



When you are going to narrate about such a spectacular event as the International Olympic Games, what you were privy to, you get sincerely lost what to begin your story with, especially if to take into account that the last Olympics were held in your native country 33 years ago.

Now remembering all those wonderful events of that February, the first thing what is born in my heart, outrunning my mind is the endless feeling of happiness, joy, pride, delight and iridescent colours. It can be compared with the birth of a superstar, have been awaited for many years.

Everything was intertwined here: the Olympic Games themselves, their spirit, might and heat of the struggle, festive and solemn atmosphere at one time, infrastructure of Olympic facilities, congruenced and well-organized work of all systems and subdivisions, renovated and grown prettier Sochi, Adler, Krasnaya Polyana. It is hard to believe how possible it was to create within 7 years only and to force start working all this in so excellent way! You simply realize that it can not be done, it is impossible. But it proved to be possible.

At the same time I came here to test myself, to assume a new role, to master a new skill, to get acquainted with new interesting people. How much wonder, beauty, brightness are here and how it is global! Besides that, subtropical climate in Sochi is just fantastic- sea and mountain are around.

And when you realize the big temperature difference between Sochi (+15C) and St.Petersbur (-2C), your happiness becomes boundless.

I was lucky to work for the company VISA as an interpreter at the Olympic Games (the company was one of the General Partners of the Olympic Games in Sochi 2014).

I worked daily right on the territory of Olympic park and on Krasnaya Polyana. To say in other words, I was just in the thick of the events.

And the first thing I would like to start my story with is to pay tribute to all our sportsmen, who brought victory and world-wide fame to our country.

Great thanks to all of them! We are proud of you! We would not have this great festive occasion without your victories!

All in all Russia won 33 Olympic medals- 13- golden, 11- silver and 9 bronze ones.

Winners: Evgenii Pluschenko, Julia Lipnitskaya, Elena Ilyinyh, Nikita Kazalapov, Tatiana Volozozhar, Maksim Trankov, Ksenia Stolbova, Fedor Klimov, Ekaterina Bobrova, Dmitrii Solovyov (Command tournament, figure skating)



Winners: Tatiana Volozozhar and Maksim Trankov (figure skating)



Winner: Victor An, short track



Winner : Alexander Tretyakov, skeleton.



Winners: Alexander Zubkov and Alexey Voevoda (bobsleighting)



Winner: Adelina Sotnikova, figure skating



*Winners: Viktor An, Semen Elistratov, Vladimir Grigoriev, Ruslan Zakharov,
relay race, short track*



Winner: Wik Wild, snowboard



Winners: Aleksey Volkov, Evgeniy Ustugov, Dmitrii Malishko, Anton Shipulin,

Relay race , biathlon



Winner: Alexander Legkov, Cross-country skiing



I think everyone watched competitions on TV, I just wanted to repeat the best names of the winners once again.

Going on my story I would like to reveal that part of the event, which could not be seen and felt if you are not there.

The Venue- Sochi, i.e. its suburb - the town of Adler (40 km far from Sochi, and 3 km far from the border with Abkhazia).



The Olympic facilities were divided into two parts-
-Coastal cluster
- Mountain cluster

Coastal cluster. Olympic park. The map.



Night bird's eye view of Olympic park.



Here are the facilities, located on the territory of Olympic park. The first and the main one- Fisht, where Festive Ceremonies took place.



After that – Sport Complex Bolshoy- for hockey matches.



