



A Visitor's Guide to Victorian England

Michelle Higgs

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A colourful introduction to the realities of life in the 19th century. Readers will learn hidden details of history, from how to fend off pickpockets to the correct way to fasten a corset. This title will appeal to seasoned social history fans, costume drama lovers, history students and anyone with an interest in the Victorian era.

A Visitor's Guide to Victorian England Details

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From Reader Review A Visitor's Guide to Victorian England for online ebook

Jude Brigley says

Useful guide with lots of interesting facts

Pat says

An interesting approach to Social History that has become quite trendy over the last few years-treating the reader as a traveller in a strange and unfamiliar society. For the most part it works although sometimes has a slightly condescending tone which I found a little bit irritating. However there's lots of really interesting information here which I will find useful for my family history studies-particularly all the tables at the back listing the cost of living and how to survive on various income brackets.

Sue Wilkes says

Michelle Higgs' new guide to Victorian England is a 'must' for fans of TV series like Downton Abbey, and anyone interested in this fascinating era. This book is crammed full of facts a 'visitor' to the past needs to know, from how much to tip the 'boots' at a hotel, the perils of over-tight corsetry, going shopping, 'spending a penny', etc., to the niceties of encounters with the opposite sex. Higgs skilfully creates a detailed picture of everyday life using contemporary diaries and literature. Here you'll meet 'bearded ladies', go to a music hall, and enjoy a day at the races. The book contains appendices crammed with useful facts concerning wages, the cost of living, and the price of accommodation...Just pray that you don't need a doctor's services during your 'visit'! I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

Penny says

3.5

There's been quite a spate of these 'Visitor's Guides' to various periods in England's past history (including two excellent ones by Ian Mortimer on 'visiting' Medieval and Elizabethan England).

This is the first one I have read that guides you through Victorian England. It is divided up into chapters advising on such things as what to eat (and what not to eat), what to wear etc.

Some chapters I found more interesting than others but on the whole it is full of fascinating facts and is a really good background to how it must have been to live in those times. I liked the way it talked about living in the countryside as well as in the big cities.

However, there were a few things that I didn't like. On several occasions the source of a quote was given in full in the text which halted the flow. And the illustrations were so disappointing. A couple of photographs which were good but then just a series of somewhat mediocre prints that were too detailed for small pages. Lastly there's an overuse of exclamation marks and somewhat silly remarks throughout which often give the book an almost childish feel and detracted from all the scholarship and research that has clearly gone into writing it.

Angela Buckley says

‘A Visitor’s Guide to Victorian England’ is essential reading for anyone wishing to travel to the nineteenth century. From riding on omnibuses and sampling the street cuisine, to avoiding infectious diseases or being coshed over the head in a dark alley, this exceptional guide is full of practical advice and handy hints.

Meticulously researched and presented in an engaging and thoroughly entertaining way, Michelle Higgs has drawn on her considerable expertise of Victorian life to create this delightful compendium. She includes quirky facts, evocative descriptions and possible pitfalls for everyone drawn to the nineteenth century, for work as well as pleasure. Through her compelling guide, she recreates life of the time with all the sights, smells and sounds that a visitor would encounter. She explores a range of different settings, the characters you might meet and the best ways to get around in the period, notwithstanding the ever-present dangers and the cumbersome clothing.

I loved this guide and couldn’t put it down. I would highly recommend it and will definitely be taking it with me the next time I visit the nineteenth century, as well as an umbrella for warding off any unwelcome attention!

Caroline Clements says

An easy to read and fun little history book, if a little on the simple side for anyone interested in seriously studying the period.

Paul says

A Visitor’s Guide To Victorian England

There is often a romantic view of what it would have been like to visit England while Victoria was on the throne. We often hear commentators today asking for Victorian values to be brought back in to vogue. To the modern day person England was such a beautiful, honest place to visit the home of the world’s largest empire leaders in everything they did.

Michelle Higgs has written A Visitor’s Guide to Victorian England has written an honest account of what it would have been like to visit the cities and the countryside of our ‘green and pleasant land’. If anything the view is very much it was not a very green or too pleasant land to visit.

Anyone that has walked down Oxford Street in London or Deansgate in Manchester today would know what the hustle and bustle of the busy city street is like. If they were to do the same in Victorian times people would have been shocked and amazed at the streets would be just as busy but far louder, the noise of the horses on the cobbles and oh the stench. Higg’s quotes an American visitor to Liverpool who saw ‘the most disgusting sight was seeing women and young girls employed in scraping up street manure with their naked hands, and placing it in baskets or their aprons, so common as not to be noticed by the citizens’.

Higgs goes through everything you would have needed to know to be able to survive whether in the country or in the city. For those that are looking for the romantic England (that has never existed) may be shocked at some of the descriptions and advice. Whether it was food and drink or the health hazards, like avoid the Thames or don't drink unboiled water.

To the descriptions of clothing of all sections and that included the working classes, which some today would recognise as chavs of their day. With advice of the day on how to deal with encounters with the opposite sexes, shopping and even more important on how to get around.

This is a fantastic guide that relives what life would have been like for the visitor during the Victorian era, she has not romanticised what it was like but given an honest account. This is an excellent background for any student of Victorian England.

Kayla Tornello says

I enjoyed this book about what to expect from everyday life in Victorian England. This book focuses on the basics and doesn't get bogged down by a ton of details. That makes it great for a quick read, but a bit disappointing if you are looking to examine Victorian life extensively.

Ellie Morris says

A wonderfully entertaining read, written in the style of a travel guide, which made it very interesting to pour through. I learnt lots of new things about the Victorian era through this guide, and there were lots and lots of great sources, ranging from diaries, newspapers, books, and photographs.

I would definitely recommend this to anyone that is a fan of social history, or the Victorian era in general! I found it very useful for researching future writing projects.
