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Alan Murphy, Ben Box

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Alan Murphy, Ben Box : Footprint Peru Handbook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Footprint Peru Handbook:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Don't bother
By J. Stander
I was ready to burn this heavy book within four days of arriving in Peru. While the book has a lot of information regarding locations of sites, locations of hotels, and locations of restaurants, it doesn't tell you much about those places. Many of the hotels had clearly never been visited by the writers. All of the restaurants we went to that were listed in this book were tourist traps with food that was mediocre at best. Just because it lists every hotel does not mean that it's a good guide. I recommend 'Let's Go' instead. Though it is smaller and covers three countries instead of just Peru, 'Let's Go' seemed to have more useful information, even for those of us who are not student backpackers.
24 of 25 people found the following review helpful.
One of the best single guides on Peru on the market now.
By fdoamerica
I now live in Peru four to six months a year and I have reviewed Peruvian travel guides for the past six years. I must say that the 'Footprint Peru' 4th edition is a quantum improvement over the last edition, and is one of the best single guides on Peru on the market now (considering also Rough Guide and Lonely Planet). Another review may appear under my name below but it is for the 3rd edition. Buy the 4th edition.
When it comes to profiling tour operators this guide is superb. If you are hiking the Inca Trail or want to visit the Manu Reserve (Manu only has 7 licenced operators) this guide is a must. The guide has also highlighted some of the NGOs working with abandoned children and environmental issues - applaudable, indeed. The maps in this edition are much better than the last edition and more user friendly. Many hotels (some hostels) have email addresses and the descriptions and the recommendations are accurate. The sidebars and highlighted information sections are excellent. The restaurant (eating) sections are reliable, however, I found various comments on the decor or music, but 'nada' on the food or service.
Ben Box also has a Footprint Guide on Cusco, but I strongly recommend that even if you are going to just Cusco, you skip that guide and purchase this one. This guide is more up to date and reliable. Cusco is in a constant state of change. Many new hotels, hostels and restaurants open yearly and the best place in Cusco, for up to date information, is the 'South American Explorers Club' in Cusco (Lima, also has a club). This guide lists the club and its new address on page 156.
Impressive is the write up on Choquequirao, 'lost city of the Incas'. Larger than Machu Picchu, and only 30% excavated, it is truly a world class destination and the other guides only give it a slight mention. The index is basic and could be much better. The guide also lacks an accommodations or restaurant index. Thus, if you have a recommended restaurant you want to look up in a large city (Lima, Arequipa, Cusco etc.) you have to go through all the restaurant pages 'til you stumble across the restaurant you seek or miss seeing it completely. Offensive is the use of paid advertisements for hotels, tour companies and travel services (there are over 70 ads in this guide - many are full page). Not only are the paid advertisements intrusive, but the advertisements causes one to question the integrity of the guide, especially when a travel company or hotel, with a full page ad, is also strongly recommended by the authors. The history, politics and culture sections are basic, but do not give you any more information than you could get out of a good encyclopedia. In Peru there is severe environmental damage going on that gets no mention. Also, several ecological alarms are being sounded by various NGOs over the depletion or destruction of various habitats, and, finally, the ineptitude of the government, under the new President, Toledo, is retarding any change. It is alarming that in less than two years the President's approval rating has dropped from 82% to the lowest approval rating in Peruvian history - 14%. The other two contending guides do a much better job of giving a contemporary picture of the state of Peru. For those who want a solid social understanding of this nation, I highly recommend the short, 95 page book, Peru: A Guide to the People, Politics and Culture - Interlink Books. Overall, Footprint Peru 4th edition is a top rated guide. The accommodations, eateries, sights to see and other information is the best guide out to date. You will do well with the purchase of this guide. Strongly recommended.

Peru is the quintessential South American destination and is attracting ever more visitors each year. This up-to-date guide offers everything the visitor needs to know from remote Andean tracks to ecotours in the Amazon rainforest. The guide includes up-to-date information on Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail and a special feature on "adventure travel" in Peru - climbing, trekking, rafting, skiing, mountain biking, surfing, diving, fishing and the rest. It also covers planning a trip, where to go, when to go and how to make the best use of the time available, along with basic Spanish for travellers - basic language to kick-start the learning curve. In addition the guide offers coverage of all the "classic" Inca sites and all the more recently discovered sites throughout the country. This edition also includes a full colour map highlighting the best sights, plus improved contents listings and chapter openings so that you can find what you want quickly.

"An excellent guide written by those who know the country. Highly recommended." South American Explorers
About the Author
Ben Box (aka Mr South America) has edited the South American Handbook since 1989 and has been travelling in Latin America for 20 years. He finds Peru totally captivating and is eager for others to share the joys of exploring its grandeur and intricacies. He has a doctorate in Spanish and Portuguese Studies and has been writing about contemporary Iberian and Latin American affairs since 1980.