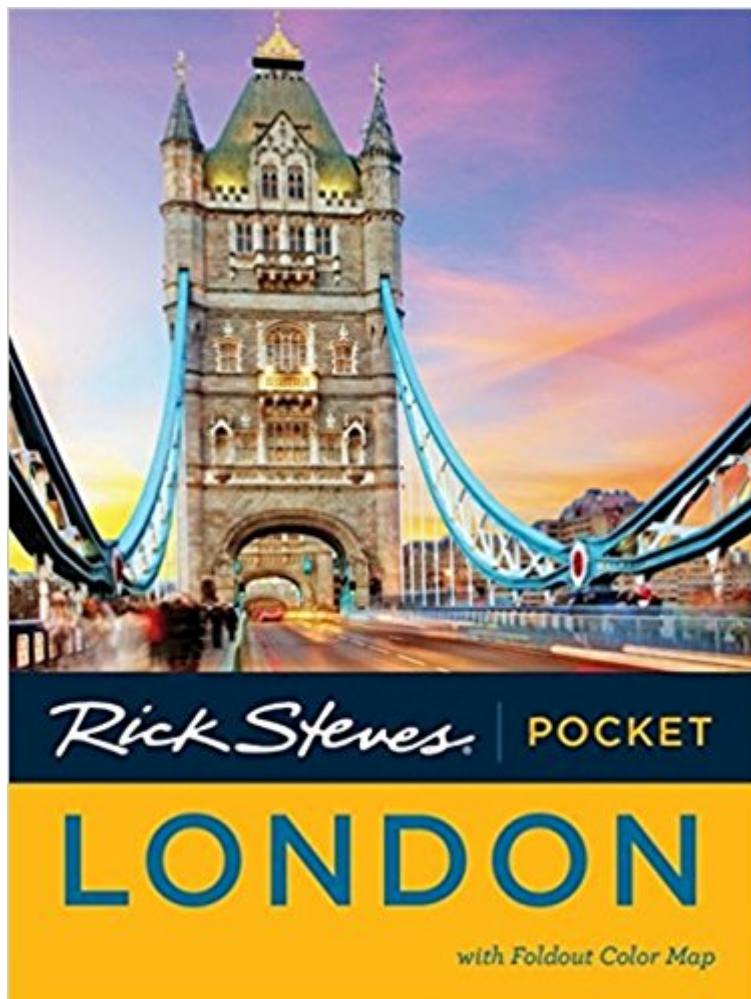


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Rick Steves Pocket London



Synopsis

Rick Steves Pocket guidebooks truly are a "tour guide in your pocket." This colorful, compact 220-page book includes Rick's advice for prioritizing your time, whether you're spending 1 or 7 days in a city. Everything a busy traveler needs is easy to access: a neighborhood overview, city walks and tours, sights, handy food and accommodations charts, an appendix packed with information on trip planning and practicalities, and a fold-out city map. Included in Rick Steves Pocket London: Sights: the National Portrait Gallery, Courtauld Gallery, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Bankside Walk Walks and Tours: the Westminster Walk, Westminster Abbey Tour, National Gallery Tour, West End Walk, British Museum Tour, British Library Tour, The City Walk, St. Paul's Cathedral Tour, and Tower of London Tour

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Customer Reviews

Since 1973, Rick has spent about four months a year exploring Europe. His mission: to empower Americans to have European trips that are fun, affordable, and culturally broadening. Rick produces a best-selling guidebook series, a public television series, and a public radio show, and organizes small-group tours that take over 20,000 travelers to Europe annually. He does all of this with the help of a hardworking, well-traveled staff of 100 at Rick Steves' Europe in Edmonds, Washington, near Seattle. When not on the road, Rick is active in his church and with advocacy groups focused on economic justice, drug policy reform, and ending hunger. To recharge, Rick plays piano, relaxes at his family cabin in the Cascade Mountains, and spends time with his partner Trish, son Andy, and

daughter Jackie. Connect with Rick: facebook: Rick Steves; twitter: @RickStevesInstagram: ricksteveseurope Gene Openshaw is a writer, composer, tour guide, and lecturer on art and history. Specializing in writing walking tours of Europe's cultural sights, Gene has coauthored 10 of Rick's books and contributes to Rick's public television series. As a composer, Gene has written a full-length opera (*Matter*), a violin sonata, and dozens of songs. He lives near Seattle with his daughter, and roots for the Mariners in good times and bad.

The Pocket London guide was my first encounter with Rick Steves' books. I found the book to be concise with just the right amount of information. Sometimes travel books can get too in depth when you just need a quick reference so the pocket guide was great. It gave short descriptions and contained all of the main things to do in London. I love the fact that the book offers audio tours you can get for free from iTunes. You can simply bring your iPod and listen to the tour. I used the audio tour at St. Paul's Cathedral. It also has a small tour in the book for places such as the British Museum. You just read along and go where it tells you and it will give descriptions about a few of the things you are seeing. The pull out map it included was very helpful and I used it during my whole trip. It had all the major attractions on it which made it easy to see where you were and how to make a plan to get to the next attraction. The only thing that this book lacked for me was good recommendations for restaurants. I prefer to stay away from chains and enjoy quality food. The Pocket London book only gave a few recommendations none of which particularly met my eating out standards. Then again I did not buy this book for the restaurants it included. I could have done without that section completely. Overall this book is great for giving descriptions on sightseeing attractions and museums. I would definitely buy another pocket guide from Rick Steves' for another city I visit.

