

12. Gifts:

Tippling, while officially discouraged, is becoming more common. Foreign cigarettes, lighters, and Canadian motif lapel pins are very much appreciated. In terms of gifts for Soviet business hosts: hockey calendars, lapel pins, pens, ties, photo books about Canada and electronic calculators are always welcomed. Alcohol is rarely presented as a gift. An invitation to dinner or lunch at a good restaurant is often appreciated. Usually gifts are only presented at the conclusion of the final meeting.

13. Time:

Moscow time is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus three hours. Between 1 April and 30 September daylight saving time is observed. As a benchmark, Moscow time is eight hours in advance of Eastern Standard Time.

14. Language:

While Russian is the official language of the USSR some Soviets do have fluency in the two leading foreign languages, English and German (in that order). It is also advisable for you to at least familiarize yourself with the Russian cyrillic alphabet so that public signs can be sounded out and recognized phonetically. You should also have the name and address of your hotel written down in Russian to show to taxi drivers. Moscow is a large sprawling city and ample time should be budgeted to travel between appointments. Soviets are extremely punctual for meetings and a late arrival can affect the climate for business dealings.

15. Entertainment and Shopping:

For evening entertainment: ballet, opera, concert, puppet theatre, and circus tickets may be reserved well in advance through the hotel service bureau. For souvenirs, the largest Beriozka store in Moscow is located across the street from the Novodevichy Monastery, a ten minute taxi ride from the Canadian Embassy. In this two-story store furs, glassware, lacquered boxes, dolls, and amber jewelry are good buys. Shopping hours are Monday - Sunday 10:00 - 20:00 (19:00 on Mondays).