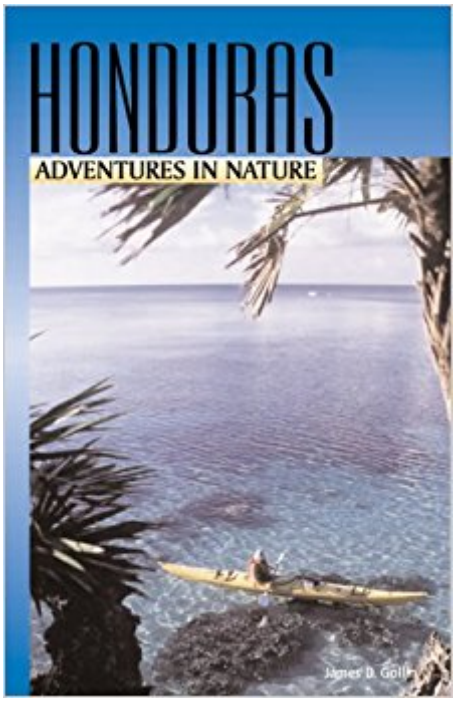
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Adventures In Nature: Honduras (Adventures In Nature (John Muir))



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Synopsis

Directs travellers to activities that preserve rainforests, rivers, and reefs Includes post-Hurricane Mitch data along with Internet addresses, hotel and restaurant reviews, and up-to-date environmental information Adventures in Nature: Honduras provides a realistic picture of the adventure travel opportunities in this relatively undiscovered destination. Adventures in Nature: Honduras brims with opinionated reviews of where to go, what to do, and where to eat and stay. At the same time, it also explains both sides of the country’s environmental struggle: how political and economic forces are destroying nature and how local environmental groups are working to build a sustainable society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most people don’t consider Honduras when they think of a trip that includes sea kayaking, exploring Mayan ruins, and snorkeling, but this Central American country provides these and many more adventures in nature, all with the slower-paced benefits afforded by a less "discovered" destination. This book not only can help travelers create a fun adventure, but it also educates them about how their trip can positively impact the country. Without becoming pedantic, well-seasoned Honduran travelers James Gollin and Ron Mader explain how "tourism is an integral part of environmental preservation" in Honduras as they delve into the largest tract of remaining forest in all of Central America and swim along the longest coral reef in the Northern Hemisphere. Chapters provide advice on places to stay, where to eat, and how to get from one place to the next. Interesting

sidebars provide profiles of environmental projects and problems while allowing travelers to learn how to become part of the solutions. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Author James Gollin mixes praise with criticism while directing you to nature-based activities that are fun and help preserve local rainforests, rivers, and reefs.

It’s been awhile since I ordered and read this book; however, after I read it, I have traveled to Honduras several times. I need to get it back down from my library and re-read it.

Pretty helpful for my trip

KUDOS to Ron Mader and James Gollin for taking the time and effort to organize thier many years of travel savy experiences and research to put together the most outstanding Honduran travel guide that has ever been published. The book "Honduras: Adventures in Nature" is a MUST for anyone that has an interest in experiencing the unique and widely variable environments as well as its peoples and customs in this beautiful country. Ron & James cover EVERYTHING from the first people in this area to where the best place to get a refreshing chilled glass of tropical juice, all with a good sense of humor to lighten all of the informatively descriptive and educational material."Honduras: Adventures in Nature" does not just list areas of the country and the Bay Islands that holds special interests to the traveler but gives precise details of how to get to the many different sites, what is available at each point of interest (as well as the surrounding a! rea), park fees but also information that only well seasoned explores would know, such as suggestions on particular qualified guides, lodging and meals. An extensive list of government and non-governmental organizations also adorne this well rounded book with contact information. The information is so personalised and current that this book will have to be kept updated and from what I understand, this is excactly what is being done. If you are wanting to make an enjoyable venture into this diverse country but want all the homework done for you in advance, then "Honduras: Adventures in Nature" is the publication that has done the homework for you.