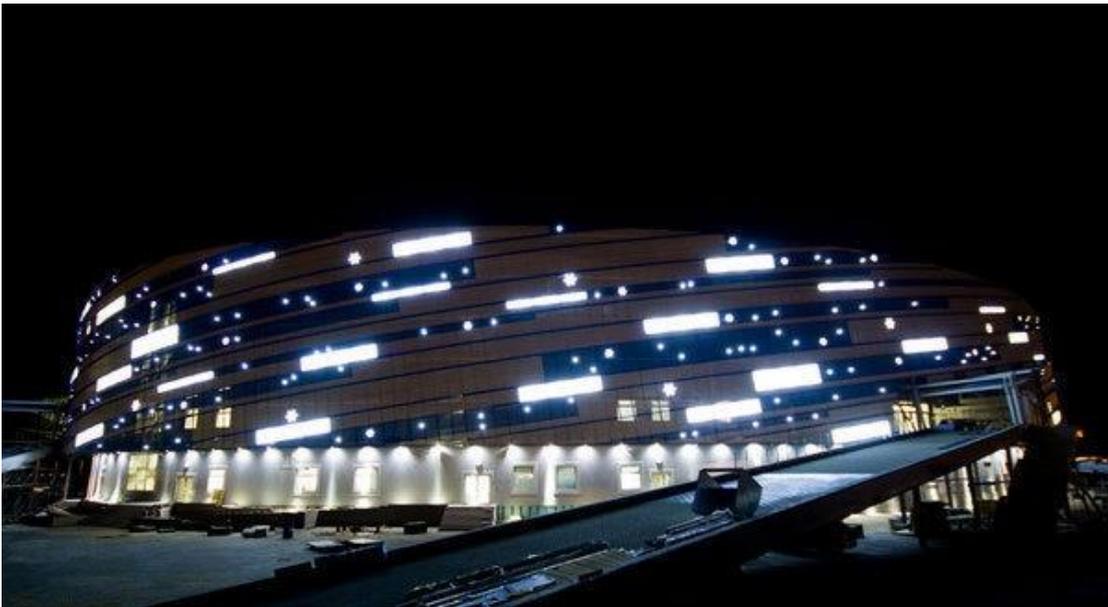
This is the sport complex Iceberg for figure skating.



This is Adler Arena for skating.



This is Arena Shaiba.



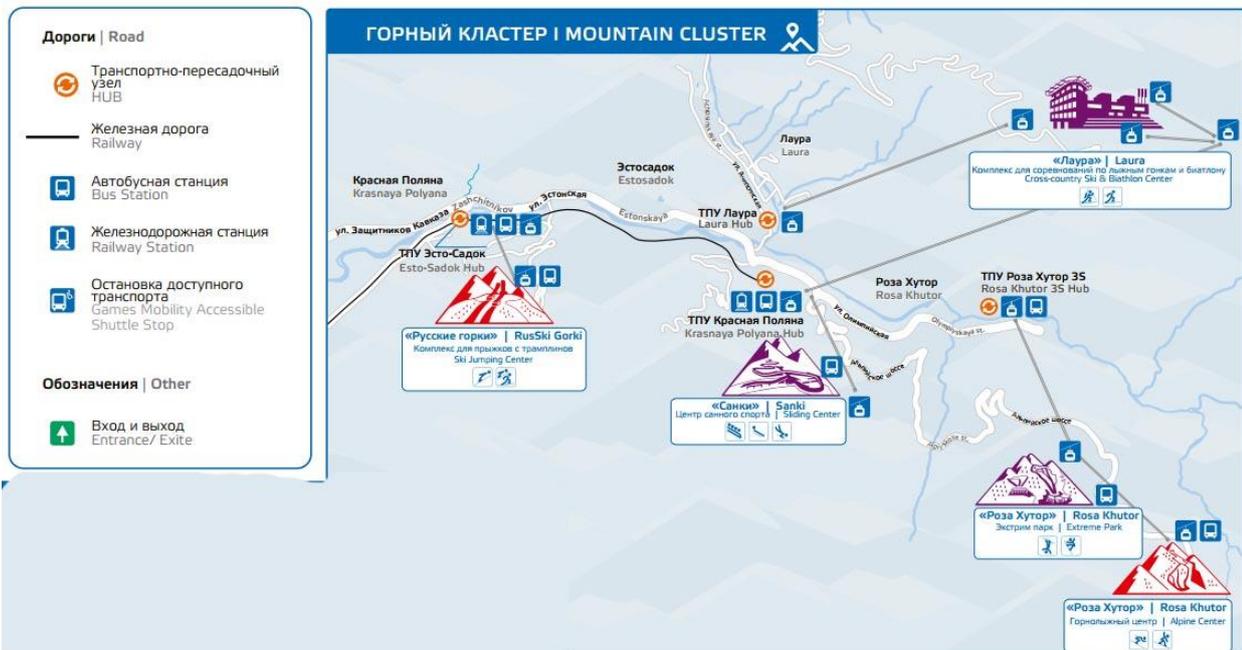
Curling competitions were held in this building.



