

Only in Hamburg: All reviews

A reader (www.amazon.co.uk):

A great alternative guidebook. As a supplementary book to find some really interesting places to visit it is outstanding. A range of sites around the city are taken as springboards for short chapters that illustrate the history of the area. Most of the ‘main’ attractions are here but also the pneumatic postal system, a Russian submarine, a workers’ canteen and a Paternoster elevator to ride to a 12th floor cafe with great views. I can’t wait to find an excuse to visit the other cities in this series.

Unopentulips (Instagram):

A fascinating guide to the most remote (as well as known) corners of the city...weaves in history and facts in such a compelling way that it reads like a novel. It’s more personal than a guide book and one that you will come back to again and again.

www.eurocheapo.com (Nicky Gardner & Susanne Kries):

It is more than 18 months since we highlighted a trio of new titles in the ‘Only in...’ series here on EuroCheapo. Now author Duncan J. D. Smith follows up Berlin, Vienna and Prague with a quizzical look at Hamburg.

“Only in Hamburg” is a guide to hidden corners and unusual spots in and around the great German port city on the Elbe. This is travel writing with a twist, for while Smith takes in Hamburg’s landmark sights, he also digs out spots where few tourists ever venture.

Walking under the Elbe.

A curious weekend walk in Hamburg is under the Elbe when the Alter Elbtunnel is closed to vehicles. The tunnel marks the centenary of its opening in 2011, and we have to say that it takes our prize for Europe’s weirdest walk. Smith rightly gives it a good write-up in “Only in Hamburg”.

More Hamburg curiosities.

Elsewhere in the volume, Smith takes in a Hindu temple, a floating church and the grave of an Arabian princess. If such dedicated urban exploration all sounds a little too tiring, Smith commends such relaxing distractions as a Japanese garden or seeing Hamburg from the comfort of a Venetian gondola.

Just in case you wonder, Hamburg is not awash with gondolas. But Ina Mierig, the only gondoliera in Germany, claims that exploring by gondola is by far the best way to see her adopted home city.

A reader (www.amazon.de):

Great for Both Tourists and Hamburg Citizens.

This book offers well-researched, charming insights into areas in and around Hamburg off the beaten track. Peppared with historical backgrounds and many excellent pictures, it is a gem for those who want to get to know Hamburg better and provides a beautiful addition to popular city guides. Written entirely in English, it is wonderful for newcomers from abroad who have yet to become familiar with the German language. For the long-established Hamburg citizen it provides a fresh perspective on their own home town and motivates to go off on a sightseeing tour of a different kind. For the visitor who likes to move beyond the usual tourist routes this book is a treasure trove. Thus, it is, of course, also a lovely guide for the Hamburg

host who gets a lot of visitors from other places and would like to introduce them to some special corners of Hamburg.

Conclusion: Highly recommended!

Anne Scott:

I love love love your book! My other half and I have been ticking off the pages as we work through it! Our friends got it for us in German but then we ordered it in English from Amazon instead. We used your Budapest one too, which was fantastic...it took us some to totally unexpected places, and we got some interesting photos, too. I also recommend the Vienna one to anyone as well. I have a well-worn copy from when we lived there. Thanks for all the hard work you must put into it and the great weekends we have had because of it. Keep them coming!

Annica Svensson, Sweden:

I just want to thank you for the excellent and brilliant book “Only in Hamburg”, which I purchased last year and really love. I’ve read it from cover to cover! It has helped me tremendously when discovering the wonderful city that is Hamburg. It’s pretty hard to find good english language books about Hamburg, so I was pleasantly surprised when I found yours. I’ve been to Hamburg several times and every time I go there I learn new stuff from your book. I had walked past the Rote Flora in Sternschanze and had no idea what it was, but it certainly made me curious as to why they hadn’t torn down the building yet. A week later I bought your book and was pleasantly surprised to find a chapter dedicated to Rote Flora and its fascinating history, and I got a newfound respect for it. I don’t think any other guidebook about Hamburg would include such a lovely piece of Hamburg history.

Marcus Keppel-Palmer, Bristol Anglo-German Society:

I have just acquired your book on Hamburg, where I used to live, which was fascinating.

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.

Marianne Pieper, Warburg-Haus:

“Only in Hamburg”...thank you so much...it is a very nice book...(and) a really fine gift for friends and guests who want to visit Hamburg.

Peter Maass, Hapag-Lloyd AG:

In my view, your publication contains excellent photographs and quite specific views on my hometown, and it also provides new information for ‘natives’. I like the book’s approach very much and wish it good success.