

Introduction

As the learners of the TTEP programme, we clearly understand the necessity of protecting national heritage for future generations. By saying “national heritage” we mean a system of cultural and historical values of the nation usually consisting of national history, traditions, literature, architecture, culture, way of life, etc.

National heritage usually determines the character of the nation, illustrates its history and, consequently, ways of development in future. There is a well-known proverb “that only the nation that remembers its past will have future”. That’s why national heritage should be kept for future generations.

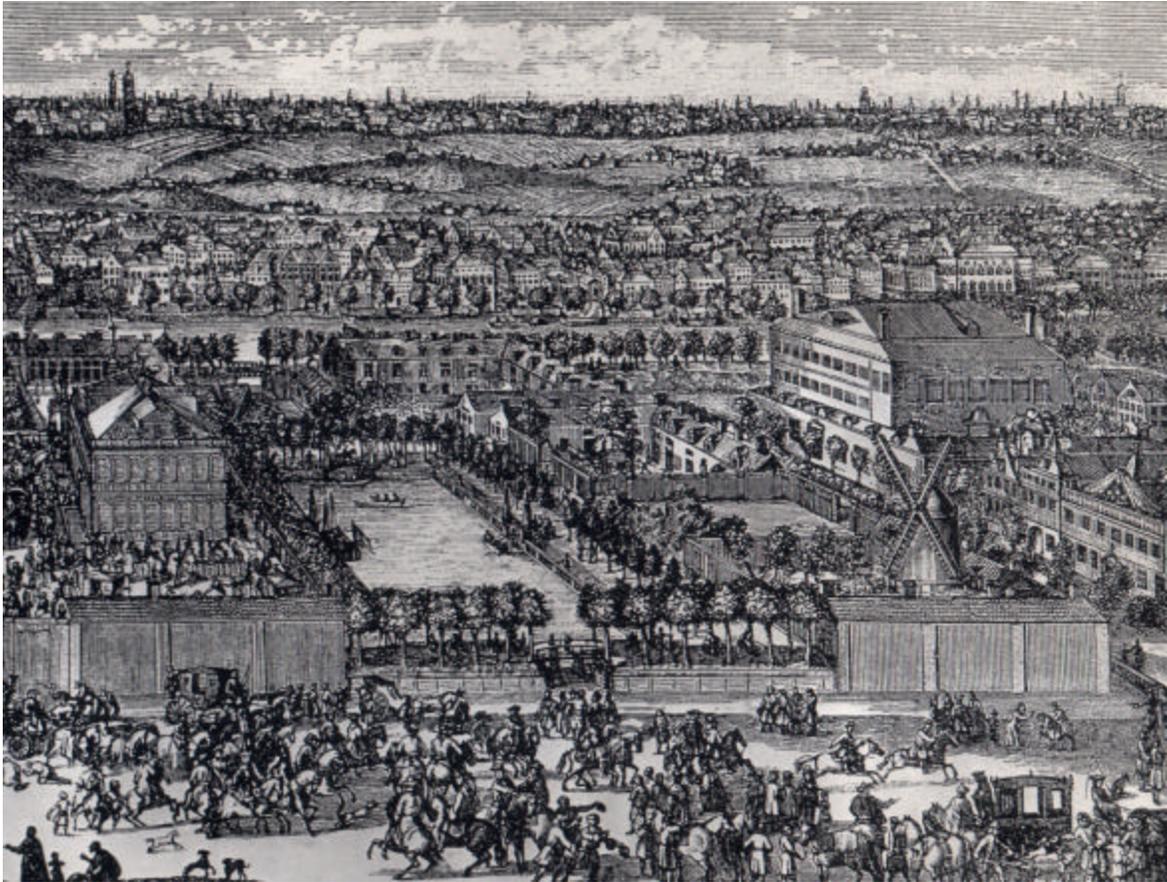
Speaking in terms of tourism, historical sites of the nation should be kept and taken care of in order to attract more visitors. In all countries with rich history, such as Russia, there are a lot of historical places worth visiting. We have chosen Lefortovo, a region in Moscow that reminds us of the time of the Emperor Peter the Great and his closest friend Franz Lefort. The site was selected on the basis of historical significance, viability, urgency for the need of intervention, and the presence of a responsible local community or authority to oversee conservation work and ongoing maintenance.

But not only these factors influenced our decision. This place is dear to our hearts because we live and study here, and we are really worried about the destiny of Lefortovo that combines history with unrepeated charm and beauty of the present.

For better understanding of the historical value of Lefortovo let’s briefly review its past.

