонный пункт	

TIME & DATES

What time is it?		
<i>ka-to-ri chas</i>	Который час?	
It's (ten) o'clock.		
<i>(dye-syat') chi-sof</i>	(Десять) часов.	
At what time?		
<i>f ka-to-ram chi-su</i>	В котором часу?	
At (ten).		
<i>v (dye-syat') chi-sof</i>	В (десять) часов.	

hour		
<i>chas</i>	час	
minute		
<i>mi-nu-ta</i>	минута	
am/in the morning		
<i>u-tra</i>	утра	
pm/in the afternoon		
<i>dnya</i>	дня	
in the evening		
<i>vye-che-ra</i>	вечера	
local time		
<i>myes-na-e vrye-myua</i>	местное время	
Moscow time		
<i>mas-kov-ska-e vrye-myua</i>	московское время	

When?	<i>kag-da</i>	когда
today	<i>se-vod-nuya</i>	сегодня
tomorrow	<i>zaf-t-ra</i>	завтра
yesterday	<i>vche-ra</i>	вчера

Dates are given day-month-year, with the month usually in Roman numerals. Days of the week are often represented by numbers in timetables (Monday is 1).

Monday	<i>pa-ne-dyel'-nik</i>	понедельник
Tuesday	<i>ftor-nik</i>	вторник
Wednesday	<i>sre-da</i>	среда
Thursday	<i>chet-vyerk</i>	четверг
Friday	<i>pyat-ni-tsa</i>	пятница
Saturday	<i>su-bo-ta</i>	суббота
Sunday	<i>vas-kre-syen'-e</i>	воскресенье

January	<i>yan-var'</i>	январь
February	<i>fev-ral'</i>	февраль
March	<i>mart</i>	март
April	<i>ap-ryel'</i>	апрель
May	<i>may</i>	май
June	<i>i-yun'</i>	июнь
July	<i>i-yul'</i>	июль
August	<i>av-gust</i>	август
September	<i>sen-tyabr'</i>	сентябрь
October	<i>ok-tyabr'</i>	октябрь
November	<i>na-yabr'</i>	ноябрь
December	<i>de-kabr'</i>	декабрь

TRANSPORT

Public Transport

When does it leave?

kag-da at-prav-lya-et-sya
Когда отправляется?

How long does it take to get to (Volgograd)?

skol'-ka vrye-me-ni nuzh-na ye-khat' da (vol-ga-gra-da)
Сколько времени нужно ехать до (Волгограда)?

How long will it be delayed?

na skol'-ka on a-paz-di-va-et
На сколько он опаздывает?

A ... ticket (to Novgorod).

bil-yet ... (na nov-ga-rat) Билет ... (на Новгород).

1st-class		
<i>f pyer-vam kla-se</i>	в первом классе	
2nd-class		
<i>va fta-rom kla-se</i>	во втором классе	
one-way		
<i>v a-din kan-yets</i>	в один конец	
return		
<i>v o-ba kan-tsa</i>	в оба конца	

bus	<i>af-to-bus</i>	автобус
taxi	<i>tak-si</i>	такси
train	<i>poy-ezt</i>	поезд
tram	<i>tram-vay</i>	трамвай
trolleybus	<i>tra-lyey-bus</i>	троллейбус

cancelled	<i>at-me-ni-li</i>	отменили
delayed	<i>a-paz-di-va-et</i>	опаздывает

ROAD SIGNS

Берегись (Трамвая)!	Watch For (Trams)!
Внимание	Caution
Уступил Дорогу	Give Way
Опасно	Danger
Стоянка Запрещена	No Parking
Объезд	Detour
Впереди Ведутся Работы	Roadworks In Progress
Въезд	Entry
Проезд Запрещен	No Entry
Стоп	Stop
Одностороннее Движение	One Way
Выезд	Exit

first		
<i>pyer-vi</i>	первый	
last		
<i>pas-lyed-ni</i>	последний	
map		
<i>kar-ta</i>	карта	
metro token, tokens		
<i>zhe-ton, zhe-to-ni</i>	жетон, жетоны	
platform		
<i>plat-for-ma</i>	платформа	
railway station		
<i>zhe-lez-na-da-rozh-ni vag-zal</i>	железнодорожный (ж. д.) вокзал	
stop (bus, tram etc)		
<i>a-sta-nof-ka</i>	остановка	
ticket, tickets		
<i>bi-lyet, bi-lye-ti</i>	билет, билеты	
ticket office		
<i>bi-lyet-na-ya ka-sa</i>	билетная касса	
timetable		
<i>ras-pi-sa-ni-e</i>	расписание	
transport map		
<i>skhye-ma trans-par-ta</i>	схема транспорта	

Private Transport

I'd like to hire a ...

ya bi kha-tyel'/kha-tye-la vzyat' ... na pra-kat (m/f)
Я бы хотел/хотела взять ... на прокат.

car		
<i>ma-shi-nu</i>	машину	
4WD		
<i>ma-shi-nu s pol-nim pri-vo-dam</i>	машину с полным приводом	
bicycle		
<i>ve-la-si-pyet</i>	велосипед	
motorbike		
<i>ma-ta-tsikl</i>	мотоцикл	

Is this the road to (Kursk)?

e-ta da-ro-ga ved-yot f (kursk)
Эта дорога ведёт в (Курск)?

