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Wallpaper* City Guide Tokyo



Synopsis

The fast-track guide for the smart traveller. Your passport to global style, *Wallpaper** City Guides present an insider's checklist of all you need to know about the world's most intoxicating cities. Under slick Pantone covers, these pocket-sized travel bibles unearth the hippest nightlife, theuzziest hotels, the coolest retail, the most influential art galleries and cultural spaces, the best in local design and the contemporary architecture that defines a city.

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Customer Reviews

'The answer to every short-breaker's dream. The jewel-coloured guides look beautiful and are exquisitely designed.' The Times 'Gorgeous photography, sharp graphics, and design-savvy, waffle-free text, written by city insiders rather than bearded backpackers.' The Independent 'Glamorous, global and affordable.' Telegraph magazine 'Packed with insider knowledge and eye-catching photography.' Vogue 'Ultra-glam, uber-chic' The Observer 'Attractive and well-researched.' USA Today 'Ultra-stylish.' Time Magazine 'Sophisticated but simple.' The New York Times 'Small, stylish and beautifully illustrated, the *Wallpaper** City Guides make everything else look old hat. ... The photographs and maps are superb.' The Sydney Magazine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

*Wallpaper** City Guides are compiled by the magazine's travel experts, in-house editors and on-the-ground correspondents who are part of the local scene, providing under-the-radar insider

recommendations.

great book, very well laid out.

Handy guide. The architecture session is very good.

The Wallpaper City Guides (WCG) are not comprehensive, and there is a bit of an 'extended travel magazine article' aspect to them: however, I like WCG's differences from Luxe City Guides, the travelogues in closest competition with WCG. Luxe engages in snarky comments, and its prose (rather like a slick, smug club kid writing for middle-aged wannabee hipsters with bottomless pockets) is of a sort that I've always found grating. I tossed my Luxe Tokyo guide for this very reason. The WCG style is meant to whet your appetite and give you some ideas about what to see if you have but a few days to check Tokyo out. I like its brevity. The WCG gives hotel and restaurant options both expensive and reasonable, making it worthwhile for the traveller on a more modest budget, whereas Luxe covers only the most expensive places to stay, eat, etc. WCG assumes you have very good taste, and lets you decide whether or not that entails 'blowing the bank' (I made a reservation for a Tokyo ryokan based on WCG Tokyo's recommendation, as it combined style with thrift): Luxe assumes you'll be paying the \$700 Mandarin Oriental or Grand Hyatt rate, and that nightclubbing and shopping is all you're interested in. WCG has attractive photos and great layout that's easy to read: Luxe has no pictures and a tiny, crammed-to-the-rafters typeface. WCG has a servicable fold-out map of the Tokyo subway system inside its back cover: Luxe has a list of taxi, limo and private car-hire companies. The list could go on forever, but suffice it to say I like the Wallpaper City Guide Tokyo's style.

I live in Tokyo and a friend of mine who recently visited brought this as her only guide book. As a stand alone guidebook, she would have been completely and totally lost without me, my Tokyo City Atlas, and my explicit step by step instructions on how to get to places without me. If you're traveling on your own or without a friend here to play guide, this book is not enough - it doesn't give you webaddresses, metro/train station stops, or the names of certain places written in Japanese so you can ask people for help. Having said all that, as a complementary guide, this book was FANTASTIC. Every place that we went to in the book looked as good as they were pictured. Every food recommendation was truly amazing and never a waste of time. Although it does have recommendations for all around the city, I would say that it is pretty Omotesando/Minami-Aoyama

centric. I am planning to buy the new edition coming out next year for myself. This is a great book for anyone who lives in Tokyo and wants to find restaurants, museums, and temples that are perhaps off the beaten path, but on the modern architecture and interior settings path. This book generally makes no recommendations that you would see in the typical guide book (e.g. Asakusa, Shinjuku Tochomae, Kamakura day-trip), but that's fine, because if you're coming here by yourself, you will need a Lonely Planet or Frommer's anyway and those books will provide you with more comprehensive travel info. Particular food faves in this edition: a great, Kyoto-style food izakaya across from Aoyama Gakuin, and Beige, Alain Ducasse's restaurant in the Chanel bldg in Ginza (you can get an amazing lunch set there starting at 6000 yen - a great combo of top-rate French food with impeccable Japanese service, something you can't experience in France. Definitely worth the splurge.).

Book is totally out of date. Printed in 2002?

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