History

The history of the capital area Lefortovo reflects the development of the country and the city like a mirror. The place near the river Yauza, from time immemorial, has attracted the attention of Muscovites as a place for walking and hunting. In the sixteenth century, after the law was passed to evict foreigners to the boundaries of the city on insistence of the Orthodox Church, the German, or Foreign Settlement – Kukuy, as it was called ironically, began this region. Dutch, German, English, Polish and other foreigners were living there in houses built in European style. The inhabitants wore European clothes and followed a European style of life. Among them were many merchants and adventurers. They were mostly educated people, who knew the sciences and demonstrated fine etiquette. The German Settlement became a centre of interaction – a Russian style of life with a European world outlook.



Lefortovo. The German Settlement.

Young Peter, the future emperor of Russia, arrived there by chance and was charmed by the place and its people. Here he found his first teachers of shipbuilding, mathematics, languages and etiquette. He learned political news and planned the future reorganisation of the country in “Western style”. It is the place where he found real friendship that helped him to start the great changes in Russia and supported him in his plans. It is also the place where he found love - a common German girl, Anna Mons, the daughter of a merchant who won his heart and, who knows, probably, thanks to her it was this place that attracted Peter, the future emperor of Russia, so much.

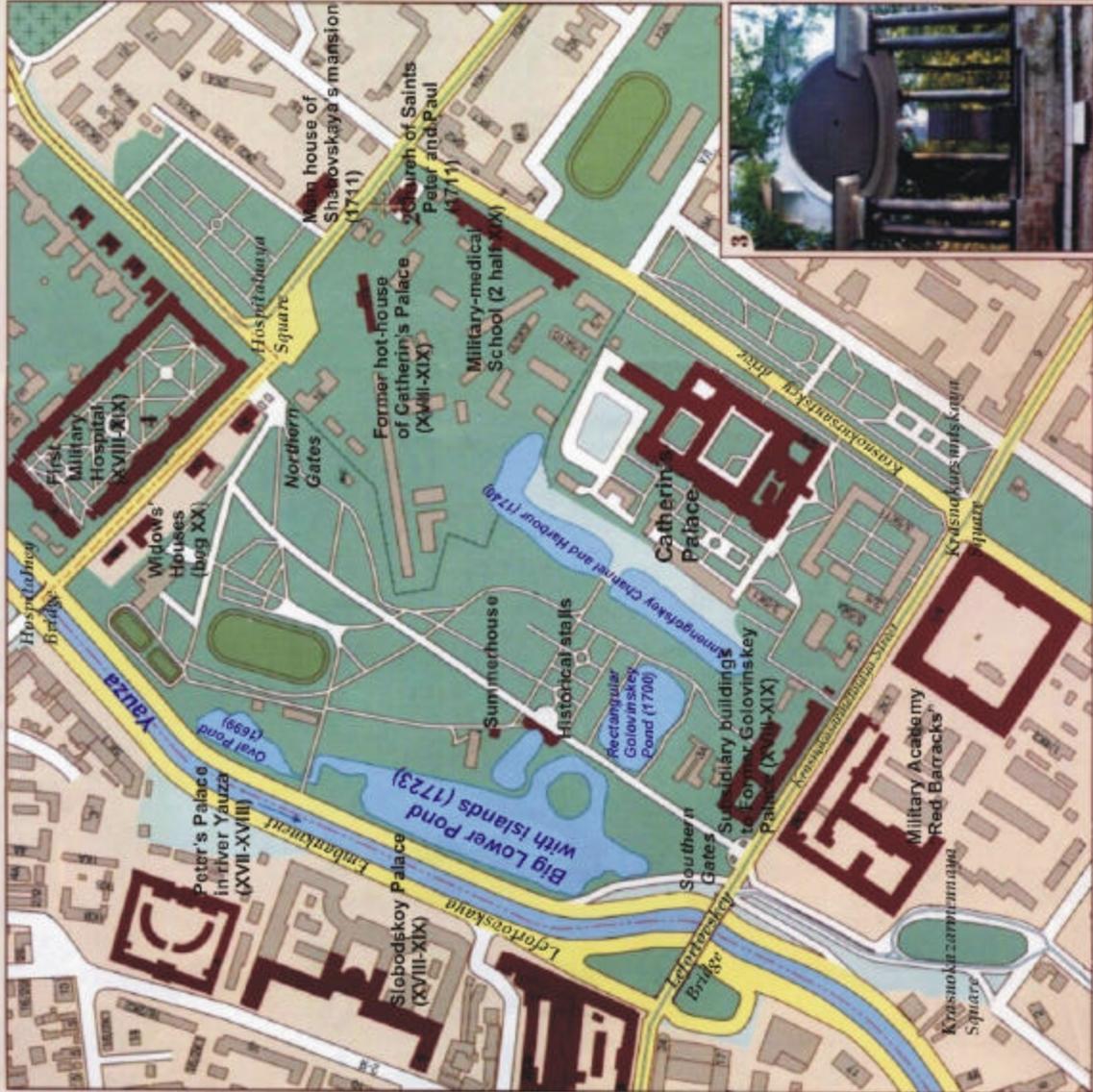


A bit later, with the coronation of the new emperor Peter the Great on the Russian throne, active building on the shores of the river Yauza began and resulted in a special style of architecture, greatly influenced by “Western Culture“. The view of uninterrupted parks and majestic palaces was created along the river. As it became a fashionable place to live, not only foreigners lived there, but many Russian nobles built their palaces there also. Later, Kukuy was renamed Lefortovo, after Franz Lefort, a close friend of Peter the Great, a great Swiss from Geneva, whose contemporaries called him the “First Gallant”, brave in battles, a merry interlocutor and an excellent organiser of different entertainment. Peter the Great liked him

very much and hence the place was named after him.

This is just a brief story of how Lefortovo appeared. Later, other Russian emperors and empresses continued to develop the area as one of the royal Residences

S E F O R T O W O



This is now reflected in numerous buildings and monuments that are very important to us as they are part of our national heritage. We are going to tell you in brief about each one. Probably, the most famous being Lefortovsky park.

Lefortovsky Park

The park was originally created in admiration of the brilliant admiral Franz Lefort by Peter the Great who also built him a magnificent palace “Lefortovsky”. It was richly decorated with large ornaments made of white marble. Later the palace was partly destroyed and near it another palace was built which had its own park built in “Dutch style”, the territory of which later became part of Lefortovsky Park. The park occupied a large territory and represented a complex of beautiful fountains and picturesque ponds, which were supplied with water from the local river, elegant summerhouses, covered with shadows from the trees, grottos, hidden in the most unexpected places, and a vast amount of different bridges, channels, waterfalls and dams.



