

Eerie fog shrouds Moscow landmarks, cancels hundreds of flights

By Adam Douty November 2, 2021



A thick fog blanketed Moscow late Monday into Tuesday, causing hundreds of flights to be canceled in one of the biggest travel disruptions to impact the Russian capital in a decade.

More than 200 flights were canceled or delayed at Moscow's major airports on Tuesday, according to [Bloomberg](#). The delays appeared to be the most since an ice storm blanketed the city in December 2010, although no statistics on disruptions are available, said a spokeswoman for Russia's federal air transport agency Rosaviatsia.

Visibility was quickly reduced Monday evening when the fog first settled across the city. Observations from across the city showed that the visibility fell to near-zero for as much as 14 consecutive hours. At several locations, temperatures fell below freezing overnight which may have also led to ice forming on some surfaces.

City landmarks such as St. Basil's Cathedral were almost ghostly in appearance as the dense fog engulfed Moscow's famous Red Square.

"An area of high pressure across the region produced a setup favorable for fog to develop," said AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Tyler Roys. "This included a clear sky and light winds which allowed for the temperature to fall to the dew point."

When the temperatures falls to the [dew point](#), fog can form as moisture in the air condenses into small water droplets that are suspended in the air.

When conditions allow, fog can become very dense and reduce the visibility to a few hundred feet, or even less in some situations.

Fog cloaks the city of Moscow in this time-lapse on November 2, 2021 (Earthcam)

Fog is fairly typical across western Russia during the fall and winter months, though it is rare to see fog this dense to last for this long, according to Roys.

The fog was expected to break by late Tuesday, forecasters said.

"If the fog does not break by Wednesday, an approaching front should cause the fog to clear, though a layer of clouds may still keep the region rather dark and dreary through the middle of the week," Roys said.