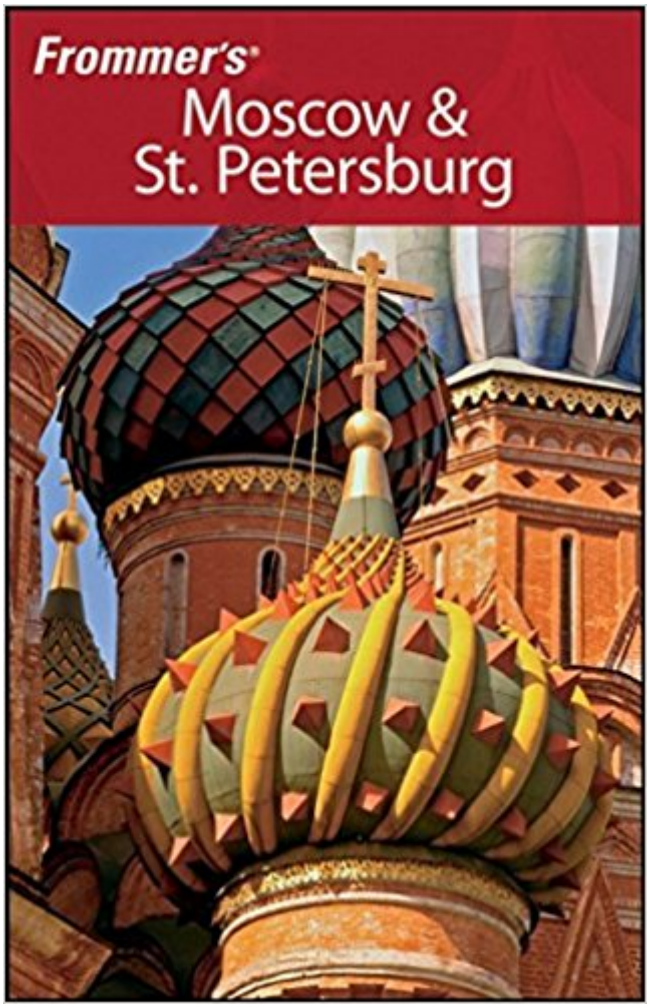
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Frommer's Moscow & St. Petersburg (Frommer's Complete Guides)



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Synopsis

Savvy insider tips on exploring the treasures of the Hermitage Museum and the Kremlin. Outspoken opinions on what's worth your time and what's not. Exact prices, so you can plan the perfect trip whatever your budget. Off-the-beaten-path experiences and undiscovered gems, plus new takes on top attractions. Find great deals and book your trip at Frommers.com

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Customer Reviews

With views of St. Basil's and the Kremlin, ice skaters glide across the katok (rink) on Red Square (see chapter 7). Detailed maps throughout Exact prices, directions, opening hours,and other practical information Candid reviews of hotels and restaurants,plus sights, shopping, and nightlife Itineraries, walking tours, and trip-planning ideas Insider tips from local expert authors --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Angela Charlton moved to Russia in the early 1990s and spent most of the ensuing decade in the former Soviet Union working as a journalist. She was a Moscow correspondent for the Associated Press for six years, and she also studied in St. Petersburg and worked in Kiev. She is currently a journalist based in Paris.

I accidentally left this book on a shelf in some store and I'm really not disappointed. I read this book before I left for Moscow and St. Petersburg and left for my trip feeling slightly scared and

apprehensive. I have never read a guide book so thoroughly paranoid for no reason. It talks of harassment from police officers if you're a tourist, pickpockets on every corner, rude shop keepers and servers, and just gives off a general sense of "beware". Needless to say, my husband and I had a great time in Russia. The locals were some of the nicest we've met on this side of the world, maybe second to Japan. The women were sooo beautiful it was amazing. With unemployment in Moscow being only 1% I really felt more safe there than I did in my own neighborhood in souther Italy. And police harassment? Moscow and St. Petersburg is full of tourists! Why would they want to scare a growing part of their economy?The one other thing that I wanted to mention is the sections for "Dining". It was verbatim to the little tourist guide you can pick up at any hotel. The descriptions and the maps were all the same. Either Frommers copied from the guide or the guide copied form frommers.

The information was good but not as well written as a normal Frommer's. It does not suffice as the only tour book necessary.

This is a very useful guide to planning a trip to these two cities and finding your way around when you are there.

To start, I bought this book because is was more up-to-date (the 2010 edition) vs. the others that were in stock at the Bookstore, like Fodor's and the Lonely Planet, which were 2008 or 2009. I read that having an up-to-date guide was especially important in Russia, where restaurants, bars, clubs, etc. change frequently. Though I normally find Lonely Planet and Fodor's to be better in terms of info and reliability, I had to go to Russia for business with little notice and hence didn't have time to order a book. Plus, because I was going to be there for a month, I figured it would be a low-risk situation, as I'd have plenty of time to see everything even if there were a few bumps along the way.BOY WAS I WRONG!I don't see what was updated in the 2010 edition, because almost everything was wrong. The majority of restaurants and bars the book mentioned were no longer there. The opening times and/or days were usually long or didn't tell the whole story. For example, a site may be open from 10:00-18:00 as the book said, but half of that time may have been reserved for groups. The locations on the maps were only directionally correct, as the site indicated was just "sort of" near where the dot on the map was. Bus numbers and routes were wrong or incomplete. Most of the entrance fees and fare prices for transport were 50% off or more (some as much as 2-3x off).Relying on the book got me into a few bad situations, like showing up at an isolated palace

2 hours early and being left with nothing to do. I figured out soon enough the book was just good for general recommendations or background information rather than specific logistical information, detailed explanations, etc. All-in-all, my trip would have been better had I bought the 2008 Lonely Planet (at least it would have had more in-depth context/history, better maps, etc.) or had not had any guide book at all and instead relied on websites.What a waste. I am never buying a Frommer's guide again.

This guide reads like a draft.... I don't think it was ever tested with a live tourist.The Book format has the same information being partially repeated, with confusing cross references. In particular chapter "Suggested Moscow Itineraries" described the exact same places as chapter "Exploring Moscow", and the former chapter constantly referred to the latter chapter for details (WITHOUT page number!) which is annoying.Addresses given are vague and often inaccurate: that is a big problem in Moscow where addresses (even aside from the problem with Cyrillic) are highly confusing to westerners: as a result I sometimes got very lost.For example, the Kremlin tourist entrance was specified differently more than once, which is a big problem as the Kremlin is huge (e.g. p3 "The tourist entrance is on the north side ... at the Borovitsky Gates". p 117 has a map that doesn't show Borovitsky Gate. It shows the visitor's Entrance at Kufaya Towers on the west side. The latter was correct, the former in error).The location of internet cafe "Time Online" was unclear. (p.73 "... on the bottom floor of the the Okhotny Ryad shopping Center near the Kremlin(1 Maneshnaya Ploshchad" was very misleading because it was not mentioned the whole shopping center is underground and huge. I never found it after looking for 90 minutes)

The reason we got the newest edition of this book was so that we can look up restaurants and clubs to visit, and three times, we used the reviews in this guidebook to eat in one of the recommended places. One such place was in Moscow - we found the exact address, but it was a travel agency and there were no signs of that place ever being a restaurant. The other two places were in St. Petersburg, one was even a starred review. We did find one place, "beer exchange", but it was such a sad place that the blurb about it in this book was more like a deceptive ad than an unbiased review. We finally stopped trying, so who knows how many more places recommended in this guidebook aren't really there. Also, the street names in the book are all in english only, but the street names in Russia are mostly in Cyrillic.

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