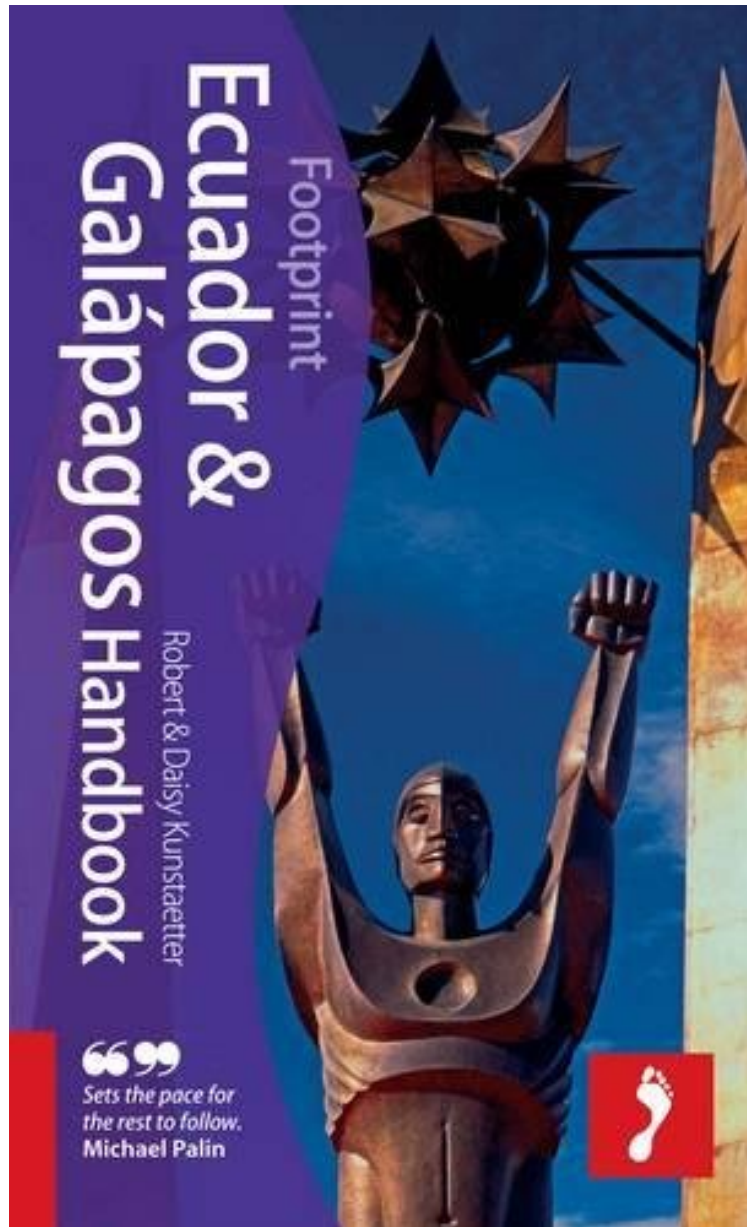


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it would be worth my time, and all praised Ecuador Galapagos Handbook, 7th: Travel guide to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands (Footprint Ecuador Galapagos Handbook):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. They've sold out...By Julie Fox(review of the 2010 edition of Ecuador/Galapagos)In the past, I've flitted between Lonely Planet, Blue Moon, and Footprint guides. Thanks to this guide, I will not buy any more Footprint guides.Why? First, who makes a travel guide a hardback??? It makes it very difficult to tear out the parts of the book that you want to take with you, as there are invariable parts of the guide you don't need for the trip who wants to carry that extra weight?The second reason, and the one I'm most upset about, is the abundance of ads throughout. On the opening endsheets alone, 3 different ads. Throughout the guide, there are more. If I wanted a commercial guide, I would have selected the more popular Michelin or Frommer's. But I wanted something with independent feedback and information. Footprint guides no longer do so. I'll be sticking with Blue Moon and Lonely Planet in the future.9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. An Insipid, Anemic GuideBy fdoamericaThis is a review of the 2010 guide. I have used various guides to explore South American and sometimes Footprint was the best (i.e. Peru Handbook). However, in this case FootPrint Ecuador is the worst of the lot. The guide is difficult to use, uses symbols for restaurants that define price but not quality, symbols for accommodations L,AL,A,B etc. that give you a price range but nothing about the quality of the place. Then there are the advertisements; the guide is peppered with advertisements which causes one to question the integrity of the guide, especially when a travel agency or a hotel, that has a full page ad, is strongly recommended by the authors. Hum.But the worst part of the guide is the insipid, anemic write ups on restaurants which are absolutely worthless.For example, just to pick a few from the guide (in Cuenca) the El Jardin Restaurant "Good International food, pricey", or the El Jordan "Middle Eastern and Ecuadorean dishes. Elegant Dcor". Whereby, Frommer's Ecuador (recommended) writes a paragraph on each of its recommendations, it rates them by the quality of food, the service the ambiance then gives you a price range. For example it wrote about the same restaurant, El Jardin " This elegant restaurant has dimly lit dining room features wraparound wall of glass with view of the Rio. Tables feature... Spaghetti Carbonara or Veal Cordon Bleu...everything is wonderfully prepared and presented", and it goes on. Wow! what a difference. Accommodation reviews, in this guide, are a bit better but not by much.The history, politics and culture sections are basic, but do not give you any more information than you could get out of Wikipedia. The index is basic and could be much better. The guide also lacks an accommodations or restaurant index.If you want a good guide I recommend Frommer's Ecuador or Lonely Planet Ecuador. There are many good guides out on Ecuador the Galapagos, this is not one of them. Not