

Manchester Is a 'City of Mosques,' Says Russian TV

A misleading report serves as a cautionary tale against giving Muslims too much room to worship

By Katie Marie Davies

February 27, 2017



Pixabay, edited by The Moscow Times

Been to Britain lately? If you managed to take in the city of Manchester, perhaps you were startled to find that the skyline is now "nothing but mosques." That, at any rate, is how one of Russia's flagship television news shows described Manchester on Sunday.

According to Irada Zeynalova, host of "Weekly Roundup" on the NTV network, "Coming into Manchester, you see so many minarets that, from afar, the whole place looks like it's nothing but mosques."

She made this remark while introducing a report on British mosques working with the

government in a bid to counter extremism.

On social media, Manchester locals have ridiculed Zeynalova's description, calling it "hilarious."

Embed:

<u>@Alexey</u> Kovaley as a resident of Manchester that's hilarious

— Alex Roberts (@alexeroberts) February 26, 2017

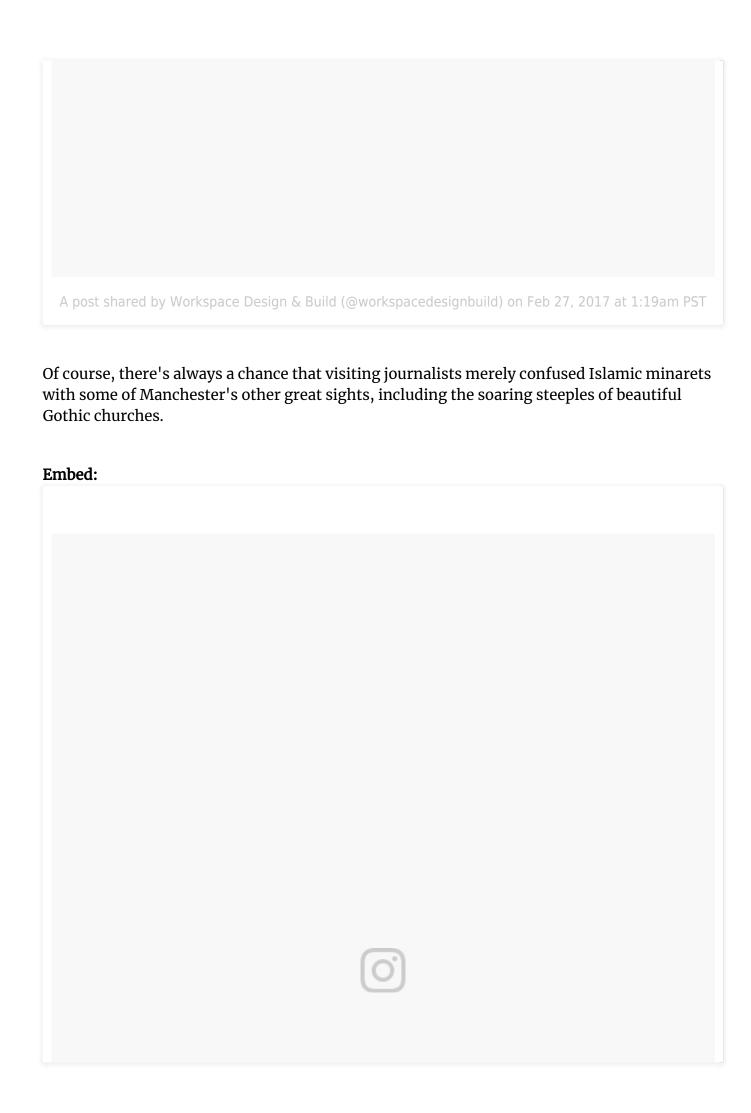
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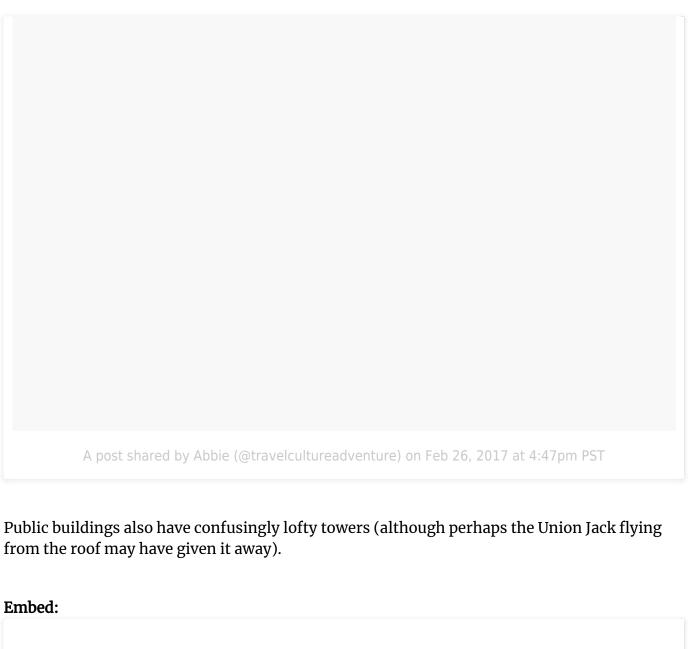
<u>@Alexey Kovalev</u> <u>@gerwyn</u> hahahaha. I think I might know 5 mosques, don't think i know any minarets. Countless churches. And a Sikh temple.

