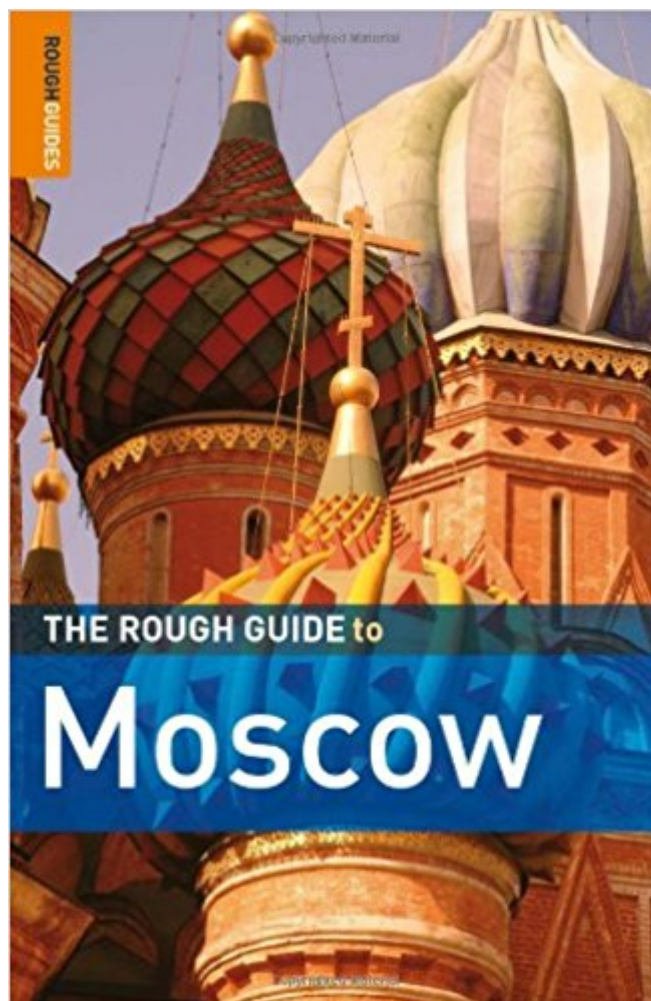


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The Rough Guide To Moscow 5 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)



Synopsis

The Rough Guide to Moscow is the definitive guide to one of Europe's most fascinating and rewarding cities. The full-colour introduction covers the awe-inspiring Kremlin and The Red Square and includes the essential list of what not to miss. There are lively explorations of all the sights, from Moscow's lavish palaces to world-class museums, as well as detailed accounts of Russian history and politics that have formed this intriguing city. You'll find two full-colour sections that highlight the New Moscow Style contemporary art, design, fashion, galleries, boutiques, bars and clubs and the magnificent art-deco metro, famous for its arts, murals, mosaics and ornate chandeliers. With updated and easy-to-use maps, expanded listings of nightlife, restaurants and hotels in Moscow for all budgets, The Rough Guide to Moscow is the must-have item to this colourful and spirited city. Make the most of your time with The Rough Guide to Moscow.

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Customer Reviews

Jean Rhys was born in Dominica in 1894. Coming to England aged 16, she drifted into various jobs before starting to write in Paris in the late '20s. After *Leaving Mr. Mackenzie* was written in 1930. Her early novels, often portraying women as underdogs out to exploit their sexualities, were ahead of their time and only modestly successful. From 1939 onwards she lived reclusively, and was largely forgotten when she made a sensational comeback with *Wide Sargasso Sea* in 1966. She died in 1979.

