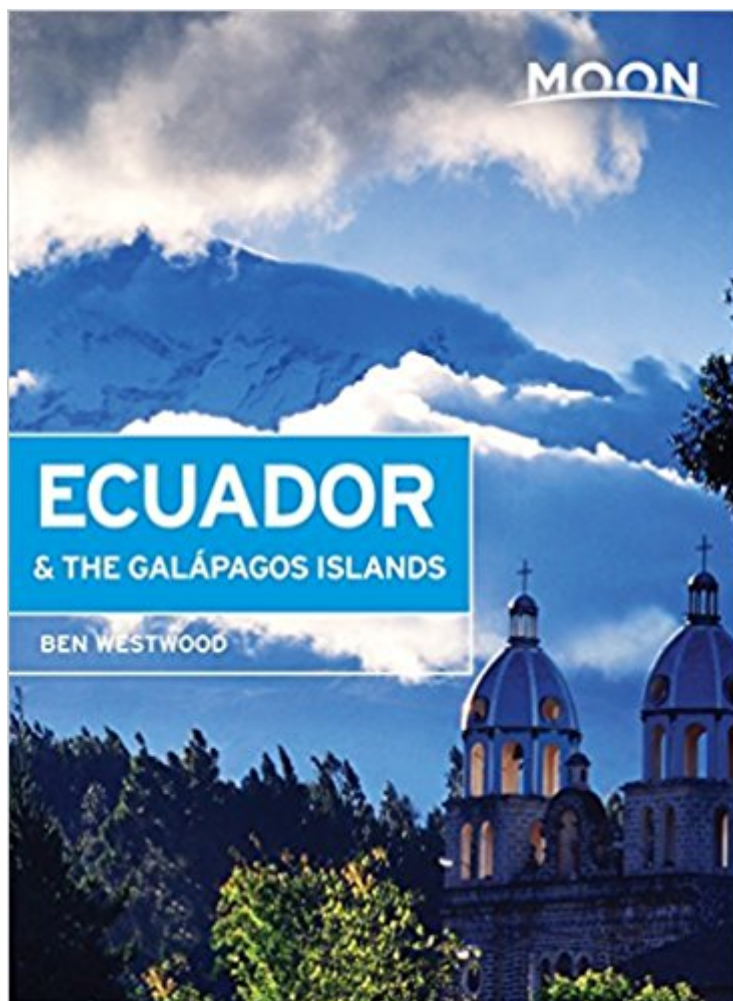




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# Moon Ecuador & The Gal  ipagos Islands (Moon Handbooks)



## Synopsis

This full-color guide to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands includes vibrant photos and easy-to-use maps to help with trip planning. 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 Galápagos Islands, where the waters are abundant with ocean life. Complete with information on exploring the colonial architecture of Quito's Old Town, enjoying the lively waterfront of the Malecón 2000 in Guayaquil, and climbing volcanoes in Sangay National Park, *Moon Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands* gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience. *Moon Handbooks* give you the tools to make your own choices. Can't-miss sights, activities, restaurants, and accommodations, marked with *M* Suggestions on how to plan a trip that's perfect for you, including: "The Best of Ecuador" "Galápagos Expedition" "Adrenaline Rush" "Wildlife Wonders" "Sun and Surf: Ecuador's Best Beaches" "Indigenous Past and Present" 37 detailed and easy-to-use maps The firsthand experience and unique perspective of author Ben Westwood

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ben Westwood dreamed of being a writer and musician from an early age. Growing up in England, he combined the two by studying music and getting involved in student journalism in London. 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 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 complete a postgraduate degree at the country's top journalism school, City University. Ben worked 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 returned to South America to combine his passions for teaching and travel writing. In addition to Moon Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands, he is the author of Moon Machu Picchu and Moon Peru. He has also contributed to the The Rough Guide to South America on a Budget, The Daily Telegraph, The Independent, and The Guardian. Ben currently teaches journalism and tourism at Brighton University in the UK. He still finds time to sing and play the guitar, and has released one self-funded album, Keep Dreaming. Follow him on Twitter @BenWestwood and at [soundcloud.com/benwestwoodmusic](https://soundcloud.com/benwestwoodmusic). Jon Jared first experienced the itch for travel during summer trips with his grandparents to England, Scotland, and Wales. After visiting Zambia and traversing the mountain towns of Colorado, he moved to Ecuador in search of a new understanding of the world around him. In Ecuador, Jon has worked at hotels, restaurants, and bars; served as a local guide, a freelance writer and editor; and managed the South American Explorers Club in Quito, where he currently lives.

