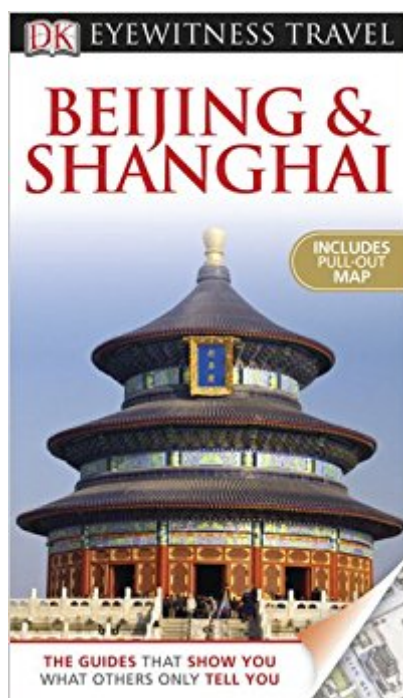


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DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Beijing And Shanghai



Synopsis

These two fascinating cities reflect different aspects of China. Beijing is the traditional capital, the seat of political power and home to the ancient monuments of Imperial China; Shanghai is both a financial powerhouse and a city at the cutting edge of fashion with an interesting modern history. This DK Eyewitness Travel Guide provides in-depth coverage of these cities, including Beijing's Great Wall and Forbidden City, Shanghai's Bund and the French Concession, as well as the water towns of Suzhou and Hangzhou, graced with serene and timeless gardens and lakes. Explore China's cultural heritage through richly illustrated features on everything from Beijing Opera to Confucianism, Chinese Gardens, and the Cultural Revolution. Illustrated food features highlight the differing regional cuisines, and resident China experts have provided detailed listings of the best places to stay and eat. Specially devised walking tours take you easily to the heart of these bustling, enigmatic, and ultimately bewitching cities. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Packed with photographs, illustrations, and maps
Cutaways and floor plans of all the major sights
3-D aerial views of the city's most interesting districts
Huge selection of hotels, restaurants, stores, and entertainment venues
Specially devised walking tours
Now includes a new durable, oversized pull-out map with useful transportation information, a distance chart, a street and sight index, and practical information for getting around the cities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Known for its four-color maps, photos and illustrations, the [DK] Eyewitness Guides are

extremely user-friendly for travelers who want their information delivered in a concise, visual way." *Chicago Tribune*"The best option" | Color photos, maps, and diagrams bring the place to life." *The Philadelphia Inquirer* --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This guide is fantastic. My wife and I just got back from a trip to Beijing and Shanghai and not only did this book provide a ton of useful information in it's own right it also gave the perfect amount of background to help us sort through everything we were reading on the internet. I had looked at a lot of lists of things to do in the two cities but it can get a little overwhelming sorting through a ton of different web sites. I decided to get a China travel guide to get a little grounding and found that the guide getting the best reviews was one specific to the two cities we were visiting. Doesn't get any better than that. The guide has a brief background of China's history and culture; information about etiquette and important phrases; a traveler survival guide, subway maps, and ton of other stuff. We really loved the four walking tours of the cities. They were super detailed and took you to a lot of awesome sights that you might not realize are so close together. The guide also gives outlines of four days in each city. The historical days were more interesting to us than the cultural ones but there is something for everyone. One of the best features of the book were the tips on the times of day to visit certain places. A couple examples from our experience: When in Beijing, on the day you visit the Forbidden City, start early in Jing Shan Park to get some great views of the city. This is what we did and when we were in the park it felt like we were the only people there. Later when we were down in the Forbidden City we could see the heights of the park in the distance and it looked overrun with people. Similarly in Shanghai the book says to visit Yu Gardens right when it opens. Again, following that advice we spent a peaceful hour in a beautiful garden. A couple days later we went back to that area a little later in the morning to have tea in the Huxinting Teahouse and Yu Gardens was a mad house. The garden might still be beautiful but the whole ambiance of the place would be ruined. I really can't say enough about this guide book. It was literally in my hand the entire trip. I will definitely be buying DK guidebooks for our future trips.

I just did three weeks in Shanghai and Beijing in April as a tourist. Fortunately, the latest edition of the Eyewitness Travel Guide had just come out. Both cities are changing so rapidly, it was nice to have the latest version, e.g., subways. I've relied on Eyewitness guides for travel in Europe and this was the first time I used one for Asia. I like their architectural focus since I'm an architectural historian. And being an old fogey, I still go with a paper version, especially behind the Great Firewall

of China where certain websites are not always accessible. The book did very well covering what I needed and getting me around. I had bought it specifically for the laminated tear out map of the two cities, which was really nice, especially for the subways. However, I ended up relying mostly on the GPS function of my smart phone to pinpoint exactly where I was. The book of course doesn't cover everything, so I supplemented with Lonely Planet's Discover China, which was also very good. Most importantly, both books are very good at preparing for the journey. I can't think of anything to add or subtract from the book, which is a good sign. There could always be more but weight is a concern with any book. This one is a little lighter weight than the Lonely Planet China, but then again, it only covers Shanghai and Beijing. With electronic versions, weight of course, wouldn't matter.

I spent 6 days in Shanghai. It was organized Chaos and with the language barrier I was often lost. I did not want to be afraid to venture out and using this book really helped me pinpoint and navigate neighborhoods. The map of Shanghai was not complete. The entire side of town where my hotel was located was not shown, but I would think that is because Shanghai is developing so quickly it likely did not exist when the book was published. My hotel was not open at the time the book was published. All in all it was my go-to that got me out of the hotel to experience the city which I found fascinating. Can't wait to go back.

The information is minimal and badly organized. I usually use Lonely Planet for my trips and this time since I was looking for a guide for both Beijing and Shanghai, I decided to buy DK Eyewitness and I have to say this will be my last time buying a guide from them. For example, you are in a neighborhood, you don't have internet connection, and want to find a place to eat. There are of course recommendations in the book (somewhere in the end) and there is no way that you can find their locations, using the address and their map. Lonely Planet numbers its bars/restaurants etc and use the same number on the map which can be found around the same pages. I can go on for more ... bottom line: never DK Eyewitness guide for me.

This guide has excellent pictures and is decent. I bought it before my trip to Beijing. Honestly, I ended up using the Lonely Planet guide to Beijing more frequently. This book was better for learning the history of China and some additional details about some of the sites. The book doesn't provide practical advice on how to get to specific sites, which Lonely Planet did. This information is very helpful as transportation, especially for someone who does not know Chinese, is essential.

Since we are going to China this Spring and spending time in Beijing and Shanghai in addition to traveling to other parts of the country, we bought this guidebook in addition to buying the DK Eyewitness Guide to China. I use 2.0 power reading glasses these days, and even with those on, it was difficult to read the words because the type is so small. My wife took one look at it with her reading glasses on, tossed it aside and said the heck with it -- it gave her eye strain. So we sent it back to , and will look for something else.

This guide is good if you want to have a general idea of what to see in Shanghai (I didn't go to Beijing so I cannot comment). The book needs some update especially regarding the suggested walks. Buildings have been teared down and there is not much to see.

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