

Subject: Fwd: trying to be helpful
 To: David Roskies <daroskies@JTSA.EDU>

Below is the tip sheet put together by the late Charles Liebman after his teaching stint last June.

Date: Mon, 02 Jun 2003 09:02:52 -0500
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Alla

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Date: Sat, 31 May 2003 23:10:01 -0700 (PDT)
 This tip sheet is actually very good. Please save it and send to future faculty. David

From: Charles Liebman <charlesliebman@yahoo.com>
 Subject: trying to be helpful
 To: dafishman@JTSA.EDU
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Dear David,

Here is a tip sheet which we prepared for future visitors. Distribute it according to your judgement.

Pirogi Book Shop
 Psoi (?)

Some Tips For the Project Judaica Visitor
 Carol and Charles Liebman (June 2003)

General

1. As of June first the weather was cold enough so that we needed raincoats (or its equivalent) over our sweaters. It was warmer a week ago but ...
2. Students are very sweet, at least some are very bright, and they do participate in class though not nearly as much as US students.
3. The TV in the dorm does not get CNN. A portable short wave radio gives you access to BBC and VOA.
4. We did not bring a lap top. If you bring your laptop there is an internet extension in the kitchen (dining room). For email and world news we found an internet cafe quite adequate. The university has an internet cafe but it only opens at ten a.m., the computers are

slow, and sometimes all ten computers are taken. Finally, it is closed on weekends and holidays. The internet cafe opposite the Novoslobedskaya Metro station (about four minute walk from the dorm) is open 24/7 and much faster with 200 stations.

Getting Around Moscow

1. Alla, the office manager of Project Judaica is very very helpful. She will take you on a brief tour of the neighborhood at your earliest convenience and will accompany you to concerts and drive you to other places of interest later on in your stay. There was, while we were here, a young woman, living on our floor and assigned to helping us. She was quite helpful.
2. You are located about six minutes away by foot from the Sheraton Palace hotel. The Hotel lobby has an excellent map of central Moscow and a Metro map.
3. Both the Sheraton Palace and the Marriot Tverskaya (also about six minutes walk) carry the Moscow Times which is available free Monday thru Friday.
4. If you don't know Cyrillic (Carol does, Charles does not) the Metro can seem very scary but after using it once it becomes very convenient. However, always go equipped with a map and count stations. The announcement before every station sound blurred to us and we could rarely make them out and stations are not labeled. Transferring from one line to another should be done with care but is really a lot easier than it might seem at first glance. Remember, all lines have numbers as well as colors.
5. The kitchen-dining room available for your exclusive use has a nice set of light reading and two Moscow Guides. The Rough Guide is easily the best guide we have seen anywhere for any city. The kitchen has the 1998 edition. If you can secure a later edition (we don't know if one is available) it is well worth the investment.

Food

1. Rita, the cook, prepares daily main meals which are quite adequate.
2. There is a supermarket around the corner from the dorm. It only opens at ten. It has most items needed for light meals and snacks. We found kosher wine (though we had bought our own grape juice), crackers like Finn Crisp which we knew were kosher, fruit and cold cereal which we know to be kosher.
3. About a two minute walk from the Marriot Treveskaya

is a larger 24/7 supermarket. Ask at the Marriot desk for instructions on getting there. It has a larger selection of almost everything plus a nice selection of toiletries. Soaps, deoderants, tooth paste etc are not only available but cheaper in Moscow than in Israel.

4. There are two kosher breads in Moscow. We did not use them. Anyone at the kosher stores can give you their names.

5. There are two stores for kosher products (cheese, deli, etc) in Moscow. One is run by the Habad Marina Roscha shule and the other by the Choral Synagogue. Ask at either shule for details.

6. The Marina Roscha shule-community center, also has a very nice dairy restaurant, very reasonably priced, and is about to open a meat restaurant as well.

Shules and Jewish Life

1. There are three shules in walking distance. The furthest is the Choral synagogue (about one hour to one hour fifteen minutes walk). They begin davening at nine. Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt may invite you for lunch. He and his wife Dara are very nice and Dara runs a good many Jewish activities. The Marina Roscha is the main Habad shule where Berel Lazar officiates. People are very friendly and the shlichim and local Habad functionaries are good sources of information about Jewish life as well as prepared to be guides to Habad institutions. They all speak Hebrew and/or English. It is about a 30-40 minute walk. The third shule (On Bolshoy Bronnaya street) is also Habad and we are told a messianic Habad shule though we saw no evidence of that. Their rabbi is quite a famous as a shochet and quite charismatic. It is the closest shule to the dorm and the easiest to access since all one does is walk down Treveskaya to Pushkinsky Square, turn right at the Mcdonald's and walk about five more minutes to the end of the street where one can not miss the shule which, as of this moment is building a huge extension. Habad shules begin at ten or after ten depending on how they feel.

6. Jewish life in Moscow is fascinating but you need a consultant to start you off. You can find one by striking up conversations at the Marina Roscha, or by asking Rabbi Goldschmidt. We were fortunate to meet the Jewish Agency shlichah in Moscow in charge of adult education and Hebrew Language courses. But Tehiya Tamari is returning to Israel at the end of next year. We don't know who her replacement will be. (At the risk

of sounding prejudiced, look for guides who are religious. The non-religious shlichim im Moscow are much less knowledgeable about Jewish life.)

Have a good stay. We are certain you will.

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<http://calendar.yahoo.com>