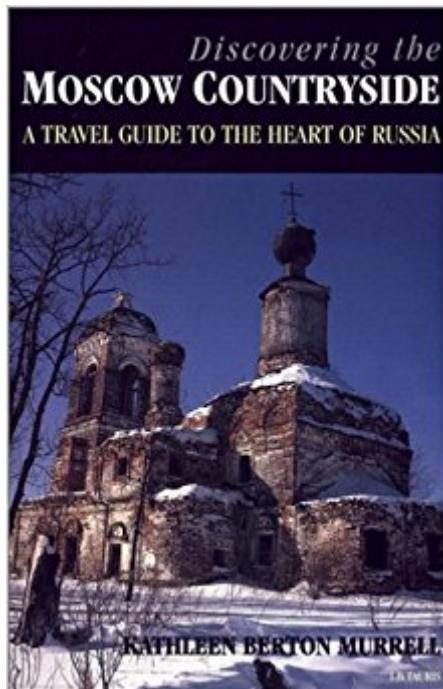


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# Discovering The Moscow Countryside: An Illustrated Guide To Russia's Heartland



## **Synopsis**

Discovering the Moscow Countryside is a fascinating voyage into the history, architecture, people, and archaeology of the country that surrounds Moscow. The towns and villages dotted around this wooded landscape are rich in associations. Wave after wave of invaders--Tatars, Poles, French, and Germans--sought to conquer Russia through these lands. Now, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of the beautiful monasteries and little ruined country churches are coming back to life. This is also the land of the dacha--that special haven to which all city dwellers, at the first melting of the snow, escape: whether it be to a wooden mansion or a tiny room lost in the woods. This book is a practical guide for the tourist keen to explore this fascinating area of Russia, as well as for the curious armchair traveler.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Murrell, the author of eight works on Russia, writes here of her experience of living in Moscow for many years and exploring the countryside around the capital the area studded with towns and villages with fascinating architecture, history, culture, and archaeology. Many of the area's well-known monasteries, cathedrals, and country churches have just recently begun to thrive after the fall of communism. Covering mainly the area within a 90-mile radius of Moscow, Murrell includes the many and varied dachas, the vacation homes of the upper classes before the rise of communism. The book is conveniently divided according to weekend trips along ten major roadways. The table of contents is detailed, the glossary is extremely helpful, and an abundance of maps and a lengthy list of the area's principal architects and artists are included. Unfortunately, this

book lacks an indispensable feature of any travel guide an index. Still, this is an informative guide for a traveler or anyone else interested in Russia's history and geography. Melinda Stivers Leach, Precision Editorial Svcs., Wondervu, CO Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kathleen Berton Murrell lived in Moscow for many years. She is the author of eight books on Russia.

As the founder of Discovering Russia, a company devoted to enriching cultural and business travel to Russia, we are always looking for good travel books to recommend for our clients. "Discovering the Moscow Countryside : An Illustrated Guide to Russia's Heartland" by Kathleen Berton Murrell is such a volume for those who wish to discover the fascinating yet little-explored region surrounding Moscow, a land of princely families and wealthy merchants and dedicated believers. Murrell, the author of the wonderful "Moscow Art Nouveau," presents two weeks' worth of touring. There are some items missing from this book, such as an index, and unfortunately none of the place names in the book are in Cyrillic. In a way, that omission is not too much of an issue for the tourist, as it would be almost impossible for a visitor to Russia to travel to this region without the aid of a guide, or at least a knowledgeable driver (which is what we recommend to our clients visiting the area). "Discovering the Moscow Countryside : An Illustrated Guide to Russia's Heartland" is a wonderful guide for discovering Russia beyond Moscow. Marc David Miller, Discovering Russia, New York

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