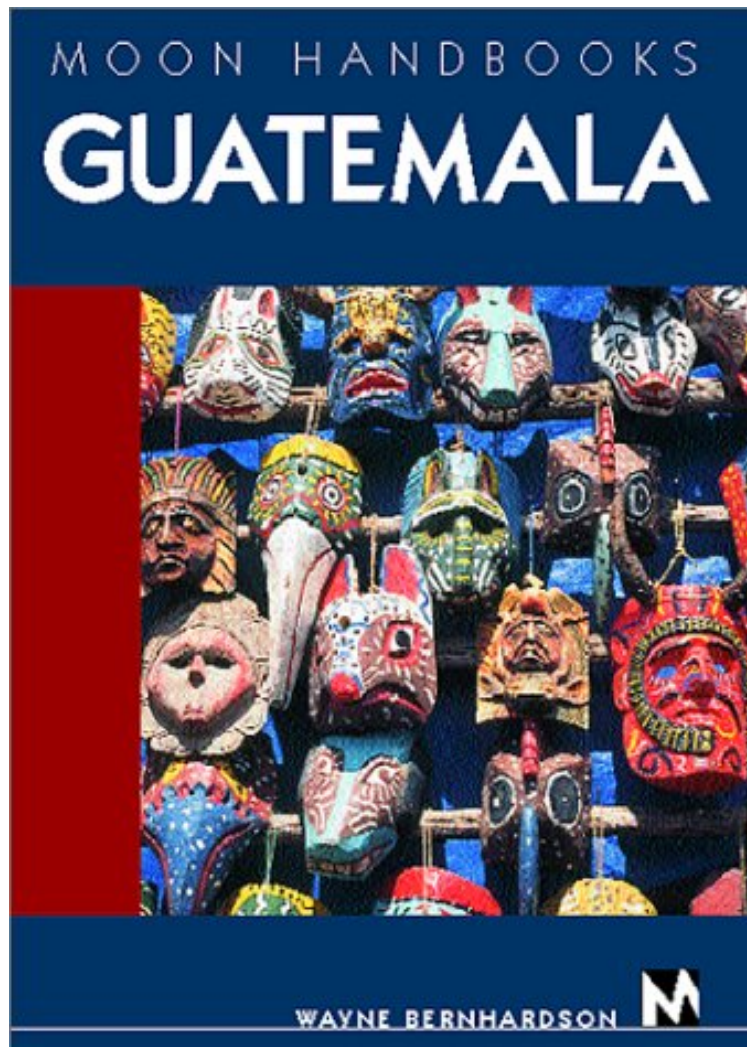


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Moon Handbooks Guatemala

Wayne Bernhardson

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Wayne Bernhardson : Moon Handbooks Guatemala before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moon Handbooks Guatemala:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Old but still valuable guideBy Ken BatesThis book isn't like a Fodor or Frommer that put all the emphasis on Restaurants and hotels (the restaurants will probably no longer exist) It complements the lonely planet guide. Get it.5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. There are much better guide... skip this one.By fdoamericaI have just returned from Guatemala (my sixth journey) and was there for 10 days. I took this guide with me and, honestly, wish I hadn't.Though Bernhardson covers all the standard guide topics in his Introduction Section (Land, Flora Fauna, History, Government, Economy and People) but his writing is uninspired and you will find yourself skimming past much of it. ie. "Independence from Spain was achieved indirectly, as Mexican

General Iturbide declared Mexico's independence in 1821 and demanded that Guatemala join it." At the end of the book the 'recommended reading' section does contain adequate recommendations in Literature, History, other Guidebooks and Archaeology and is worth considering. His writing of the archeological sites, his strong suit, is good, howbeit, dry and languid. Each hotel and restaurant that I checked out did conform to his evaluations (though some were definitely pre-2000 evaluations) and you can trust those that he does recommend. The indexes for accommodations and restaurants are excellent time-saving additions and should be in all guides. Kudos. A CRITICAL FLAW. Missing from this guide is any significant reference to the Internet. There is no connectivity in this book. This is a huge short-coming, especially considering the publication date (2001). You will get zero Internet references for additional information, zero webpages for hotel or tour operators... nada. Guatemala excels in having excellent Spanish language schools (and cheap too!). In Antigua alone there are over 50 schools, yet Bernhardson lists only 10 and does not give you significant information that would help you make an intelligent decision. Again, the fact that there are NO website addresses (and every school worth its 'buenos das' has a website), and the fact that he gives you very little information on selecting a school, makes this guide virtually worthless. Try [...] for more information on Spanish language schools. Maps are an essential and critically important aspect of any guide. And the maps themselves are good as maps go, however, the city maps in this guide don't have the usual "user-friendly" reference numbers for locating the recommended restaurants and accommodations. Thus, you have to scan the map for the name of the establishment, and when you're in a bouncing vehicle, on Guatemala's roads, this task is more difficult than it should be. Bottom line: Save your money. This guide is not up to the quality of other 'Moon Handbooks' and you will be better off purchasing 'Lonely Planet' or 'Rough Guide'. Conditional Recommended 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hold out for the new edition... By Ryan Bowers This book is much too old (2001) and has almost nonexistent internet coverage. Hold off and buy the new, updated second edition of Moon Guatemala due out in September. It's written by a new author who is very familiar with Guatemala. See the link below: Moon Guatemala (Moon Handbooks)

In this extraordinary new handbook, author Wayne Bernhardson provides ample coverage of Guatemala's traditional highlights: soaring Maya Pyramids, imposing volcanoes, lush rain forest, stunning architecture and spectacular celebrations. Also included are lesser known market towns and archaeological sites, plus the best places to stay and eat.