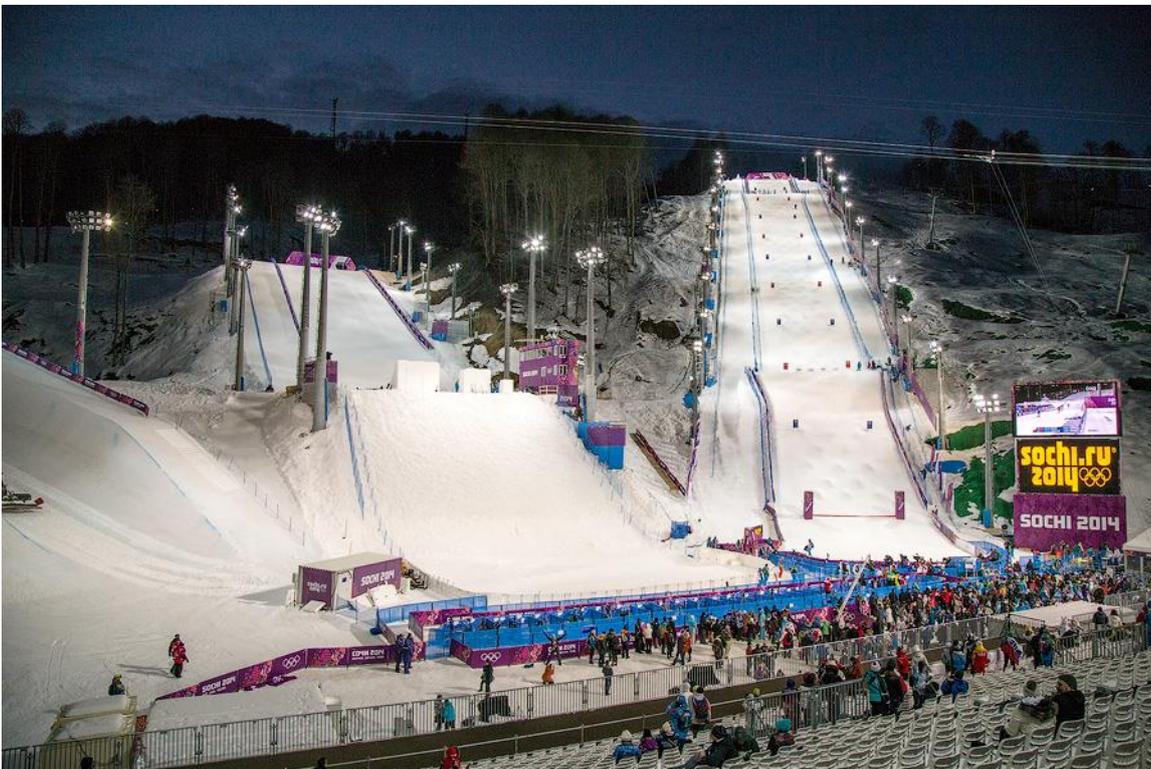
In the very centre there was Medal's Plaza with Olympic flame, where prize ceremonies were held every night.



Here is the map of the Mountain cluster.



These are the facilities in Krasnaya polyana. This is Extreme park.



This is the ski resort Esto Sadok adjacent to the slopes. It runs several kilometres along the mountain river.



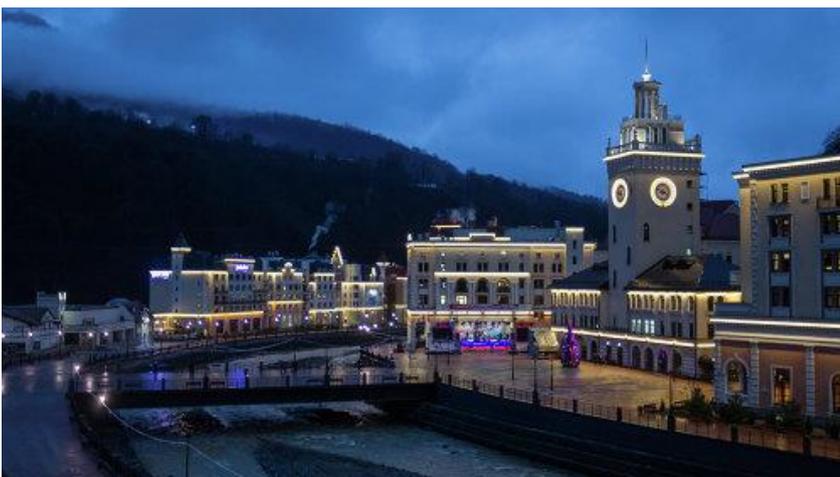
This is the biathlon complex Laura.