The park became very popular with nobility and Peter’s friends as a place for walking, festivals with fireworks, boating and sailing. Peter the Great, who had already started the new Russian capital St.Petersburg, had a special feeling for

this place and dreamed to connect it to St. Petersburg by water. Later, the park was extended. It was such a fascinating place, that everyone who visited it admired it very much. Unfortunately, this grove was destroyed during the hurricane in 1904. In 1913 the territory of the grove was bought by the city government and part of this area was later used for building residential houses.

Now Lefortovsky Park is part of the whole cultural-historical complex called Lefortovo. Here we can see some ponds and grottos which remain from Peter's time. There is still a small summerhouse in the park, the monument to the place where, as rumour says, the emperor Peter the Great rested. Inside it there is a bronze bust to Peter with his own words on its tombstone "I hope once to go by water from Petersburg to Moscow and land in this park." Over time the territory of the park has become less, but some territory along the river Yauza remains and attracts people for the beauty of shadowy alleys, lakes, ponds and the quiet atmosphere.



Lefortovsky Park is a favourite place for rest. It is visited throughout the year by Muscovites, mainly families. Every season has a special charm to it. Especially popular on public holidays as there is a lot of entertainment: concerts of folk singers and dancers, different competitions for all groups with good prizes, and theatrical shows. Every year on public holidays there are performances in which professional actors playing the roles of Lefort and Peter the Great take part in the celebrations. Needless to say, people are very fond of such performances. However, these events could attract more people, but the

park is not easily accessible. Public transport is limited and therefore people have to rely on their own transportation. As Lefortovo is an old district, most streets are old and narrow and traffic volume is often more than the streets can cope with. Car parking is limited, which creates further discomfort for visitors.

There are also few places for eating in this area. Those that exist are not popular as they are rather expensive and the food is not good. Gaining information about the Park either before or when visiting is difficult, as there are no regular organized excursions or information centres that can help people learn more.



Some monuments and historical sites are not very attractive to visitors as they need conservation work and protection - measures which are difficult to take due to the fact that the necessary money should be taken from the Lefortovo budget which is limited and not able to meet the requested amount.

Moscow as a city of 12 million people has an increasing problem of traffic congestion. The Government in trying to find a way to solve this problem decided not long ago to build a tunnel under the park which would form part of the third transport ring around Moscow. Despite the Government planning to build the tunnel 40 metres underground, to save the lakes, park and alleys, it was still argued that this tunnel would endanger the park, the historical sculptures and monuments within it as it would be necessary to dig up the park in the construction process.

