**1)** An honorary consulate of Spain has been opened in Ekaterinburg.

Today, Spain is one of the main cultural centers of Europe. Every year it is visited by more and more Russian tourists. In 2013, Spain was one of the top choices in regards to the number of tourist arrivals from Ekaterinburg.

Ekaterinburg takes the third place in the number of consular offices after Moscow and St. Petersburg. 26 representatives of consular offices, including 13 general consulates, 2 embassies (the Republic of Belarus and Turkey) and 11 offices of honorary consuls are now open in Ekaterinburg.

 **2)** Now a lot of the historical buildings and tourist sites of the city have QR- codes. This is a project of creating a scheme of urban navigation using QR- codes.

Plaques are located near the administration building, Ekaterinburg Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Rastorgueva- Kharitonova estate, the home of Sevastianova and the Church on the Blood.

The QR- code system will make visiting Ekaterinburg more comfortable for tourists as it’s not always possible to find a guide. With such a system a tourist will be able to get on the Internet and find historical and interesting facts about the cultural heritage of Ekaterinburg.

**3)** In 2018 Ekaterinburg will host football matches of the World Cup. About 600,000 foreign visitors will arrive in Ekaterinburg. The city is preparing for such a significant event even now.

Visitors of the city will be offered sports, cultural and historical programs. Some examples are: a visit a famous "Ural Leaning Tower" in Nevyansk, exploring temples and churches of the spiritual center of the Urals - Verkhoturye, as well as a walk in famous fairy tales places of the Ural writer and storyteller Pavel Bazhov. After football matches, guests will be interested to know what the Sverdlovsk region has to offer.

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**5)** Photo of the Day: A brown bear shakes off the long winter hibernation in the Ekaterinburg Zoo. The Zoo staff prepared it a surprise of honey hidden in a large toy made ​​of straw.

The city continues to prepare for the World Cup 2018. During the FIFA World Cup matches hotels in Ekaterinburg will host a large number of officials and participants of the championship, as well as a large army of fans. There are 109 hotels in Ekaterinburg that can host approximately 9000 guests. By 2018 it is planned to renovate 11 hotels.