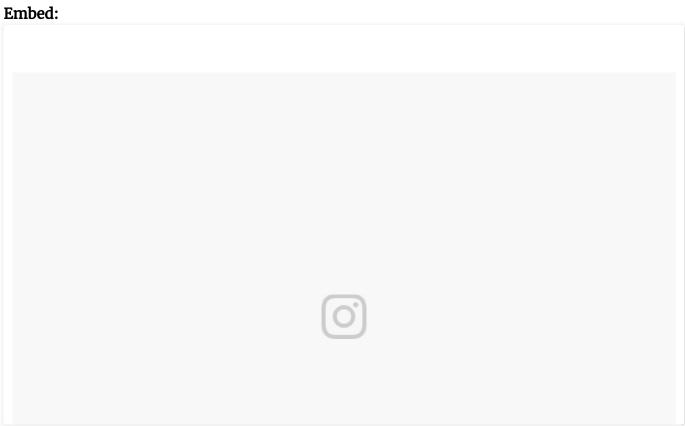
— Savage Houtkop (@SavageHoutkop) February 27, 2017

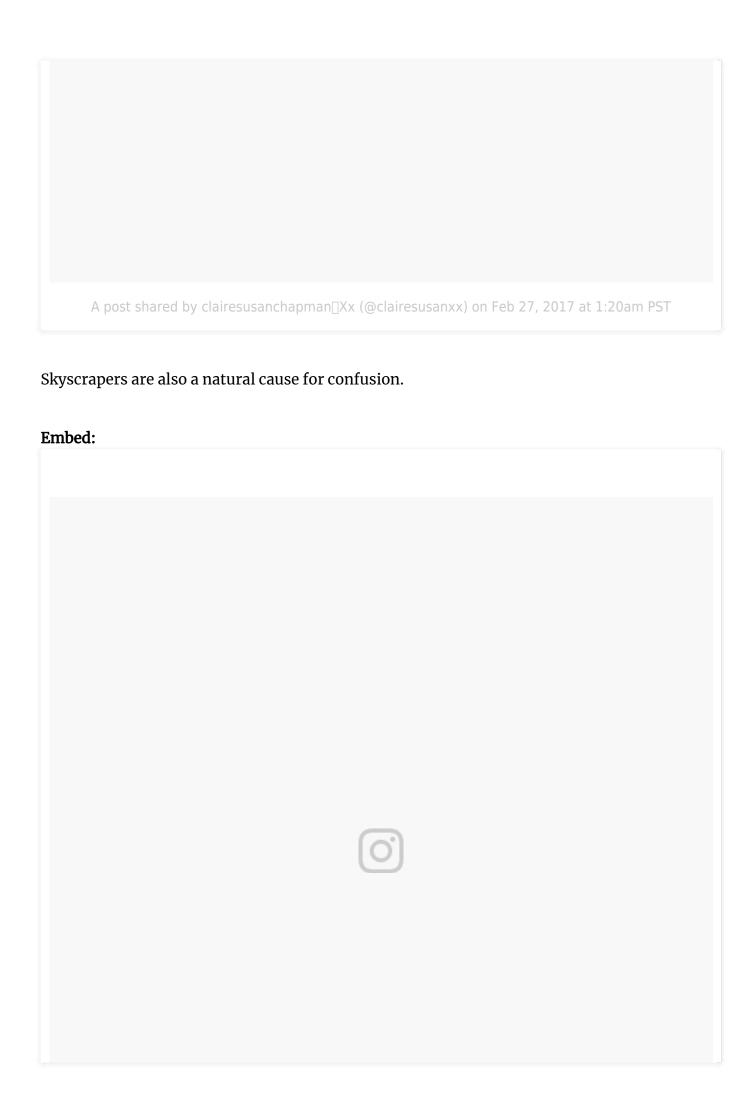
The description could lead discerning viewers to wonder if any of the show's reporters had visited Manchester at all.

