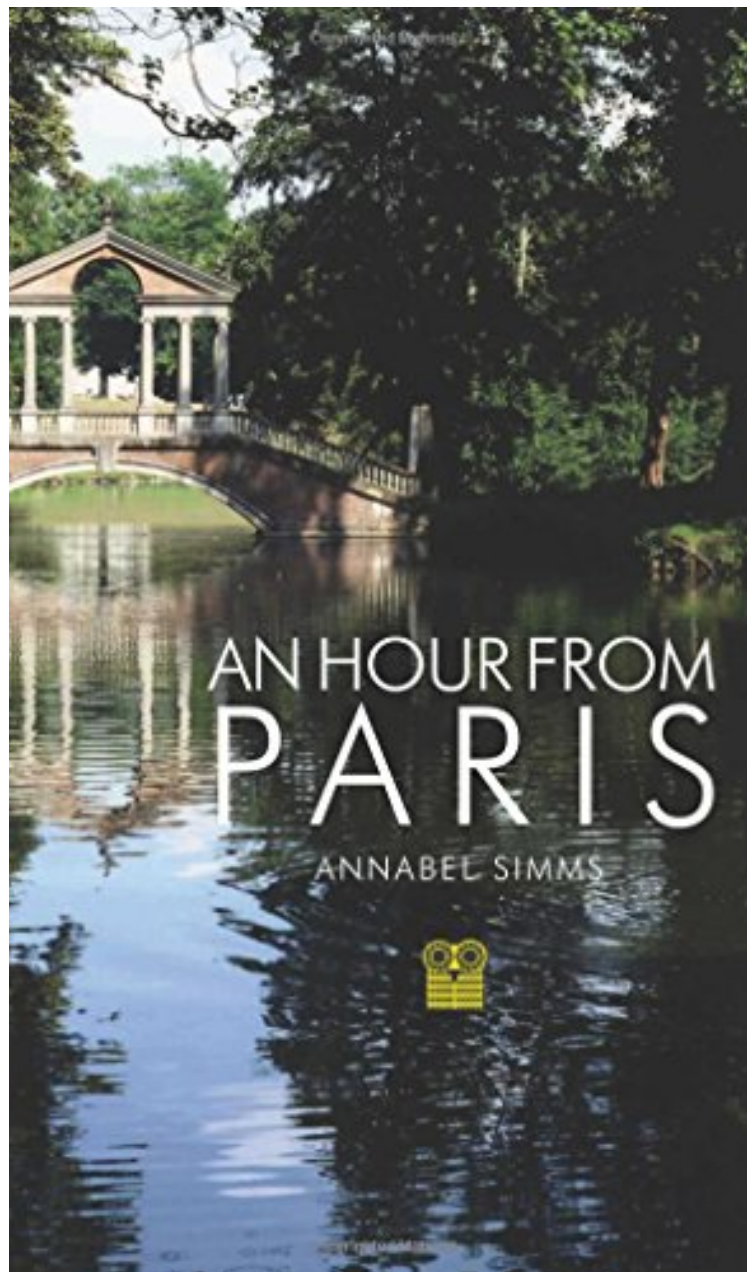


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An Hour from Paris

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.

Written with an eye for the unusual and containing invaluable practical details and maps, this idiosyncratic guide describes 20 destinations in the Ile de France, the fascinating yet little-known countryside around Paris. Better-known destinations include the chateaux of Chantilly and Rambouillet and Maurice Ravel's house in Montfort-l'Amaury, but the reader will also discover the Roman town of Senlis, the river-ports of Conflans-Ste Honorine and St Mamms, the Gothic church and medieval moats at Crcy-la-Chapelle, the old border-town and water-mills of Moret-sur-Loing which inspired the Impressionist painters, and the delightfully provincial atmosphere of Luzarches. Readers who are interested in discovering half-hidden chateaux and writers' country houses; walking, boating or dancing by the river; exploring old towns and country footpaths; and eating in family-run restaurants with 1950s dcor and prices to match will find much here to treasure.

"The most exciting travel guide I've read in years." Head Butler