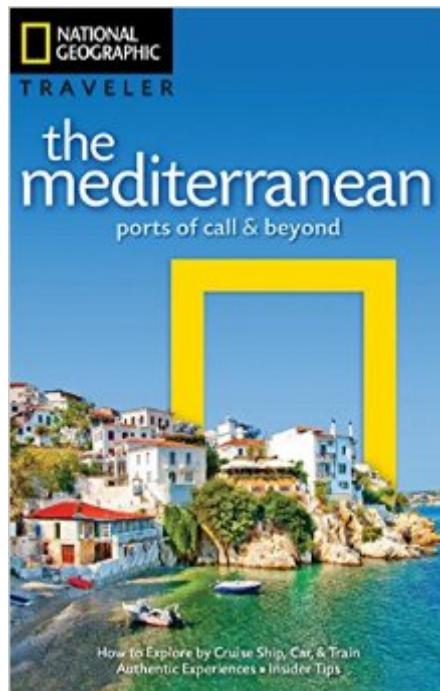


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National Geographic Traveler: The Mediterranean: Ports Of Call And Beyond



Synopsis

Mediterranean expert Tim Jepson takes you on a tour of the countries of the Northern Mediterranean & Adriatic, focusing on the major cruise ports from Gibraltar to Turkey, including Barcelona, Valencia, Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo, Genoa, Rome, Naples, Palermo, Bari, Venice, Dubrovnik, Split, Athens, and Istanbul, as well as nearby towns and sites. This all-new guide features an abundance of practical info on how to get to the main ports from the ship; maps to guide you around when you're there; and original, commissioned artwork to help you appreciate what you're seeing. The travelwise section provides a sampling of places to eat and practical information about the individual countries. Aimed at active travelers who want authentic, enriching, cultural experiences and expert advice from a trustworthy source, National Geographic Travelers provide ways for people to experience a place rather than just visit, and give the true feel of each destination not easily found online.

Book Information

Series: National Geographic Traveler

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: National Geographic (March 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1426214634

ISBN-13: 978-1426214639

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #432,129 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Passenger #129 in Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation > Cruises #696 in Books > Travel > Europe > General

Customer Reviews

This book is made for the cruise passenger. That isn't to say other travelers won't get utility out of this book, but the focus is undoubtedly on those who have awakened in their stateroom, look out the window, and see a new coastline every day of their vacation. This focus is evident on the structure of the book. It doesn't go into exquisite detail of the various sites and attractions. Instead it is organized by region, and then brief overviews of each region and the attractions found therein. The overviews themselves don't read all that differently than the guidebooks you may be provided when

you get on the ship. The value add here, to be clear, is the freedom to plan your own itinerary without being funneled into a particular tour provider. As it's not unheard of for tour companies to pay to, ahem, encourage cruise lines to recommend them, something like this helps you to get with a provider you are comfortable with, or for that matter strike out on your own. I do wish the book were produced somewhat differently. The book is traditionally bound, with pages of high quality paper and marker covers that allow you to save a particular place in the book for easy reference. The downside is that maps and diagrams within the book sometimes span two pages, the middle of which disappear within the binding of the book. Also make no mistake - this is a relatively large book, owing to the wide range of countries and sites it covers. It's probably not something you are going to want to carry with you while ashore. I'm a fan of making photocopies of the relevant pages, but again, this is where the binding of the book is a weakness. It's hard to get it to lie flat on a photocopier.

We're taking a cruise from Rome to the Greek Isles later this year, so I've been researching Mediterranean cruise ports to plan our daily adventures. I already had the Rick Steves book on these ports, so I thought I'd also try the National Geographic version to add to my info choices. This being a National Geographic Traveler publication, it's important to note that the photos, maps, and diagrams "travel first class" all the way! I wish every travel guide had graphics like these. The Rick Steves guide, though chock-full of information, relies heavily on word descriptions. The National Geo book expertly conveys lots of information graphically in a way that allows for easier info gathering while on the go. A complaint I have about many of the travel guides is that they're big and heavy. You really don't want to have to carry them around. Although the Nat Geo book is about half as thick as the Steves guide, it's also built to be durable in both binding and pages; thus its weight is about equal. Better to leave these books in your ship cabin or hotel room and consult them to plan your days ahead. Or, do what I often do: just tear out the pages you need and carry those with you each day.

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