The residents of Lefortovo were strictly against the main road going into the park's territory, so the government rejected the tunnel project, but did not give up the idea of the 3rd transport ring as it is very important for the city. Therefore it is urgent to find a better solution and to preserve the park.

Historical Buildings and Monuments

In addition to the park, there are some buildings and monuments which comprise the cultural and historical complex of Lefortovo.

One of them is Catherine's palace. By order of Empress Catherine the Great in 1773 in Lefortovo the building of the Royal palace began. The famous Russian architects of that time designed the schemes of the future royal residence with the assistance of Catherine herself. In front of the palace it was decided to create a large square for parades. The building of the palace continued for 25 years. It was over in the year of the empress's death in 1796. It became one of the largest buildings in Moscow with its length about 200 meters and volume 400 000 cubic meters and is an excellent monument of Russian Classicism of the 18th century.

After Catherine's death her son broke with the ruling traditions of his mother and the new luxurious palace was used for other purposes.



It was here that the new military regiment was settled. Since that time, the military have been the hosts of the palace.

In addition to the palace several other buildings were built on the left bank of the river Yauza. At first they were planned as subsidiary buildings but Emperor Paul I, Catherine's son, transformed them into barracks for one of Moscow divisions. Since that time they have been called the "Red Barracks" because of the red stone used to build them.

Near the palace a bridge over the river Yauza was built. It was the first stone bridge in Moscow and significant because it connected the right and the left banks of the river Yauza. As the bridge was built the region of Lefortovo started to develop rapidly, and it became the Palace Bridge, which is now Lefortovsky Bridge.



Many nobles preferred to live on the right bank of the river. So they needed a convenient approach to their houses, and Palace Bridge, as it was called at that time, became this approach. It was also important because Lefortovo in those days became the real residence of Russian Tzars.

In Lefortovo a medical centre was also created, bringing additional significance to the area. On the 25th of May in 1706 Peter the Great published a decree in which he ordered a hospital on the bank of the river Yauza to be built. The purpose of the medical centre was to treat sick people with different diseases.

A Dutch doctor Nickolas Beedlow was invited to build and run the hospital. Dr. Beedlow had been the personal doctor to Peter the Great, but as the Russian tsar was a healthy man and didn't need medical help, Dr. Beedlow didn't have much

work, so he gladly accepted the offer and in 1707 buildings of the hospital made of wood were opened. The hospital was very popular among the common people.



One night in April 1721 the wooden hospital burned down and Beedlow immediately started interceding to construct the new hospital in stone. It required a large sum of money. Peter's resolution was decisive and short: "Give and build." Nicolas Beedlow directed the hospital for the rest of his life.

The hospital building is one of the most famous architectural works of classicism in Moscow. The new hospital was built with the help of architect Egotov. Egotov tried not to spend too much money, even though he used modern engineering techniques and that was his undoubted merit. With the course of time the hospital expanded and gained more significance.



Not far from the hospital were built the “Widows’ houses”, 2-3 storey buildings where invalids and wives of the perished soldiers lived. Hence the name - “Widows’ houses”.



Not only were the “Widows’ houses” used for taking care of people in need, there was also a charity institution that gathered them into a community called “Make my sorrows sweet” under Duchess Shahovskaya, who helped poor, homeless people. The duchess called others to follow her example, to make the life of the miserable better, to give them food, home, clothes and love.

In 1875 an additional hospital was built on the bank of the local river but this time it was for the local community. It had 3 floors where the ill and poor were taken care of. There were more than 100 beds, and in the hospital you could find different branches of medicine. In 1883 in memory of the assassinated Emperor Alexander II, who abolished serfdom and was greatly loved by common people, on the 1st floor of the hospital a small church was sanctified.

The community continued expanding, as it grew in popularity another hospital was built as a home for the poor. The last Russian Empress Alexandra, who gave a lot for charity, helped build it.



More or less at the same time Duchess Shahovskaya gathered enough money to build a new cathedral and at the end of the XIX century it was completed. Moreover, at the beginning of the XX century the first steps to build a stone

cathedral and a bell-hall were taken. After duchess Shahovskaya's death one of the streets in Lefortovo was named after her.

Not far from Shahovskaya street between the trees we can see the five-dome church of Saints Peter and Paul. This church also holds the memory of Peter the Great and Lefort as it was built in 1711 by the order of Peter the Great and is called Lefortovsky temple. The church was seriously damaged by fire in late 1737. However it was repaired without changing anything. During the reign of Catherine the Great a stone church was built and sanctified in 1771. It was sanctified for the second time on April the 30th in 1831 after the victory over the French army.

