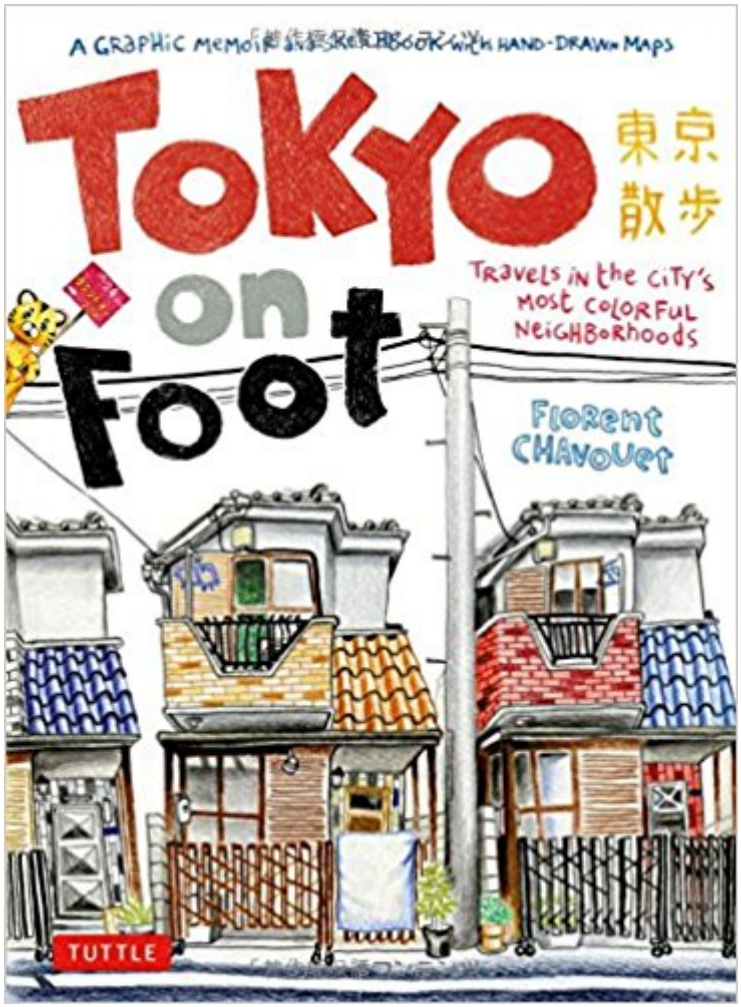
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Tokyo On Foot: Travels In The City's Most Colorful Neighborhoods



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Synopsis

This prize-winning book is both an illustrated tour of a Tokyo rarely seen in Japan travel guides and an artist’s warm, funny, visually rich, and always entertaining graphic memoir.Florent Chavouet, a young graphic artist, spent six months exploring Tokyo while his girlfriend interned at a company there. Each day he would set forth with a pouch full of color pencils and a sketchpad, and visit different neighborhoods. This stunning book records the city that he got to know during his adventures. It isn’t the Tokyo of packaged tours and glossy guidebooks, but a grittier, vibrant place, full of ordinary people going about their daily lives and the scenes and activities that unfold on the streets of a bustling metropolis.Here you find business men and women, hipsters, students, grandmothers, shopkeepers, policemen, and other urban types and tribes in all manner of dress and hairstyles. A temple nestles among skyscrapers; the corner grocery anchors a diverse assortment of dwellings, cafes, and shopsÃ¢â ¬â •often tangled in electric lines. The artist mixes styles and tags his pictures with wry comments and observations. Realistically rendered advertisements or posters of pop stars contrast with cartoon sketches of iconic objects or droll vignettes, like a housewife walking her pet pig, a Godzilla statue in a local park, and an urban fishing pond that charges 400 yen per half hour.This very personal guide to Tokyo is organized by neighborhood with hand-drawn maps that provide an overview of each neighborhood, but what really defines them is what caught the artist’s eye and attracted his formidable drawing talent. Florent Chavouet begins his introduction by observing that, "Tokyo is said to be the most beautiful of ugly cities." With wit, a playful sense of humor, and the multicolor pencils of his kit, he sets aside the question of urban ugliness or beauty and captures the Japanese essence of a great city in this truly vital portrait.

