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Chicago (Eyewitness Travel Guides)



Synopsis

The guide that shows you what other travel books only tell you! America's 3rd largest city is known for its non-stop energy, outstanding architecture, ethnic neighborhoods and cultural life. DK's Eyewitness Travel Guides: Chicago set the standard for the balance of sightseeing, historical and practical information. Whether going to see the Cubs at Wrigley Field, looking for a Chagall at the Art Institute, or heading to the top of the John Hancock Building, there is no better guide to show you what the "Windy City" has to offer. Includes a spectacular bird's-eye view of the Magnificent Mile, floor plans of the major museums, with excellent coverage of the city's nightlife, shops and markets.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Encyclopedic in scope, it's meant to be used before, during, and after your stay. (Travel & Leisure) Both novice and experienced travelers will be captivated. (U.S. News & World Report) Each book is a visual as well as informational feast about a particular place. (The New York Times) The best travel guides ever. (Sky Magazine) For comprehensive advice that is attractively presented, publisher Dorling Kindersley's guides for serious travelers are tough to beat. (US News & World Report) Hats off to DK for the Eyewitness Travel Guides...[they] raise the bar for all others. (Dallas Morning News) The most graphically exciting and visually pleasing series on the market. (Chicago Tribune) Eyewitness Travel Guides are marvels of writing, color photography and illustration. What makes these so special is their thoroughness. (New York Times Syndicate) This is a guidebook series that always seems to inspire smiles...You feel, looking at them, as if you could close the book

and step into the street. (Contra Costa Times) Want to know where to get a great espresso on your way to the Uffizi? Or how much to tip a hotel maid in New York City? Try these travel guides, each an intricate trove of 3-D aerial views, landmark floor plans, color photos and essential eating, shopping and entertainment info. With titles covering Paris, Prague, and London, these pocket-sized guides are like a Michelangelo fresco: deliriously rich in detail. (People Magazine) Eyewitness Travel Guides, considered to be the world's best travel resource to over 30 destinations around the world, make it easier to plan a splendid vacation. (North American Press Syndication) Each new Eyewitness Guide adds more of the world to this wonderfully visual series.... What sets these guides apart from others is their striking, three-dimensional cutaways of key sites. (New York Daily News)

Great book for sightseeing. It is very well organized and easy to read. It does not overwhelm with information, which is something I love. It gives you just the right amount of details to get a feel for what you are seeing. The color-coded sections are a great idea. If I would have to say one negative thing about the Chicago guide is that it could use a slightly better Metro map. I generally love the guides from this publisher and recommend them.

This was fantastic since it also had 3-D maps and street guides. The maps are worth the price alone.
MJR

For the most part, Dorling Kindersley's Eyewitness Travel Guides are terrific both as a backpack resource and as a keepsake afterward. I have about a dozen of their books at home, and I return to them frequently since I am a fan of the pleasing graphics and intuitive organization by neighborhood. The New York City guidebook (or more accurately, the Manhattan guide) is a particularly strong entry in the series, but the slim volume put together for Chicago, last published in 2003, is a relative disappointment. The gap comes from how the editors define the city's boundaries or at least what they perceive to be the areas of highest interest. Of course, the Loop and the Near North Side are covered thoroughly, but popular neighborhoods like Lakeview and Lincoln Park are given short shrift relegated to small paragraphs in the Farther Afield chapter. The first part of the book presents a brief history of the city that is interesting if rather cursory with events that are cross-referenced to the more popular sights you would want to see there. There is a well-presented survival guide toward the end of the book that highlights important travel information as well as recommendations on where to stay, shop and eat. Moreover, there is a comprehensive street finder, which helps you navigate without the inconvenience of fold-out maps. But again, the shortcomings

reflect the selection of key areas at the expense of others. Even with copies of Chicago and Time Out, I was not able to achieve a more holistic view of the city when I traveled there. The pluses remain in its format. All the information is contained within a user-friendly, laminated paperback format that slips easily into backpacks and holds up well against inclement weather. Of particular use are the detailed pictorials showing animated aerial shots of neighborhoods and cut-away floor plans of the more heavily visited buildings like the Art Institute of Chicago. However, the net result is a guidebook that provides only marginal value in spite of the high quality of the series as a whole.

I like to read their travel guides beforehand and learn more about the city. Many other guides are just lists of restaurants, which nowadays you can get on the Web. In addition, in busy cities like New York, those recommendations are outdated very fast.

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