Lefortovsky temple is also called Peter-and-Paul temple. This tradition can be explained in two ways: firstly, it's an Old Russian custom to call Orthodox temples after saint apostles Peter and Paul, and secondly, Lefortovo regiment united the name of their emperor Peter the Great with the name of their regiment temple. The result was a new name – the Peter-and-Paul Temple. The church represents a fine building with five domes. The biggest bell was produced in 1820 and weighs nearly 5 tons. The height of the temple including the bell tower and crosses is 40m. The church has three entrances. There are icons of Kazanskaya, Petcherskaya and Vladimirskaya Mother of God above each entrance.



In the Eastern part of the main church is an icon holder. It has five levels and is 15m high and made of wood, painted in dark red. It is decorated with an ornament completely covered with gold. The local priest is proud of the icon holder, the style of which was typical for old churches at that time. The priest admits the significance of the church as one often visited by Peter the Great to pray for the happiness of Russia.



So these are the most famous and important buildings of Lefortovo with the exception of the museum dedicated to its history, traditions and the present day.

The Museum of Lefortovo

Not only can we breathe the history in Lefortovo or admire the beauty of architectural monuments, palaces and parks, we can also link it with the present. The place where history comes alive is in the Lefortovo Museum. It was opened to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Lefortovo in 1999 as a part of the Museum of History and Reconstruction of Moscow.

The museum reflects the whole history of Lefortovo from the sources of the German Settlement to our times, but the biggest part of the exposition is dedicated to the time of Peter the Great. And it is not surprising, as his role in the development of the area is really great.

The museum collaborates with the Institute of Goethe and the German Cultural Association. It is also an important information research centre. Its collection is enriched by new exhibits all the time, whilst research work continues. The museum also carries out social-cultural work. Thanks to the work of the museum Lefortovo acquires the status of a cultural historical centre.

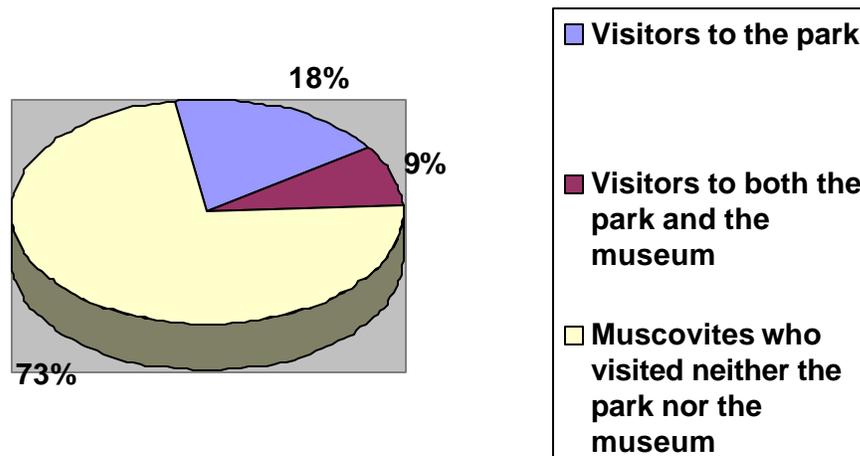
The museum today is widening its activities. It offers various activities such as family exhibitions, quiz-games, contests on the history of the region, celebrations of holidays in the museum and the park, walking and bus tours around Lefortovo and the German Settlement, and theatrical excursions

dedicated to the time of Peter the Great. There are also lectures on the history of Moscow held by the museum and in the future a children's historical theatre will be opened.

We interviewed the Director of the Museum and he said: "Since the start of the museum the amount of visitors has grown constantly (from 350 to 3000 visitors per month). The museum is open for everyone; school children from Lefortovo, other regions of Moscow and other places of Russia, visit in groups and as individuals. Common people, whole families, often pensioners come here on weekdays and at weekends. Also, ethnic tourists visit this museum. It is very important for them as it helps preserve their national heritage. Delegations of ethnic Germans from Russia and Germany, whose ancestors inhabited the German Settlement, also come here. The Swiss also appreciate this very much, as they remember the name of Franz Lefort, the Swiss, and honour his memory. His distant relatives visited it and were greatly touched by the attention paid to this famous general. The Mayor of Geneva also visited the museum and was very thankful to "people who keep not only their own national heritage but also the heritage of the nation, the history of which was closely connected with theirs".