Where's a petrol station?

gdye za-praf-ka
Где заправка?

Please fill it up.

za-pol-ni-te bak pa-zhal-sta
Заполните бак, пожалуйста.

I'd like (15) litres.

(pyat-na-tsat') li-traf pa-zhal-sta
(Пятнадцать) литров, пожалуйста.

diesel

di-zel'-na-e to-pli-va
дизельное топливо

regular

ben-zin no-mer tri de-vya-no-sta
бензин номер 93

unleaded

a-chish-che-ni ben-zin
очищенный бензин

(How long) Can I park here?

(skol'-ka) zdyes' mozh-na sta-yat'
(Сколько) Здесь можно стоять?

Do I have to pay?

nuzh-na pla-tit'
Нужно платить?

I need a mechanic.

mnye nu-zhen af-ta-me-kha-nik
Мне нужен автомеханик.

The car/motorcycle has broken down (at Kursk).

ma-shi-na sla-ma-las'/ma-ta-tsikl sla-mal-sya v (kur-ske)
Машина сломалась/Мотоцикл сломался в (Курске).

The car/motorbike won't start.

ma-shi-na/ma-ta-tsikl nye za-vo-dits-ya
Машина/Мотоцикл не заводится.

I have a flat tyre.

u men-ya lop-nu-la shi-na
У меня лопнула шина.

I've run out of petrol.

u men-ya kon-chil-sya ben-zin
У меня кончился бензин.

I've had an accident.

ya pa-ter-pyell/pa-ter-pye-la a-va-ri-ryu (m/f)
Я потерпел/потерпела аварию.

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN

Do you mind if I breast-feed here?

mozh-na zdyes' pa-kar-mit' reb-yon-ka grud'-yu
Можно здесь покормить ребёнка грудью?

Are children allowed?

dyet-yam fkhot raz-re-shon
Детям вход разрешён?

I need a/an ...

ya kha-chu ... Я хочу ...

baby seat

dyet-ska-e sid-yen'-e

детское сиденье

disposable nappies/diapers

ad-na-ra-zav-ni-e pel-yon-ki

одноразовые пелёнки

(English-speaking) babysitter

nyan-yu ga-var-yash-chu-yu (pa-an-gli-ski)

няню, говорящую(по-английски)

highchair

dyet-ski stul'-chik

детский стульчик

potty

gar-shok

горшок

stroller

dyet-sku-yu kal-yas-ku

детскую коляску

Is there a/an ...?

yest' ... Есть ...?

baby change room

kom-na-ta a-ba-ru-da-va-na-ya dlya u-kho-da za

mlad-yen-tsa-mi

комната, оборудованная для ухода за

младенцами

child-minding service

sluzh-ba pa pris-mo-tru za det'-mi

служба по присмотру за детьми

children's menu

dyet-ska-e men-yu

детское меню



Also available from Lonely Planet:
Russian Phrasebook

Glossary

You may encounter some of the following terms and abbreviations during your travels in Russia and Belarus. See also the Language chapter (p752).

aeroport – airport
aerovokzal – airline terminal
ail – hexagonal or tepee-shaped yurt
apteka – pharmacy
arzhaan – Tuvan sacred spring
ataman – Cossack leader
aviakassa – air-ticket office
avtobus – bus
avtomat – automatic ticket machine
avtostantsiya – bus stop
avtovokzal – bus terminal

babushka – literally, ‘grandmother’, but used generally in Russian society for all old women
BAM (Baikalo-Amurskaya Magistral) – Baikal-Amur Mainline, a trans-Siberian rail route
bankomat – automated teller machine (ATM)
banya – bathhouse
bashnya – tower
baza otdykha – literally, ‘relaxation base’; often used to describe lodges and sanatoriums
benzin – petrol
biblioteka – library
bilet – ticket
biznesmen, biznesmenka – literally, ‘businessman’, ‘businesswoman’; often used to mean a small-time operator on the fringe of the law
bolnitsa – hospital
boyar – high-ranking noble
bufet – snack bar selling cheap cold meats, boiled eggs, salads, bread, pastries etc
bulochnaya – bakery
bulvar – boulevard
buterbrod – open sandwich
byliny – epic songs

