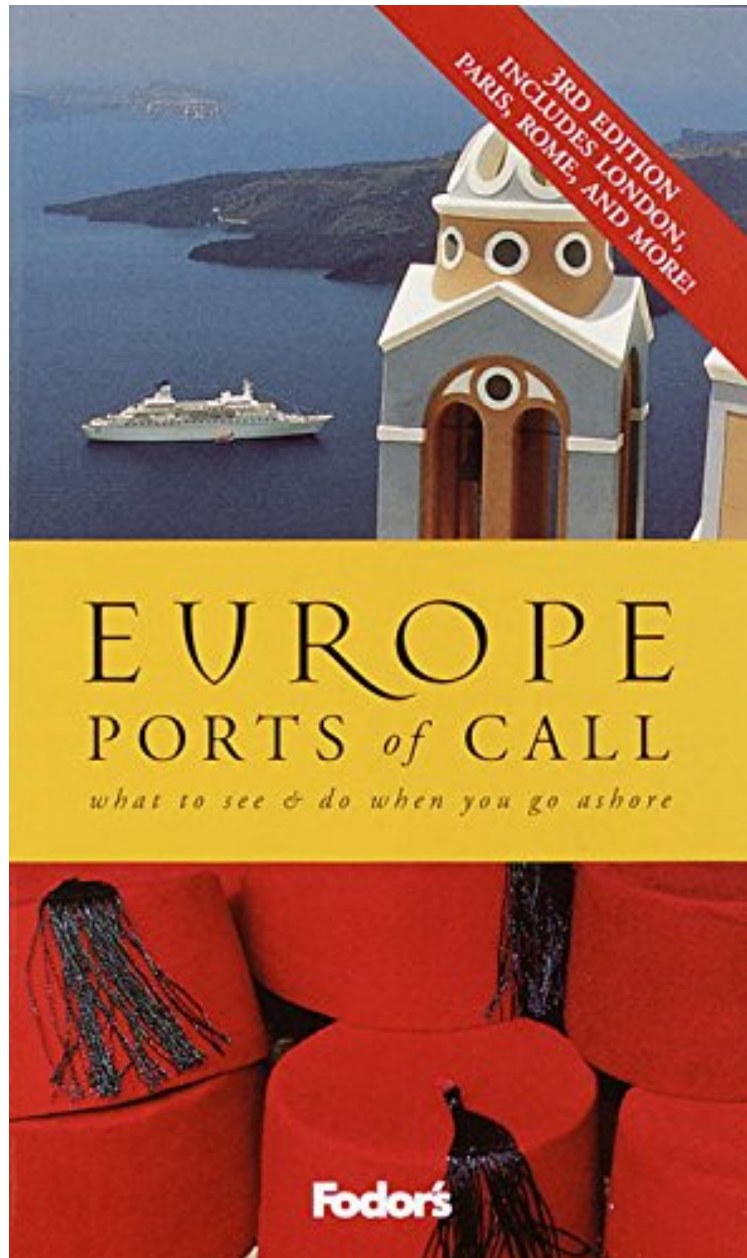


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Fodor's : Fodor's Europe Ports of Call, 3rd Edition: What to See Do When You Go Ashore (Travel Guide)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fodor's Europe Ports of

Call, 3rd Edition: What to See Do When You Go Ashore (Travel Guide):

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Too many cities, too little information...By MicheleThe descriptions of the ports were extremely limited due to the number of ports covered in this book. Since most people who cruise Europe tend to cruise one region, it would make more sense to have more detailed books devoted to specific regions. I bought this same type of book for an Alaskan cruise last year, and it was great, but there are fewer ports in Alaska. It does have some good information, but overall, I was disappointed.

Fodor's Europe POAll the essentials for a perfect day in portUp-to-date coverage of the most popular ports in the world's top cruising regions, with restaurants, key sights,entertainment, and shops, all easily reached from the pier.Helpful cruise primer packed with tips and important contact information.Written and updated by the country's top cruise experts.Detailed maps.Compact enough for a purse or pocket.

From the Inside FlapFodor's Europe POAll the essentials for a perfect day in portUp-to-date coverage of the most popular ports in the world's top cruising regions, with restaurants, key sights,entertainment, and shops, all easily reached from the pier.Helpful cruise primer packed with tips and important contact information.Written and updated by the country's top cruise experts.Detailed maps.Compact enough for a purse or pocket.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Europe and the MediterraneanFor sheer diversity, there is no cruise destination quite like Europe. From the majesty of Norway's fjords to the ruins of ancient Greece, the Old World has more than one could possibly hope to see in a single cruise vacation.Depending on your ship choice, your cruise companions may be as varied as the places you visit; you may find yourself mostly with North Americans and Europeans. If your cruise is during peak season -- May through August -- you will be joining the crowds, as the weather is usually best during this time. If you're visiting in the early spring or late fall, you'll avoid the fray and get lower prices. Temperatures can be very comfortable, and it is possible to swim in the Mediterranean through early October.Going AshoreTraveling by cruise ship presents an opportunity to visit many different places in a short time. The flip side is that your stay will be limited in each port of call. For this reason, cruise lines offer shore excursions, which maximize passengers' time by organizing their tours for them. There are a number of advantages to shore excursions: In some destinations, transportation may be unreliable, and a ship-packaged tour is the best way to see distant sights. Also, you don't have to worry about missing the ship. The disadvantage of a shore excursion is the cost -- you pay more for the convenience of having the ship do the legwork for you. Of course, you can always book a tour independently, hire a taxi, or use foot power to explore on your own.What to PackFor exploring port towns, take at least one pair of comfortable shoes -- walking is the best and sometimes only way to explore in port. Your wardrobes for land excursions will be determined by your cruise itinerary. In the Mediterranean, casual summer wear will usually do. For visits to churches, cathedrals, and mosques, avoid shorts and revealing outfits; in Italy, women should cover their shoulders and arms (a shawl is fine). In Turkey women must have a head covering, and a long-sleeved shirt and a long skirt or slacks are required. Pack clothing that can be layered and that is suitable for hot days and cooler evenings.