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unknown : V!VA Travel Guide to Ecuador the Galapagos Islands (2007-01-01) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised V!VA Travel Guide to Ecuador the Galapagos Islands (2007-01-01):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. fine for tripBy PAMELA BAILEY SMITHthis was 3 years ago ... fine for trip.5 of 11 people found the following review helpful. One of the worst I've ever usedBy JB HackAs someone who travels extensively (and do it very much on a budget and enjoy a truly local experience), this guidebook rates as one of the worst I've found (I bought it because the publishing date was the most current - if I had a chance to thumb through it in a bookstore, I would have passed - few maps and no visuals). While in Cuenca, I found a number of addresses wrong or not listed. For Guayaquil, there was no map in the book and the description of the hotel I booked online was laughably wrong (described as "elegant and sophisticated," but it was more like Motel 6). For the price, you can get much better guides with more photography, maps and detailed information.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An awesome book for reaily experiencing EcuadorBy Paul Anthony RiddellI just returned from a semester abroad studying in Quito, and I constantly used this book when I traveled around Ecuador and while in Quito. I felt like it always led me in the right direction and helped me discover all the places and people that became the most memorable parts of my trip. In Quito, this book has all the best restaurants and bars that only the locals know about. Other guidebooks on Ecuador seem to recommend only the touristy places where you hardly even hear people speaking Spanish. I also bought a "new" 2006 Lonely Planet book, but after the first few weeks didn't use it (except for occasionally the maps), and ended up giving it away because it was so touristy and almost all the prices were really out of date already and many places recommended were out of business. The Viva book's maps could use improving and it

was a little hard to find some info quickly, but once you found it, it was 100% on target. I liked how this book is created by many different people who have lived and traveled in Ecuador, and the reviews of places and quotes from other travelers were cool, as that's how I like to travel anyway-- asking other travelers who have been somewhere what they liked and where I should go. I would highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to get off of the well-trodden gringo trail and experience the country's true culture.