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Annabel Simms

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Annabel Simms : An Hour from Paris before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Hour from Paris:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Add another dimension to ParisBy Peter BridgeIs it possible to make Paris richer and more satisfying? Welcome to the Ile de France, the region surrounding Paris. This wonderful book offers countryside and small town destinations that are easily reached by fast, comfortable, and frequent trains. On our last trip, we made four of the trips, and we found them consistently satisfying. Based only on our own experience, we would suggest Sceaux and Rambouillet as pleasant and worthwhile destinations, both offering gardens as well as sweet towns. When we left Paris, we gave our copy of the book to friends who live there. We eagerly await the new edition. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Getting out of ParisBy Blue in WashingtonFor most short-term visitors to Paris, the idea of leaving the city just doesn't occur. There is a weeks' worth of sightseeing in the historic center at least; much more within the city's numbered arrondissements. Possible exceptions might be Versailles, Giverny, Chatou, etc. But what if you're in Paris for an extended period of time and want explore the immediate hinterland i.e. the Ile de France? This is where Paris resident Annabel Simms' little guidebook, "An Hour from Paris" becomes interesting and highly valuable. Simms has about 20 suggestions for very cool places to visit that are accessible via the regional train system (RER and SNCF). These are small towns, villages or chateaus of historic and cultural interest. Most are beautiful/quaint and offer a welcome break from urban life in Paris. Everyone will have their own favorites. I personally loved jaunts to Senlis and Sceaux--both visits easily done in a day. "An Hour from Paris" is not a guide to buy if you're going to be in Paris for a limited time, but for the lucky soul who has a few weeks, months, etc. there, it's a great addition to the library of info about everyone's favorite city to visit. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Another approach to ParisBy ANThis is a book for a visitor who has been to Paris a number of times and is looking for a different experience. There is so much to do and see in the city itself that there is more than enough to occupy first and second visits. On subsequent visits one starts to look for something different. The beauty of the book is the wide range of interesting places that it discusses within easy range of Paris that are so different from the city itself. One of the great pleasures of France is the French countryside. Many of the places described in this book give a taste of it that can be enjoyed in a comparatively short time. Directions are clear and specific, both as to how to get there and what to do. The detailed guide to the French public transport system is particularly useful. The places chosen are varied and interesting. For example, we spent a wonderful day at Chantilly as a result of this book and I am looking forward to many more interesting days like that on my coming visit. An attraction is the guide to interesting walks and good places to eat where the food quality is often superior to and the prices much less than is the case in Paris. The book is written in an entertaining fashion by a person who obviously knows her subject well and I can thoroughly recommend it.

Third edition of a unique guide. Ground-breaking work, Anthony Sattin, The Sunday Times A kind of Ile de France profonde, John Lichfield, The Independent The most exciting travel guide I've read in years, Jesse Kornbluth, Huffington Post A classic, Galignanir's bookshop, Paris. This is a guide to 20 lesser-known rewarding daytrips, within an hour of Paris by train. - Discover half-hidden chateaux and artists' country houses - Walk, boat or dance by the river - Explore old towns and country footpaths - Eat in family-run restaurants with 1950s decor and prices to match Based on over 20 years' experience of exploring the Paris countryside by train, each visit includes the essential historical context and practical information to help you discover places unknown to many Parisians. Written with humour and a flair for the unusual and authentic, the text is illustrated with original photos and local maps. It includes a unique guide to using the excellent local train network.

A glimpse of what Proust called a temps perdu. Ground-breaking work. -- The Sunday Times, February 16, 2003 A kind of Ile de France Profonde. -- The Independent Anyone with... a yearning for the charming and the weathered and off the beaten track, would love this book. -- Polly Platt, author of French or Foe? Ile de France Profonde... relatively unknown places that you can reach by a local train ride from central Paris. -- The Independent, February 3, 2003 Offers just enough historical, architectural and cultural background along with practical details that the independent traveler needs. -- The Bloomsbury , March/April 2003 The best get-your-feet-wet introduction to the Ile de France currently on the market. -- Paris Notes From the Publisher The Ile de France; the countryside around Paris; is perhaps the most interesting and least known of French regions. Its old towns hold the key to the history of France but have been so eclipsed by Paris that they now offer the paradox of being easily reached yet hardly touched by tourism. Annabel Simms, who has spent ten years discovering the region, now offers this splendid guide to a score of destinations within an hour of Paris. A suggested itinerary might include a chateau, a market, a riverside restaurant, a boat trip, a country walk. Better known destinations include the chateaux of Chantilly, Ecoen, and Rambouillet, but the reader will also discover the Roman town of Senlis; the medieval town of Crecy; land; Chapelle, with its moats and canals; and the water mills of Moret; sur; Loing, which inspired the Impressionists. Each destination is described in detail, with particular emphasis on the historical, literary, and artistic connections, and maps and color illustrations complete this refreshingly unique guide. About the Author Annabel Simms is a Londoner who has lived in Paris since 1991. She indulges her interest in eating, walking and discovering by exploring the countryside around Paris, in between teaching English at France Telecom and the OECD.

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