About BLUE GUIDE HAY-ON-WYE

The only full, guidebook treatment of this charming Welsh border town, famous for its second-hand bookstores and annual Book Festival. Meticulously researched and lovingly written, this book contains a wealth of detail on the town’s past and present, its architecture and major monuments, including write-ups of each of its thirty bookshops, plus short itineraries in the beautiful surrounding area: the Black Mountains, Wye Valley and along the Offa’s Dyke path. Publication is timed to coincide with this year’s Guardian Hay Festival in the last week of May and first week of June, an event which attracts audiences of around eighty thousand.

Robin Saikia is a London-based journalist and art historian.

The best-presented, best-researched cultural guide books in the English language

‘The Blue Guides still hold the cultural high ground’

Sunday Times

Sample pages from Blue Guide Concise Rome, September 2009

Blue Guide Hay-on-Wye will be produced to the similar quality and pocket size

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This market town on the River Wye is dominated by a crumbling Norman castle with Jacobean and Victorian additions. The first bookshop was opened in the 1960s by Richard Booth, a local man who began importing boxloads of second-hand tomes from the USA. More booksellers followed until the little town had some 30 such shops. Internationally recognised as a Town of Books, it has been home to the annual Hay Festival of Literature since 1988 (this year it runs from 21 to 31 May). The scant population of 1,500 swells as up to half a million visitors throng the lanes for talks by world-class writers.