This is the complex for Downhill skiing Roza Hutor.



This is its part- Mountain ski resort.



I can't help mentioning one more thing what I was pleasantly and strongly surprised with. Right in the middle of the mountains, the Cultural –Ethnic centre "My Russia" has grown, like a mushroom after rain. I think, no comments here.



My colleagues and I were very lucky as our company presented us the tickets for the General Rehearsal of the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic games and for the Opening Ceremony of the Paralympic games. I think everyone watched these spectacular shows on TV. But without any doubts, non of TV screen can convey those emotions and feelings, what you are seized with, when you are standing under the power of 40 000 people crowd, when you are pierced by its strength and its colossal energy just from your head you're your fingertips, when magnificent scenes of enormous size are floating before you and boggling your mind. This moment the border between the reality and non-existence is erased and everything seems like a beautiful fairy tale dream. It was one of my strongest impressions.

Here are some scenes from the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Winter Olympic Games-



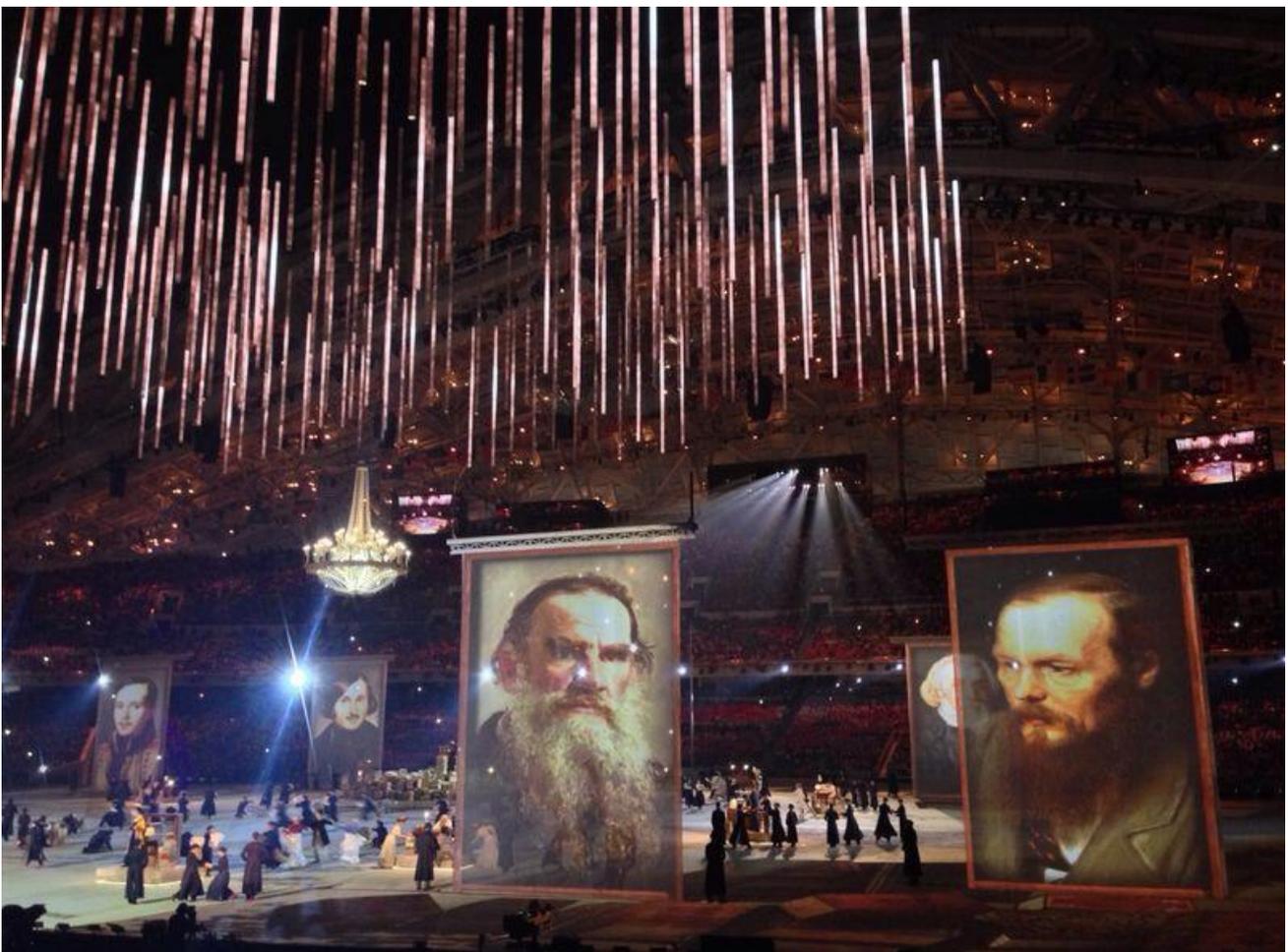








The main idea of the show was not only to make it bright and to express our hospitality. But to tell the whole world about our great country, its versatility, about its great past and present. The whole history of the Russian State, starting from the ancient times to nowadays appeared before spectators in the images of brilliant stagings, unthinkable and fantastic decorations. We have managed to tell the world about our great country with dignity.





And what a fantastic salute we could see!



The Opening Ceremony of Paralympic games was not so pompous and large-scaled, but I was touched to tears completely. I was crying without stopping the whole Ceremony, it was so moving, so much soul was put into it!



Should I say what the authors of this show wanted to tell, when small pieces of ice fell down from the side of the ship and the word "Peace" opened for the audience.

The topic "Russia" was also widely presented in the huge building "Regions of Russia", located on the territory of Olympic park, continuing to introduce foreign guests with our immense country, with its natural and cultural resources, its history. And honestly speaking, it was very interesting and useful to visit this exhibition for us, for the Russian, as well. No one can boast that he has visited all these places. Most of Russian regions were presented in this Exhibition Centre. You could roam the whole day among the pavilions, discovering something new, taking part in different activities, shows, which were held there every hour. It was the feeling of the endless holiday.

Here are some photos from this exhibition-



Russian Republic Kalmikiya.



Central Rusia.



Arctic.



Town of Bryansk.

