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 are any city guides that come close to matching them for sheer ingenuity and style. A fine series, absolutely in the premier league of guidebooks. Every title a gem, each one reflecting Duncan JD Smith's quirky insights into urban life and culture. A fine series of books. Ever reliable and hugely stimulating.

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

Vivien Godfrey, Stanfords, London:
Your *Only In Guides* are wonderful.

Wanderlust magazine:
Who says guidebooks are dead? Discerning travellers like us still enjoy the insight of a good guide and there are some superb indie publishers out there. The *Only In Guides* (The Urban Explorer) is a growing series of city guides aimed at cultural travellers. With a focus on unique locations and hidden corners, each offers recommended places and experiences in cities such as Tangier and Trieste, as well as more obvious picks like Paris and Prague.

Lyn Hughes, founder of Wanderlust magazine:
They're really interesting guides!

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 Guides* series really is quite brilliant.

Leigh Turner, author and former British ambassador:
My favourite guidebooks. Recommended.

Clare Marston, freelance travel writer:
Duncan's writing is an inspiration, he has spent the past 20 years working on his collection of guides, and they are absolutely fantastic. These books are testament that Duncan is a man showing complete dedication to his craft.

Georgina Burgoyne, a reader:
The world needs books like yours, as that's what makes travelling so much fun.

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 G*uides 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:
The *Only In Guides* are great travel companions and an invaluable source of information on the quirky and off-the-beaten track sights. The clever format with the foldout map at the front makes navigation in a new city easy and fun. Highly recommended!

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.

Mandy Boughton, a reader:
These are brilliant guides, whether you're taking a trip for pleasure, have a few hours to spare on a business trip, or perhaps you want to be better informed about the city you're doing business in!

www.amazon.co.uk:
Eminently easy to read, citing genuinely interesting corners, with generous historical background.

Zsuzsi Szollosi, a reader:
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.