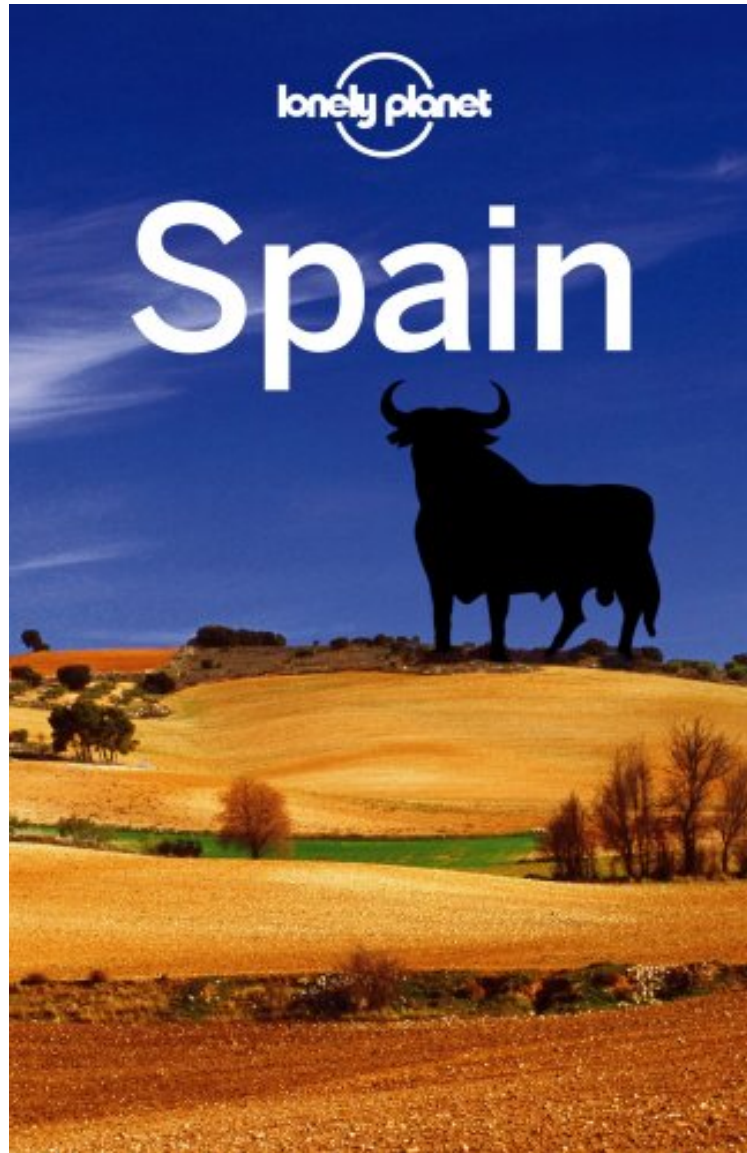


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Lonely Planet Spain

Anthony Ham

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Anthony Ham : Lonely Planet Spain before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lonely Planet Spain:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Don't buy the Kindle edition! By Rational Traveler Do not buy the Kindle edition of Lonely Planet Spain, or any other Kindle travel guide book. Buy the hard copy instead. I bought the Kindle edition and loaded it onto my i-Pad. Big mistake. 1. There is no index, so if you want to go the section on, say, Seville, you have to flip through the front of the book to find the table of contents, then try to remember what province

Seville is in, then go to that province, then find Seville. Huge hassle when you're walking around Seville trying to find something.

2. Bad bookmarking system. In a regular book, I can use a piece of paper and write on it, "XYZ" so I know the directions to get to XYZ Restaurant. In the Kindle, the electronic bookmark lists the first word on the page where XYZ is mentioned. So the bookmark for XYZ might read: "In ABC town, the bus station is at ***." However, XYZ Restaurant might not even be in that town. Because the book is voluminous, it's difficult to find references by either an index (see comment 1 above) or book marking.

3. The Table of Contents is silly. Instead of listing the provinces, you go to something called "On the Road". You click that then the list of destinations comes out. Why can't they just say, "Provinces, cities and towns of Spain".

4. The maps are a disaster on the i-Pad. Way too small and when you enlarge them, they turn blurry so the names can't be read. We ended up using regular maps because of the poor quality of the Kindle maps.

Problems of the Kindle aside, the book was standard Lonely Planet quality. **BUT DON'T BUY THE KINDLE EDITION!**

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Kindle version is useless... By K. Mills I am both a fan of the LP series and the Kindle, but this is a match made in hell. There is no table of context to speak of (it consists of about 5 items--stuff like About the Writers, Itineraries, and How To Use This Guide), no index that I could find (probably because there are no page numbers), the maps I saw were so shrunk down as to be unreadable, and page turns tend to be extremely slow (probably due to the pictures.) So, let's say you want to find the chapter on Granada. The only way I could figure out to do it would be to search on the word Granada and check every one of the hundreds of instances until you struck on the information you were looking for. Honestly, I am shocked that a terrific company like LP would even allow this version to exist. Kudos to for allowing returns of Kindle books--I assumed it would be impossible. I'm now off to the store to buy the paper version...

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Loved not having to carry the book, hated the format and organisation. By GI wasn't sure how well a purely electronic version of LP was going to work, but we gave it a go, and I think I would do it again, maybe. Lots of suckiness, but not having to carry the book is a massive plus. Here's my full list of pros and cons:

- + We could read it simultaneously on our kindles, phones, and on the laptop (when internet connected) for the cost of one copy
- + You look like less of a tourist messing with your phone than having a guidebook out
- + You can make notes and bookmarks that sync across all devices when they Internet-connect
- + You only need to carry your phone when out and about, instead of a 0.5 kg giant book
- + Nice tie-in with google maps, with links from the text articles. However, it is only useful if you have cheap mobile data or plan ahead and pre-cache maps data (requires a maps lab plugin).
- All the maps are pretty much useless. They look terrible on the kindle. They are slightly better on the phone in colour and you can zoom in, but the images are really low quality. LP has tried to address this by breaking each map into quarters and providing those as separate, more zoomed-in images, but paging through these chopped up maps is really annoying and difficult to use. They need to provide each one in high-res so it is zoomable - I suspect this is a kindle app limitation.
- Search sucks (and doesn't even exist in the cloud reader). It is ridiculously slow (maybe 5 minutes?) to get a result on the phone or the kindle. It would be very easy and effective to build an index and distribute it with the book: when I search for 'Museo del Prado' or 'Toledo', I should be taken to the relevant section immediately. Instead, I get every mention of Toledo in the entire book, and have to hunt through the results to find the one that points to the section. I suspect this is a kindle limitation.
- Organisation is terrible. It is basically the same as the paper book, which works very poorly in this format. On my phone to get to Park Guell it takes 75 clicks: settings, go to, table of contents, on the road, next, barcelona, sights, then scrolling through the next 68 pages. That's appalling for such a well-known landmark and major book section.
- There are no links to any of the activities in the city itinerary summaries (e.g. 'Barcelona in two days'). You need to dig through each Barcelona neighbourhood (or wait ages for search) to find the specific activity. Rinse and repeat for each one.
- Bookmarks and notes are mostly useless once you have more than a couple. They are ordered by page number rather than the order in which you bookmarked them, which is dumb, you probably want the thing you just bookmarked, not the one you bookmarked a week ago. So you end up hunting through and reading the summary for all of the bookmarks.

“Windswept Roman ruins, cathedrals of rare power and incomparable jewels of Islamic architecture speak of a country where the great civilizations have risen, fallen and left behind their indelible mark.” – Anthony Ham, Lonely Planet Author

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