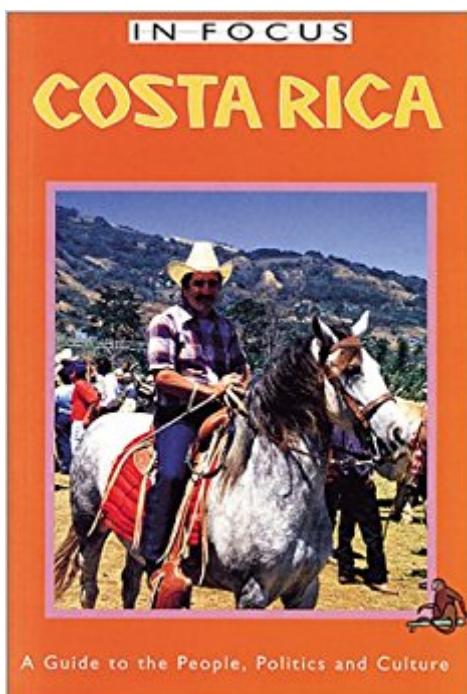


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Costa Rica In Focus: A Guide To The People, Politics And Culture (In Focus Guides)



Synopsis

This new series of country guides is designed for travellers and students who want to understand the wider picture and build up an overall knowledge of a country. Each In Focus guide is a lively and thought-provoking introduction to the country's people, politics and culture. The In Focus guides will brief you on: The history: Conquest, life as a colony, quest for independence and the building of a modern nation. How history can help explain today's society and politics. The people: Who lives where, how they live. The different worlds of the poor and the rich; blacks, Indians and whites; Arabs and Jews; indigenous, disenfranchised and dispossessed peoples; human rights. The culture: What to read, what to see, what to hear. Who's who in literature, music, dance, theater and cinema. Roots and rites of different religions. Folk traditions and indigenous cultural celebrations. The politics: Who runs the country, who wants to run the country. Power and conflict between political parties, the military, guerillas and grassroots organizations. Historical ties to the U.S. The economy: What the country produces and exports, how the economy has developed, the impact of foreign debt and free market reforms, who gains and who loses, presence and role of U.S. corporations. Where to go, what to see: Must-see landmarks, lists of monuments and historical sites as well as the author's expert tips on what to see and do to get the most out of a short trip to the country. Plus...-- Facts and figures-- Chronology-- Practical advice-- Nontourist travel-- Further reading-- Useful addresses-- Color and b&w photos-- Maps

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When one purchases a book that says on the inside flap that "This edition first published in 2002," one might expect the information to be up to date. The truth is, the book was written in 1997, six years ago, and has not been updated at all. This is important because information about every subject covered (history and politics, economy, society, environment and eco-tourism, and culture) has changed in critical ways since that time. That is not to say, that the book is useless - just not accurate in 2003. What I found annoying is the immediacy of the writing and no indication that you are reading anything but current information. Unless you happen to know that Figueres is no longer president of Costa Rica, you would likely assume the facts and figures presented were correct as of 2002. There have been two Costa Rica presidents elected since the author took fingers to keyboard. Much has changed in Ticoland, but you would never know it from reading this book.

This is not a "book," per se, but a 75-page "guide" in which facts are presented as statistics in a sort of bureaucratic mode. It's like reading a report from a financial research institute or a forensic accountant! A MUCH better overview of the country's geology, politics, economy, immigration, agriculture, ecological conservation, and social history is the coffee-table book, "Costa Rica : The Last Country the Gods Made." PLUS it's a beautiful book. I mean, just look at the cheesy cover of "Costa Rica in Focus"! A much better buy for the money, and more interesting writing all-round!

I bought this book for a study abroad course. It helped me to understand Costa Rica before going there. Thanks,

Hi, I am working at ILISA Spanish Language Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica and I just want to say that this book helps our students a lot by giving them helpful inside information and thus by getting to know all the ins and outs about this fantastic country. Thanks!

I'm extremely angry at this entire process because I ordered this book for a very important research paper I'm doing on Costa Rica and was relying on it for much needed information. The book, however, has not yet arrived at my house! In the ordering sheet it says usually mails within 2-3 days. I hope the book comes within the next few days so I can still use it, and then perhaps I will write a review of the actual book! Please send me the book!

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