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Lonely Planet Switzerland



Synopsis

new author team offers the most up-to-date coverage available - discerning recommendations to hotels, restaurants & nightlife - special sections on the top outdoor activities & the most scenic train journeys - informed listings of Switzerland's top museums & art collections - Switzerland's towns and cities boast wonderful locations, impressive museums and splendid shopping. - Around 60 percent of Switzerland's electricity is produced by hydro-electric power. - Switzerland has produced more Nobel Prize winners per capita than any other country. - Swiss inventions include milk chocolate, life insurance and the pump turbine.

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Customer Reviews

'...these smart and exhaustively researched guides have become the gold standard for serious, independent travelers.' --San Francisco Chronicle --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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those who are curious, open minded and independent. * We challenge our growing community of travellers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travellers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.
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I use this constantly (I live in Switzerland). Some of the smaller towns are not covered much and - alas! - our village does not even merit an entry, but that is why god made Wikipedia, I suppose. Especially good for the big cities and to get an overview of the cantons. Warning: do not buy the Lonely Planet city guides - they contain no more information than this book - if you own it, you own all the city guides. As I have complained elsewhere, I would really like Lonely Planet and Kindle (I use the Kindle version which is great because it is always with you, has zero marginal weight, and is searchable by text) to come up with a better map interface, something more like Google Maps, where you can slide, pinch, zoom in and out, have details appear or disappear based on context, and maybe, just maybe, allow you to point to a location and go to the appropriate text in the book. Right now, we are left with cut up maps (literally) that require you to open each one individually, zoom in on it (one zoom level only), then by the time you figure out it's not the map you need, you have to return to the maps overview and start over. Also, it would be really cool if certain sections could be hidden or collapsed by default. If I don't care all that much about night life, let's say, but am interested in museum, I don't need to scroll through 4 or 5 screens of reviews of dance clubs to get where I want to go.

General Overview: In preparation for my 2005 trip to Switzerland I bought two travel guides from : Michelin's Switzerland: The Green Guide and Lonely Planet's Switzerland. I used both guides to aid me in deciding which cities I would visit during my two week vacation. Since I've used other Lonely Planet guides (Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium and Luxembourg), I found myself relying more on the Lonely Planet Switzerland book than the Green Guide when planning my trip in advance. In fact, it was based on the Lonely Planet's great section on Lausanne that I opted to include that beautiful city as part of my holiday. All of my actual hotel decisions were made using on-line reviews, but both guide books gave me a reasonable feel for how far it would be for me to walk from the train station to my hotel. I ended up bringing both books (they are small and light weight) on my trip, and found that I did not need either book during the day. In Switzerland most cities have a tourist information office located in the main train station. These offices provide free

stadtplans (city maps) that point out major points of interest, and I found these maps were easy to fold into my back pocket and enabled me to "be bold" and head off in places that were only vaguely described in the guide books. Comparison of the Two Books: The Green Guide really seems to focus more on tourism where you have access to a car. All of the points of interest are linked to colorful major road maps, but the Green Guide is lacking in providing the foot/train traveler in good directions to and from the train stations. Lonely Planet guides tend to be made with this type of traveler in mind, and though the Lonely Planet does a great job in describing self guided walking tours through major Swiss cities it too would sometimes talk about interesting castles, glaciers, or ice caves without providing specific foot or public transit directions (I ended up just asking the locals for directions ... and the Swiss are very friendly and easy to talk to). The Lonely Planet is much better if you won't be traveling in a car and if this is your first trip to Europe! However, in describing where I went and actually reading about the people and land itself, the Green Guide is a much more complete book. When I return to Switzerland I'll be carrying the Green Guide and not the Lonely Planet. The maps are really much better in the Green Guide, and the first 75 pages of the book offer a very detailed and comprehensive primer on what makes Switzerland unique and worth traveling to! If you can afford both books, I would read the Green Guide first and focusing on the first 75 pages. Then I start reading the Lonely Planet and to help narrow down which cities you'll visit. Though the Lonely Planet has some history information (~60 pages), it also mixes in general travel advice in the introduction to Switzerland section that really waters down the fun of reading about a new place! [NOTE: This review is slightly different than what I posted for the Green Guide Switzerland.]

We used this reference to cross check web advice and other resources. Helpful in selecting where we'd go (Lucerne, Murren, Zermatt, Lusanne) and where not to go. Specialty section on walking was useful for deciding which ones to do, other sections like Jungfrau's Extreme Sports could have been expanded given how much there is to do in the region. For saving money we "discovered" the CO-OP markets that are everywhere. This can be the only reasonable way to sample the great Swiss wine and to lower many meal costs. That would have been good to know as a tip early in our trip. Missing key tips like that made this book less useful on-the-go. Wanting to keep it light, we left the book behind in favor of another guide as we ventured out each day. My suggestion is to use it as a planning guide and have another to use to guide you through.

I spent the summer interning in Geneva, and used this guide to help me figure out where to travel

on the weekends throughout the entire country. I would have enjoyed to have a bit more information on hikes, but I think there is a separate book with detailed hike info. This was a great basic guide to give helpful background info on the country and specific places!

The format of this Guide to Switzerland is typical of Lonely Planet's usual wonderful style. It's easy to use, covers everything: sightseeing, lodging, dining, climate, currency, etc. A particularly helpful feature is recommendations at prices from budget to luxury. Based on previous experiences with Lonely Planet Guides, after spending a few hours with this book, we feel confident about designing our own, customized tour of Switzerland.

was very satisfied with the seller and the product.

helpful

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