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San Juan Antigua Old San Juan, Puerto Rico 2011 EDITION + BONUS CHAPTER: Have An Adventure



Synopsis

“Marauding pirates, Spanish conquistadors, this book has it all!” according to EFAM Magazine. “If history and drama interest you then Old San Juan is a good choice as a destination or a place to live.” So says the author of this romping read... With over 180-images, and maps to help you get around, the book is full of both history and up-to-date insights on not only this special place, but also the people who live there. It is an account that only someone with a unique perspective, such as the author, who as an architect resided there could share. He conveys a picture of Old San Juan being like a Hollywood epic movie set. Steeped in history with an old world ambiance and romantic European charm Old San Juan is one of only two walled cities in the western hemisphere with the other being Cartagena, Columbia. Encompassing a square mile, Old San Juan is the larger. Chartered by the Spanish Crown during the age of empire, the conquistadors built these cities as siege fortifications, or as described in Spanish military lingo a “Defense of the First Order.” The book reveals why Old San Juan is an architectural treasure. With no two buildings being exactly alike, the city has over four-hundred Spanish colonial structures, two world-renowned forts, four main plazas, fountains reminiscent of Rome, and blue cobble-stoned streets in addition to ocean vistas and bay views. Protected within the walls that in the past nobly defended this city is a universally recognized unique habitat honored as a World Heritage Site. The author tells why this Spanish colonial tropical city contains more history and culture than a person can absorb in a lifetime. In 1521, Juan Ponce de Leon founded the city, which eventually would become the most coveted of all of Spain’s colonial outposts. Although his remains are interned in the San Juan Cathedral, the author explains why in many ways this intrepid explorer’s spirit is still very much alive in San Juan Antigua... The 2011 edition has a bonus chapter that tells another story. It is how Puerto Ricans have contributed to present day global culture. It reveals why their history and distinct culture, which is intimately connected with Old San Juan, contributes to making them who they are today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When reminiscing of the now distant past, it is the images and experiences associated with Old San Juan, where the author lived after moving to Puerto Rico almost forty-years ago, which most frequently come to mind. One of the author's goals in writing this book is to share the imagery and insights gained from residing and practicing architecture in this unique Spanish Colonial tropical city. In the process he hopes to encourage others to have their own adventure by visiting or living in San Juan Antigua. The author's writing spans thirty-years and encompasses a wide range of topics from architecture to finance for numerous newspapers and magazines. His other books include "The Binary Elements of Wealth," an exposition on the meaning of wealth and the worth. He co-authored with his son, *Living Under Canvas*, a book about the role of furniture in a mobile society. The author presently resides in South Florida with his wife. His family includes four adult daughters, an adult son, and eight grandchildren.

The book was enjoyable both because it was informative regarding a subject that I love, Old San Juan, and because in many different ways the book touched on why I love Old San Juan. It struck an emotional chord and educated me at the same time. I'm embarrassed to admit that this is the first book I've finished in a few years. It is hard to quiet your mind in this day and age when you are used to the high stimulation offered by Xbox and the internet. Not only did I thoroughly enjoy this book but I read it from cover to cover. I highly recommend this book to anybody who already loves Old San Juan, reading this book is the next best thing to visiting. It will stir up some of the feelings you have when you are there. From an educational standpoint, even if you know Old San Juan well I'm sure this book can teach you some things you don't already know. To anybody who hasn't visited or lived in Old San Juan who wants to learn about it, definitely pick this up as it conveys the feel of the city as much as I expect a book can, and it also educates you about the city at the same time. The book also contains beautiful pictures which contribute greatly to the "feel" of the book. Thanks for writing this book Mr. Tate.

While there is some useful information in this book, it is poorly written and obviously not proofread

prior to publication. At times, the poor sentence structure and grammatical errors become so distracting that it is hard to determine what the author is attempting to convey.

I gave this book as a gift to someone that visited San Juan and they expressed how much they loved this book. It gave them fond memories of the glorious vacation they enjoyed.

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