I'm only giving it 2 stars because the history and the neighborhood descriptions are very detailed. Otherwise, it's a terrible guide. It claims to be updated as of 2009 but: 1. the price for a visa in the US is listed as \$100. It's been \$130 for a little over a year 2. it says -like most guides- that you can't get rubles in the US. Tell that to Bank of America, who just sold me 3000 of them. 3. talks about buses from Sherm. airport to the city but makes no mention of the train from Sherm. airport into to the city which has been operational for a year +4. just glances on the fact trains go to Vladimir (where I'm headed) and talks mainly about the buses. Trains leave both Kursk and Yaroslav stations, express, commuter/local trains all day but you wouldn't know it from this guide I could go on. Also, it plugs certain websites, tour guides and even a laundromat, rather than giving a range of options. The maps are few and not terribly helpful, esp. as all the (non major) streets are not labeled (this is where Lonely Planet is good) Very few (budget) hotel and restaurant reviews. While it provides about a dozen accommodation websites, don't use this book to find a hotel/hostel/B&B (again LP is the better guide book here) While it lists the train destinations from the various stations (as if you couldn't figure it out from the name of the station) it doesn't list stops along the way so you'll have to do some on-line research to find out which station you need to go to if you plan on taking a train out of the city. Luckily I'm only in Moscow for a few days. I would have been super irritated if I planned on staying in Moscow longer and had bought this book. Unfortunately, it's the most "updated" of the guides, which is why I bought it. All in all, this guide is useless. If only Lonely Planet would update its 2007 edition.

A little difficult to digest before my trip, but I'm reading it now that I'm home and after I have my bearings about Moscow.

I've been travelling to Russia regularly since 1979 & have read all the guidebooks. Edition after edition, I still find the Rough Guides the best overall. Yes, there are a few errors, like the cost of applying for a Russian visa, but anyone who is contemplating a non-escorted tour to Moscow really ought to buy more than one guidebook. I will say that the Rough Guides offer more details about the cities than the 1st-time or casual traveller might be able to absorb or appreciate. But for repeat visitors, Russian history lovers and off-the-beaten trackers, it's superb.

I used the latest edition of this guidebook on my recent trip to Moscow (after having a great experience with the St. Petersburg version) and was shocked at how out of date the book was. Most

of the restaurants that we tried from the book were closed or not at all what was described, and the prices (both for food and admission to various places) were wildly divergent from those listed in the book. While I understand that there is a lot of turnover and change among these things in Russia, this was simply unacceptable from a new edition that was released a month before my trip. Other guides that we had that were older were more accurate, so it's obvious that the authors did not really try to update this new edition before releasing it. A second criticism: this book is extremely hard to use for actually navigating the city. The book is organized by the different districts within Moscow, with maps of each area only at the beginning of each section. This means that a great deal of time is wasted trying to find the correct map to look at. It would be much easier if all of the maps were at the back of the book. More importantly, the metro map in the book is absolutely useless. In Moscow, where 2 or more metro lines meet, each line will come into a different station with its own name that will then be connected by walkways to the other station. The map in this book does not make clear which station is on which line, which can make travel a lot more confusing than it needs to be. For a more useful metro map, check out the Eyewitness travel guide, which one of my travel companions used and found to be much better. The positives: While I would not recommend that anyone use this book as their sole guide for the reasons listed above, the descriptions of the sites to see around Moscow were extremely informative. The recommendations for tour companies, including who has exclusive access to certain areas, were correct. I would rely whole-heartedly on the book's listings of what bus numbers to take to get around, as they were always accurate. Also, we did find 3 restaurants in the book that were still around, had good food, and reasonably priced: Dioskuriya (Georgian food: Nikitskiy bul. 5, str. 1 near the Arbatskaya metro, through the post office arch); Genatsvale (Georgian food: Ostozhenka ul. 12/1, near the Kropotkinskaya metro); and Karetniy Dvor (Azerbaijani food: Povarskaya ul. 52, near the Barrikadnaya metro).

Unfortunately, despite the slow rise of tourists coming to Moscow, there is still no good guidebook. Taking that into consideration, I chose this over the Lonely Planet because it has more day trip information and more background. This book is truly chock full of information. However, it is arranged in a way that is terribly useless. Neighborhoods are listed, followed by page after page of historical detail and buildings to notice -- guaranteed to get you lost if you actually try to read as you go. My method settled into choosing a neighborhood, reading the book, going there, getting lost, coming home, then reading the book again to try to discern where I'd been. A bizarre cross section of details pepper the book: things like information on \$100/month gyms for New Russians, but no useful notes on where average people can go work out. This sort of thing doesn't matter much to

the tourist, but can be frustrating as someone living in Moscow. I still think this is one of the better guides out there. It does have remarkable historical coverage in a small amount of space, as well as practical details that should satisfy any shoestring or economising traveller. One can hope that further issues of the Guide are able to arrange information more helpfully.

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