



*“ I have seen the King's majesties of England and the French King's pavilion, but none are like this. ”*

Captain Richard Chancellor, 1553

Richard Chancellor was the first Englishman to visit Russia, during the reign of Ivan the IV – better known as Ivan the Terrible. Ivan entertained his guests with lavish dinners on gold plates, and gave him presents of furs and jewellery. Chancellor went sightseeing and saw that Moscow was a much bigger city than London, yet he described it also as "a rude and barbarous kingdom."

*Today, Moscow still fascinates.*

Parts of that old Moscow still exist, most famously in Red Square itself, with the landmark St Basil's Cathedral. Then there is the very new oil-rich Moscow, of designer shops and men in black. The Bolshoi Theatre is closed for refurbishment until 2008, but you can still see the ballet, the opera and the orchestra perform on the new Small Stage of the Bolshoi and at the Kremlin Palace theatre.