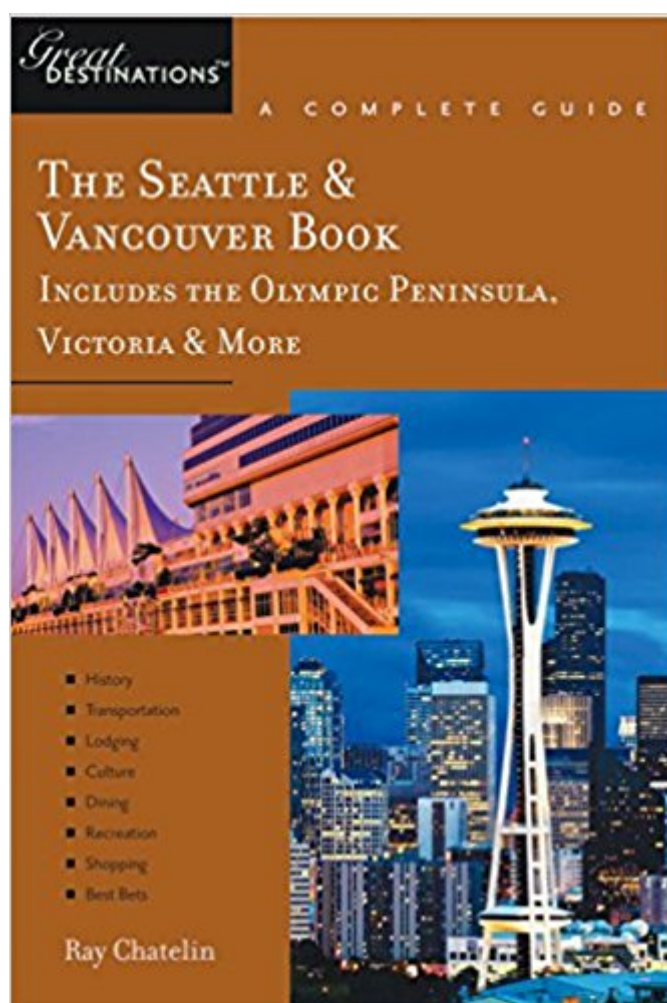


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The Seattle & Vancouver Book, A Complete Guide: Includes The Olympic Peninsula, Victoria & More (Great Destinations)



Synopsis

Savor the magical harmony of contrastsâ from mountains to the sea, cosmopolitan cities to the rolling hills of wine country. On the surface, Seattle and Vancouver seem so similar as to be inseparable. Dig a little deeper, and their distinctive personalities spring forth. This book revels in the differences as well as the similarities of the two cities and the regions they occupy, and it serves as an exuberant and insightful guide to discovering and enjoying their unique offerings. As in each Great Destinations series guidebook, you'll find important contact information for lodging, dining, shopping, and recreational activities, transportation details, a calendar of events, special "If Time Is Short" options, local history, a host of photos and maps, and essential information for residents. Find out why National Geographic Traveler said the Explorer's Great Destinations series is "consistently rated the best guides to the regions covered. Readable, tasteful, appealingly designed. Strong on dining, lodging, culture, and history." 60 black-and-white photographs, 15 maps

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ray Chatelin is a prolific travel writer with numerous articles in magazines, newspapers, and online journals. He has written a long list of books, including travel titles covering the Pacific Northwest and Canada. He lives in Kamloops, British Columbia.

I'm toying with the notion that 2 stars is too harsh. But the bottom line is that I was a little disappointed. Is too much to expect an intimate treatise on the clouded, recondite splendors of a

newly encountered land? I sought a guide through the underground, a regional map to hidden gems. Instead, this book provided suggestions that a simple Google search would yield. Perhaps this was published before the ubiquity of 4G & wi-fi, and the thought was that it would benefit people 'on-the-go', who couldn't remember the name of that taxingly trite restaurant they wanted to visit without the aid of a reference book. In the era of Yelp, one doesn't need a book to discover these sort of things-- one needs a local account in order to get past them, to cross into the Land of the Local as though breaking through a Red Rover chain. You need a likeminded vanguard with a thirst for adventure to answer the superficially tame question, "So, what do you guys do for fun around here?" Maybe the answer is, "Nothing. We're in BFE." In which case, the author did his damndest to catalog it, working miracles to fill the bounty of pages with fairly detailed content. Perhaps he could have warned us in the prologue, "Have you asked yourself WHY you want to travel to the Northwest?" or in the epilogue, "Yes, really, that's all there is," as a sort of prank. But he didn't, and so now we (I) wonder if this really is his, or even most people's, idea of a good time. I should have known better - it didn't market itself as a specialty book. It was just one of the few I could find for that specific region. And there was a picture of the Space Needle on the cover as my first clue (though the publisher could well have made that call--"For the sake of propriety, we MUST include a famed though dull landmark of the region. Otherwise, we might as well be anywhere.") Well, for all practical purposes, it seems that you truly might as well be anywhere, if this shameless homogeneity is all the region has to offer. Why not just go to the U.S. Midwest and be swallowed alive by the flat vastness of Dakotas? ;-(

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