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Vienna Prague Budapest, 2nd (Country & Regional Guides - Cadogan)



Synopsis

Now fully redesigned, this new edition of Cadogan's unique three-city guide contains the most up-to-the-minute practical information and listings, along with color photographs and maps. Vienna, Prague and Budapest are growing in popularity as city break destinations thanks to their beautiful city centers and increasing number of trendy restaurants and hotels. Prague offers the ultimate romantic getaway with its stunning medieval Old Town, cobbled streets, gothic churches and magnificent castle, the largest ancient castle in the world. The center of Vienna is UNESCO-listed and is a cultural paradise, featuring several excellent museums, the stately Imperial Palace that once served as the residence to the powerful Hapsburg dynasty, and Sigmund Freud's house. Meanwhile Budapest, a veritable fountain of medicinal waters, is home to dozens of swimming pools and bathing halls dating back to the Turkish Occupation and a wonderful place to relax in a spa after all that sight-seeing and shopping.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'The Cadogan series of guidebooks is superb; comprehensive, intelligent, practical and well-written' Washington Times (US); 'Beautifully written, evocative and informative' The Times (UK); 'Original and insightful essays' The Daily Telegraph (UK)

Three fairytale capitals, peppered with domes and dungeons, spiked with spires, laced by dreamy

bridges and overlooked by castles in the air – Vienna, Prague and Budapest are linked by Hapsburg history, battle-scarred in more recent centuries, but all still glorious, and all thriving today at the heart of modern Europe. From Vienna's wine cellars, legendary cafÃ© scene and top-class classical music, through the beer halls, Baroque gardens and golden Gothic chapels of Prague, to Budapest's traditional baths and stately boulevards, romance and adventure are guaranteed. Excursions further afield to spa towns, castles, palaces, into the woods and up the Danube, combine with Cadogan's usual entertaining insights, add up to a trip that will never be forgotten.

One of the reasons I chose to order this book was 's mention of "color photographs." There are NONE, other than the cover. In fact there are no photographs at all. The very few illustrations are maps, no better than I've seen in the other books. Where this book seems superior to others is in the depth of its descriptions. For example, over two full pages on the Charles Bridge. Each country/city also has an introduction with several pages of history and art history. The font is of nice quality but just a little too small. I don't want to be whipping out the reading glasses while I'm sightseeing. Also, the book is nicely divided into the three cities, so could perhaps be cut into three parts to carry around -- but the publisher chose to put the Language section (3 languages) in the back. Why not put the Czech language section at the end of the Prague section? That would also put it closer to the restaurant listing, where a language reference would be handy. I'm going to read this thoroughly so I can better appreciate the sights, but a different book is going with me.

Really enjoyed the book and used it extensively in these three countries to which I traveled. It gave me not only local and accurate current info but the historical perspective helped me understand the complexity of these countries.

Perfect book for getting the "dish" on each city and must see attractions. Maps for public transit were a huge help. Good book for an experienced traveler who is in need of a guide.

We planned to visit these never before seen cities on a recent tour. We looked in libraries and bookstores for guides to them and found this one which had all the information we needed and more for our tour, and we would certainly look at these author's tour guides in the future for other destinations.

This book covers the must sees in each city. Easy to navigate. Good photographs. I always hope

that a guide book will cover some of the unusual spots to visit and I'm always looking for gardens or arboreta. This was very light on these things.

This book is full of interesting information about these cities, with lots of detailed description. But there is not a single photo or illustration except for the cover. This is a major drawback since, as the saying goes, "one picture is worth a thousand words", and without the images, it is hard to imagine what is being described. The maps are poor and hard to read. The typeface is small and hard to read. The book is also several years out of date. For instance, it predicted both the Czech Republic and Hungary would be in the Euro bloc before now, and this still has not happened. But these British authors do have a breezy and irreverent style, which livens things up.

Maps are an important part of any guidebook, and the maps in this book are lacking. They do not include hotel locations on city maps nor Metro/bus stops. They have no key and are in a pink/white ink (like Rough Guide), making them difficult to read. In addition, it includes no information for budget travelers; no hostel information nor cheap eats (this book lists anything less than 25 Euros as a "Cheap Eat"). In addition, it does not include a list of bulleted "Must Sees;" it prefers to list sights by location, not importance. As a result, smaller, regional museums take precedence over more important sights, which may be listed in a different neighborhood. In addition, it does not list entrance fees to museums, it simply says "Admission Charged." After two days, I stop using this book and started asking Tourist Information Offices for maps and suggested sights. This book would be good supplemental information for a tourist on a tour with a guide, but very poor for independent travelers.

We used this guide for just Budapest and Prague, not Vienna. It was usefully succinct in its description of the importance of the sights it reviewed. Also, it helped those having a limited amount of time to identify the "must see" sights and gave a quick introduction to the money, culture, etc., of the country involved. The only reason it's not 5 stars is that it failed to lay out walking routes to hit the sights it mentions, something that would have been even more useful.

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