chum – tepee-shaped tent made of birch bark
CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States; *Sodruzhestvo Nezavisimykh Gosudarstv* (SNG); an alliance (proclaimed in 1991) of independent states comprising the former USSR republics (less the three Baltic States)

dacha – country cottage, summer house
datsan – Buddhist monastery
deklaratsia – customs declaration

detsky – child’s, children’s
Detsky Mir – Children’s World, name for many toy shops
devushki – young women
dezhurnaya – woman looking after a particular floor of a hotel
dolina – valley
dom – house
dorogoy – expensive
duma – parliament
dvorets – palace
dvorets kulury – literally, ‘culture palace’; a meeting, social, entertainment, education centre, usually for a group such as railway workers, children etc

elektrichka – suburban train
etazh – floor (storey)

finift – luminous enamelled metal miniatures
firmeny poezda – trains with names (eg *Rossiya*); these are generally nicer trains

GAI (Gosudarstvennaya Avtomobilnaya Inspektsia) – State Automobile Inspectorate (traffic police)
gallereya – gallery
gastronom – speciality food shop
gavan – harbour
gazeta – newspaper
glasnost – literally, ‘openness’; the free-expression aspect of the Gorbachev reforms
glavpochtamt – main post office
gora – mountain
gorod – city, town
gostinitsa – hotel
gostiny dvor – trading arcade
granitsa – border
gril-bar – grill bar, often limited to roast chicken
Gulag (Glavnoe Upravlenie Lagerey) – Main Administration for Camps; the Soviet network of concentration camps
GUM (Gosudarstvenny Univermag) – State Department Store

i – and
ikra – caviar
imeni – ‘named after’ (often used in names of theatres and libraries, eg Moscow’s *Konsertny zal imeni Chaykovskogo* is the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall)
inostranets – foreigner
Intourist – old Soviet State Committee for Tourism, now privatised, split up and in competition with hundreds of other travel agencies

istochnik – mineral spring
izba – traditional, single-storey wooden cottage
izveshchenie – notice of permission (for visas)

kafe – café
kameny baba – standing stone idol
kamera khranenia – left-luggage office
kanal – canal
karta – map
kassa – ticket office, cashier's desk
kater – small ferry
Kazak – Cossack
kemping – camp site; often has small cabins as well as tent sites
KGB (Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti) – Committee of State Security
khleb – bread
khokhloma – red, black and gold lacquered pine bowls
khöömei – Tuvan throat-singing
khram – church
khuresh – Tuvan-style of wrestling
kino – cinema
kipyatok – boiled water
kladbishche – cemetery
kleshchi – ticks
klyuch – key
kniga – book
kokoshniki – colourful gables and tiles laid in patterns
kolkhoz – collective farm
kolonna – column, pillar
koltsevaya doroga – ring road
kombinat – complex of factories
komnaty otdykha – resting rooms found at all major train stations and several smaller ones
Komsomol – Communist Youth League
kopek – kopeck; the smallest, worthless unit of Russian currency
korpus – building (ie one of several in a complex)
kray – territory
krazha – theft
kremi – kremlin, a town's fortified stronghold
krugosutochno – around the clock
krugovoy – round trip
kulak – Stalinist name for a wealthier peasant
kupeyny, kupe – 2nd-class compartment on a train
kurgan – burial mound
kvartira – flat, apartment
kvitantsia – receipt

lavra – senior monastery
lednik – glacier
les – forest
lyux – a kind of hotel suite, with a sitting room in addition to bedroom and bathroom; a *polu-lyux* suite is the less spacious version

Mafia – anyone who has anything to do with crime, from genuine gangsters to victims of their protection rackets
magazin – shop
manezh – riding school
marka – postage stamp or brand, trademark
marshrut – route
marshrutka, marshrutnoe taxi – minibus that runs along a fixed route
mashina – car
matryoshka – set of painted wooden dolls within dolls
mavzoley – mausoleum
medovukha – honey ale
mestnoe vremya – local time
mesto – place, seat
mezhdugorodny – intercity
mezhdunarodny – international
militisia – police
mineralnaya voda – mineral water
monastyr – monastery
more – sea
morskoy vokzal – sea terminal
Moskovskoe vremya – Moscow time
most – bridge
muzey – museum; also some palaces, art galleries and nonworking churches
muzhskoy – men's (toilet)

naberezhnaya – embankment
nomenklatura – literally, 'list of nominees'; the old government and Communist Party elite
novy – new