Book Information

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Outdoors > Individual Sports > Cycling > Excursion Guides #47 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Asia > Japan > General #79 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies

Customer Reviews

"Ã¢â ¬Â¦whimsical and intriguing Ã¢â ¬â • a way for readers themselves to get lost in the charming and mysterious enormity of Tokyo." Ã¢â ¬â •Asian Fortune News"This stunning book records the city that [Florent Chavouet] got to know during his adventures, a gritty, vibrant place, full of ordinary people going about their daily lives. Realistically rendered city views or posters of pop stars contrast with cartoon sketches of iconic objects or droll vignettesÃ¢â ¬Â¦With wit, a playful sense of humor, and the colored pencils of his kit, Chavouet sets aside the question of urban ugliness or beauty and captures the Japanese essence of a great city." Ã¢â ¬â •Japan Today"His drawings are so wonderfully idiosyncratic and so beautifully detailed that what must have been a labor of love for him is no less a labor of delightful artistic genius." Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly starred review"[Tokyo on Foot] will make readers with wanderlust wish to drop their everyday responsibilities and trek through a foreign city. It will appeal to the armchair traveler who yearns for a bit of the exotic, the wanderer who wants to someday visit the Land of the Rising Sun, and, indeed, anyone who appreciates the marriage of grit and beauty, self-deprecating wit, and losing oneself in good pictures for a while." Ã¢â ¬â •ForeWord Reviews"From what Chavouet saw, did, ateÃ¢â ¬â •bugs, festivals, storefronts, a fake French mansion, random drinks and snacksÃ¢â ¬â •his illustrations catch perfect little details you'll never find in any guide book. His myriad of people caught in the midst of their everyday lives are undoubtedly the book's highlight. [Ã¢â ¬Â¦] By the time he's back in his native France, he's got an award-winning, fascinating book that surely makes for ideal reading for both armchair tourists and peripatetic travelers alike." Ã¢â ¬â •Book Dragon (Smithsonian Institute)"The book captures the feel and spirit of the Japanese metropolis in comical sketches, sparse writings and whimsical, hand-drawn city maps. The book is a diary of Chavouet's six months in Tokyo. And, it's worth the money, at least for people who can appreciate Chavouet's observations on life in Japan and who can enjoy his artwork, which is intriguing, if somewhat reminiscent of classic Mad Magazine drawings. Chavouet depicts the everyday sights of TokyoÃ¢â ¬â •much of which are universal sights in homogeneous JapanÃ¢â ¬â •in a way that's so detailed that you feel as if you can walk into the pages. It's almost like the feeling you get when you see one of those picture-perfect towns made of Legos. "Ã¢â ¬â •About.com"Ã¢â ¬Â¦as for ChavouetÃ¢â ¬â •colorful, farcical, artistically superior ChavouetÃ¢â ¬â •his way of seeing Japan is insightful and entertaining for over two

hundred pages. The execution is confidentÃ¢â ¬â •a positive side-effect of it having no agenda but to represent his individual experience." Ã¢â ¬â •Axiom Magazine"This is the first book by Mr. Chavouet in which he chronicled his adventures in Japan with his gorgeous hand-drawn pictures and in writing. [Ã¢â ¬Â¦] This book can be enjoyed by anyone who is interested in Japan, especially Tokyo. As well as those who like quality drawings of people in their daily lives." Ã¢â ¬â •Tokyo Five blog

Florent Chavouet is a young graphic artist and author living in Paris. When he returned from Japan, he realized that all the observing and sketching he had done in Tokyo led to his evolution as an artist. This is his first book. florentchavouet.com

