

The Only In Guides: Series reviews

Hidden Europe magazine:

In a world where places become ever more similar, it is an absolute joy to stumble on the Only In Guides. The author brings to the series the gaze of the enquiring outsider. A refreshing alternative to the prevailing tide of uniformity favoured by too many travel guides. Not sure there's any city guides which come close to matching them for sheer ingenuity and style. A fine series of books.

Timeless Travels magazine:

The Only In Guides help passionate travellers uncover the hidden treasures of a city, sending them home with indelible memories.

James Blake Wiener, Ancient History Encyclopedia:

My travel secret? I swear by the Only In Guides! They're well written, visually striking, and packed with great information for those who wish to go off the beaten path. I don't know of any other guidebooks that encompass the research that you do.

Adrian Phillips, Bradt Guides:

Your Only In series really is quite brilliant.

Michael Collins (a reader):

Endlessly fascinating guides.

Laura Puente, Books and Earl Grey Blog:

Despite globalization and the uniformity of our commercial streets, the Only In series of travel guides by Duncan J. D. Smith prove that cities remain unique and full of surprising discoveries. Tourists nowadays do not want to tackle their sightseeing as a check-list exercise.

Nigel Norman (a reader):

If you love exploring cities then the Only In Guides are great to have with you. Really clever format with a map inside the front cover listing over 100 unique and unusual locations to discover.

www.eurocheapo.com:

A guide to hidden corners, little-known places and unusual objects, says the blurb, nicely summarizing the emphasis of a series of guidebooks which we have recently discovered. The Internet may have revolutionized our travel planning, but decent maps and first rate guidebooks are still a must. Yet the latter are often not written with an eye for detail, and that's where the Only in Guides series really appeals to us. The author reveals the entire history of a city and its hinterland through 84 detailed snapshots of the urban landscape, every one of them well worth a visit. In a way, Duncan Smith's approach is similar to our efforts with Hidden Europe magazine gently trying to get beneath the skin of a place and identifying spots that are genuinely offbeat and not on the regular tourist circuit. And all the better, as almost all the sights mapped out by Duncan Smith in his guidebooks come with no admission charges.

A Reader:

Your books are exactly what I want in a guide: not too much detail – one can always get that afterwards if required – but more than enough to make a visit to a particular site worthwhile, plus simple instructions on how to get there.

www.amazon.co.uk:

Eminently easy to read, citing genuinely interesting corners, with generous historical background.

Zsuzsi Szollosi, Budapest:

I am a huge fan of your books. If doing the research brings you half as much joy as the books bring to me, you can call yourself a very happy person.

Mike Gerard (travel writer):

They provide a nice twist on the conventional guidebook theme.

Chris Moss (travel writer)

Good format your books, simple, clear and readable.

Luca Benazzi (a reader):

Your travel guides are some of the best ever written.