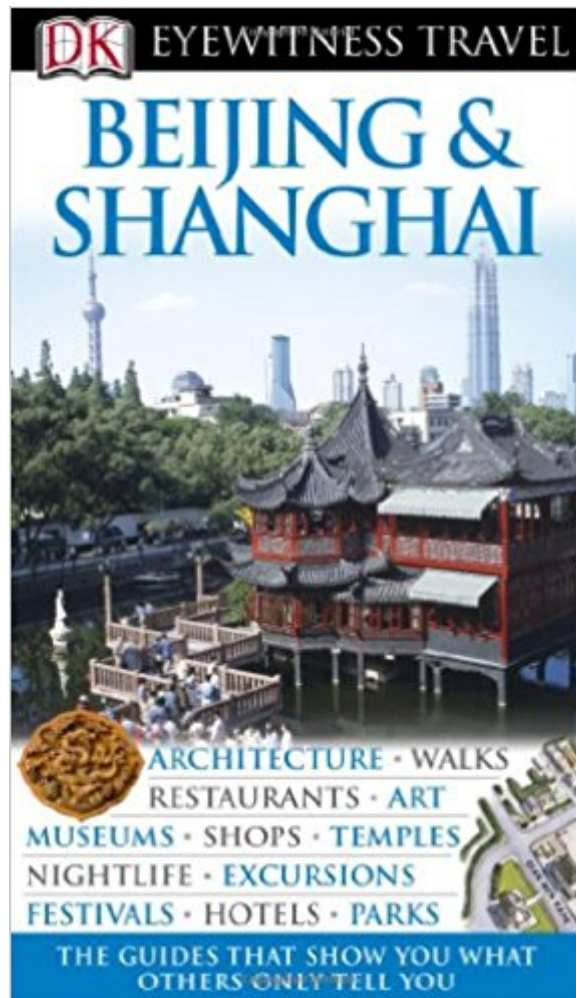




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Beijing And Shanghai (Eyewitness Travel Guides)



Synopsis

The updated and expanded DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Beijing & Shanghai will lead you straight to the best attractions these great cities have to offer, from the Great Wall of China to the Forbidden City. With the help of full-color photography and illustrated cutaways, floor plans, and reconstructions of the stunning architecture of both cities, DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Beijing & Shanghai allows you to visualize your destinations. Insider travel tips and DK's indispensable maps and street views of key areas will ensure that you can find your way through the hustle and bustle of these cultural hubs with ease. Detailed listings include the best hotels, restaurants, bars, and shops for all budgets.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like all DK books, this one is very glossy and colorful. If you're going on a packaged tour of these cities, this is a fine book to have. It has nice photos and maps of the major tourist attractions, as well as some historical information and suggested walking tours. On the other hand, if you're going to be visiting these cities for an extended period, you will probably exhaust the information in this slim book pretty quickly. If you're a backpacker or independent tourist, this book will have limited value to you as there are only a handful of hotel and restaurant suggestions. The DK books are published much less frequently than other guidebooks, so I suppose extensive listings (like you find in annually updated guidebooks) would be obsolete a couple of years later. This book does have a 2009 publication date and the Beijing subway map does include the new routes that were added for the 2008 Olympics.

Except on very major roads, none of the street signs in Beijing are written in English. The book doesn't have any Chinese characters listed for the streets or business names. This means you can't match the Chinese characters on your own, or point to them when asking someone else. Unless you can perfectly pronounce the English versions of Chinese names and ask someone on the street (extremely hard, especially when given no accent marks on the English versions), this book is next to useless. Maybe this wouldn't bother you if you were only going to the main sites, but the book doesn't even show the reviewed businesses (hotels, restaurants, shops) on the maps, only the rough square they are in! Add in the fact that many city facts are just plain wrong (ignore their description of the subway for example, it is all electronic), and I honestly don't understand why there are so many great reviews regarding the maps & locations for this book. Unless you just want to read it for the pictures, stay away.

I enjoyed leafing through this book before going on our trip to China. However, while there, it proved to be pretty much useless. The information given for the major sights were incredibly lacking. I will cite just coverage of the Forbidden Palace. It makes no mention at all for the treasure museum at the Forbidden Palace. This is by far the most rewarding part and has some magnificent imperial treasures, including some of the largest carved jade ever created. It also provides nearly no stories or narratives for any of the buildings, except mentioning their function. I did not use their restaurant and hotel recommendations so can't comment, but it seemed overloaded with non-Chinese eateries. One positive are the guided walks provided. We did a modified version in Beijing and it was great. This book is good for looking at some pictures and getting some ideas before your trip, but useless as a guidebook.

I bought this book days before leaving for my trip to Beijing and Shanghai. I read it on the plane and picked up so much. My husband kept asking me where I got all my information! I learned about the history, sights to see, places to eat and scams to watch out for. I learned not to tip and where to shop. The book is organized and easy to follow. It is easy to go back and find things that you read through previously and want to refer back to. I carried this book in my purse/backpack with me everywhere. The only drawback is that the book was written a few years ago, so some things are outdated and it doesn't include some newer restaurants and hotels. Other than that, it's great. I highly recommend it.

This was a nice book to view prior to my trip there. Getting to know about a country you will be visiting can make your experience a much better one. It's a beautiful and very colorful book which isn't really very big but weighs almost 1 pound. I will take it along with me in Oct when I do go to CHINA. I will not hesitate with the purchase of the same type of book from this company for any future trips. I am very pleased with it

I really enjoyed this book and used it extensively last September when I visited Beijing and Shanghai on business, each for a couple days. Very useful for getting one's bearings logistically and understanding the deep culture and extensive history of each city, especially Beijing. Visually rich and well presented - offering a preview of the grandness of the sites it describes. A bit on the large side for a travel guide, but I just managed to fit it in my back pocket.

This travel guide is good to use while you are walking around the cities. It is the right size and weight, so you don't mind carrying it in a pack. Good information (obviously not as much as a bigger book). Also I appreciate the DK graphic style showing maps with drawings of the sites and buildings on them.

I used the book when I traveled to China in September 2011. I found it to be informative and compact. I used the information from the book both in Beijing and Shanghai and found it to be accurate except for some restaurants. On the whole it is a good book and I did my pre-planning from this and some other books.

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