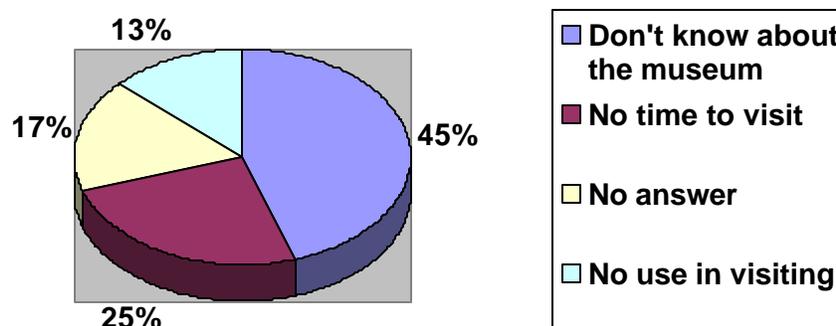
As we see, the role of the museum is really great. The only drawback of the museum is its location rather far from other historical sites. The explanation of this is simple – there was no other building available for the museum at the time when it was opened.

To verify the popularity of the museum we conducted different surveys, which showed that less than 10% of Muscovites have been to the museum because they don't know about it, whereas about 20% have been to the park. At the same time, there are a few people who have been to the museum without visiting the park, which supports the idea that the park is a popular place, but the museum, being relatively new lacks advertising and active marketing.



We also inquired about the reason why they hadn't visited the museum. Out of all people who hadn't been to the museum, about 30% had no time, they are mainly pensioners and middle-aged people, 10% couldn't answer why they hadn't visited it, and about 40% didn't know about the museum. About half of those interviewed would like to visit it after the survey. While conducting a survey among people who live in Lefortovo we found out that only 15% of them have visited the museum – they are school children and students; 3% of them have been involved in a similar project. All the rest interviewed either didn't know about the museum or had no time to go. We were interested in classifying visitors to the museum. Statistics illustrate that out of 110 people visiting the museum 100 are in groups, mainly school children and students. Foreigners constitute about 30

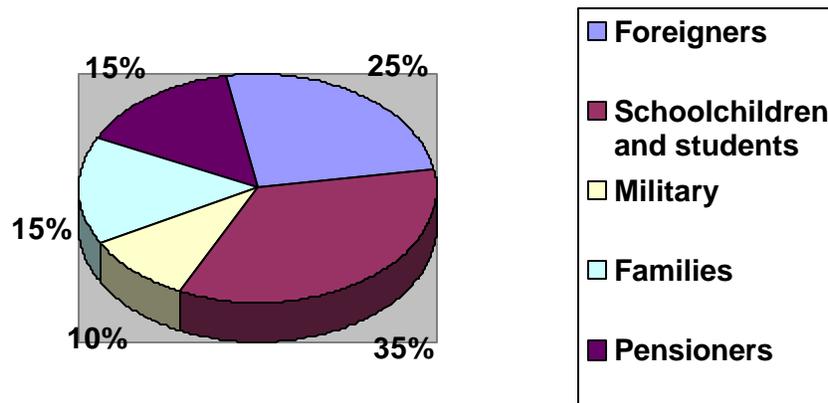
Reasons for not visiting the museum



people monthly. Also, among visitors about 10% are military because there are several military schools and regiments and one military academy nearby. At weekends the most frequent visitors are families.

In connection with present day Lefortovo we wanted to find out what people think of it. We started our investigation by conducting a survey which showed

