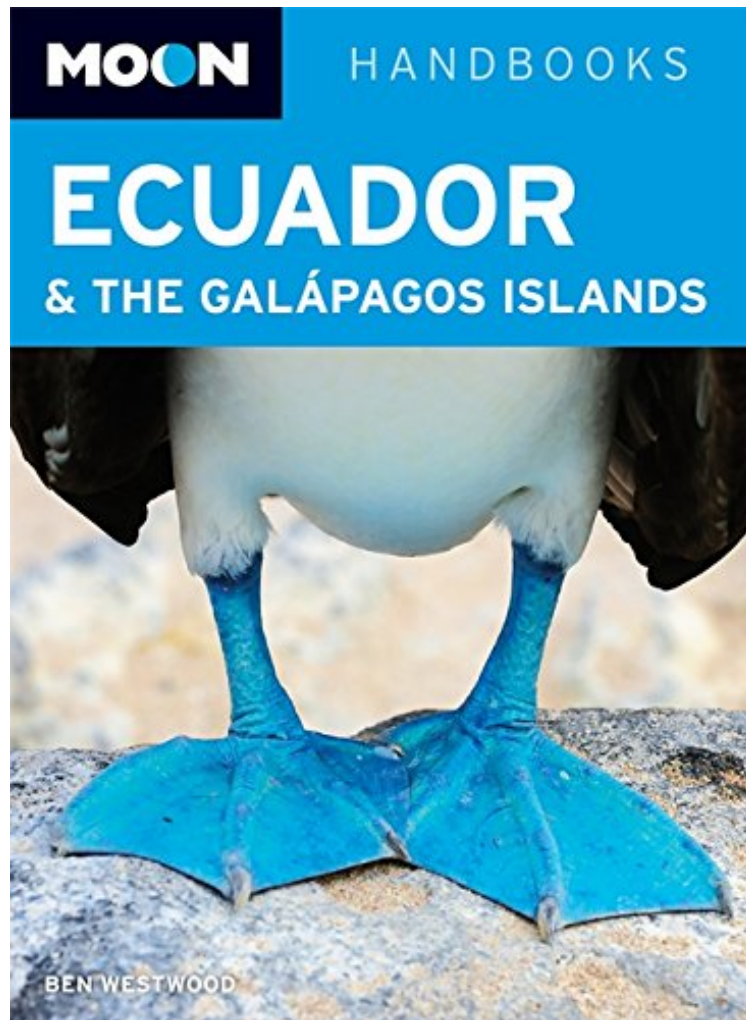


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Moon Ecuador the Galpagos Islands (Moon Handbooks)

Ben Westwood

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Ben Westwood : Moon Ecuador the Galpagos Islands (Moon Handbooks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moon Ecuador the Galpagos Islands (Moon Handbooks):

32 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Best I've used!By Mike M.This book works for me! I have traveled to Ecuador many times in the past 12 years, as it is an enchanting place I just can't seem to avoid. There is an incredible variety of environments (beach, Andes Mountains, Jungle, Galapagos Islands) in such a small country. There are also more things to do with more bang for your buck than in most other countries in Latin America.Previously, I had used Lonely Planet guidebooks exclusively. I decided to give Moon a try after getting tired of Lonely Planet. Ecuador is a fast-changing country and Lonely Planet seemed to rely too much on their previous editions with poor attention to updating info. It is obvious that the author of this book has personally gone to these places and describes them from a first-person point of view. I found this guidebook was spot-on with its descriptions

of places I'm already familiar with and extremely helpful for the places I am not. I am the type to arrive at the bus station, buy a ticket to my next destination and plan my lodging and site seeing on the way. I never book ahead. On my most recent trip, I visited several locations I had never been to before (Loja, Riobamba, and Puerto Lopez). The descriptions of the places I stayed (restaurants, activities, hotels) were extremely accurate in regards to appearance, quality, amenities and pricing. In addition, the book is very well-written and the stories, descriptions and info boxes make for a very entertaining read on a long Ecuadorian bus ride or short plane hop (that is when you're not glued to the window!). Believe it or not, I have not yet been to the Galapagos (a bit pricey), but eventually plan on doing so. This is not a place where you'd want to plan your lodgings on the plane ride over there. Booking ahead is almost a must. I will definitely use Moon to help me plan out that trip. After reading that chapter, it is obvious that the author is very knowledgeable of the islands and all they have to offer. In the past 12 years, I have used Insight Guides, Lonely Planet, and now Moon. Out of all 3, I'd put Insight at the lowest, Lonely Planet second, and Moon on top. It is, without a doubt, my new go-to guide and the first thing I'll throw in my carry-on for next year's trip!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very good guide. I used it for my first trip ...
By Walid Zairi
Very good guide. I used it for my first trip to Ecuador this past August 2014. The guide is very accurate, there are very good ideas of things to do. Prices of hotels went up by about 5-10 dollars since the instauration of new taxes in Ecuador. I wish this book had color photos/illustrations. I also think that Ecuador is so much more than just the Galapagos. Most Ecuadorians (99%) have never been there because it's so expensive to get there. Ecuador has so much to offer than just the Galapagos. It should not be on the cover and should not be on this guide in my opinion as it can be easily placed on a separate guidebook.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great Guidebook for Ecuador and the Galapagos!
By Nevada City CA
We took this book on our recent trip to Ecuador where we visited Quito, the Oriente (rain forest) and the Galapagos. We found it to be a great guidebook. I particularly enjoyed the long background sections describing Ecuador's geography, history and people. I think it is so important to gain an understanding of the countries you visit, not just check off a list of tourist sites.

Seasoned traveler and journalist Ben Westwood leads adventurers to off-the-beaten-path experiences in Ecuador, from riding a train up the steep switchbacks of the famous Nariz del Diablo (Devil's Nose) to diving off of the Galapagos Islands, where the waters are abundant with ocean life. Westwood also includes several trip strategies such as the Culture and History Tour and the Outdoor Adventure Tour which cater to the diverse interests of travelers. Complete with information on exploring the colonial architecture of Quito's Old Town and climbing volcanoes in Sangay National Park, Moon Ecuador the Galapagos Islands gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience.

About the Author Ben Westwood started dreaming of being a writer and musician at an early age. Growing up in England, he pursued both of his passions by studying music at Westminster University and doing a journalism work placement at national newspaper The Independent. He wrote his first travel journal during a backpacking trip through Southeast Asia. After graduating from college, Ben decided to follow his passion for travel; with an English-language teaching qualification under his belt, he set off for Ecuador in 1998. In the year he spent there, he fell in love with the country and one of its citizens. He returned to the UK newly married to study a postgraduate diploma at the country's top journalism school, City University. Ben worked for five years for The Daily Telegraph and Telegraph.co.uk as a travel journalist and online travel editor, writing articles on everything from encounters with Maoist guerrillas in Nepal to encounters with drunken Brits in Greece. After a brief stint working in adventure tourism, Ben moved to Ecuador with his wife and children in 2007 to combine his passions for teaching and travel writing. Since then, he has contributed to the The Rough Guide to South America on a Budget and continues to contribute to The Daily Telegraph. Ben currently teaches journalism, travel writing, English language, and the history of popular music at the Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo, one of Ecuador's best universities. He still finds time to sing and play the guitar, and has released one self-funded album, Keep Dreaming.