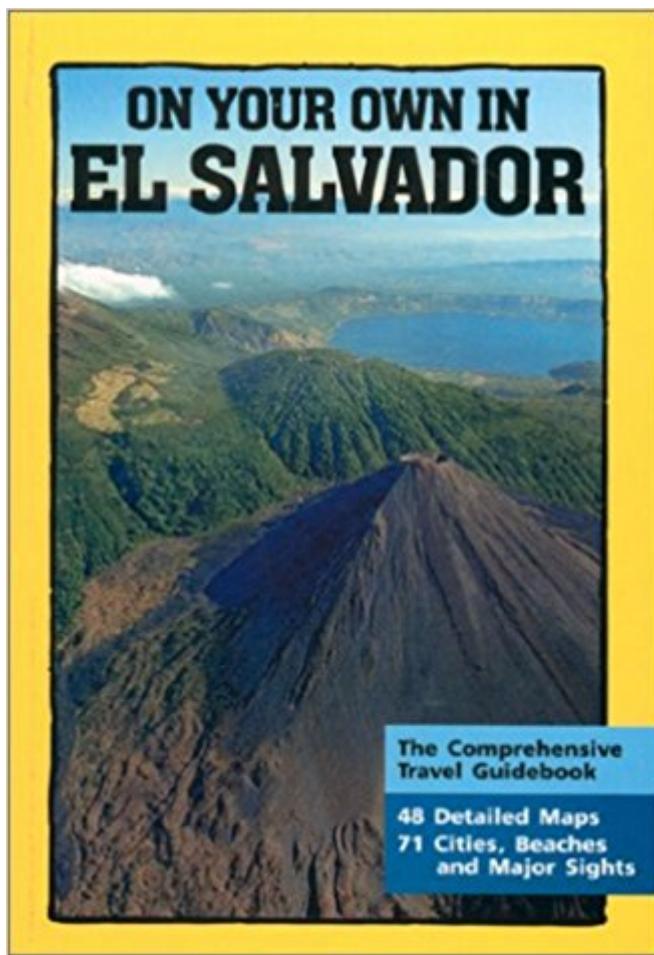


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On Your Own In El Salvador, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Ritz New York Restaurant Survey & Report, 2000 is the most comprehensive guide to New York restaurants available.

Book Information

Paperback: 290 pages

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Customer Reviews

On Your Own In El Salvador is the first traveler's guidebook to cover the country inside and out. It's the book of choice for exploring El Salvador, whether you're going on your own, passing through, or just thinking about visiting. On Your Own In El Salvador includes an in-depth, clearly-written historical and cultural sections. Comprehensive travel information for cities and towns across El Salvador are included along with 47 clear and detailed street and regional maps. Dozens of culture boxes that examine every aspect of Salvadoran life, from politics to mythology. -- Midwest Book Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is really the only comprehensive guidebook to El Salvador that is widely available. The Lonely Planet and Let's Go and other books have chapters on El Sal in their books on Central America, but none of them go into real detail. In fact, I've noticed that most of the guidebooks don't recommend going to El Salvador, or skipping it if you're short on time. Well, you should go. There is a lot to see and do but it's important to realize that it's different from the other Latin American countries. It's maybe a little less pretty and the people are a bit more hardened from the long guerra civil. This book does a good job providing sociopolitical background and anecdotes from important periods in history. Other than that, it's your basic guidebook, going region by region in the country, detailing

sights, hotels, transportation, all that stuff. There are also several pages of decent color photos. The one problem is that the book is now nearly ten years old. While most of the things are still accurate, a lot has changed. Things like prices and bus routes especially. There are also many different sights, museums, roads and enormous Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises that did not exist when the book was published. Likewise, some things no longer exist. The only way to find out, unfortunately, is to go and discover these things for yourself. El Sal is not the most tourist-friendly nation in the sense that the infrastructure is not really there to support a heavy flow of tourists. The people are wonderful, don't get me wrong (don't think for a second that it's the people's fault), but to give one example, some of the bus routes to tourist sites make absolutely no sense and can be very frustrating to navigate. This is the fault of the government. Likewise, the El Sal government tourism agency could do themselves a big favor by publishing or funding an up-to-date guide. But this book is as good as it gets.

I've reading a 1st Edition of El Salvador Book but now they're 2nd Edition is that one for almost the same of 1st Edition and some of new upgraded information posted on that book for new something of theirs own places where they're supposed to found one in them. Now, I reading of these a 2nd Edition book is very tough experiences life in there. And New something of theirs interested in places, restaurants, hotels, jobs, businesses, and other many things. But 2nd Edition book is really nice and learning new experiences. Before U trip to El Salvador, U will needs of these book will tells u bout in there. U cannot leave WITHOUT one, If u not use these book then On yours OWN in El Salvador will make u into frustration places where u never know in there.

I found this book quite helpful. I'm a native from El Salvador who had been out of the country for 20 years. I found it a good supplement to other sources of information (e.g., local phone books in El Salvador, people and friends). Although some of the directory information may be dated, most of the facts and directions still hold. It's best to cross-reference the book with a local phone book for more accuracy. Yet, the book is a great trip planning tool. It allows you to pick and chose places and things to do at a pace that not even locals can keep up. It's clear that a lot of good work went into making the book. The level of detail is beyond what any local can know all by himself (e.g., bus routes, mores, festivals, local rituals, etc.). I found the hand-drawn maps most helpful and the history/background information least helpful. Advisories should apply to all locations outside the central city or popular foreign tourist attractions. Also, the book does not address which locations are most ideal to visit depending on the small universe weather conditions, e.g., heavy

rains or dry, hot to extremely hot temperatures. I recommend this book. I've found no other books as helpful as this one but feel that the book and its contents could be much improved, e.g., day-trips, sports events, local festivity schedules, shopping information, entertainment options, ground and non-ground recreational activities, specific coverage and related-activities regarding aviation, boatin, sailing, surfing, fishing, golf, lakes, rivers and bodies of water, etc. (perhaps on future editions, beyond the 2nd). I currently own both of the first two editions. They're both pretty much worn out and it's because they go with me and take me places each time I visit there. I just wish the book were more expansive and provide material for all the other sites that one encounters while going from place to place, yet this would make it too thick and heavy. Also, if you ever go to El Teleferico, please say Hi to Mr. Moon (a local cartoonist) there for me!

There are very, very few guidebooks to El Salvador; probably testimony to the fact that the country really isn't set up for tourism. That's a shame because it's an interesting place to visit and get to know the people. That said, this book should be your companion if you have plans to travel to or through El Salvador. No other guide or chapter in a book about travel, in general, to Central America contains as much detailed information. A lot has changed here since this last edition came out, but the bulk of the information remains valid. *Buen viaje!*

If you are going to spend any time in the country and want to tool around, you'd be a fool not to get a copy of this book for your backpack. I just got home and gave my friend a hug for grabbing this book out of the bargain bin at Borders for me. In several cities I was able to pick it up and quickly flip through to find a map and make my way through the town. Or simply discover something interesting within or nearby my location. It's an absolute must for anybody going into the country. Well put together and concise - 5 stars for sure!

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