



The Not for Tourists Guides



From [Lisa Bialecki](#),
Your Guide to [Business Travel](#).
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A city guide full of information

Occasionally, companies send writers stuff to review and hopefully write about favorably. Business travel isn't the sexiest topic to write about and I've taken a chance to review cool technology like the Digital Pen from Logitech or Ear Planes (which my mother-in-law raves about) or even the Potty Poncho (don't ask). So, when a few copies of the Not for Tourists Guide were dropped on my desk, I had to take a look for myself.

The guides are like a Yellow Pages broken down by neighborhood and accompanied by snappy reviews of the area from the editor. I took a close look at the city with which I'm most familiar: Chicago. Listings include restaurants, sundry shops, grocery stores and more along with maps of the neighborhood. I was especially interested in the sections devoted to "areas of interest" including museums, parks, fun things for kids and gay culture.

As any printed material of this nature, some of the newest restaurants and shops weren't listed and some that were listed had recently gone out of business. But overall, the guide was fairly up to date with the best a neighborhood had to offer.

What I found most interesting about the guides was the reaction from my peers when they saw a guide sitting on my desk. (Note: My full-time gig is in a PR office - nothing related to travel.) Two of my Chicago office mates already had copies of the Chicago guide and recommended it for people just moving to the city or those on an extended visit. Another coworker flipped through the book while sitting in on a conference call. He said - not knowing that I was reviewing it - that it was, "pretty cool."

Not for Tourists, Inc. published their first guide in May of 2000 and currently publishes guides for Chicago, San Francisco, Manhattan, New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Brooklyn and Washington D.C. They also have an online presence with information about creating custom maps for corporations or fundraisers or whatever you may need.