Visitors to the museum



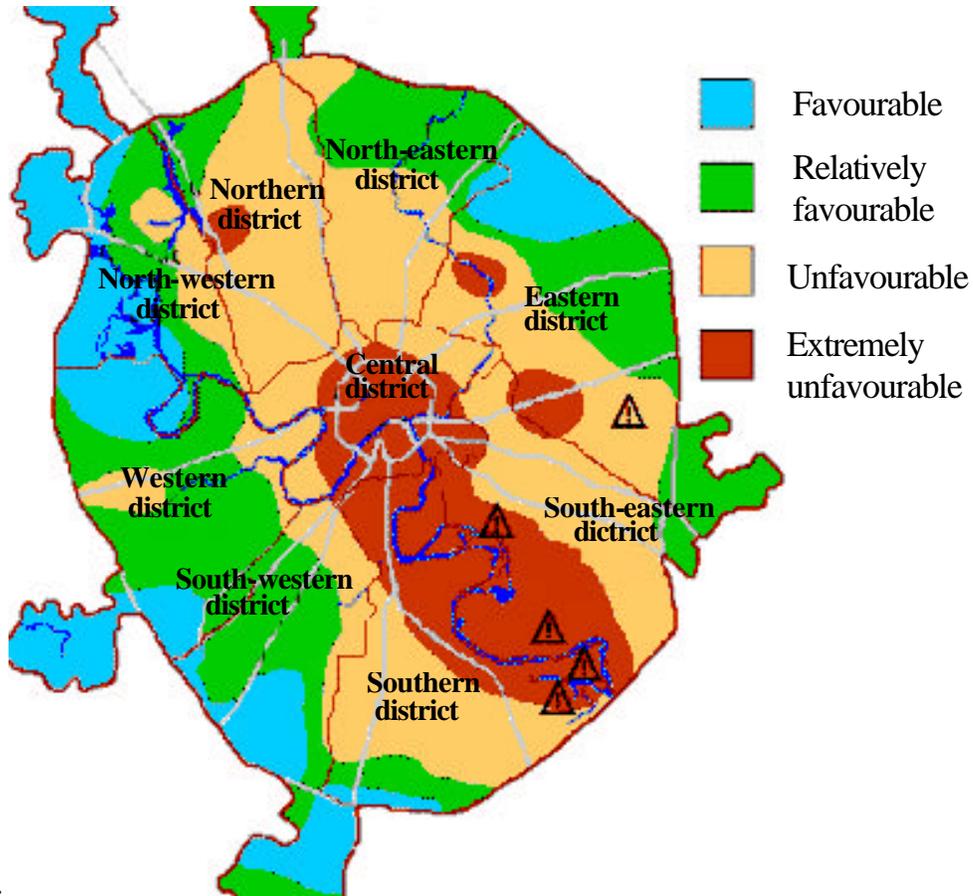
that Lefortovo is mainly thought of by Muscovites as a residential area of Moscow rather than a historical place or a place for rest. However, people who live in Lefortovo, firstly think of it as a historical area.

In our survey we also asked visitors to the museum about their opinion. All of them liked it very much and about half would like to visit it again in order to participate in some activities. They would recommend it to their friends, which means that visitors to the museum are satisfied with its work and the exhibits. Thus, the museum is becoming more popular, but still this process is rather slow.

Present Day

Lefortovo today is a modern area in the South-East of Moscow, about 5 km from the Kremlin. It occupies about 885 hectares and has an estimated population of about 85,000 people. Lefortovo houses 32 industrial and about a hundred other enterprises. Mainly due to the large amount of industrial enterprises ecology in the area is poor (refer map) and is the subject of tense attention of local and municipal authorities as it makes the lives of the residents unhealthy, and influences the popularity of Lefortovo unfavourably.

Ecological situation in Moscow



It is also an important educational centre with five universities, all having an excellent reputation throughout the world, 13 schools, seven libraries and a number of other institutions. Lefortovo is a prominent medical centre, as well as a place for entertainment, with two parks, two stadiums, two cinemas and a number of clubs.



Lefortovo is also an interesting place for visitors. Ethnic tourists, those who are interested in history and the past, as well as people who want to rest come here. From time to time different meetings are organized here. For example, in 2000 the meeting of the international movement for peace throughout the world was in Lefortovo. Different competitions such as the contest of children's drawings are regularly held here as well.

The area with rich history called "the pearl of Moscow" for its charm and beauty, has had good and bad times and in the Soviet period of Russian history might have been destined to be forgotten as a tourist attraction, but thanks to people's attention, has survived and will surely prosper. Lefortovo contains several important places and monuments worth visiting, so it has a good opportunity for development of tourism.

The place attracts Muscovites and visitors from other cities and abroad and its popularity should have good future perspectives, but through our investigation is endangered by a number of factors:

- despite having great historical significance, Lefortovo badly needs advertising and improved conservation and preservation of buildings.
- despite being an inseparable part of the cultural historical centre, the museum is located unfavourably far from other attractions, which, of course, makes its work more difficult, as there was no better place for it when it was decided to open the museum.
- better development of tourism in Lefortovo is slow due to the lack of money and professional people who work in tourism. However there is a general understanding of necessity to improve the situation.
- despite being necessary to the city, the construction of the 3rd transport ring in Moscow may endanger the existence of an important historical place - the Lefortovsky park.

Government Policy

Having enlisted these factors we found it necessary to discuss them with a representative of the local authorities. We applied for and were given an interview by the Head of the Municipality “Lefortovo” Evgeny Shurygin.