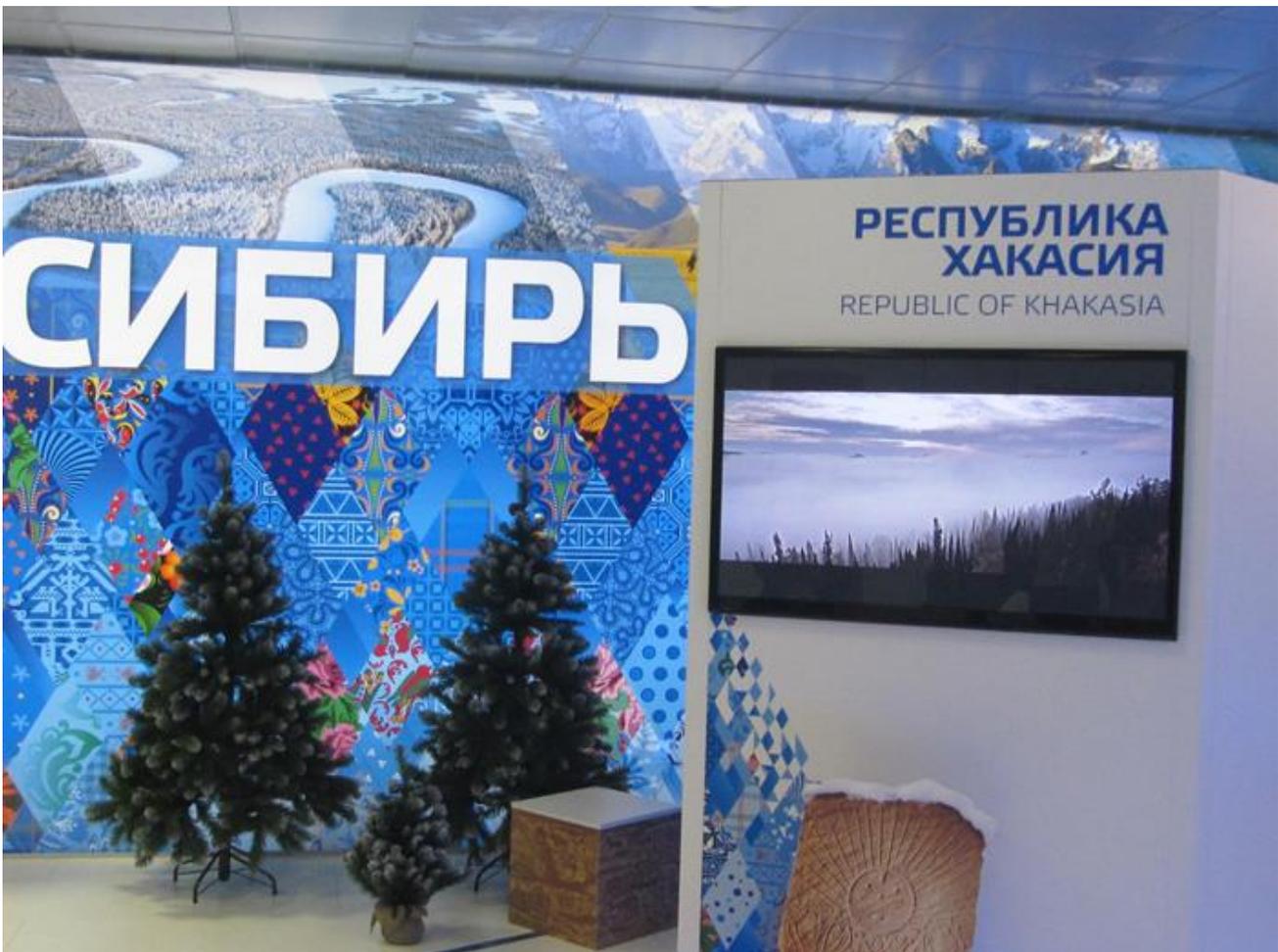


The Dagestan republic.



North Caucasian Federal district.

ST. PETERSBURG



Siberia.



There were several Houses of Hospitality on the territory of Olympic park (Canada, Japan, the USA, Korea, Switzerland).

These are some of them-



And there was the House of Russian Ded Moroz (Santa Claus), where you could take a picture with him.



The House of the Russian Olympic team fans was nearby. I really enjoyed the programme organized there.



When you get inside you are given a chance to be in common with all winter sports presented on this XXII Olympic games. Very nice stands and installations were made, where you could get in a role of any sportsmen and take pictures for memory. And the most zealous visitors were awarded with Olympic souvenirs. I have personally discovered skeleton and curling here. That was the place where I had fun like a child.





The pavilions of General sponsors of the Games were on the territory of Olympic park , as well. Among them- Megafon, Save bank of Russia, Coca-Cola, Omega, Samsung, Wolkswagen, Visa and others)-



And it was not possible to take my eyes off from the gigantic hotel complex “Bogatyr”, adjoining to the territory of Olympic park. The colour of illumination was changed every minute.



Going on the walk about Olympic park my attention was suddenly drawn by beautiful guttural singing of Russian northern tribes and their unusual colourful dances.



In the other corner of the park I was charmed by the Olympic fountain.



A bit further I was plunged into the sea of colours- real flowers, and it was February!



My attention was attracted by lovely sounds of Jazz band, playing right in the middle of crowd.



You can be pompously welcomed at the entrance to the Curling centre by the musicians from Scotland.



Or the band of awkward and absolutely charming hares is singing the couplets from well-known children Russian verse put on the motif “Be happy, don’t worry”.



Or you can abruptly face with the Cossack’s choir right on the Square.



Or the Folk Ensemble of Kabardino-Balkaria region fascinates you by its performance.



The sounds of Russian folk songs were heard from the scene of Olympic park every day.



Everyone liked the pretty girls-drummers, marching round the park every day.



And , certainly, badges!



This picture is the dearest one for my heart. I have taken it by chance in Olympic park. Our little russian girl-hare is opposite our national flag, holding by the American...



How glad we were to see the guard of volunteers!

They are good young people- well-educated, well-brought-up, cultural and affable. They always showed the way politely, answered your questions, helped. And they bring a confidence in a happy future! And make you feel pride for your state!



I was lucky to visit some competitions.