I almost didn’t pick up this book, with its dull "Tokyo on Foot" title ... which, in addition to being pretty generic, isn’t even accurate--as we learn in several amusing anecdotes, this is actually "Tokyo on Bicycle"! However, the whimsical sketches on the front and back cover grabbed my attention, and as soon as I started flipping through the pages I was hooked. I lived in Japan for two years, one of them in Yokohama (so I am quite familiar with Tokyo), and this captured the experience of living in the Tokyo area perfectly: hunched over grannies, aggressive insects, old bicycles, expensive fruit, taxi drivers, police officers who seem to strive to be either your best friend or worst enemy, a mix of curiosity and suspicion toward the gaijin who actually are *living* in Japan as opposed to simply passing through as tourists, etc., etc. One of the only major omissions I can think of that a resident of Tokyo will notice is the absence of trains, subways, etc. (this is "Tokyo on Foot"/by bike, after all).Note, however, that this is not really the "tourist’s Tokyo". The fact that this book starts off in nondescript Machiya (an area of Tokyo warranting only a few scant sentences even in the Japanese language version of Wikipedia) should be a clue. If you pick up this book hoping to see sketches of Meiji Shrine, the Imperial Palace, or Asakusa’s Sensoji Temple, you will be sorely disappointed. Likewise, this is not the traditional culture connoisseur or otaku’s guide to Tokyo--no tea ceremonies or kimono, and anime/manga make only a brief appearance. As a result, while I think this book will be of interest to anyone with an interest in Japan, I think this will be of the most interest to people who have experience living in Japan, the Tokyo area in particular (although much will be familiar to people who lived in other parts of Japan, particularly the urban areas). The author shines in his attention to the little details and everyday events that combine to make up that sometimes-thrilling, sometimes-frustrating, never-boring experience that is living in Japan. For such people, this book is a 5-star experience--it will bring back vivid memories of your time living in Japan

(and for the artistically inclined, it will likely leave you kicking yourself for not thinking of doing this book first!). For those who have been to Japan only on short trips as tourists, 4 stars: I'm sure this will still be enjoyable, although many of the details will go unappreciated. For everyone else, depending on your level of interest in Japan, this may or may not be of interest--flip through a few pages first, and I imagine you will either be hooked (if so, buy it!) or bored (if so, move on!).Personally, for me as a former "gaijin-in-residence" and Japanophile longing for an opportunity to go back, I found this book to be delightful and I poured over the details and the maps as I reminisced about my days living in Japan. There are many books on Tokyo and Japan in general, but this is a truly unique and special work ... I am glad to have the chance to add it to my bookshelf, and am happy to recommend it to others.

Its a book that you will clearly appreciate if you are a Tokyo insider or are familiar with the city and its characteristics. I for one have never been and was expecting it to familiarise me with the inhabitants and the Japanese culture in a fun yet detailed way different from guide books would but I came out only partly enjoying and it and not being able to relate to it at all.It plays little role in guiding or preparing you at all if this is what you want to pick up before an imminent trip to Tokyo.It would be better to buy this book after you have spent a week in Tokyo and you will enjoy it a lot more.

I love this book! Fun notes and observations makes it feel like you're on the trip with chavouet. This book is a pictorial diary of the author's time roaming tokyo while his girlfriend got a job there for a few months. If you buy this book thinking it's a guide, you'll be sorely mistaken. The guy drew his observations and comments on his experience. The style is relatable, cartoon caricatures in color pencils. Fun look through and study of some smaller "everyday" neighborhoods most tourists overlook when they're there to see see see the sights! The artist also concentrated on the area of 1 train line which he frequent which is nice there's a concentration. Tokyo is huge, the author is neither an expert on japan nor claim this as a guide. It just a beautiful peek into his adventures and experiences while living abroad. The hardcopy is a nice book to have. To reminisce perhaps he capture your own thoughts in pictures so well or just to see what some things you might be overlooking if you're heading out there yourself. It's a great inspiration piece, too.NOW FOR THE KINDLE EDITION: I wish I saw the review for the kindle edition sooner! It SUX! I have the8.9 fire HDX and the pages are basically an image,, A LOW RESOLUTION at that, quality degrade blur and pixelated when I try to zoom in to read certain comments caption. I need to find out how to return this kindle version, sigh more work. Actually quite annoyed right now.

All so true about Japanese people! I love people watching and the artist has really pointed out some of observations when people watching in Metro Tokyo.

The book is very detailed and contains many different visual ideas of Tokyo. It is know for the mapping and illustrations. My first impression of the book was very exciting. However, as I began to go further in the book, I was not as excited as I hoped. The illustrations were on the whole, above average, but nothing very unique. The idea is great! I did like the idea of information being placed about where the author had traveled and who he had come across while living in Japan. The other plus is the amount of work you get. I can't imagine how long this took him in terms of illustrating it. It reminds how a good piece of work really does take time. I would recommend this people who are interested in off-grid way of looking at Tokyo. It is one I will keep on shelf, but will probably never open again.

This is a very well sketched book, thicker and with much more content than I expected.It's fun to roam through to enhance your trip's memories, especially if you enjoyed to explore the real life in back alleys rather than the usual tourist places.I have lived in Japan for a year, half a year in Tokyo, and enjoy the book a lot.

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