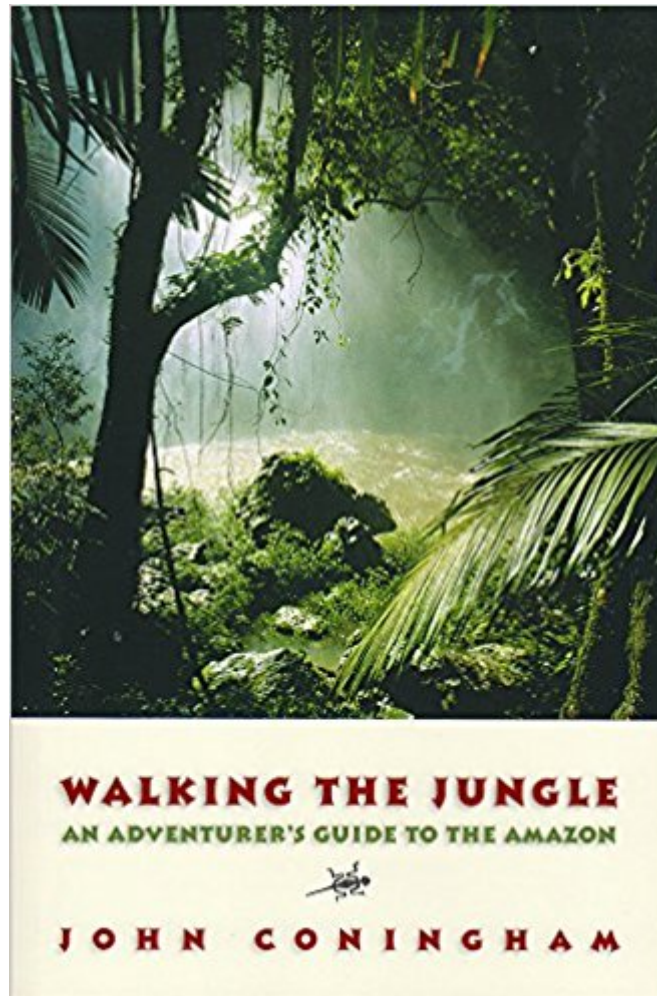




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Walking The Jungle: An Adventurer's Guide To The



Synopsis

By turns and anecdotal and practical, this book tells the tales of the jungle and most of its dark secrets. Armchair travelers and true Indiana Joneses will benefit equally from Coningham's unique expertise on life in one of the most dangerous natural habitats on earth. A primer for adventure travelers, and armchair travelers, considering to travel through the tropical forests of the region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This information-packed guidebook isn't for armchair travelers: although Coningham includes brief anecdotes of things he's seen and done in the jungle, this is more reference volume than page-turning travelogue. The author offers readers firsthand, practical knowledge of how to prepare for a trip to the and what to look for and do once they're there; as someone who's been living, teaching, exploring and guiding in the region for decades, Coningham knows his material. The book's organization can be odd in places: an entire section on bird species (including all their Latin names) comes just a few pages in, while key data on dangerous species and necessary gear are found in the book's midsection. Readers should probably consult the table of contents to locate whatever facts they need-from how to prevent disease to what food and drink to pack-and then add the book to their pack, since Coningham's extremely detailed advice (such as a step-by-step description of how to remove *Dermatobia hominis* from beneath the skin) would be tough to commit to memory. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

John Coningham is a Brazilian novelist and teacher whose resume includes stints as an Army

officer, cattle rancher, hunting guide, and construction boss. He lives in Campinas, Brazil.

This book is quite extensive in its descriptions and expectations for travel to the jungle. I was a little disappointed that the book didn't address vaccinations, which you can obtain from any travel MD organization. The recommended vaccinations for travel in the Peruvian , where I will be exploring this summer, are as follows: Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid and Yellow Fever. These should be given 4-6 weeks prior to your arrival in the . Once these have been obtained you will be issued a "yellow card" listing everything exotic you have been vaccinated for. I keep mine in my passport wallet. You will need a strong insect repellent containing at least 35% DEET - sorry, but it's short term; Malaria is long term. The alternative is to take Malaria meds but I have found the vivid dreams it causes unacceptable. It's helpful to carry 'seed' money in the currency of the country you are traveling. For most of South America if you have nothing other than American dollars they MUST be in brand new condition or they will not be accepted anywhere. Once you buy something your change will be given in that country's currency. As an added precaution I keep a credit card and American cash in the wallet with my passport. That is the item along with your plane ticket that you check half a dozen times before you leave the house.

I bought this book in advance of a trip to the , thinking I would learn a few things about surviving the jungle. What I got was a big scare-fest about all the things that can sicken you, attack you, and eat you. The section on fatal diseases alone is worth the price of the book -- and it's convinced me NOT to ever go swimming in the ! But it also gives you a deep sense of admiration for the natives who live in such a hostile environment. He gives a lot of practical tips (what to carry in your survival bag, e.g.) such as how to string up your hammock, how to build a shelter, how to decide if a group of strangers you encounter is dangerous or benign, how to fish, etc. The anecdotes of his own experiences are worth the price alone. From poisonous snakes and spiders to man-eating animals, this book is worthy of anyone who imagines himself as Indiana Jones -- or actually plans to drop into this very hostile environment.

Parts were interesting but it didn't include much that you couldn't learn online. I'm also not sure that all the advice was 100 % accurate based on other books I've read.

I will keep this short. If you are considering going into this dynamic environment, take an expert guide and some realistic preparation - John Coningham has done a great job in conveying the

essentials of surviving and thriving in the swamplands of the Brazilian . It is obvious that his advice is based upon hard earned personal experience and the quality and practicality of the information is excellent.

It was well written and gave us a clear idea of what to expect when we make our trip to the .

This book is amazing. Very detailed and informative. I'm still reading through it but I would recommend it to anyone that is planning a trip to South America.

So far, the cover art is the best part of this book. The author lost most credibility with me when on page 7 he referred to a machete as a "stupid tool". I don't think it takes a survival expert to realize the usefulness of having a machete while traipsing through the jungle. Second gripe: in most of the animal descriptions, John uses the Spanish name followed by the scientific name - usually without ever giving the English translation. Well I don't speak Spanish and I don't read Latin so half the time I only have a rough idea of what animal he's talking about. The third issue that further lends to the inaccuracy of this book, and brings to question whether any of it can be trusted, is the section on crocodiles and alligators. The title of the section should raise some flags for a few of you - there are no alligators in South America. So, every story John tells that includes an alligator in the jungle really challenges my resolve to continue reading. Furthermore, most of the "personal experiences" read like this: "I once new this guy and he got bit by a really big snake and couldn't get to the hospital, so he died." So after only skimming a few sections and finding many faults, I can't in good conscience recommend this book to anyone (unless you can find it used for less than five bucks) because that is all it's worth. I don't know why the other readers gave this book 5 stars unless they're getting a little kick-back, or this is the first book they've ever read and are just astounded by the concept of reading and writing.

I have read through Johns book several times now. I've been to the 15 times now and each time I learn a new lesson the hard way. I think this book will save me much future grief. His practical experience and explanations of preparing for a trek through the jungle gave me lots of great tips on maintaining comfort and safety. I have enough experience in the to know what he writes here is solid advice, yet my experience in no way can compete with the authors. He was even nice enough to respond to an E-mail that I sent thanking him for his book. Great Guy! Read it even if you never plan on trekking trough the , its fascinating.....

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