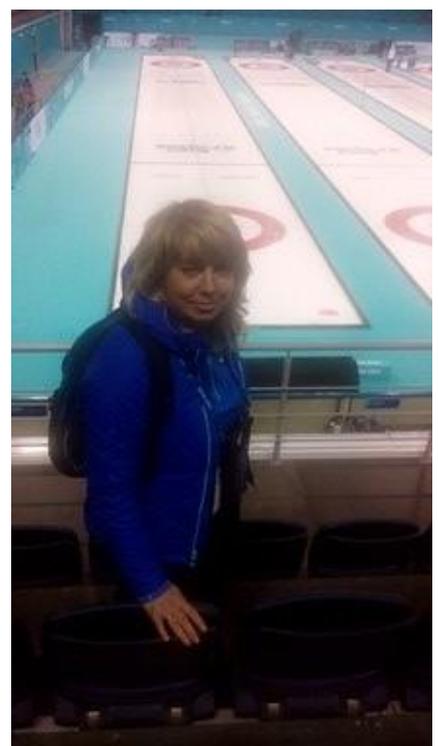
On the Hockey Championship



Ski jumping



biathlon



curling



And mountain skiing (Paralympic games)



Like everyone I took a picture with mascots of Olympic games.

How I have already noted, Sochi, Adler , Krasnaya Polyana grew much prettier. These photos will tell about everything, better than me.





These lovely Snowflake and Little Ray are the mascots of the Paralympic Games.

Despite of the fact that Paralympic Games were not so tremendous, but they became more touching, more significant for me, and went down into my heart deeply. Facing the courage and strength of these people you reappraise your

own life. I admire these people. I cried often during the Paralympic Games. But these were tears of their fortitude admiration, not sorrow.







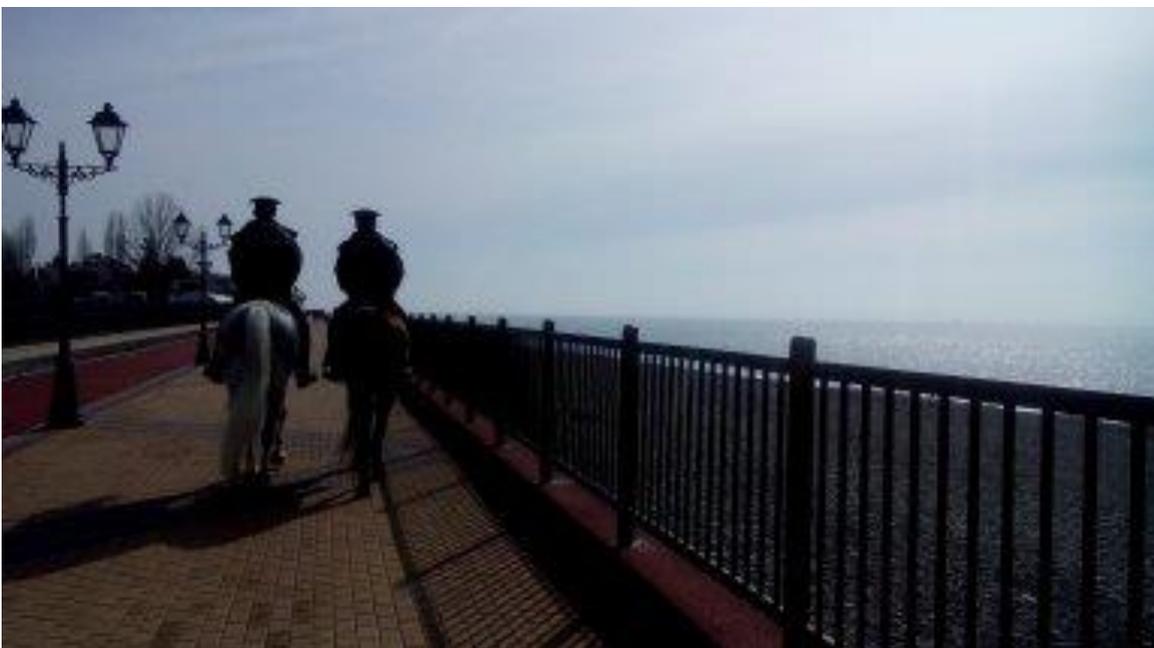
These games finished with triumphal victory of our team- 30 golden medals, 28 silver medals, 22 – bronze ones. All in all Russian team won 80 medals.



