

discussion of the history and culture of the country as well as an overview of some of its more prominent characteristics such as beaches, weather, and wildlife. Next, there are a number of sections detailing geographic regions such as San Jose, Central Highlands, Central Pacific, Guanacaste Northern Nicoya, the Northern Zone, the Caribbean, and the Southern Zone. Each area gets 13 pages or so of descriptions and photographs. Listings for hotels, restaurants, shopping, entertainment, and outdoor activities are presented in the back of the book rather than with the geographic region they pertain to. Finally, there is a section discussing practical information of various kinds for travelers. The great thing about this Eyewitness Guide to Costa Rica is that it offers over 650 photographs to help bring a gorgeous country to life. Rather than picking which places you most want to visit based on imagining them from descriptions, you can see them for yourself here. The problem with this guide is that its 288 pages are dominated by those photographs rather than detailed descriptions of hotels, restaurants, activities, etc. It simply isn't possible to put comprehensive detail into a few hundred pages when you already have more than 2 photos on average for each and every page. I would recommend buying this guide, but I would also recommend purchasing the Frommer's Costa Rica 2008 (Frommer's Complete) to help plan the details of your trip. This is a great starting point, but you'll definitely want a resource with more information before you're done.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worst DK Guide I've purchased

By CCCBack 2000 to 2005 I used the DK guides for London, Great Britain, Paris, Loire Valley, and probably some others along the way. They were GREAT, the best travel guides around. I just got the Costa Rica book and it falls far short of the depth of writing and local knowledge that the other volumes had. I've been to CR 3 times before as an independent traveler and wanted an updated book, so I went right to DK. Way too generic this time. Feels like they are coasting on past glory.

Two tips for others buying travel guides - read a few sample sections in a book, then read the same sample sections in a couple of other books. It will help decide which writer's style you prefer, who gives the depth or type of info you're interested in, etc. (I should have followed this advice!) The other tip is to buy 2 guides for a destination that are very different from each other - it can really enrich your decision making.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!

By N.H. By far the best Costa Rica travel guide and one of the best of the whole DK Eyewitness Travel Guides series. (I consulted all other guides whilst travelling in Costa Rica for a month) The main contributor, Christopher Baker, is an excellent writer, and manages to capture the Soul of Costa Rica-- a unique country with 7 distinct ecosystems. The specially inserted chapters, with well-chosen photos for clarification, on the wild-life, flora and landscapes of the country, are in themselves a jewel worth the whole book. The maps at the beginning of each area/chapter, in which the main attractions are clearly picked-out and numbered (a unique and unmatched feature of all DK Guides) help the traveller to choose easily what he prefers to see. Actually, the writer himself has already done the choosing for you, by omitting the huge amount of information about uninteresting places other guides overload their readers with. If you are planning to travel to Costa Rica...or if you are a...couch-traveller, buy it, without a second thought!

Providing in-depth descriptions of major cultural, architectural and historical sites, this guide takes the reader on a tour of Costa Rica and includes mapping of specially commissioned walks and drives, plus regional and city maps.