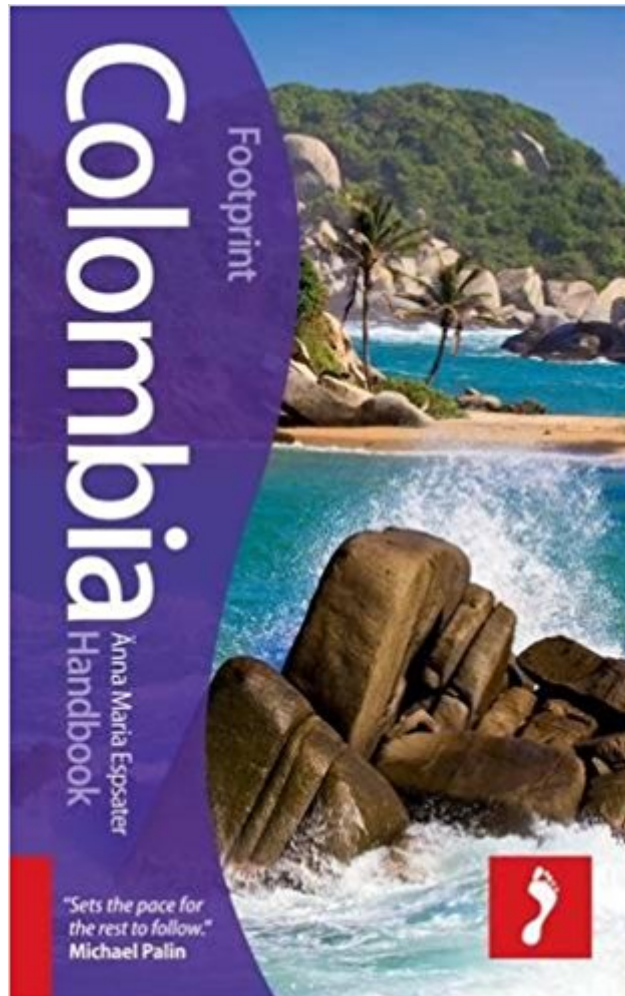




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Colombia Handbook, 4th (Footprint - Handbooks)



Synopsis

Watch the sun set with an evening cocktail on the ramparts of Cartagena's walled city, trek through the rainforest to Ciudad Perdida or stay on a coffee finca in the Zona Cafetera, Footprint's 4th edition of the Colombia Handbook is the perfect companion for the adventurous traveler wanting to get the most out of this vivacious country. The land of coffee, emeralds and Gabriel Garcia Marquez is firmly back on the traveler's must-see map and Footprint's new edition is the ideal companion to help you make sense of it all. Includes carefully selected itineraries offering advice on how to get the best out of your trip whether you're travelling for a week or a month. Extensive thoroughly researched information to help you plan your trip as well as advise you on the ground. The heart of the guide is broken in to the key regions of Colombia: Bogotá, North of Bogotá, Cartagena and the North Coast, Northwest Colombia, Southern Colombia, Los Llanos and the Amazon - and gives you comprehensive information on each of these regions. Each regional section has an overview map, local information on how to get around with transport and street maps where relevant, a short history of the region, thorough advice on what to see and do and a directory of key local information on banks, embassies, internet cafes and medical services. Also includes a full-colour mini atlas which has maps of each region to help you get your bearings and a distance chart to help you plan your journeys. Key local words and phrases are included to help you communicate ensuring an even better travel experience. From the vast sprawling capital Bogotá with its nightlife, dining, fashion and culture to equal anything that Buenos Aires can offer, to the spectacular national parks, Footprint's fully updated 4th edition will help you navigate this vibrant destination.

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Customer Reviews

Expert author Anna knows Colombia inside out; she has travelled extensively throughout the country researching this new edition

Durable compact lightweight books that are portable and designed for the rigors of independent travel

Comprehensive coverage of the main attractions plus dozens of activities and adventures that will help you get off the beaten track

In-depth information about history, culture and politics, plus detailed listings and advice

Inspirational trip planning with suggested itineraries, maps and special features on national parks and festivals

Anna Maria Espsater, originally from Sweden, first moved to Mexico at 20, enjoying the culture shock, spicy food and sunny weather. She has since returned repeatedly for shorter and longer stays. Now based in London, she works as a freelance travel and food writer, chasing the ambition of visiting every country in the world. With 82 visited to date she has a way to go yet, but remains undaunted despite surviving tropical disease, earthquakes, assault and armed robbery on the road.

