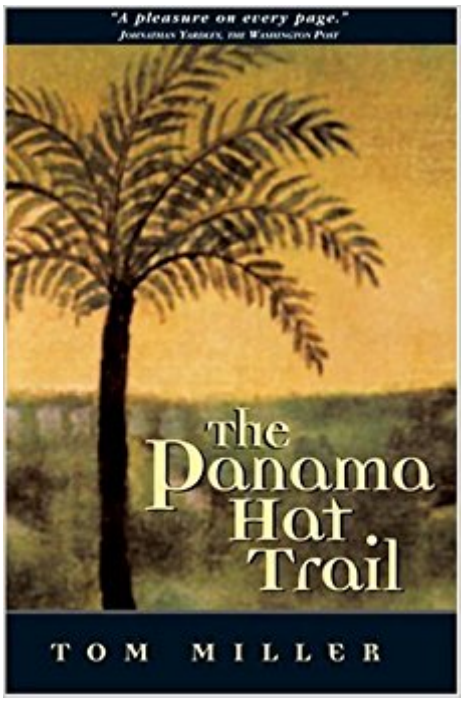
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The Panama Hat Trail



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Synopsis

This 15th anniversary reissue of Miller’s travel classic follows the making and marketing of a single Panama hat. It’s a captivating story of cultures in collision, raw capitalism, and an exotic, humorous journey.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: National Geographic; Reprint edition (November 1, 2001)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #724,666 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Central America > Panama #71 inÃ Â Books > Travel > South America > Ecuador & Galapagos Islands #282 inÃ Â Books > Travel > South America > General

Customer Reviews

Though offering perhaps more about Panama hats than the reader might ever want to know, this is a satisfying travel book that tells much else about Ecuador and its peoples. The growing, harvesting, and processing of straw, the weaving of it, the finishing of the hats, exportation, and all the bartering along the way is the glue that holds this book together. Visiting the countryside and towns such as Quito, Guayaquil, Lago Agrio, and Jipijapa ("among the ugliest towns south of the equator"), Miller tells us, among other things, about the Indians and their sad centuries-long plight, expatriates, illegal Ecuadorian emigration to the United States, precarious third-class Andean bus trips, the small Jewish community, and a wild and tragic Corpus Christi fiesta. Maps, index, and glossary not seen. Recommended for most travel collections. Roger W. Fromm, Bloomsburg Univ. of Pennsylvania Lib.Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Among the best travel books ever written.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •National Geographic Traveler Ã¢â ¬Å“A fascinating view. Miller is a good story tellerÃ¢â ¬Â¦ his entertaining book puts a feather in the Ecuadorian straw hat.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Christian Science Monitor Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“There is

Miller, rolling from one adventure to another, part Mark Twain, part Evelyn Waugh. . . . By the time you finish with the people and the places the author introduces you to, you will wish you had Tom MillerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s job. But then, you donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have Tom MillerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s eyes.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Phoenix New Times Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“An almost novelistic adventure story.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •USA Today --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

That Panama Hat is not from Panama! I am heading to Ecuador this summer and this book really helped set the stage for my trip. It is a well-written, insightful look at Ecuadoran culture from the viewpoint of the Panama hat development and production. But this is far more than about hats. Its about the indigenous peoples, the pride of craftmanship, the risk of losing individual artisans to mass production, the impact of the multinational corporations on local cultures and some of the internal conflicts within Ecuadoran society. Lest this should sound like a potential dull read it is not! Quite to the contrary, it is lively and engaging in the skilled hands of Tom Miller.. in fact I will probably read it again before my trip.

Panama Hat was highly recommended for those traveling to Ecuador & it does give you the flavour of another time there. Miller liked what he was doing & he coveys it in effortless prose. The events took place in the 80s & I suspect this is a long ago world at this point. However, the traffic to macchu Picchu & the Galapagos is right there. So it’s an interesting, well written history of the region, with well chosen quotes from different historical travelers & history books.So far, as I am not finished reading it yet, it is an easy, comfortable read which I recommend with no reservations. & I’d like to end up with a collection of Panama hats, as Miller apparently has.

If you’re interested in Ecuador this is a "must read" book. I really enjoyed the book. I like hats, too, but the book is even better for its Ecuadorian history and culture. A well written book of Ecuador, its culture and history. He writes in a nice and easy style. I was disappointed in Ecuador to see very few men wearing this hat and the book explains the history behind their aversion.

I very much enjoyed this book as a lead-up to my visit to the home of the Panama Hat, which as you should know is...Ecuador! Although the book was written a number of years ago, the information about the hats, the country and the people appears to remain accurate. Mr. Miller’s style and the details he includes kept me engaged all the way through (and made me, I’d like to think, a more

knowledgeable visitor and hat buyer!)

This book provides a wonderful historical account about Panama Hats. A great read and something to think about each time one purchases or wears a hat that has been called a Panama Hat (usually a misnomer). I also enjoyed reading about the places depicted and lives of the people involved in the intricate process of producing a straw hat. Great Read.

We just returned from visiting South America and I wanted to re-read this book. I read it a long time ago and really enjoyed it then.

Was a gift for my son going to Panama

Great read, provides an interesting overview of the Panama Hat industry from the grower of the palm to the retailer of a completed hat. What shocked me most was how little money the people actually responsiblefor the growth of the materials and the people weaving the famous hats actually get paid and the extremely poor living conditions they are forced to endure.

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