

Only in Munich: All reviews

Renate Herkner (Munich tour guide):

As an official tour guide of Munich I want to express my enthusiasm for your perfect research of all hidden and mysterious places. A fantastic book.

Karoline Graf, Munich Tourist Office:

We all like your book very much because even we as specialists were able to learn about some new aspects of Munich.

Anita Franz (Munich native):

I would like to thank you for the wonderful book "Only in Munich". I enjoyed reading it tremendously. I grew up in Munich and although I already knew a lot of places there, your brilliant travelogue showed me more and gave me some wonderful inspiration.

Stuart Anderson, www.destination-munich.com:

I'm a big fan of "Only In Munich" – it told me a lot about places in Munich I'd never heard of and put a different slant on the ones most visitors already know about. I also really like the way it's arranged in chapters with a very much a storyteller's approach, which is pretty rare in a travel guide.

Reader review (www.amazon.com):

Very useful and helpful planning tool for touring niche aspects of the city. There were several topics that I had some background on but the vast majority of the sites were essentially unknown to me and several were interesting enough in their own right to warrant exploration on my recent trip to Munich. The shame is, for many travellers, much of this information would simply be 'out of sight, out of mind' and they would never know what they had missed out on.

Martin Dawes, The Sheffield Star (11.08.09):

Someone once described travel writer Duncan J. D. Smith's European city guides as a good toilet read because each chapter is short enough to devour in a visit to the smallest room in the hotel! You certainly won't get cultural constipation with any of the five books now under his belt. Dates and dynasties play second fiddle to oddities and anecdotes as this lanky self-styled 'Urban Explorer' leads you around cellars and cemeteries.

Ulrich Trebin, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Bayern 1:

I can tell you that I like the book very much and recommend it.

Stefan Schopper:

Last week I was twice in Munich with your book and I have enjoyed it very much. You have written a great book. Many thanks.

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.

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, www.eurocheapo.com:

Essential Reading: Maps and travel guides.

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. “Only in Budapest” was published in 2006, with author Duncan J. D. Smith adeptly reviewing 84 offbeat and eclectic curiosities around the Hungarian capital. Now Smith has followed his Budapest debut with a trio of new titles. “Only in Berlin”, “Only in Vienna” and “Only in Prague” bring a bit of Duncan Smith’s distinctive style to three more central European cities, with in each case 84 hidden gems being unveiled. Clearly there is some magic to the number 84 to which we are not privy.

Monster water lilies and Turkish cannonballs.

We learned that a mosque not far from our Berlin home is the oldest in Germany, discovered monster water lilies in Prague and found out about old Turkish cannonballs embedded in the stonework of Vienna buildings.

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...” 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.