Recommended6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Really DisappointingBy San Fran ManHaving used a couple of Footprint Guides in Southeast Asia, I came to think of them as the best of all guidebooks. So I was really excited to see a new edition of this book coming out a month before I'm due to leave for Ecuador - both the Lonely Planet and Rough Guide were last published a couple of years ago, making the information several years out of date.The book is a real disappointment for the independent traveler. Descriptions of sights are terse, more on the level of Lonely Planet than Rough Guide's sometimes overly detailed enthusiasms. That would be excusable if the coverage of basic travel information were complete, but it's not. Worst of all, there's a single bus chart at the front of the book, with prices and travel times but not frequencies. Individual cities sometimes have bus schedules, sometimes not, and some bus connections that are in RG and LP simply aren't listed. Does the bus to where I need to go run once a day, once an hour, every 10 minutes, or never? Tell me, dammit...I'm sorry, that's a lot more important information than where to get a great French meal in Quito. (The authors basically say, "There are a lot of excellent luxury restaurants in Quito, so we'll tell you where to find expensive fondue, but we can't be bothered listing inexpensive places." Jeez...)Astonishingly, there's not even a schedule of when and how often buses leave Quito for other destinations. That's understandable in a Fodor's, but when the much shorter Ecuador chapter in the South American Handbook is of more concrete help in planning a trip than the new Ecuador Footprint, something's wrong.Used to be that Footprints had compact and reliable hotel, restaurant, and transport information. In this one, the list of Quito restaurants and nightclubs is nearly as long as the entire section on sightseeing. It's not a total disaster, but it's really a letdown. I'll be taking the Rough Guide, too, and if this weren't a lot more current than RG, I'd return it.

The phrase small is beautiful could have been coined specifically with Ecuador in mind. By South American standards, Ecuador is tiny, but what it lacks in size it makes up for in diversity. Here, one can watch dawn break over the jungle canopy, have lunch high in the Andes, then watch the sun slip into the Pacific Ocean all on the same day. Lying just over 600 miles offshore are the Galapagos Islands, inspiration for Darwin's theory of evolution and without a doubt the greatest wildlife show on Earth. Footprints highly acclaimed guide is essential for all travelers wishing to get to grips with this small but perfectly formed country.

"Head, shoulders and spine ahead of the rest." Adventure Travel; "My favourite series is the Handbook series published by Footprint... They have better maps and trail advice (than the "Lonely Planet") as well as tips for travelling in a particular culture, and advice for women travelling alone." Boston Globe (Daily) MA"About the

Author Robert Daisy Kunstaeffer, who have been based in Ecuador since 1993, have contributed to many different Footprint titles over the years, including the South American Handbook and, since the first edition, Ecuador Galapagos.