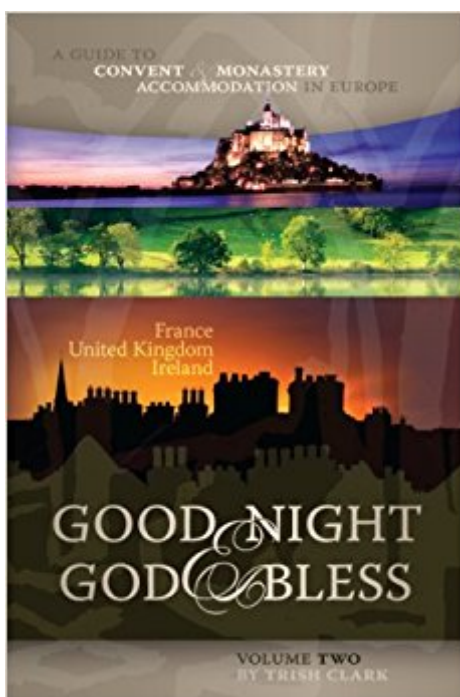


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Good Night & God Bless [II]: A Guide To Convent & Monastery Accommodation In Europe - Volume Two: France, United Kingdom, And Ireland (Good Night & ... Convent & Monastery Accommodation In Europe)



Synopsis

Good Night and God Bless is the modern traveler's Bible. This unique guide lists details of atmospheric and affordable accommodation in convents, monasteries, abbeys and Christian hotels across Europe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book due to its being advertised as "a guide to convent & monastery accommodation in Europe". It says that right on the cover in the subtitle! In reality, it merely lists convents and monasteries with contact information (phone, address, e-mail address, etc.) For a few, the author goes into a little more detail in the text. But it's hard to find useful information due to the book's poor organization. If you read the book from front to back, you'll find it contains some useful information and interesting stories. But it's difficult to find information on specific locations without reading an entire section (country). For example, in a look through the index, one will quickly see there is no listing for Lisieux, La Salette, Ars, and I could go on and on. I've yet to find Ars mentioned in the book at all. This town gave us a man who is probably the greatest French Catholic Priest of all time. Ars has wonderful pilgrim facilities and deserves at least a mention. Lisieux and La Salette are covered in their geographic region but, without a listing in the index, one must dig to find them. The book divides locations into groups by "open houses", "spiritual retreats" and "pilgrimages". This is a

nonsensical division for a religious guidebook. Most religious places are all of those things.

Travellers, including those interested in spiritual destinations need guides organized and indexed by location. Where there are geographic divisions, they are odd. For example, Versailles is listed in the section on Chartres. Most people venture to Versailles as a side-trip from Paris. The book is pretty; it makes a great coffee table decoration and conversation starter. It has beautiful pictures but it lacks useful maps and directions as a guidebook. Each section has a single country map; I should call it a drawing. They are more artistic than functional. They are difficult to read. They are printed on dark pages with light, small font. They have no legends other than a compass but that's the one thing we could do without as most travellers know "North" on a map of France, the U.K. or Ireland. They show only town names; no roads, railroads, etc. Unnecessary and oversized symbols are featured: the Eiffel Tower, grapes, bagpipes, a leprechaun, and a shamrock, among others. The book tries to be too much - an accommodation guide and a tour guidebook while also being nice to look at. As an accommodation guide, it's incomplete and lacks details, requiring the reader to go elsewhere for what they bought the book for. As a tour guide, it mentions many secular sights for which the buyer isn't interested or could find in any secular guidebook. Space wasted on Montparnasse Tower and Galeries Lafayette, really? A simple listing of what's near a holy sight would suffice. That is, the same kind of skeleton detail that is provided for the accommodations (the subtitle of this book). There is even 1/3 of a page about a convent in Connecticut, USA in the France section; interesting but irrelevant. The last straw for me was when I started finding errors in the detail. For example, see these 4 errors described by page number. Page 114 - St. Vincent de Paul's incorrupt heart is not kept above the church altar in the Chapel of St Vincent de Paul. His (corrupt) body is inside a wax replica, sans his heart, above the altar in the chapel of the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Mission at 95 rue de Sevres in the 6th arrondissement. (The church of St. Vincent de Paul is in the 10th arrondissement.) The saint's incorrupt heart is in the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal which is just around the corner from Rue de Sevres, but you wouldn't know that proximity from this "guidebook". Page 123 - St. Therese of Lisieux's "incorrupt body" in the glass reliquary in the chapel of the Carmelite Convent is neither incorrupt nor her body; it is a statue. Her corrupt body is beneath the copy. Page 127 - The La Salette stations of the cross referred to do not go up the "mountain". They go up a small slope of the valley from which Our Lady of La Salette first appeared to Maxim and Melanie, to the point where she departed them, some 30 feet away. Our Lady wore a crucifix, not a cross. The children saw Jesus as if both dead and alive (His eyes open) at different times on this crucifix. The tools on either end were those of the crucifixion. The hammer symbolized sin; the pincers or pliers, the reparation of sin. Page 334 - The index is inconsistently alphabetized. See

entries for "La _" then "La Maison _" in the next column. A more useful pilgrim's travel guidebook is the Catholic Shrines of Western Europe by Kevin J. Wright. But I'll keep Good Night & God Bless for when I have time to read it from cover to cover and take notes for my own indexing and future travel use. Just don't buy it with the expectation of quickly finding useful accommodation listings and details, or if your trip is near in time as it will prove frustrating in your planning. If you're developing a long term "dream" itinerary or doing arm-chair touring, it will provide interesting ideas for further research and verification. I've read many books, including guidebooks, but never reviewed any. This one frustrated me to the point of feeling obligated to warn others. Buyer beware!

Yes! It has a great tips on places to stay with full descriptions about amenities field trips and culinary.

This is a beautiful book with rounded corners and high quality print and pages. The content is helpful. My only complaint is that there are no pictures at all! A real disappointment for me!

Coming from a publishing background, I have to admit, I'm a sucker for a beautifully packaged book, and this is one. From it's beautifully designed, glossy paper cover, to its rounded edges, to the very well-laid-out pages, this book is a joy to read. Granted, some of the text is a tad small, but my eyesight hasn't gone yet... :) Its content is thoroughly researched and well-written. Just looking at this book makes me want to travel.

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