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Route Of The Mayas (Knopf Guides)



Synopsis

Journey through the mysterious Mayan ruins of the Yucatan and Central America and learn about the fascinating Mayan civilization through this lavishly illustrated and information-packed book, with more than 1,000 drawings, photos and maps. Colorful cross sections and plans of city-states illustrate the Route of the Mayas. National ads/media.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA?An illustrated guide to historical and contemporary Mayan life and culture in Mexico and Central America. It covers every aspect of the civilization from food cultivation and preparation to religion, urban development, and architecture. The book contains hard-to-find information on family life, textiles, and natural life plus excerpts from travelers' journals ranging in time from 1500-1970. Every single page has drawings, photographs, or maps, most of them in color. There is a chapter devoted to each country and another offers practical tourist information. Its small size makes it convenient for travelers to tuck away in a suitcase or purse. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French

This is simply a spectacular accompaniment for anyone who is planning, preparing for, in the midst of, or who has returned from a trip to the Mayan regions; particularly Guatemala and southern Mexico (i.e. Chiapas and Yucatan), though also Belize. It is also a wonderful book for an armchair

traveler or reader interested in these regions and their setting, history, and culture. Though the book is practical enough to fit in a handbag or larger pocket, the design is elegant and can easily serve as a coffee-table book. The paper, printing, and layout are lush and lavish, and chock full of useful photographs, and illustrations. There are several sections that fold out, and the book has a cloth bookmark built in. It is simply a beautiful book, especially for a travel book. The focus of the book is on the sort of deep background information which enhances understanding but isn't essential for getting around. The 50 pages or so of "practical information" at the back are useful enough to think about planning a trip - the calendar of local festivals and events is particularly useful - but overall this section is not adequate for planning or logistics of travel across the wide region covered. You will want to supplement it with a more ordinary and up-to-date tour book. But the value-added in this volume is incredible, and is not the sort of information that will go out of date any time soon. Approximately the first half of the book is taken up with general historical, cultural, and contextual detail focusing on the region (with a particular emphasis on things Mayan). Chapters include Nature, History, The Maya Today, Mayan Textiles, Architecture, and the region as seen by both artists and writers. Here the book really shines. The sections on history and architecture provide a foundation for archeological sites. However, the 40+ pages covering The Maya Today and textiles really make the book provide wonderful enrichment for day-to-day travel. The colorful and thoughtful illustrations and photographs, combined with a keen author's eye to understanding the connections between past and present, add essential meaning to what visitors see as they head through these places. The second half of the book is focused on the regions and places that a traveler is likely to visit. The topics covered are similar to the first half, but focus a bit more on the particulars of the region, including illustrative sections on topography, rich photographs and discussion for particularly important sites. One practical note: currently (11/10) lists this book as being published in 1995. The copy I bought from (in 2003) lists the book as being "Completely updated and revised in 2003." Comparing the 2003 edition with the edition on (i.e. the Table of Contents and Index), the only differences appear to be the cover and the small "practical information" section in the back. Since that's not the strength of the book, I'd be really surprised if a reader would go wrong with any edition of this treasure, provided they supplemented it with a more practical guidebook.

Perfect travel guide

Although this book was published in 1995 and is now in its 3rd edition, the information is very useful.

The compact size is a plus feature for carrying it on tour to these countries. Someone on my recent trip, The land of the Maya, had borrowed this book from a friend and when I briefly scanned it thought it was worthwhile purchasing it when I got home as memento of my trip. The information found in this book is not the usual tour guide to hotels/restaurant etc but rather detailed descriptions of places one would encounter as well as unusual illustrations of the Mayan people today. Facts are clearly presented in a terse but interesting manner. I am most pleased with this book and would recommend it to anyone planning a trip to this area.

A small and in some ways dated book from the mid 1990's but an excellent one. If you can get one do pick it up. It has short writeups on just about every site and surrounding area - so if you want extensive writings on any of the major sites you will need other sources as well. But in certain things, particularly in its inclusion of the murals of Bonampak it is close to unsurpassed - a very pleasant surprise.

Having used this book while traveling through six Mexican States, visiting at least 28 ancient Mayan sites, I can only compliment the guide as to ease of use and wealth of information. The scaled drawings of topography are nothing less than spectacular in giving perspective, the same is true of the site illustrations and accompanied by many photos makes this a MUST HAVE guide for the region. Lots of modern and ancient cultural insights.

This is one of the most user friendly information packed guides on the Maya Route I have found! the 3D style maps give a good indication of the kind of territory and the transport networks in the region. I coupled this with Footprint's Central America and Mexico Handbook and Lonely Planet's Guatemala, Belize and Yucatan guide and I reckon I am set! The other 10 or so guides will be relegated to the bookshelf or garbage!!

I have purchased several copies of this book. It is an excellent reference on Guatemala. Covers each region and great info on culture and history.

I love this book. Lots of wonderful pictures, history, and explanations of the Maya, their culture, the ruins, etc. Even if you don't plan a trip to the area, it is a beautiful book to look at.

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