This book is packed with useful and extremely up-to-date information (I found this series to be one of the most accurate and up-to-date of the travel books). He really gives you the inside scoop on how to see London on a budget. I found some tips to be a little too cheap but that's my personal taste so no points were deducted - it's always great to have the option. Concise and clear cut directions were given on how to get to attractions (Legoland) and how to optimize each experience. The top attractions (Tate Gallery, British Museum, Westminster Abbey, etc.) were given a in-depth commentay and very detailed review that provided valuable advise. I especially appreciated the various sample "walks" for each neighborhood in London that gave easy directions and notes for what to look for along the way. This book is ESSENTIAL for traveling and I found the corresponding

website (ricksteves.com) provided helpful information as well. Sections of the book gave good reviews and tips on where to eat, shop & sightsee and even more importantly, which ones to avoid! This book even provides some bargains to readers only. I highly recommend this book to anyone traveling to London.

As a first-time traveler to London, I found this book full of great information. I loved that it was small enough to put in my purse so I could carry it with me during my vacation. I used it a lot! The pull out map was a wonderful reference and easy to use. Without this book, I wouldn't have known where to start. With only 2.5 days in London, this book really helped me plan what I wanted to see and how to easily get around. I plan to buy the corresponding book for any new city that I decide to visit! I highly recommend this book!

An independent pre-Christmas trip to London (Dec 8-13, 2010) was extremely enhanced through "Rick Steves' London 2011" both through pre-trip planning and on-trip reading. The guidelines for visiting the National Art Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, and the British Museum were extremely helpful. These museums are so large, that the Steves' focus assists in seeing the best artwork and historical images within a two hour visit to each museum. Rick's suggestion of an Oyster Card for Underground Tube travel was efficient and effective. The Underground and City Maps at the opening of the book were excellent as well as the hand-drawn maps for walking tours of areas of London. "Rick Steves London 2011" actually enhanced the satisfaction of my six-day trip to London.

Rick Steves is one of the most popular series of guides to travel. We were in London for 4 days this summer, and used the book as a quick reference guide. The organization of the book is much like the other guides. It is about 4.5 by 6 inches, 244 pages or so. The first pages of introduction gives a synopsis of the major tourist areas and a schematic of the Underground. The Tube generally circumnavigates the major neighborhoods of the London. What follows are more detailed self-guided tours of Westminster Abbey, National Gallery Museum, British Museum, British Library, st. Paul's Tower of London. The back of the book includes a detailed map of London with Underground stops, and an Underground map. This map is really good. It was much better than the free map distributed by the hotel, which was festooned with ads. We were able to navigate most of London that we wanted to walk to. The streets are well-marked. The attractions are accurately placed. And the map is quite sturdy. Through all of our flipping and digging through backpacks, it

only ripped in the corner attached to the book. London is perhaps the city with the most accessible, reliable public transit in the world. Having the transit map was invaluable. There were a few helpful hints that are not clearly stated in the guide. For instance, Oyster Cards (passes for the Underground that can be pre-loaded with money) can be purchased from the London Transit website and can be sent to your home BEFORE the trip. Children up to age 18 do not use Oyster Cards but need to purchase transit cards (check the website for details). We also bought theater tickets from the TKTS booth in Leicester Sq. (where you can get tickets discounted for the same day, up to 50% off) This was not marked on the map. Finally, the attraction that all the children loved the most, the Warner Brothers Harry Potter studio, was not mentioned in the book. Tickets for this attractions are for timed entries (every 30 minutes), and are best purchased online prior to arrival. It also requires a Tube ride to Wexford Junction (a commuter train) and then a separate £2 pp bus ride from the station to the studio. Check the website for details. Note: this is a brief and populist guide. It is good for an overview, but not for any kind of detailed historical or academic treatise of the major sights. For this kind of information, I recommend doing research before your trip on the internet, as each major sight has a website. As well, the Blue Guides will bring more life to the tours. The tour companies are expensive, but allowed us to bypass long, hot lines for the major attractions. Our tour guide was an archeologist who happened to be a great speaker. The children were vastly entertained, and she was familiar with all the SHADY spots on the tour. We did not use this book for restaurant recommendations or hotels. We used a Tripadvisor city app: take the recommendations with a grain of salt, as they are not always unbiased. So, why a guide book and not a smartphone app? Smart phone apps (maps, Tripadvisor, etc.) have an advantage in that your GPS location is available, and the distance to various sights can be accurately estimated. However, smartphones are difficult to see in the sun, and the information you want is not always easily searchable. It would be cool, for example, to wear Google Glass and have it link to Wikipedia. Great, but it's way cheaper to buy a \$10 book.

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