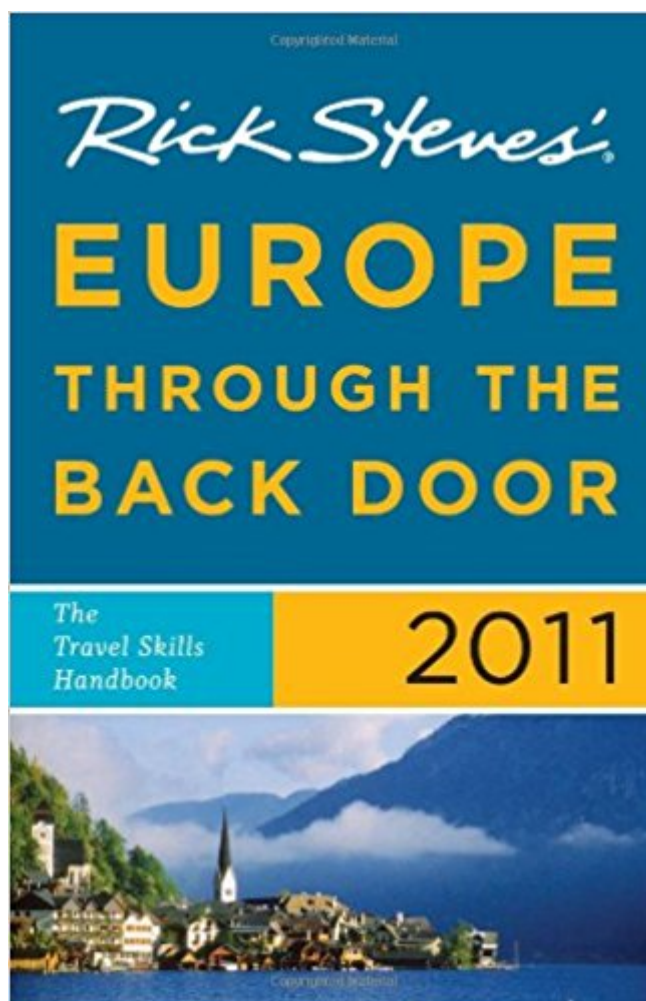


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# Rick Steves' Europe Through The Back Door 2011: The Travel Skills Handbook



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you "really" need to know when traveling through Europe, including how to: Plan your itinerary and maximize your timePack light--and rightFind good-value hotels and restaurants Travel smoothly by train, bus, car, and planeAvoid crowds and tourist scamsHurdle the language barrier Understand cultural differences and connect with localsSave money while enjoying the trip of a lifetime After 30 years of exploring Europe, Rick considers this travel skills handbook his life's work. He shares his favorite off-the-beaten-path towns, trails, and natural wonders. With this guidebook, you'll experience the culture like a local, spend less money, and have more fun.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is excellent for a general overview of travel skills useful in Europe. The book mostly focuses on Europe as a whole but offers some specific country tips throughout as well as in separate country sections in the back of the book. The book covers general information on everything involved in your European trip from planning, packing, purchasing tickets, plane tickets, insurance, train tickets, buses, jet lag, etiquette tips, how to avoid scams, money issues, before you go tips, hotel tips, museum tips, purchasing passes, etc.... all with not only useful and accurate information and commentary but also excellent insider tips. There are also great references to other books and very helpful websites for planning and purchasing tickets, etc before you go. I used this book to travel around Europe and found the tips very useful mostly for planning before we went as

well as planning on the trip itself. A definite must for anyone planning a full European trip that has never been to Europe before or just wants numerous insider tips to help them plan an amazing trip.

As a first-time traveler to Europe I have found this book very helpful in providing an overview of transportation issues, packing, practical travel tips relating to culture and sightseeing planning, and then a brief overview of primary European destinations and their highlights. This is not a substitute for a detailed guide for a specific destination and if you have traveled to Europe previously (at least in the relatively recent past), I do not believe it would be useful in addition to the specific destination guide.

Admittedly, I heeded the old rule that you can never trust a man with two first names. I knew nothing of Rick Steves or his wide array of products aimed at making European travel for Americans easier. I was really only looking for one book to give me some suggestions of what to do/buy in Europe, as well as learn a bit about the sneaky people who try to make victims of American tourists. Not only did I get every piece of information I was looking for out of this book, but I got so much more. I read the entire thing from cover to cover the day I got it, and I learned about England, France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, and so much more. I even learned about places I wasn't going to visit, like Eastern Europe. I learned about traditions, pitfalls, and even a little bit about European marijuana laws. This book has it all. If you're looking for ONE book to get you through Europe, make it this one. Nice job, Mr. Steves.

I bought this book for my mother-in-law to help her plan her European vacation for her retirement. She loves it! It seemed to have very practical information in it for people who have never been abroad. I love Rick Steves' attitude toward travelling and this book is just as great as his others.

Very useful on a trip to Europe 4 years ago!!!

I was going to be a first time traveler alone without any family or friends, So I needed a book that would help and give me tips on the little things. This book did just that for me. Not only does it give you general travel advice, it also gives you a guide for the specific locations you are planning to go to. One of the tips that stuck with me was know what you are spending and pay attention to what you should be getting back with change. Cause the funny thing was the first day in London one of the vendors tried to short change me.... thank you Rick Steves :)

I really love this book. I am going to Europe for 3-6 months - longer than most "holidays" and more time than Rick Steves is probably advising for - but the tips in here are good ones and I feel really prepared for the trip. I used a lot of the suggested websites to price shop and really did find rates so much lower than I was finding on my own. He's not just about saving money, though: he's also about making the European experience authentic and worth-while.

This is a great travel book written by people who know what they are talking about. My wife and I actually went on one of the Rick Steves' tours and there is no doubt that they have searched out all of the charming little hotels, restaurants, and other points of interest. Highly recommended.

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