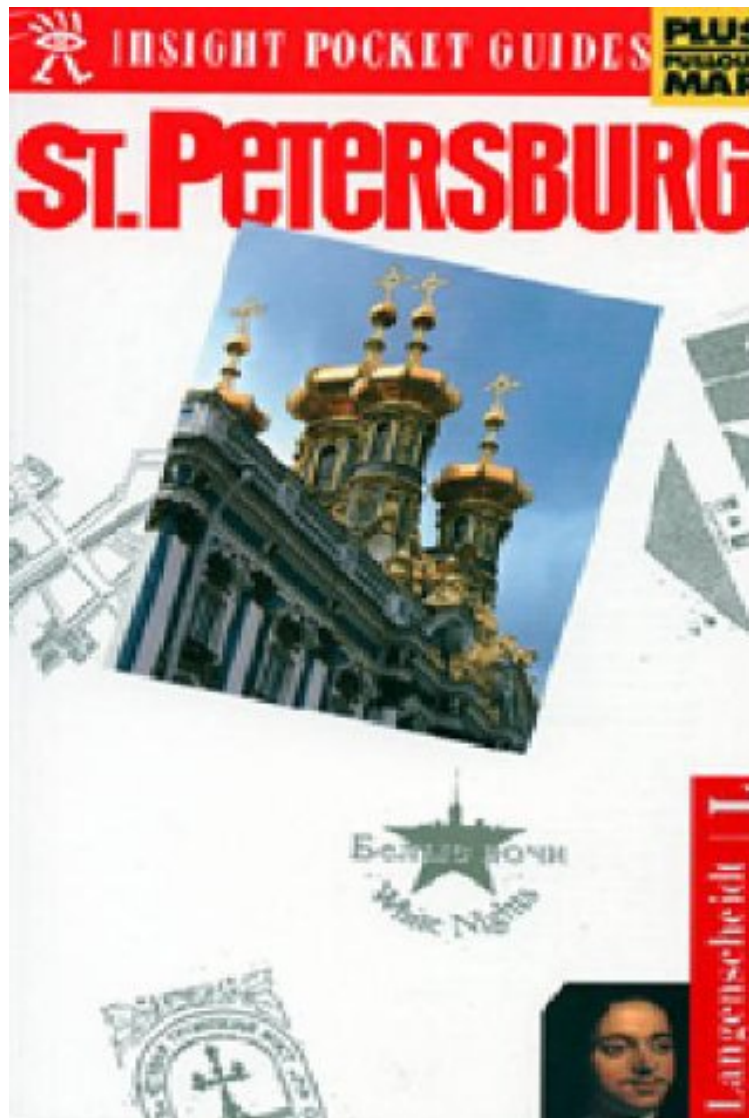


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From Library JournalThe bulk of this guide was written while the city was still known as Leningrad. Essays by Soviet writers give a Russian perspective on the past history and chaotic present of this fascinating city. Superb photos accompany the text. The cultural articles cover the people and institutions, including floor plans of the Hermitage and the Russian Museum. The sights of the city and suburbs are described in a difficult-to-absorb, albeit thorough, rapid-fire tour guide lecture style. A practical information section includes all the details necessary for getting the most from a visit. A single historical article--instead of three, as the editors chose--would have sufficed and avoided some repetition. While this guide covers unique territory, much of the material is unnecessary, and could be gleaned from a single National Geographic article. Most libraries should wait for a better source, which is bound to come due to the recent political changes in Eastern Europe. Comprehensive travel collections may still want to consider.-William R. Smith, Johns Hopkins Univ. Lib., BaltimoreCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.Language NotesText: English (translation)About the AuthorSince 2000. Hammond, American Map, Langenscheidt Dictionaries, Insight Travel Guides, Delorme – the famous names in the Langenscheidt family. These represent the most authoritative, up-to-date, and extensive travel and reference products available. In January 2003, the renowned Berlitz Publishing became part of the Langenscheidt Group. The Langenscheidt Publishing Group, the premier group of map and travel companies, offers over 4,000 North American and international street maps, road maps, atlases, language-learning, bilingual dictionaries, and travel-related products covering countries, cities, and languages in every continent.