

Only in Berlin: All reviews

Nicky Gardner, Hidden Europe:

It's about making time for the suburbs and getting beyond the canon of big sights. Like other books in the same series, 'Only in Berlin' delves below the surface of a community. It is, if you will, a book for travellers rather than tourists. And it is also most certainly a book for locals who delight in the quirky idiosyncrasies of their home city. We learned, for example, that a mosque not far from our home is the oldest in Germany. Wonderful authoritative text, complemented by lovely pictures.

Brigitte Hilzensauer, translator of the German edition:

A treasure box of strange and interesting lore.

The Wizard, www.amazon.co.uk:

Great Background.

I bought this as I am a frequent visitor to Berlin, which is where you will no doubt be required to be to physically assimilate all that is in this book. It is eminently easy to read, citing genuinely interesting corners, with generous historical background to the whys and wherefores of each. Even without being there, the book has provided me with a rich source of material to build up a very detailed perspective on this young, cosmopolitan, historically turbulent, and influential world city. I have not encountered anything similar to compete with it.

Koren Holbourn, UK:

I am currently studying Geography at University College London and one of my courses this term is on Berlin. I am writing a piece on the advantages of travel writing (as opposed to academic writing) with respect to Berlin and want to tell you how interesting I found your "Only in Berlin" book, and how valuable it has been in my argument that travel writing offers a brilliant insight into urban environments like Berlin! Thank you very much and keep up the good work!

www.enjoy-berlin.com:

If names like Devil's Mountain, Peacock Island, Frederick the Great's coffin and the Berlin Archaeopteryx do not sound familiar to you then this book will be a great read and worth your time and money.

Ian Gordon Malcomson (Amazon Hall of Fame Top 50 Reviewer):

As someone who is very interested in visiting Berlin in the near future, this travel book appears to be what I am looking for. It hits a wide-range of interesting geographical and historical landmarks in a very intelligent and informative fashion. The descriptions are laid out so as to offer sufficient visible and written detail, coordinated with an easy-to-follow map, so as to make touring of this metropolis easier. Everything from the Brandenburg Gate, remnants of ancient and modern walls, anti-aircraft installations, old castles, prisons, Wannsee, the site of Hitler's chancellery, cathedrals, cemeteries, and hidden gems await the discerning tourist. The quality of this guidebook is such that it can also serve as a valuable keepsake for one's library. One thing that I especially learned from reading this book is that Berlin is a primarily

modern city that has very little of its medieval past to showcase, but that is understood given the fact that its history has been based on some very calamitous wars.

Michael:

You have done a great job. I know the city well, having travelled there since the 1960s, and now feel I want to return to look up your suggested hidden corners. I would like more of your books.

Hidden Europe Magazine (Issue 26, May-June 2009):

In a world where places seem to become ever more similar, it was an absolute joy to stumble on the “Only in...” series of guidebooks written by Duncan J. D. Smith. Each guide identifies 84 distinctive sights within a particular city. Duncan Smith brings to the “Only in...” series the gaze of the enquiring outsider. His approach to places and history appeals to us a lot. The “Only in...” series is a refreshing antidote to the prevailing tide of uniformity favoured by too many travel guides.

Martin Dawes, The Sheffield Star (17.07.08):

‘Urban Explorer’ Duncan J. D. Smith sips a cappuccino and gazes out of the window of the Cafeteria coffee bar on Leopold Street and sees, not Sheffield, but Berlin.