obed – lunch
oblast – region
obmen valyuty – currency exchange
obmennyy punkt – exchange point (bureau, counter)
obshchiy – 4th class place on a train
obyavlenie – handwritten bulletin
okrug – district
ostanovka – bus stop
ostrog – fortress
ostrov – island
OVIR (Otdel Viz I Registratsii) – Department of Visas and Registration; now known under the acronym PVU, although outside Moscow OVIR is still likely to be in use
ozero – lake

palekh – enamelled wood boxes
pamyatnik – monument, statue
Paskha – Easter
passazhirsky poezd – intercity stopping train
perekhod – underground walkway
pereryv – break (when shops, ticket offices, restaurants etc close for an hour or two during the day; this always happens just as you arrive)

perestroika – literally, 'restructuring'; Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to revive the Soviet economy
pereulok – lane
peshchera – cave
pivo – beer
plan goroda – city map
platskartny, platskart – 3rd-class place on a train
ploshcha (Belarusian), ploshchad (Russian) – square
plotinka – little dam
plyazh – beach
pochta, pochтамt – post office
poezd – train
poliklinika – medical centre
polu-lyux – less spacious version of a *lyux*, a kind of hotel suite with a sitting room in addition to the bedroom and bathroom
poluostrov – peninsula
polyana – glade, clearing
posilka – parcel
posolstvo – embassy
prospekt (Belarusian), prospekt (Russian) – avenue
prichal – landing, pier
priglasenie – invitation
prigorodny poezd – suburban train
prigorodny zal – ticket hall
prodazha – sale
produkty – food store
proezd – passage
prokat – rental
propusk – permit, pass
prospekt (Russian), praspekt (Belarusian) – avenue
provodnik (m), provodnitsa (f) – carriage attendant on a train
PVU (Passportno-Vizovoye Upravleniye) – passport and visa department, formerly OVIR (an acronym which is still likely to be in use outside Moscow)

rabochy den – working day (Monday to Friday)
rayon – district
rechnoy vokzal – river station
reka – river
remont, na remont – closed for repairs (a sign you see all too often)
restoran – restaurant
Rozhdstvo – Christmas
rubl – rouble
ruchnoy – handmade
rynky – food markets
rynok – market

sad – garden
samolyot – aeroplane
sanitarny den – literally, 'sanitary day'; the monthly day when shops, museums, restaurants, hotel dining rooms etc shut down for cleaning

schyot – bill
schyotchnik – taxi meter
selo – village
sever – north
shlagbaum – checkpoint, barrier
shosse – highway
shtuka – piece (many produce items are sold by the piece)
skhema transporta – transport map
skory poezd – literally, 'fast train'; a long-distance train
sneg – snow
sobor – cathedral
Sodruzhestvo Nezavisimyykh Gosudarstv (SNG) – Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
soviet – council
spalny vagon – 1st class place on a train
spravka – certificate
spusk – descent, slope
Sputnik – former youth-travel arm of Komsomol; now just one of the bigger tourism agencies
stanitsa – Cossack village
stary – old
stolovaya – canteen, cafeteria
sutok – period of 24 hours
suvenir – souvenir

taiga – northern pine, fir, spruce and larch forest
taksofon – pay telephone
talon – bus ticket, coupon
tapochki – slippers
teatr – theatre
teatralnaya kassa – theatre ticket office
telegramma – telegram
thangka – Buddhist religious paintings
traktir – tavern
tramvay – tram
troyka – vehicle drawn by three horses
tserkov – church
tirk – circus
TsUM (Tsentralny Univermag) – name of department store
tualet – toilet
tuda i obratno – literally, 'there and back'; return ticket
turbaza – tourist camp

ulitsa (Russian), vulitsa (Belarusian) – street
univermag, universalny magazin – department store
ushcheliye – gorge, canyon
uzhin – supper

val – rampart
valyuta – foreign currency
vanna – bath
vareniki – dumplings with a variety of possible fillings
velosiped – bicycle
venik – birch branch

vezdekhod – all-terrain vehicle

vkhod – way in, entrance

voda – water

vodapad – waterfall

vodny vokzal – ferry terminal

vokzal – station

vorovstvo – theft

vostok – east

vrach – doctor

vulitsa (Belarusian), ulitsa (Russian) – street

vykhod – way out, exit

vykhodnoy den – day off (Saturday, Sunday and holidays)

yantar – amber

yezhdnevno – every day

yug – south

yurt – nomad's portable, round tent-house made of felt or skins stretched over a collapsible frame of wood slats

zakaz – reservation

zakaznoe – registration (of mail)

zakuski – appetisers

zal – hall, room

zaliv – gulf, bay

zamok – castle, fortress

zapad – west

zapovednik – (nature) reserve

zavtrak – breakfast

zheleznodorozhny vokzal – train station

zhenskiy – women's (toilet)

zheton – token (for metro etc)