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Duncan J. D. Smith

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Duncan J. D. Smith : Only in Edinburgh: A Guide to Unique Locations, Hidden Corners Unusual Objects (Only in Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Only in Edinburgh: A Guide to Unique Locations, Hidden Corners Unusual Objects (Only in Guides):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great guide to Edinburgh's more hidden attractions with some unique perspectives. By Richard Kaszeta First of all, however, let me tell what Only In Edinburgh isn't. If you are looking for recommendations for hotels, general dining guides, or a nice itinerary of sights to see, all arranged in order... well, that's not your guide, go consult, say, TripAdvisor. But if what you are looking for are the things that most likely aren't in the other travel guides and web resources, this is definitely the book for you. It's basically a list of 103 different attractions, ranging from the fairly obvious, like Edinburgh Castle (#1 on the list), to some fairly unique ones, like the UK's largest poppie factory (#81), churning out millions of red paper poppies worn annually in recognition of the veterans of WWI and later wars. But even for the fairly mainstream attractions, like Edinburgh Castle, the book is replete with all sorts of little details that are easy to miss, especially if you don't have an eye for detail or have spent some time researching, like details of how the gatehouse, while looking old, is a combination of relatively new 1888 construction combined with a 70s era tunnel to allow military lorries to enter. Or a nice callout to the cemetery for Soldiers' Dogs, or the presence of a "Laird's Lug", a window for eavesdropping upon conversations in the Great Hall. This level of detail continues for some of the other attractions, such as the Museum of the Mound's display of a million Scottish Banknotes (#8). Or the easy-to-miss marker in the pavement noting the location of Scotland's last public execution (#10), or even explorations of the various nooks and crannies of the Old City itself, such as the remnants of the old town wall (#39) or the "Innocent Railway Tunnel" that now serves as a pedestrian way (#46). And while it's not generally aimed at lodging and dining, it does occasionally mention some of the more interesting options, like a tour of restaurants located around the Old City, like the Contini Cannonball, which features Edinburgh's oldest door knocker (#14). Overall, I found it to be a particularly useful, and detailed guide, giving me substantially more detail that I would have learned from other books or walking about. It will certainly be in my bag the next time I visit Edinburgh.

Only in Edinburgh is a comprehensive illustrated guide to more than 100 fascinating and unusual historical sites in the Scottish capital, including ancient closes and secret gardens, mysterious monuments and unexpected underworlds, storied graveyards and industrial relics. From historic homes and ruined churches to an Art Deco petrol station and a library for poets. Locations include the Innocent Railway, the Arthur's Seat Coffins, Trainspotting in Leith, and the Skating Minister. Discover Europe with the Only In Guides! These ground breaking city guides are for independent cultural travellers wishing to escape the crowds and understand cities from different and unusual perspectives. Unique locations, hidden corners and unusual objects.

From the Back Cover Discover the Scottish capital's volcanic geography, ancient alleys, and architectural modernism with this new explorer's guide. ? Secret gardens and haunted theaters, mysterious monuments and unexpected underworlds, industrial relics and unusual places of worship ? From crumbling castles and historic churches to an Art Deco gas station and a modern library for poets ? The Innocent Railway, mysterious Gilmerton Cove, the Craigentenny Marbles and a Scottish Acropolis ? Coffee with Harry Potter, the Arthur's Seat Coffins, Trainspotting in Leith and the Skating Minister ? Set off with this guide on your own expedition through one of Europe's most fascinating cities About the Author The Urban Explorer Duncan J. D. Smith is a travel writer and photographer. In his ground breaking Only In Guides he reveals European cities from unique and hidden perspectives. He has travelled across several continents and described his experiences in books, magazines, and online. Born in Sheffield, England in 1960, he studied history and archaeology at university. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.