Only this skier Roman Petushkov brought 6 golden medals to Russia.

As for security during the Olympics which was widely discussed on the eve , I would like to repeat the words of one speakers on the Closig Ceremony: “ We truly thank all those people who provided our security throughout the games, for their invisible but very effective work.” How it was said on TV: “At that moment Sochi was the most secure place on the planet”

And even the Mounted Police was there. It was very exotic.

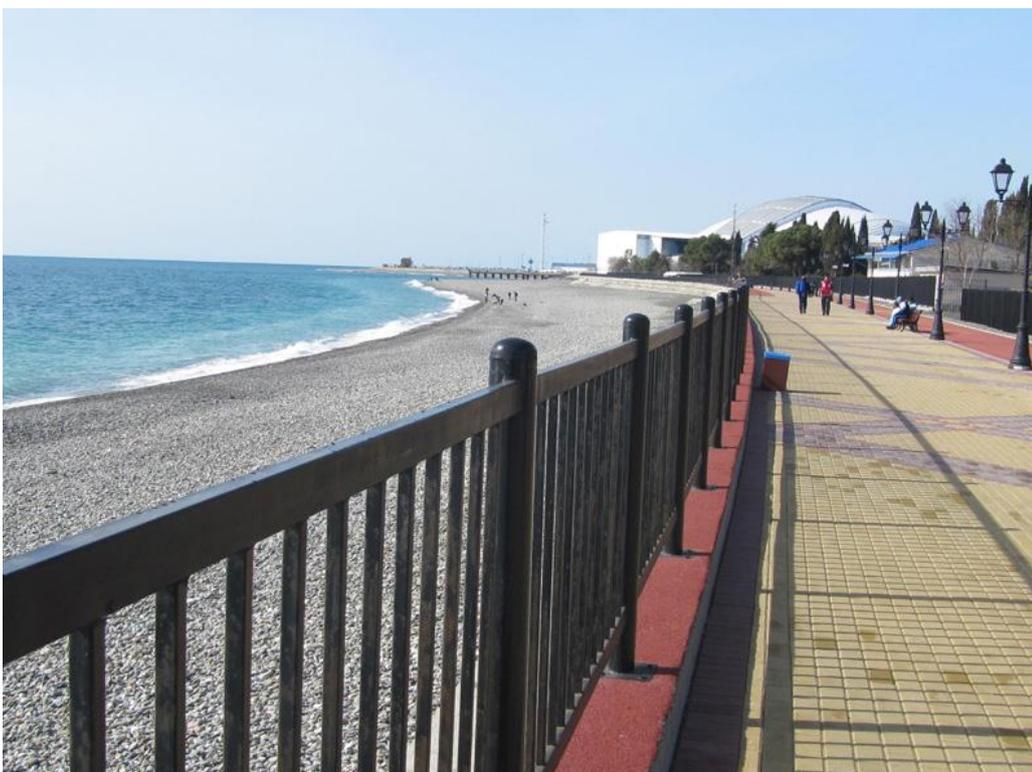


I was so overfilled with emotions from everything what I have seen. And for the first time in my life I decided to follow the good piece of advice of foreigners and sent post cards to my friends and relatives to share my happyness with them. It was too much for me alone.



My job was interesting, very goof staff, we became friends.

It took me at least an hour to get to my working place from the hotel on foot, but it did not bother me much, because it was a pleasant walk along this picturesque harbour.





This is my working place. With a view to the Olympic Flame .



Our team.



Leaving the Olympics. We refused to believe that everything was in the past.

*Couple of times we had days off and , certainly, we couldn't not miss them .
We spent them in Abkhazia - Wonderful country, located nearby.*





I was deeply impressed by the New- Athos Monastery (on the photo) and horrible postwar devastation there.



No wonder to enter the second childhood under the such hailstorm of positive emotions! And it looks like it happened to me.

The thing I will tell without any doubts- it was really a fairy tale. A wonderful fairy tale what I will cherish in my heart for life! And the victory of our teams made this fairy tale fantastic and triumphal.

P.S. This beautiful, well-thought-out Olympic ornament, which penetrated into nearly every thing and every place throughout the Olympic games, will be the magic key to the world of my memories about this magnificent event.