So-called Tour Guides, despite fancy price tags, frequently turn out to be worth the dime of that cliche ending in the word "dozen." James D. Gollin’s and Ron Mader’s recently-published HONDURAS is a brilliant exception. This, I know because I’m an accidental expert on the guidebook

genre. In 1998 I logged 120,000 air-travel miles, commuting to various foreign outposts on business-related tasks. My library includes hundreds of travel books containing pretty pictures and little else of substance.Early in ’99 I received an unexpected assignment to Honduras, unfamiliar territory for me. With a mere few days’ notice, there was little doubt that I’d arrive unprepared. Gollin’s and Mader’s extraordinary work interceded.Obtaining HONDURAS only hours pre-flight, on the plane I scribbled pages of notes which were to prove invaluable. Two weeks later, the paperback published by John Muir Publications (in itself an endorsement) was tattered and torn. Not because it’s poorly bound but, rather, as further testimony to the superb quality of this Gollin-Mader joint endeavor. Having agreed to volunteer services for a Hurricane Mitch Relief organization, I met up with others on the same mission. In turn, each tended to leaf through my book during long road trips and cargo flights carrying medication and food to stricken areas. Inevitably I saw impressions similar to mine, attention riveted, pens drawn from pockets containing tiny spiral notepads. Many among the various groups were professional journalists and long-time Honduran expatriates, hungry for reliable data and background.What’s so different about this work?Care. Detail. Depth. Knowledge. Reliability.Sudden unexpected paragraphs offer that rarity called Real Insight, the type which inspires well-earned "Ah, so!" reactions. Like, "NOW I’ve got it."HONDURAS keeps working for those of us who, since our return, have ordered additional copies. Example:In February, N. American media skimmed over an amazing story: Honduras’ El Cajon power plant caught fire. The inferno took out electricity over most of the country for five days, finally soliciting US assistance in the form of Alabama super-firefighters, who joined Mexican counterparts. Despite my recent return, I had no idea of El Cajon’s location, much less what might have led to additional devastation for a population already done in by this century’s worst disaster. On page 88, I found a complete summary entitled "Solving the El Cajon Problem." It includes this quote from a Honduran project spokesman: "It’s insane... They spent the better part of a billion dollars on the dam, but not $5,000 on protecting the watershed."Ron Mader is a well-known and -respected journalist. Fortunately, I knew to ask my local retailer whether he had tackled a book on the country of Honduras; that’s because I possess Mader’s also-excellent book MEXICO. Mr. Mader’s commitment to C. American, and his deep knowledge base is further evident via his website Planeta, a nonprofit resource of more than 8000 pages.James D. Gollin is a renowned philanthropist, writer and award-winning photographer whose far above-average work has appeared in publications ranging from the New York Times to [Rodale’s] Scuba Diving.Together, Gollin and Mader have fashioned a work which we who volunteered nicknamed The Honduras Bible. We wanted to make a meaningful contribution, and HONDURAS made a big difference in accomplishment of that goal. Understanding the country

of Honduras, as well as its neighbors, is important for more than humanitarian reasons. Many N. Americans have yet to grasp the following critical political-environmental point:As the welfare of C. America goes, so too does ours.

So just before I went to Honduras I bought Adventures in Nature, and you know what? I found myself borrowing the Honduras Handbook and the Lonely Planet guide left and right. While Adventures in Nature provides an interesting read, it is almost useless as a travel guide. For one, it has extremely limited coverage. For example, I was going to Comayagua and found *nothing* on this wonderful, fairly major colonial mountain town. It instead refers you to another publication put out in Honduras- which I certainly didn't have when I was planning my trip. Further, even for the cities and towns it does cover it provides you with only the very high end or the very cheapest hotels and eating establishments, and not a lot of them. Nor does it contain a listing of essential services, such as where to go in the event of a medical emergency for decent 24 hour care(pretty essential information which most Hondurans on the street cannot provide you with as I found out one Sunday evening), or the number to call if you need to get in touch with the local police, or other such services. It contains NO maps for the towns that it does include--including such biggies as San Pedro and Tegucigalpa. It also fails to provide you with decent information on how to get to one place or another without renting a car--that is where the various busses leave from and go to.In short, Adventures in Nature may be just great for those looking wanting to read about Honduras, or who are looking to spend $100-300 a night in Honduras while staying in accommodations that make it just like the U.S., but for those who actually want to go to Honduras and have a real Central American experience (or who simply travel/live on real budgets) it is a very poor choice. You can get more or less the same background material and a great deal better practical information in the Honduras Handbook or the Lonely Planet guide. Even being a few years out of date they were FAR more useful. I am only grateful that my travelling companions chose better guidebooks than I did.

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