The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Head for the Waters at VDNKh for Russia Day

By Felix White-Thomson

June 10, 2015



Muscovites now have even more ways to keep cool and relax this summer. Just in time for Russia Day, a new leisure facility will open at VDNKh. And don't forget about the new beach at Gorky Park.

A new sports and entertainment complex, named "Port at VDNKh," will open at the eponymous amusement park, Russian media reported. It will provide visitors with four swimming pools, an area with sun loungers, a jacuzzi, four volleyball courts, a mini-football field, a children's playground, a table tennis area, three bars, a restaurant and, to top it off, an illuminated dance floor. The facility also offers sports programs for visitors — both individual and group — including water polo, swimming, yoga and dance classes.

In further anticipation for the summer, a white sand beach has been built at Pioneer Ponds in Gorky Park. This project has been a long-cherished dream of the city authorities, said Alexander Kibovsky, the new head of the Department of Culture, and one that they finally decided to implement this year, city authorities said.

The new beaches come equipped with sun loungers, changing rooms and a playground. This area of Gorky Park comes with an illustrious past: Nearly a century ago the legendary author Anton Chekhov used to fish in these ponds, and during the winter, when the ponds were used as skating rinks, legendary singer Fyodor Chalyapin used to take to the ice.

The grand opening for the "Port at VDNKh" will take place Friday. Ticket prices start at 700 rubles. VDNKh. 119 Prospekt Mira. Metro VDNKh. Tel. 495-544-3400.

Gorky Park. 9 Ulitsa Krymsky Val. Metro Park Kultury, Oktyabrskaya. Tel. 495-995-0020.

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Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2015/06/10/head-for-the-waters-at-vdnkh-for-russia-day-a47305