Moon Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands covers the regions of Quito; the Central Sierra, Northern Sierra, and Southern Sierra; The Oriente; North and Central Coasts and Lowlands; Guayaquil and the Southern Coast; and the Galápagos Islands. This guide highlights the best Ecuador has to offer, including Quito, Lake Quilotoa, Cotopaxi National Park, Baños, Alausí, the Inca ruins at Ingapirca, Cuenca, Cajas National Park, and the Ecuadorian . If you have an extra week, extend your trip with a visit to the Galápagos Islands. You'll also find suggestions for planning creative itineraries. Unique trip ideas include: "Indigenous Past and Present," taking you to markets and local festivals in Quito, Latacunga, Cuenca, and Saraguro; "Adrenaline Rush," showcasing the best places for bicycling, rock climbing, hiking, paragliding, rafting, scuba diving, and surfing; "Wildlife Wonders," in which you'll meet quetzals, howler monkeys, giant tortoises, and more; and "Sun and Surf: Ecuador's Best Beaches," with the best sandy stretches for surfing, whale-watching, kitesurfing, people-watching, nightlife, and romance.

Was very helpful & informative on making the decision to visit - as one of the possible places to retire ? This book had the latest copyright date which made it the guide of choice. Read July 2015.

## Cheap travels

We took this book along on a recent 5 week driving trip through Ecuador, and found it extremely helpful in deciding where to go, eat, and stay.

Excellent guide to Ecuador. Well written, detailed, great pictures. Written from knowledgeable, well travelled authors. Lots of insights, tips and shortcuts. Easy read. Great reference guide.

Great info on Quito and Galapagos, which is where I went. I appreciate his candor in reviewing places, hotels, etc.

The chapters are very informative. I will know what to see when I visit the country.

It was very good good, we used as a primary support in Ecuador.

Traveled to Ecuador in February and used this guidebook along the way - big disappointment. We found that the pricing was off - sometimes WAY off - and many of the highlights in the cities we visited was missing. Not only that, the book gives you the impression you can simply hop around the country and visit all these cities in a short amount of time - not true. The bus is definitely a great way to get around (and often the only way!) but given that the itineraries in the book are very unrealistic. The book actually ended up costing us more than \$200 because we book a hotel in a city that the bus didn't actually go to (as indicated in the book) and ended up having to pay a taxi to get us in and out of this remote village. I'm a seasoned traveler, have backpacked all over the world, and have never had a book get something so, so wrong. Also, one of amazing opportunities of traveling is experiencing local culture and we found time and again the businesses and restaurants highlighted in the guide were owned and operated by expats - usually American, French, or German. I have absolutely nothing against expats owning businesses but I was in Ecuador to experience Ecuador. Would NOT recommend this book for travel in Ecuador. We did not go to Galapagos so can't speak to its validity on that area.

This is the second Ecuador guidebook I bought, the first was from another author a couple years ago. I wanted an updated one and to try a different author, publisher. This one is inadequate in so many ways. Lots of information about superfluous but interesting tidbits, but a lot of information out

of date. I remember reading a lot of the information in the other guidebook. (copy and paste?) However my main complaint is the inadequate maps and directions in describing Quito and Cuenca. Especially Quito. Everyone I've met laments the same thing, how to deal with the airport being on one side of the city and the bus stations on the other side. The maps are barely adequate to orient yourself in this large city and to show where a few points of interest are. None of them show the main transportation hubs so one can adequately plan their stay. Quite often you can find yourself paying 25 or 30 for a taxi to your hotel from the airport, then another 25 or 30 taxi fare to the bus terminal! To be fair I have yet to see any map that covers this large city very well, even online and none that show the main transportation hubs, but the maps in this book are of little use. There is also the issue of finding lodging. Spare your time with this tome and go online to find a place to stay!

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