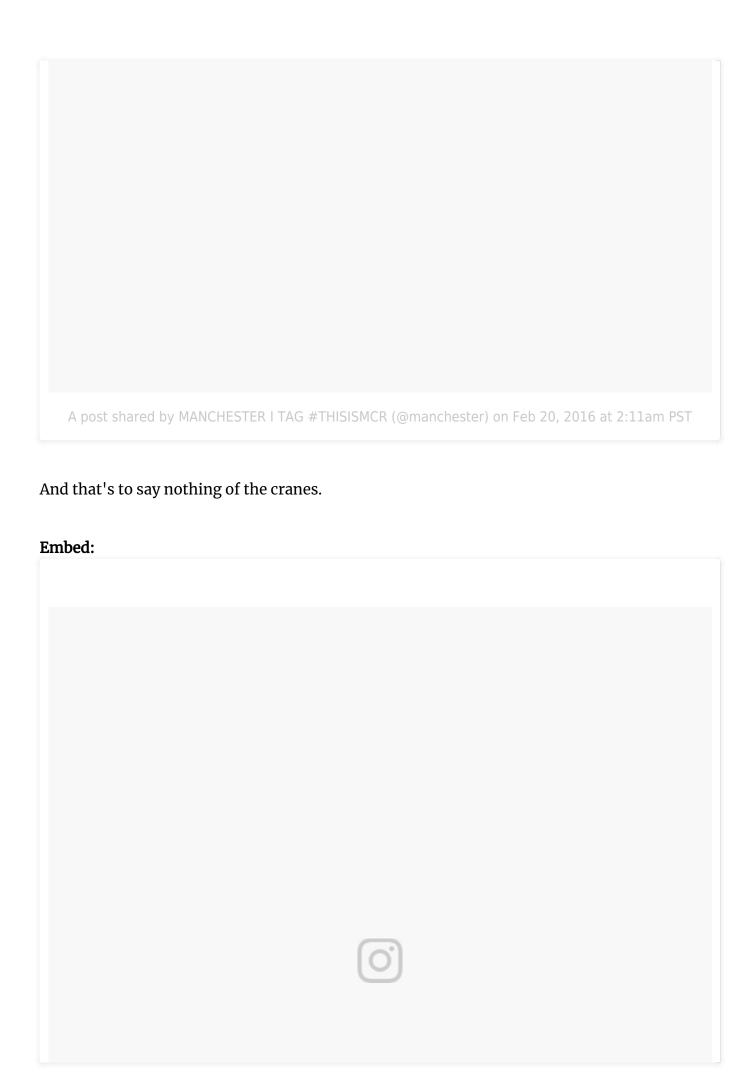
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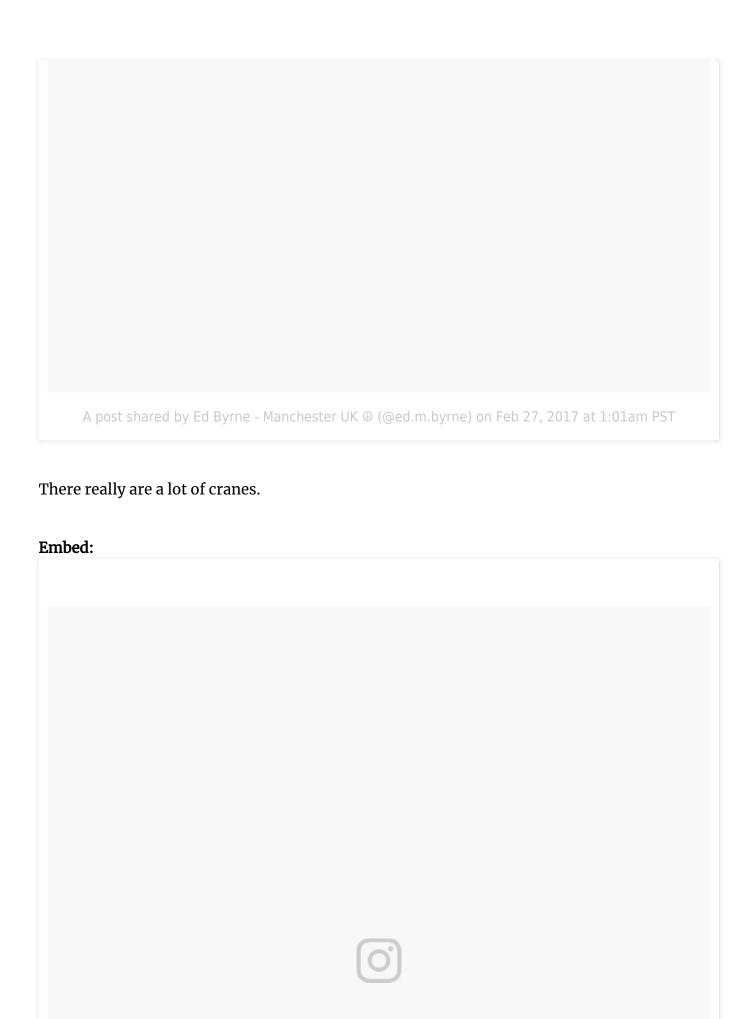


