

[FREE] Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

## Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

*Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen*

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**Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen : Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ecuador and the Enchanted IslesBy Greyson James AllenVictor Wolfgang Von Hagen, the author of Ecuador and the Galpagos Islands (University of Oklahoma Press, 1949), was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1908. He became an American explorer, historian, author and anthropologist in his lifetime, authoring an impressive amount of material on the subject of Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations. He spent significant amounts of time trekking through the lands of South America studying the land and its people, and before his death in 1985, Hagen managed to publish over forty literary works corresponding to his travels. In Ecuador and the Galpagos Islands, Hagen tells much of the history of Ecuador, beginning with Spanish colonization, and describes the environments and peoples of multiple different areas of the nation. Each chapter of the book is dedicated to a different locale or aspect of Ecuador, beginning with the capitol city of Quito and ending with the Galapagos Islands. Hagen is thorough in his historical data and blends it well with geographical and social information. The book largely deals with the Spanish colonial period of time, but also includes information from post-independence Ecuador. The book is very effective in telling a broad history of Ecuador, and describing much of its qualities. While the book remains non-fiction, Hagen writes in a way that the book at times reads like a novel, which allows the reader to easily maintain interest. Hagen includes many accounts of people directly from the era of history being covered in the book, adding another level of interest for the reader. The book does a wonderful job of supplementing historical knowledge of Ecuador and supplying stories and descriptions of each of the areas covered in the book. Hagen's composition is good,

and the chapters flow along coherently, in a way that the reader feels as if s/he were traveling along with the author. Although I believe Hagen could easily have made two separate books, one on Ecuador, the other on the Galapagos Islands; having them together does create an interesting perspective on both areas. The amount of information that Hagen supplies his reader on each of the topics covered is quite impressive, and in his writing the reader is able to sense a definite passion for the things inside the nation of Ecuador, and off the coast as well. I believe that the book should appeal to general readership, as well as to those with existing knowledge of Ecuador, due to Hagen's well written chapters and interesting style on subjects both fascinating and thought-provoking.