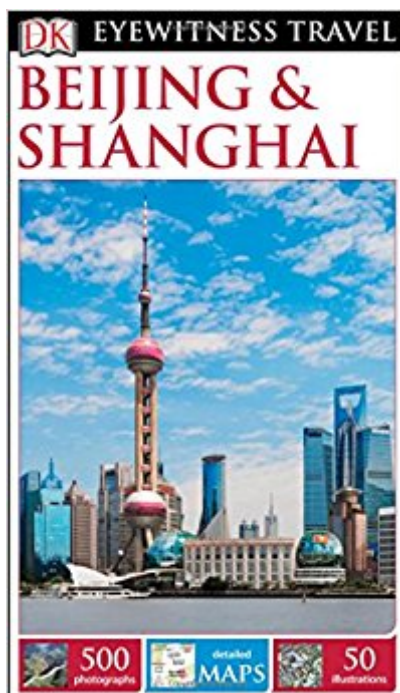


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# DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Beijing & Shanghai



## Synopsis

DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Beijing and Shanghai is your in-depth guide to the very best of these two metropolitan cities. Take in the major sights, from the breathtaking Great Wall of China to the imperial splendor of the Forbidden City; go on a canal cruise for your chance to contrast the old and new sides of Shanghai; or simply wander the cities' seemingly endless markets. Discover DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Beijing and Shanghai

- Detailed itineraries and "don't-miss" destination highlights at a glance.
- Illustrated cutaway 3-D drawings of important sights.
- Floor plans and guided visitor information for major museums.
- Free color pull-out map (print edition) marked with sights, a selected sight and street index, public transit map, practical information on getting around, and a distance chart for measuring walking distances.
- Guided walking tours, local drink and dining specialties to try, things to do, and places to eat, drink, and shop by area.
- Area maps marked with sights and restaurants.
- Detailed city maps include street finder index for easy navigation.
- Insights into history and culture to help you understand the stories behind the sights.
- Suggested day trips and itineraries to explore beyond the city.
- Hotel and restaurant listings highlight DK Choice special recommendations.

With hundreds of full-color photographs, hand-drawn illustrations, and custom maps that illuminate every page, DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Beijing and Shanghai truly shows you these cities as no one else can. Recommended: For a pocket guidebook to Beijing, check out DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Top 10 Beijing, which is packed with dozens of top 10 lists, ensuring you make the most of your time in the city. Series Overview: For more than two decades, DK Eyewitness Travel Guides have helped travelers experience the world through the history, art, architecture, and culture of their destinations. Expert travel writers and researchers provide independent editorial advice, recommendations, and reviews. With guidebooks to hundreds of places around the globe available in print and digital formats, DK Eyewitness Travel Guides show travelers how they can discover more. DK Eyewitness Travel Guides: the most maps, photographs, and illustrations of any guide.

## 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 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 its 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 torn down and there is not much to see.

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