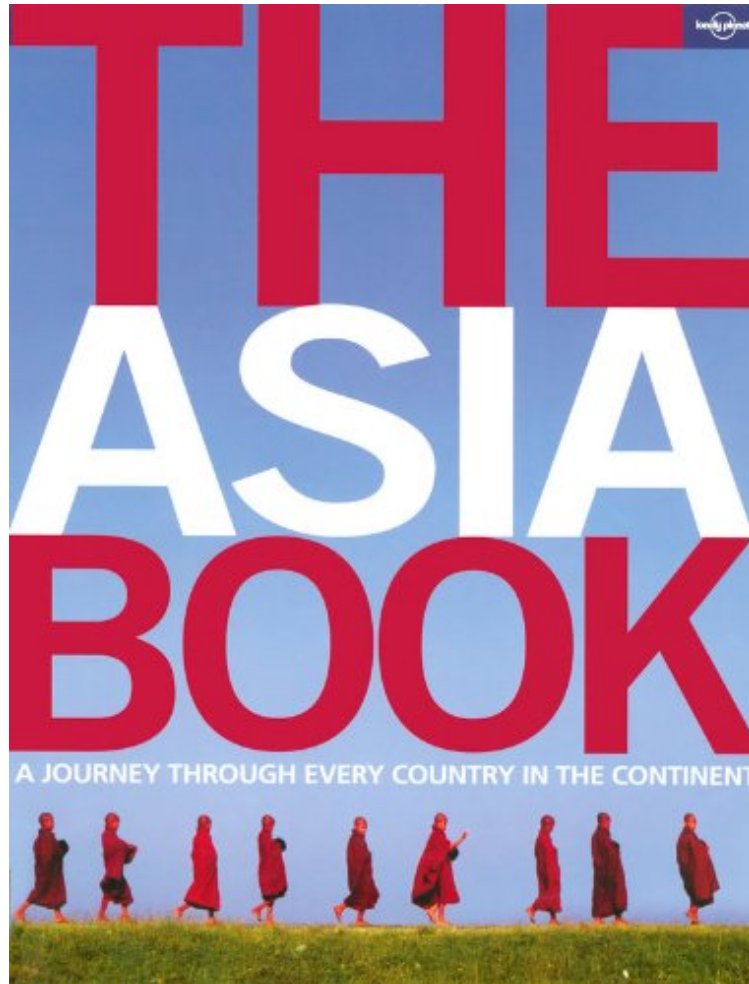


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Lonely Planet : The Asia Book (General Pictorial) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Asia Book (General Pictorial):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Ruben M. SaenzBook was fine, but delivery was late9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Coffee Table TouringBy Nino BrownIn this large-sized pictorial, Lonely Planet takes you for a quick trip through each country in Asia (minus Russia). Each entry contains dazzling photographs, most featuring the people of Asia rather than scenery, and several paragraphs providing basic information about each country and/or a few fun facts.The book is worth buying, or at least perusing, simply for the fine photography. Lonely Planet does a great job of visually exposing the reader to the diversity of Asia's people without descending too often into the sentimental or cliché. One really does get the sense of having a traveler's-eye view of the countries (albeit without the less scenic elements one would certainly encounter in real life). The writing is, on the other hand, merely adequate. The country descriptions are so brief as to be of little use. The additional

commentary provided for each country can be, at times, pithy, but just as often is formulaic or bland. That said, coffee table picture books do not require fine writing when the photography is sufficient to tell the book's story. You'll find this book reminds you of the vacations you should have taken that the photography you wish you could have produced. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great concept, just a few flaws...By Lisa MaryI was really excited when I heard about this book. I took it out of the library and read it cover to cover in a surprisingly short amount of time. It's a really big book, so I thought it would have taken me longer to get through. Here-in lies my first disappointment: I wish there was a little more meat to it. The text about each country is really interesting, but it left me wanting more. Same thing with the photos: really, really lovely photos, only I wish they printed twice as many. I wanted to see pictures of what I was reading about, so I found myself looking things up on the internet because there wasn't a photo in the book. At times the writing can be pretty amusing, especially with the quirkier, lesser-know countries. I felt like a few countries deserved more text, pictures, etc. I really liked the book, especially since I can't really find another quite like it. I only wish it could have taught me more, had a little more to offer. But I still give it four stars. I'd say well-done, a nice over-view.

Asia: a continent of candid contradictions, unmatched mayhem and mystery, where just one experience will never quite articulate the magic of the place. A fisherman's song at dawn on the banks of the Mekong, a chaos of color on the ghats of the Ganges, the silence of the vast steppes of Kazakhstan, a marching mile of red hats along the Great Wall road: Asia is all this and more. From the tropical beaches of Bali to the frozen slopes of Everest, The Asia Book draws together a definitive collection of the sights, sounds and tastes of this captivating continent. Here's how to start - open at any page and begin your own journey. Track the voyage of Lawrence of Arabia, hear the stories of the Silk Road trail, or plan an island-hopping itinerary. Settle back and discover the fascinating people, radical ingenuity, humbling hospitality and inspiring spirit of each country. Let Lonely Planet's photographers, authors and travellers lead you through five regions, 46 countries, and more than two thousand years of stories.