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Hong Kong: Monocle Travel Guide (Monocle Travel Guides)



Synopsis

The definitive travel guides that make you feel like a local wherever you go. Monocle magazine covers the world with its network of bureaus (New York, Toronto, Zurich, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Tokyo, Singapore), its more than 30 dedicated correspondents based from Beirut to Bogota, Sao Paulo to Stockholm, and its team of on-the-road reporters based out of its headquarters in London. Monocle-the magazine that covers urbanism and the city design like no other-knows about the hidden gems in all the great cities. It also knows where to take an ambassador for breakfast, an on-the-go businessman for a late night cocktail, or where to get an astute concierge at ungodly hours. Its deep understanding of cities and all they have to offer has been compiled in the new Monocle Travel Guides. Launching this spring with editions for London and Tokyo, followed by New York and Hong Kong, these beautiful books reveal the Monocle team's favorite places, from the ideal route for an early morning run to the best spots for independent retail. Aimed at people who do not want to be tourists but rather feel like locals when they travel, these are books for those who want to mix the classic with the contemporary, want to get beyond the cliches, and know they can get a feel for a city even if they only have a few days. And they are full of surprises and quirks: the books will guide you to a grand hotel but also to a cozy two-star, and will leave you drinking in a local corner bar or being served by a great waiter who knows his craft-while being wary of pushing you into the newest, hippest, soulless bar. Created by the Monocle design team, these authoritative guides will be trim enough to drop into your pocket and wise enough to stay by your side throughout your travels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Why you'll love it: Monocle does a terrific job of identifying neat, locally flavored, and culturally relevant destinations for those looking to visit the city. Unlike most travel guides, the book provides a solid foundation for discovering many interesting activities from sightseeing opportunities to even barbershops. Not only does the book identify a range of dining establishments (across all budgets), it provides a nifty guide of recommended souvenir choices. The format is a quick read and stock full of beautiful photographs.

Why you'll hate it: The book will ultimately make you rethink your budget for your visit...and likely require an upward revision.....

Planning an extended weekend visit this fall to Hong Kong and began with the usual suspects, Insight Guides, Eyewitness Travel and Rough Guides. This may be the best in depth travel guide I've found, and I hope they expand to more cities. At first glance it feels (literally) like a textbook with a hardcover and bookmark (1/8" cloth) permanently affixed. I would be more than comfortable to take this into public on vacation and not feel like a tourist. Nothing against the previously mentioned travel guides, I would use those as a supplement with the great folding maps this lacks. The Hong Kong guide is broken into 9 sections: Hotels, Food and Drink, Retail, Things we'd buy, Essays (Hong Kong from family and friends point of view), Culture, Design and architecture, Sport and fitness and Walks. In addition to those main sections, a small overview map (not detachable from book) and resources for the would be traveler. One critique to the book is the lack of organization within each section, there is no order to the neighborhoods discussed, and locations tend to jump from one point to the next. This is where another guidebook would benefit the traveler as those tend to be more organized by areas. I enjoy the recommendations of offbeat locations from the main tourist crowds, and this will be great to see the real life of Hong Kong. Would I recommend? Without hesitation, but I would still consider a mainstream guide with the neighborhoods outlined and their removable maps. Overall, great product and hope to see future cities added to Monocle's catalog.

I just came back from a first time trip to Hong Kong and I bought this book in advance of my trip. I was not familiar with this guide series and have previously relied mostly on Lonely Planet, but also on Frommer's, Fodor's, and Insight Guides. Overall I was glad that I had this book although there were some strengths and some weaknesses. The book is a beautiful book to look at and to hold. If you know someone planning a trip to Hong Kong, this would make a wonderful gift. The photos are

nice and the layout is very appealing. There is a lot of nice background information and essays about life in Hong Kong and issues facing Hong Kong that I found helped me get more out of my trip. As for hotel and restaurant recommendations, the guidebook was heavily favored towards luxe/fancy/pricier/trendy listings. I found the total number of restaurant listings seriously lacking and needed other sources for help. There was, however, a delightful speakeasy bar that was one of the highlights of my trip that I saw mentioned nowhere else and I would not have known about had it not been for this book. I think this is a book that should be used in conjunction with other sources.

The book is lovely with great information and pictures. The quality of the binding is amazing too...published in Germany where they still value books. However, I found it lacking by not providing public transportation directions to listings such as nearest bus/metro stop details.

Very limited information all geared to a high end trip. No budget options. The pictures and binding are very nice quality

Contains some good recommendations for a short stay

Written for a Hong Kong resident or one looking for an overview. For example no price range given for restaurants.

great guides, the size is perfect

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