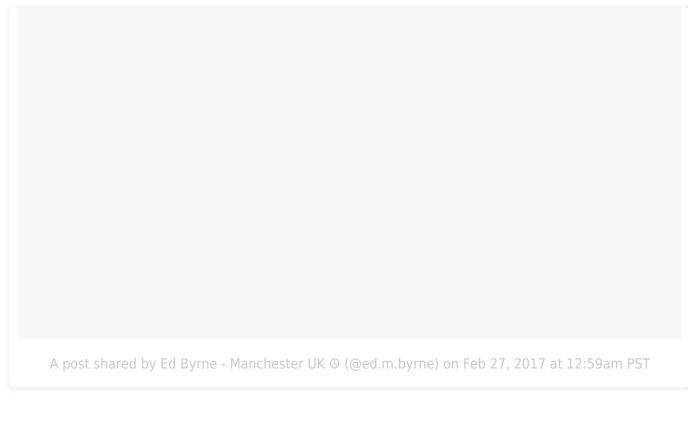












Moscow itself has a Muslim population **■** of roughly 2 million people. Many are migrants from Central Asia, but **■** the number also includes ethnic minorities who have lived in Russia **■** for centuries, such as Russian Tatars.

The capital still has only four mosques, ■ forcing hundreds to pray in the streets outside on Fridays and during ■ religious festivals.

Related article: Moscow's Muslims Struggle to Find Place to Pray

By far, this not the first questionable report aired on NTV, which is owned indirectly by state company Gazprom.

In June 2016, more than 100 regional mewspapers throughout Russia warned their readers about the <u>"fake news"</u> that regularly appears on NTV.

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