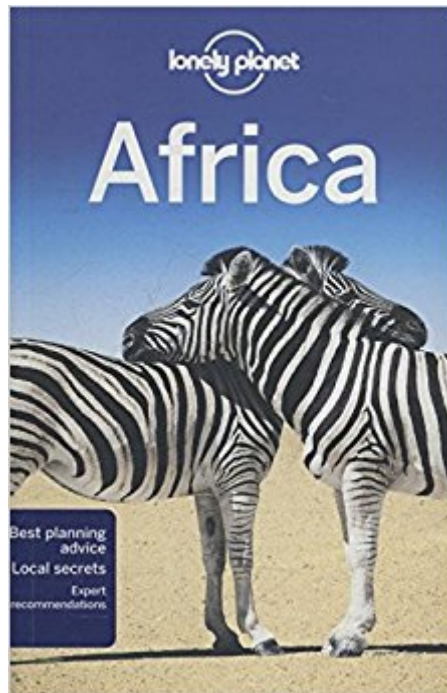




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Lonely Planet Africa (Travel Guide)



Synopsis

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to travel the world.' -Fairfax Media (Australia)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a brand new library book. I think I was the first to crack it open and the details are just what I was looking for prior to a safari to five of the countries I will visit. It is too heavy for me to take on the trip but I needed an introduction to these countrys and it is a good reference for future trips. It arrived promptly.

It's a good book, but it lacks information of many countries.It is not as complete as other Lonely Planet

Older book; still relevant.

Everything was excellent!

I have traveled with Lonely Planet guidebooks for over a decade and I understand and accept the normal guidebook issues such as information that is not up to date or maps that aren't quite accurate, but this book is unbelievable! In fact, this is the first negative review I have ever left on for any type of book or product at all!First of all, the book does not include BASIC information for each country that every Lonely Planet I have ever owned does. Pretty common questions like 'What type

of currency is used?' or 'What language do they speak?' are not addressed for some of the countries, much less more complicated questions about an approximate exchange rate or perhaps what type of budget a traveler might need. Each country's section is set up completely differently to the point where I am not convinced that any single editor went through the entire book before it was published. Secondly, and most importantly, the book omits ELEVEN countries!!! I have NEVER seen a Lonely Planet book do that before. There are notes on the pages of the omitted countries that explain: "At the time of research, very few travelers were heading to _____ so we're providing historical and cultural information rather than reviews and listings." For some of these omitted countries, LP goes on to tell readers of the joys of travel to that place and how beautiful the country is, but refrain from offering ANY further information... I seriously can't believe this, are they kidding?!?! I have owned dozens of LP books and am a long term traveler who has backpacked through over 50 countries. I have always used and really loved every LP book I have owned despite the inevitable flaws that they include. I am well aware that by the time any book goes to print (much less by the time it is bought and used) there are an infinite number of changes that have taken place that make a good deal of the book inaccurate. Still, to omit things like 'language spoken' and I don't know, a full FIFTH of the nations in the region is inexcusable. I head out for a year-long budget backpacking trip this January and when I go, I will be taking my previous edition with me because while much may have changed on the continent since my well-worn 2010 edition was printed, old maps and old hotel listings are better than none at all!

Although it has some useful information, on my recent trip to central Africa this guide disappointed over and over again. From simply lazy editing to blatantly wrong information, it comes up short and should not have been published as it is. The previous edition (we traveled with digital editions of both) is superior in every way, yet it also has more than its fair share of problems. We visited some countries not very popular with tourists, so guide book choices were limited. This is why we had to go with the generic Africa book. Some problems include: every phone number provided for one country is wrong (not enough digits), one national park listed as a highlight for its country is not open to tourists, and a border crossing suggested in the book led to us being detained and forced to fly to another part of the country (and no, it was not a visa-related issue). By the end of the trip I did not trust anything the book said.

Before ordering this book you should be aware of what is not included. In this 2013 edition the coverage of 11 lightly-visited African countries has been cut to four pages of Wikipedia-style

background information on each. This applies to Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Niger, Sao Tome, and South Sudan. For hotel and transportation listings and even sightseeing details on any of those you'll need to turn to the 2010 edition of this book.

This is a great book for someone interested in traveling the entire continent. But a little over whelming if traveling to one or two countries. Of course, with a Ebook, the extra size is meaningless.

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