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Burkina Faso (Bradt Travel Guide Burkina Faso)



Synopsis

From balafon players in the laidback town of Bobo-Dioulasso to masters of horsemanship further north—plus internationally recognized film, jazz, hip hop, and craft festivals—landlocked Burkina Faso, in the heart of West Africa, has something to offer everyone. This new edition of the only English-language guidebook to Burkina Faso leads visitors on camel safaris from desert markets to dramatic waterfalls and spectacular sandstone rock formations, past the extraordinary architecture of 16th-century Mossi, Lobi stone ruins, and Koro's hillside caves. Sports fans can even witness the cycling race, Tour du Faso, in this magical country, one of Africa's best-kept secrets.

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Customer Reviews

“Don't leave home without it.”—African Business

Katrina Manson and James Knight are writers and photographers, both with extensive experience of living, working and travelling in Africa. They are the authors of Bradt's Sierra Leone guide.

I relied heavily on this guide book on a trip to Ouagadougou and the south and west of Burkina Faso in 2013. It provided lots of great ideas and helped shape the trip. Just don't take everything as gospel, there were some small mistakes on the included maps and some questionable advice (e.g. about swimming in waterfalls and lakes, etc). Overall, a wonderfully helpful place to start your

planning, with the understanding that things may not be exactly as described in the book.

Other travel guides cover all of Africa or all of West Africa. The entire Brandt Guide book covers only one country, Burkina Faso. Therefore, there is more actionable information on Burkina Faso including more town maps and descriptions of villages and tribal markets where you can find traditional life untouched by modern ways. There is also more depth and more insight. The author seems to have more connection to Burkina Faso. This is more valuable than having the latest published guide. Published on quality paper, the book is heavier than others but indispensable for navigating along the path less traveled. Traveling on your own, I wouldn't go without it. You would risk bypassing places that would cause you post-travel regrets.

The maps and city-by-city area descriptions are very helpful in getting a picture of the entire country and people.

Was super helpful! So glad I read it before going to the country.

I live in Burkina Faso and this book has tons more information than any other English-language guidebook on the country and seems to be more comprehensive than any French-language ones too. Days after receiving the book, I used it to plan and execute a very successful trip to the far north-east of the country. All of the practical information about where to stay and eat was spot-on. The maps of towns and regions were also very useful. I spent a night at a beautiful desert campsite, 30 kilometers from the nearest dirt road, and run by friendly Tuareg tribesmen because of this book. I'd be delighted with this guidebook even if there was nothing more to it. However, it also has the distinction of being extremely well written and interesting - be it concerning local transportation, customs, history, languages, etc. I enjoyed this book so much that when I recently visited Dogon country in Mali and met a group of Spanish tourists heading for Burkina Faso, I gave them my copy. When I got home, I ordered two more.

Tons of information, great attention to detail, honest appraisals of the entire spectrum of accommodations, eateries, sights, and festivals. In a country with a very limited tourist infrastructure where even your French may not be sufficient to allow you to communicate clearly with the locals, this kind of a guide is absolutely crucial. Burkina Faso is not for the novice traveler, but it is an extremely relaxed and rewarding country to visit, and it is one of the last truly exotic places left on

earth.

Burkina Faso is not (yet) considered among the top 10 tourist destinations in the world, but for those going there for travel, work, or to visit family/friends, this new book is an invaluable resource. We've just bought it after having just moved back to the US after over three years in Burkina Faso. It provides a great overview of the country, including the better-known destinations, but the authors have also made an effort to cover less-known towns and sites of cultural interest. Highly recommended !

-- bought this for a daughter who was headed to Burkina Faso with the Peace Corps -- of the 6+ books I purchased for her, this is the only one she chose to take with her -- she just arrived there last week and haven't heard much from her, but will inquire at some future point how useful it's being -- certainly looked good to me, so much so that in hopes that I'll get to visit her, purchased another copy for my use -- at the least it will give me some idea what's coloring her experiences.

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