

## Guiding Lights

Reviews by Elise Meleisea

New travelogues, both contemporary and historic, offer insight and advice.

### The Asia Book

Various Contributors

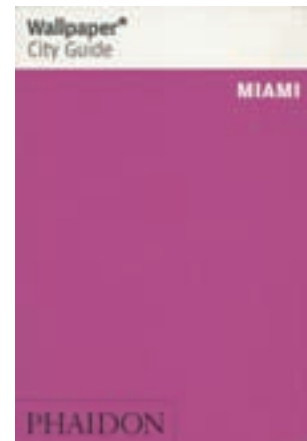
Lonely Planet

USD 50

Ambitious in scope and execution, *The Asia Book* is a truly comprehensive exploration of an enchanting continent of contrasts, from the tropical beaches of Bali to the frozen slopes of Everest. Hugely ambitious and stunningly beautiful, it covers Southeast and Northeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent & the Himalaya, Central Asia and the Middle East. Both a solid regional reference book and a deluxe pictorial to browse through, *The Asia Book* stimulates the senses and takes the reader on a journey of imagination and possibility. In large format, hardback and full colour, this is a superb addition to any bookshelf or coffee table.



This title is available from Asia Books: [asiabooks.com](http://asiabooks.com).



### Wallpaper City Guides: Miami & Beijing

Various Contributors

Phaidon Press

USD 8.95

These focused city-guides are a godsend to the time-pressed traveller who knows what they want out of life. Within these informative little buff-covered books is a hipster's guide to the best in urban design and architecture, hotels, what-to-do-in-a-day, where to shop, and city escapes, along with a city map, index and essential info section.

The range within each category may be limited but they are pleasingly eclectic, and reassuringly chosen by the global style-mavens at *Wallpaper* magazine. Compact in size and discreet of cover, the books can be safely read in public without alerting every tourist-tout in the vicinity to your visitor status, and there's a useful note-taking section in the back. The entries, by their mere inclusion, are assumed to be amongst the best that the city has to offer, which leaves the authors free for some amusingly catty caveats and asides, like this reference to the venerable Tides Hotel in Miami: "If it's your bag, the hotel is directly opposite the 12<sup>th</sup> Street gay beach, so you can pick a hottie through the telescope in your room before venturing forth in your teeny-weeny Speedos."

## Great Journeys: The most incredible tours, voyages, treks, expeditions and travels ever written

Various Authors  
Penguin Books  
USD 10 each



**A**dventure - A sense of boundless possibility, is often lost to today's traveller, bogged down as we are with considerations of spa facilities, linen thread-count and approximate position vis-à-vis the nearest beach. The cure for the jaded tourist comes neatly presented in this wonderful 20-volume issue of pocket-sized Penguins. The books sample the writings of some of the greatest explorers, voyagers and adventurers of our time.

Drop back to a time when leaving your backyard was a risky and daring enterprise and see the world afresh - in *Snakes with Wings and Gold-Digging Ants* dip into Herodotus, writing 400 years before Christ of his Egyptian encounters with dog-headed men, mad kings and fantastical creatures. *Sold as a Slave* is Olaudah Equiano's 18<sup>th</sup>-century account of the horrors of slavery as he crosses the Atlantic both as a slave and fighting with the Royal Navy, while the wonderfully dry Mark Twain lampoons Americans abroad in *Can-cans, Cats and Cities of Ash*.