- The main subject of the interview was how to increase awareness of the historical significance of Lefortovo among residents and visitors. E.Shurygin answered that, firstly, awareness will surely increase with better care of the monuments and places to see, for which better financial support is essential. He added that better attention should be paid by both government and public organizations to achieve this. He also supported the idea of developing tourism in Lefortovo which will increase the popularity of Lefortovo as a site of national heritage. It will also create good job opportunities for people who work in the tourist sphere and it will show favourably on the general development of the place.
- Evgeny Shurygin said that certain steps have already been taken to achieve this goal. For example, to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Lefortovo, a new monument to Peter the Great and Lefort was built on the bank of the river Yauza opposite the park.
- He said: “Local authorities continue to carry out work to improve the ecological situation, which is essential for both residents and visitors. The most ecologically harmful factories are being transferred out of the region, which has already improved the situation and this process will continue. This also frees some territory for building new residential houses, as well as recreation places.”
- He also acknowledged the role of the museum “Lefortovo” in attracting visitors. The museum was opened in 1999 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Lefortovo with great support of Local Government. The work of the museum is very important for further development of tourism in Lefortovo.

At the same time, in his opinion, a lot should be done to make Lefortovo a better place for visitors.

- Evgeny Shurygin pointed out that the local authorities understand the necessity of development of tourism in Lefortovo. First, he spoke about unfavourable ecology, then he emphasized that the tourism industry is not well developed in Lefortovo. He said: “The main reason is the lack of accommodation. There are no hotels in Lefortovo good enough for international tourists as the place has always been developed as a residential

area but not as a tourist attraction. The other aspect is the lack of restaurants because Lefortovo is mainly an industrial district. It could be useful to build some restaurants and cafes near the main attractions where tourists can try traditional Russian cuisine which will also create further job opportunities.”

- Evgeny Shurygin is concerned about how to make Lefortovo more interesting for visitors. He spoke in favour of organising regular excursions and information centres which should help attract more visitors. The German cultural centre is going to be opened this year to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the German Settlement.
- He also highlighted the growing popularity of the museum and indicated that in future it is going to increase. He agreed that the location of the museum does not correspond to its significance and that it adds little to its advertisement. The local authorities are looking for a better place for the museum, which is necessary for further development of tourism in the area.
- The Head of the local authorities also spoke about the problem of traffic. He said: “We are greatly worried about the condition of roads. As they are old and narrow they can’t sustain the amount of cars and buses they have to. Also there are very few car parks. But the problem of transport is very complicated. On the one hand, the region is very important for the city and that’s why the Moscow government decided to build the 3^d transport ring on the territory of the park which will bring some money to the Lefortovo budget. This money is essential to protect historical monuments and places. But on the other hand, this project is dangerous for the park. We are trying to find a better solution to this problem.” Works have certainly damaged some parts of the park – the question, which is the object of people’s attention and concern. The Head of the Local Government assures us that the historical part of the park will be restored, whilst in another part a sports complex and a place for rest is planned. This, in his opinion, will also increase the popularity of Lefortovo as it will bring more visitors and will help create a single cultural historical complex.
- The Head of the Local Government also mentioned some difficulties which he crosses in his work. The worst of them is the lack of financing for these projects which is due to a large amount of other social problems in Russia. Another important difficulty is that Lefortovo is a residential area as well as a historical centre which creates additional day-to-day problems.
- Finally, with regard to the general development of the area, he supported the idea that all buildings should be reconstructed so they can have the same architectural style, the style of Peter’s time, bearing in mind the height of the buildings and their general appearance, which, of course, will make the whole area look like a unique historical complex.

In conclusion, we'd like to point out that, in our opinion, the policy of the local government of Lefortovo is rather creative and positive towards protecting Lefortovo as a site of our national heritage and increasing its significance.

We would also like to raise some questions for learners of the programme from other countries. They are:

1. What, in your opinion, should be done by the local authorities and residents to provide better advertising of Lefortovo?
2. How can the funds be raised essential for reconstruction and other works?
3. How will the fulfilment of projects mentioned above raise the importance of this historical place?
4. How can the ecological situation in the area be improved?
5. How can the site of Lefortovo national heritage be protected for future generations?
6. What steps should be taken in the future to increase the number of visitors and develop tourism in Lefortovo?

Conclusion.

These are our most burning problems and with combined efforts we are trying to solve them and thus your valuable advice on how to do it will be most appreciated. It should be pointed out, that; to the advantage of Lefortovo, there is a possibility to make it a well- developed tourist center as the residents of Lefortovo are very active in carrying out different activities in this sphere, and the local government is positive to any initiative towards evaluating its significance as a cultural historical site. This must increase the popularity of Lefortovo and attract more visitors here, which in turn will raise the development of tourism in the region and in the city and create good job opportunities. But the main goal which must surely be achieved is protecting our national heritage in this important place.

We, a young generation of Muscovites and residents of Lefortovo, are responsible for the destiny of this wonderful place with rich history and we think that it is our duty to protect it for future generations. Lefortovo has past, it means that it has future. So, visit it! You won't lose your time! Touch the history with your own hands.

