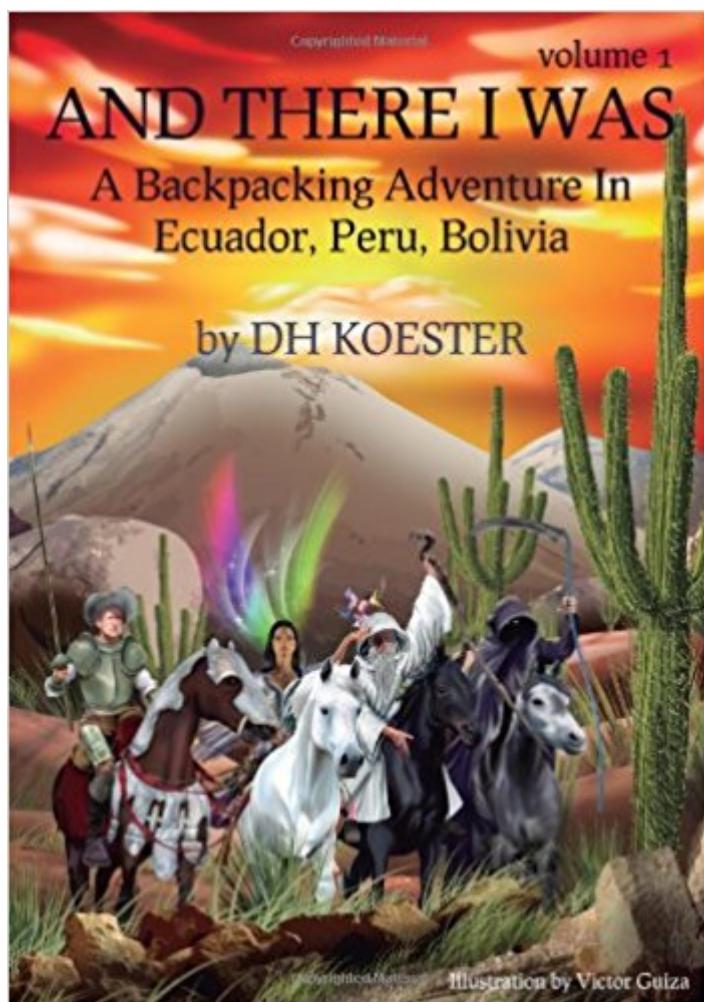


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And There I Was, Volume I: A Backpacking Adventure In Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia



Synopsis

It was 1988 - the maiden voyage and the first of nine journeys in the "And There I Was" series. Witness the grandeur of the Incan Empire and their predecessors and the greed and inhumanity of their Spanish conquerors. Experience the breathtaking geography of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia - the steaming jungles, the coastal deserts, the majestic Andes and the desolate moonscape that is the Altiplano - and the people who live there. Chew coca leaves, drink pisco and climb to mysterious mountaintop ruins. Raft the wild Urubamba and listen to the haunting sounds of the Andean panpipes. Encounter the usual suspects in a succession of eccentric gringos, bathe in Atahualpa's bath and march all night through village streets with ragtag Quechua bands. See the Pope in La Paz, climb an active volcano, experience near death in the and visit communities of escaped African slaves on the Ecuadorian coast. Sleep as guests of island residents on Lake Titicaca, visit the city that gave birth to the Sendero Luminosa, dodge landslides and take a forced march through the Bolivian jungle without water. Finally, wonder at stone statues of the world community of man carved two thousand years in the past. DH Koester has been a farmhand, aerospace engineer, atomic physicist, vagabond, materials engineer, professional photographer, artist, furniture maker, writer and hobo. He holds degrees in both Physics and Mathematics and though a citizen of the United States, spent seven years in the Canadian North.

Book Information

Paperback: 428 pages

Publisher: Outskirts Press (October 15, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 143277946X

ISBN-13: 978-1432779467

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,087,863 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Travel > South America > Bolivia #314 in Books > Travel > South America > Ecuador & Galapagos Islands #366 in Books > Travel > South America > Peru

Customer Reviews

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Â At one time or another, David Koester has been a farmhand, aerospace engineer, physicist, vagabond, materials engineer, migrant worker, professional

photographer, soils technician, foundry worker, manufacturing engineer, artist, restaurateur, furniture maker, department store janitor, fire alarm salesman, land surveyor, writer and hobo. He holds degrees in both Physics and Mathematics and though a citizen of the United States spent seven years in the Canadian north. An avowed Buddhist, socialist and self-described terrorist for peace, over the past twenty-five years he has traveled through more than two dozen countries on four continents. He currently resides in Alameda, California with his cat, Maya.

A fascinating and extremely entertaining book. A great resource because he went to a lot of places that are not mentioned in travel books. His descriptions of women are always respectful unlike other S. American travel books I have read. Very well written with wonderful descriptions and stories. Written about his travels to Ecuador in the 1980s, before Ecuador adopted the American dollar as their currency. I have been to Ecuador 3 times in the last 3 years and am happy to report that conditions are better. The main square in Quito where the president's palace is has been restored to it's former glory and both Quito and Cuenca are now world heritage sites. The churches are gorgeous, like something in Europe! The government is Socialist and Correa has been reelected again. The people are very friendly and the country is fascinating. So much to see, especially for birders, hikers, white water rafters, tourists. I would recommend this book highly as it described places in Ecuador I would never visit and several that I have.

Follow the author on a back-packing adventure in South America as he progresses from novice back packer to an experienced one. He endures astonishing heat and humidity as he travels through the jungle, encounters clouds of mosquitoes and a giant spider on the coast, and learns what types of hotels to avoid as he travels into the Andes - and this is all before he moves on to Peru and Bolivia. A travel-adventure book that contrasts an American backpacker's expectations with reality as he encounters fellow travelers and natives alike and learns about the history and culture of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia along the way. What's backpacking like when you travel to experience the culture of a country, not just the usual tourist destinations? This entertaining and revelatory book will show you.

not any ordinary travelogue, backpacking adventure. sure to satisfy the curiosity of many a virtual traveler, this author not only captures the historical, geographic and political context of the region, but with candid honesty he reveals the raw emotions that accompany a solo foot traveler in a foreign and often hostile land. an introspective read that discloses the despair of the soul, the strength of

spirit and the hopes and dreams that lie beneath the vulnerability of traveling in full abandon.

This book absolutely fulfilled my expectations. Although it offered a lot of history, it was also filled with one intense situation after another. I kept saying "I'll stop reading after this chapter", but then I couldn't set it down!

An absorbing tale akin to Rory Stewart's "The Places in Between". This backpacking adventure provides the reader with an unvarnished look at authentic people that reside in extraordinary places which are rarely chronicled with such passion; notable for its keen historical and spiritual insights into the region. An engrossing read!

Good information on backpacking---intriguing story line---historically enlightening---enjoyable read. I particularly loved reading the personal encounters with the people of the Andes.

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