I recently traveled to Medellin, Colombia. The Footprint guide was one of four guides I carried. Apart from the handy format (Footprint fits neatly into many pockets), I found all the information given very accurate and helpful. I used the guide to explore Medellin on my, i.e., taking the subway, buses, walking around, using the cable car, and always was guided well by this guide. As with all Footprint guides, pictures are kind of rare, hence you should have a second book with you if you like to look at things first before visiting them (note: the National Geographic Traveler's Colombia guide is very helpful in this regard). I also found Footprint's description of Colombian history, nature, and culture very deep and informative. Very helpful are the little inserts that add to your understanding of the country. For example, the book introduces Antanas Mockus, the former mayor of Bogota, or

mentions old legends about gold and the Spaniards. I also looked (or checked?) at the Cartagena section, since I traveled to that coastal city a few years ago before Footprint had a Colombia guide. Again, all the information provided jived quite well with my memories of what to do in Cartagena. Summarizing, if you travel to Colombia, this Footprint guide will be a very solid companion.

We recently took both this guide and the Lonely Planet on our trip. Footprint mentioned a few sights I didn't e.g. the terra cotta house in Villa de Leyva. Sure, you don't get pictures like you do in LP, but you're not buying it for that reason. The size is more compact as well. This and LP have about 50% of the same lodging/eating recommendations as well. We found TripAdvisor to be a more up to date on those recommendations as well. I'd buy another Footprint guide for a future trip.

My boyfriend and I were faced with the situation in that the Lonely Planet's newest edition would come out the day we got back from Colombia, and its older version got some of the poorest reviews on the market. Settling, we chose the Footprint. Overall it was definitely better than having nothing, and the history and cultural anecdotes were very thorough, but the maps, places to stay, and dining sections could have been greatly improved. The labels for housing are the most confusing (in terms of cost, "LL for luxury," for example). You constantly had to flip back and forth to make sure you understood the symbols right, and then not everything appeared on the same map. The map for Bogota was facing east-west instead of north-south, and some times were never mentioned. We didn't know (until later looking online while in Bogota) that the "bargaining for emeralds" section actually had a very short window in terms of times you could be there. So background information: very good. Practical information: not very good. We were in Bogota for 5 days and Cartagena for 5 days, and some of the same complaints that we had for Bogota continued to Cartagena. If you thought you were finished reading about best places to swim, you didn't finish the chapter, because there's more tips and things at the end. Grouping/organization could have been much better. As I read through potential "problems" while we were in the heat of them, I would eventually stumble upon a tip that would have prevented it, but it was found in a different part of the book. All in all, we are happy we brought it, but did eventually give up and left it at the hotel half way through Cartagena. I'd go back to the LP's blunt evaluation of cultural activities (for example, the mud volcano is actually a pretty gross and small place to share with some 25 other people).

Colombia has been off the radar screen for awhile, so comprehensive guidebooks are hard to come by. This one best met my needs, though it lacks any indication of when it was published. As best I

can tell, it is a 2010 version, so some content is outdated, but it was still helpful to me in planning my trip. I hope it is updated for restaurants, safety and new sights.

I regret this purchase for sure. I had heard the lonely planet for Colombia was bad, so I tried this one instead. No way the LP is this bad. I'd definitely steer clear.

I was disappointed by the lack of information. Having traveled to many places, often with Fodors, or Frommers, or Lonely Planet, etc, I was expecting Footprint to give comparable help for Colombia, especially as one review rated it the best guide available. But I found it lacking in detail. Its info on restaurants and lodging is meager, and non-existent for itineraries, as for example within Bogota. It does have good maps of the country, but for me not enough to keep. Back it went. I'll rely on TripAdvisor, even though I've had mixed results elsewhere. My suspicion is that Colombia is so new for tourism that no really good guidebook yet exists.

A must have if you are traveling to this beautiful country. Very informative and compact enough to be an invaluable companion on your visit to Colombia!!

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