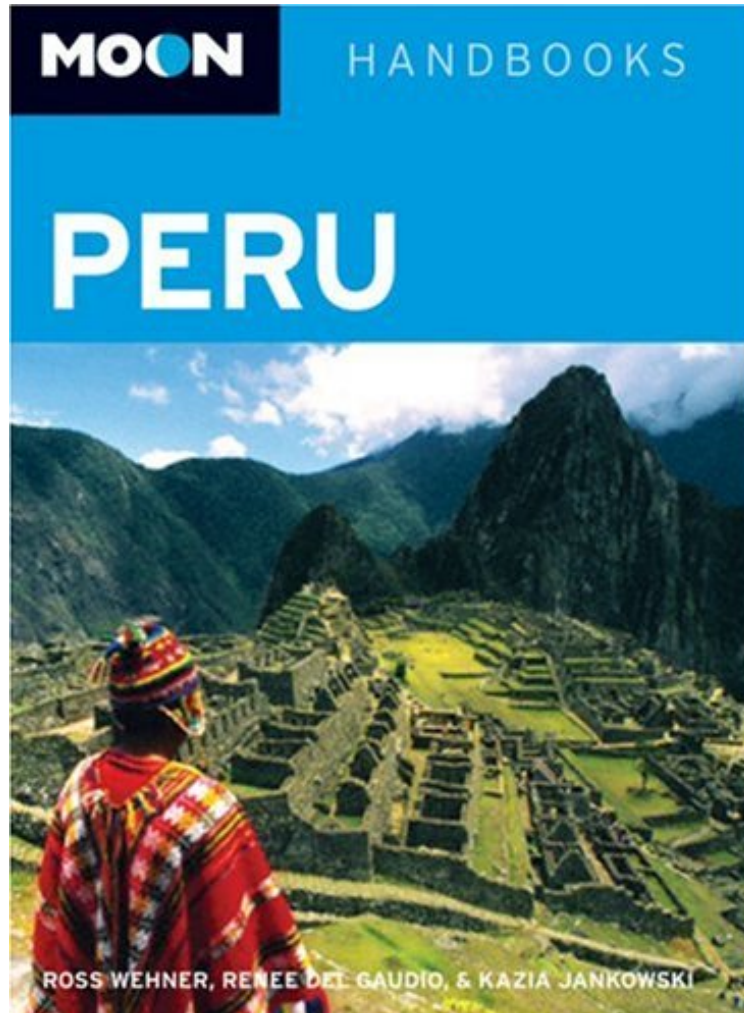


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Peru (Moon Handbooks)

Ross Wehner, Renee del Gaudio, Kazia Jankowski
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Ross Wehner, Renee del Gaudio, Kazia Jankowski : Peru (Moon Handbooks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Peru (Moon Handbooks):

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abundance of facts, advice, maps and photos. The first feature that stood out for me are all the interspersed articles, these really give you an insider's perspective on Peru. The Wrong Way to Take Ayahuasca; Camisea Gas Fields: The Last Place on Earth; Advice from a Reformed Terrorist; and Peru's White Gold are just some of the well written and informative pieces. The Truth Behind Hemingway's Caboblanco; and The Who's who of Paracas Birds are among the lighter topics to be found. For easy reference the guide is broken down into nine regionally defined sections. The only bone I have to pick with the authors is that Arequipa didn't get its own chapter. But, as I read the write up on my favorite Peruvian city, under the Lake Titicaca and Canyon Country section, I immediately forgave them as they were able to really cover the ins and outs of Arequipa. Two additional sections are entitled "Discover Peru" and "Know Peru". These are very useful to the reader; as well as including the usual pieces on the country history, health and safety and a Spanish phrasebook there is also a Quechua basics and a great list of recommended reading and Internet Resources, as well as a section on Volunteering in Peru. Another unique feature is the index; apart from having a comprehensive alphabetical index there are six highlighted boxes with a very helpful thematic index, these are titled: Ancient Cultures; Beaches; Hiking / Backpacking; Inca Sites; Reserves and Protected Areas. And believe me when you are rushing around the country and having to make quick decisions it's all about a good index! This useful guide is a practical book for the traveler and explorer and is packed with invaluable advice such as: "Lima is an extraordinary city, but it takes a little getting used to. The country's leading museums, churches and restaurants are here along with nearly eight million people... It is the maximum expression of Peru's cultural diversity (and chaos)... But do yourself a favor and see Lima at the end of your trip, not at the beginning. That way you have a better chance of understanding what you see and not becoming overwhelmed in the process." Whether you are coming to Peru as an independent traveler or you are on an all-inclusive deal you will get more out of your trip if you glance over this guidebook before you set off. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The Guidebook of Choice for our trip By Paul and Amy Sheets We carried both the Moon Guide and the Rough Guide on our trip, and we consistently found ourselves going to the Moon Guide for references while in country. For us, the recommendations for both restaurants and places to stay were to our complete satisfaction (prices had changed noticeably in some instances, however this is the nature of tourism, isn't it!) I felt that Ross and Renee's personal perspective on many things gave the book a most enjoyable flavor that I just didn't get from the Rough Guide. For example, one of the highlights of our trip turned out to be a stay in the village of Llachon on Lake Titicaca, a place that Ross and Renee had experienced and described in rather personal terms, but also a place which wasn't mentioned in the Rough Guide. This was one of those places that was off the beaten path, and which travelers like us were looking for insights to in our guide book. I should also note that I had several questions that I emailed to Ross and Renee prior to our trip (using the email addresses provided in the book) and I always got replies back quickly - a very nice personal touch! Finally, there are many articles scattered through the book in which special topics of interest are discussed in thought provoking terms ("Gold and Mahogany: Profit and Loss" for example), and besides making good reading, I think added tremendously to the overall experience and understanding we had in seeing the country.

From marveling at the Inca and Spanish architecture in the highland capital of Cusco and sunning on the white sand beaches of Northern Peru to mountain biking through Colca Canyon and trekking to lost cities in the northern cloud forest, Moon Handbooks Peru guides you through a truly personal experience, on or off the beaten path. Suggested travel strategies and lists of must-see sights provide you with real insights so you can decide where you should go, stay, and eat without hassles or regrets. You will benefit from useful tips, such as details on how to trek, climb, scuba dive, mountain bike, paraglide and surf both on sand dunes and on waves, and a wealth of information about the birds, animals, and plants of Peru from the Paracas National Reserve on the coast to Manu National Park in the Amazon. Complete with maps, photographs, illustrations, and special emphasis on leading destinations such as Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, Nasca, and Huaraz, plus expanded sections on key adventure areas like Manu, Chachapoyas, and Cajamarca, Moon Handbooks Peru has the tools you need to create your own unique trip.

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