



IndieTravelPodcast.com
Sweet travel advice for independent travellers

Tips for using guidebooks

Transcript 015

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Craig: Giddy, I'm Craig.

Linda: And I'm Linda.

Craig: And this is the Indie Travel Podcast episode 15 at www.indietravelpodcast.com.

Linda: Today we're following up our first guidebook review with some hints for getting the most out of any guidebook, or any travel resource.

Craig: Yeah. Before we get busy, thanks to all of our listeners. By the time this episode goes live, we'll be celebrating over a thousand downloads, 100 subscribers and 10 weeks of the show!

Linda: That's 15 weeks Craig.

Craig: Yeah...well, thanks for listening everyone! Some of our recent posts have been getting a bit long in the tooth, so we're going to try to keep things snappy today.

Linda: OK, tip number one: Firstly, get a new guidebook. Things change so quickly that an older book isn't really worth the effort. It can be interesting to see how things have changed, but it's not much use carrying around an old edition. As always, look at several sources in order to minimise mis-information. We often find wikipedia.com (or wikitravel.org) to be incomplete but quite personal -- be aware of companies posting too-good-to-be-true information there though.

Craig: Along those lines, here's tip two: buy or borrow two or three guidebooks regarding your destination, find the information you want and rip it out or copy it off. That's right, rip away! Get rid of the dead weight. Make a collage of useful information. So, you might want to grab a notebook of some kind to collate everything in it.

Linda: The third tip is probably the most important: follow your instincts. You know

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what you want much more than the authors you've never met. The biggest problem of the guidebook market is that you'll end up doing the same thing everyone else is doing. Being an independent traveller, at least you're not being corralled around with the other 25 or 700 members of your tour party...But it's almost as bad going to an out-of-the-way spot to find yourself surrounded by people holding the same guidebook you have.

Craig: And finally, consider using your guidebook as a sort of scrapbook. Write in the thing, glue in bits and pieces. And, if you're never going to use it again either keep it, for sentimental reasons, or pass it on by giving it to someone or adding to a hostel's library. Not only is this bad for the economy, it's great for the environment and whoever picks it up will have heaps of fun deciphering your handwriting and they'll certainly thank you for your more personal approach to the sites therein.

Linda: All right, that's about us for episode 15 of the Indie Travel Podcast, which is "Tips for using guidebooks". If you've got anything to add, leave a comment on the site. We're really looking forward to bringing you next week's show – it's a great interview with Krumlov House hostel owner/manager, Carolyn Zukowski, so don't miss it!

Craig: Before we finish, here's a quick heads-up on three European destination podcasts that we've been enjoying. For those of you that are interested in Hungary, check out the budacast: www.budacast.hu; for Spain, try www.notesfromspain.com; and for Ireland look up www.irishfireside.com. All these podcasts are linked on our resources page, so drop by, surf through and check them out. Now, does anyone know of English language shows like this for Asia, the South Pacific or the Americas? Drop us a line.

Linda: And if you've got a personal travel blog, a travel podcast or travel advice site, let us know by email - mail@indietravelpodcast.com or drop by the site and leave a comment – that's www.indietravelpodcast.com. You can download a copy of the show notes while you're there. So, until next week, travel well.

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