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Vienna (Eyewitness Travel Guides)



Synopsis

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DK Eyewitness Travel Guides are the only guides that work equally well for inspiration, as a planning tool, a practical resource while traveling, and a keepsake following any trip. Each guide is packed with the up-to-date, reliable destination information every traveler needs, including extensive hotel and restaurant listings, themed itineraries, lush photography, and numerous maps.

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Customer Reviews

Eyewitness wins hands down Mail on Sunday --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Paris has been my favourite city ever since my first visit there so it would be unlikely I thought that Vienna could be so good. But Vienna is wonderful too, in a very different way. What's similar is an ordered city centre with beautiful buildings and royal palaces. There's also the famous Spanish Riding School. We didn't have the chance to view that as you had to book and we had only 3 days for everything in Vienna. However, we did visit the adjoining palace and other beautiful buildings. Yet more of these anyone can see on TV - in the ballet sequences that are performed for the famous New Year's Day Concert with the Vienna Phil in the beautiful Golden Hall. The old city wall was taken down and is now a ring road but very different to the frenetic near-motorway that's the Peripherique round Paris. The Vienna ring road is just a road, wide in parts. Other fascinating

places are of course the museums and the churches and the unusual St Stephen's Cathedral. Close to the ring road is the beautiful Mozart theatre - tours take place inside the theatre. From there we took two bus trips, one for a boat trip on the Danube and the other to the edge of the Vienna Woods. We stayed outside the centre in a pension that was once a convent and our bedroom was plain and simple but very large with a large vestibule. Nearby is the beautiful Schonbrun royal palace with extensive formal gardens and a little zoo, also a huge folly facing the back of the house below which they have summer concerts. Visiting the royal palaces and seeing the general value all my Eyewitness Guides - and Insight Guides too. I always buy whichever of these is available for places we visit, they are simply invaluable, and also I buy them for places I hope to visit someday, or even just because I'm interested even if I never expect to get there. Compact but detailed, splendid maps, drawings, photographs, history, where to stay, restaurants, you name it, and a very good index. I wouldn't go on any holiday, not even in Britain, without my Eyewitness or Insight Guide (or both).

I loved the combination of visuals and text, and found my visit to Vienna (Dec. 2012) enriched by the details I picked up about Viennese history, culture, and architecture before my trip. I used the Internet to check on details about opening times and so on, and found the maps superior to any I picked up locally. I was able to locate a museum which focused on my particular interest in folk art (which the Road Scholar leader did not know about) and spent my free afternoon there quite happily. Thanks to the star rating it got, I knew that although obscure it would be worth my time. I will hang onto the book as a souvenir and to review before my next trip.

This is an acceptable book to read at home with lots of photos and illustrations. However, this is not a useful book for the road. It's heavy (for its size) and difficult to flip through. The maps are not easy to read and there are very limited practical information such as schedules, prices and transportation information. The writing is also extremely boring and uninspired. Am I suppose to be reading this while having afternoon tea??? Travel is suppose to be fun! I guess once a Rick Steve fan, always a Rick Steve fan. This is just not my type of travel book.

This Vienna Guide was obviously not updated recently. For example, the Benvenuto Cellini salt cellar is prominently illustrated in the section on the Kunsthistorische museum. Unfortunately, when I went there I found out that it had been stolen from the museum in May 2003. So much for the "updated" 2004 version. There are similar art items (such as the Vermeer) that have been loaned

out to other museums for an extensive period, and should not have been listed in the 2004 guide. In addition, most of Vienna as of late June 2004 is being renovated, so you will find the exteriors of the Schoenbrunn Palace, the Staatsoper, the Kunsthistorische museum, and even the Hotel Sacher in scaffolding, and the Parliament building's steps and fountains are a pile of rubble as they are being rebuilt. The Guide offered no warning for any of these. On the positive side, the Guide offers a good map of the underground and how to get to the city from the airport (the CAT train from the airport is even easier than the Guide indicates). It also offers a street map of the area most tourists would visit. However, the street I had to go to (Schikanedergasse) was not listed in the Guide map even though it was within the map area, and the seam in the book divided the map in an awkward fashion. The Guide also offers some good descriptions of the area within the Ringstrasse. However, some buildings that are a block or two apart are described in different sections of the book, so you may miss out on some of the sights if you only look at one section at a time. All in all, the book offered some help, but at times the information was vague or outdated. The next time I go to Vienna I shall consult another guide.

This was a very complete travel guide with detailed descriptions and pictures which was very helpful when putting together a photo book several months after our return.

Restaurants and hotels pricing was off, but, as usual, DK Publishing Eyewitness guides are like having a personal historical/architectural guide by your side - 24/7/365. It's simply.. perfect. Make sure to visit Budapest while in Vienna - only 3 hours away by train. Also consider Bratislava for a one-day trip - the historical center is pretty.

I love the Eyewitness series. Take them on every vacation. Very helpful and full of great information.

These books are beautiful and informative and perfect for a pre-trip virtual tour of any city. However, I find them overly complex for actual touring and rely more on Rick Steves for Europe and Lonely Planet or Frommers for everything else. I buy a DK guide to any large city I am headed for and spend many happy hours with them pre and post trip. I would highly recommend you do the same. And since travel guides are as varied as the travelers who use them, you might find these to be the perfect book to carry with you.

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