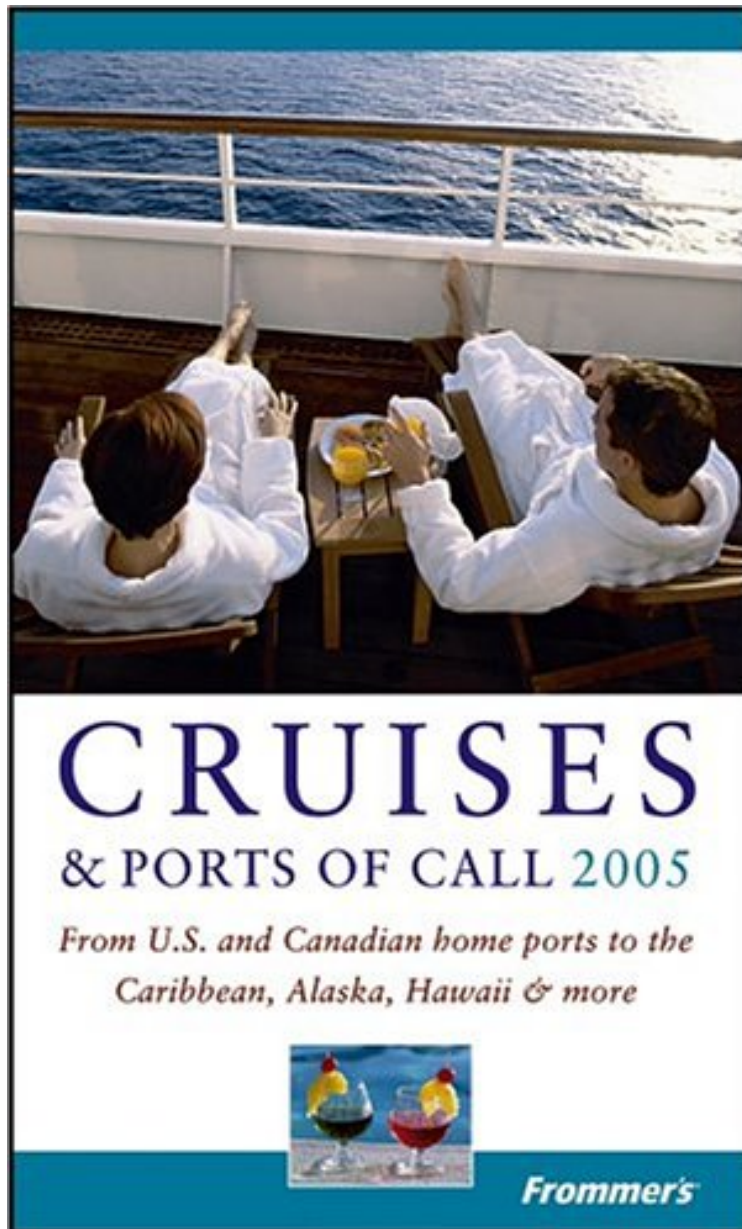



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Frommer's Cruises Ports of Call 2005: From U.S. and Canadian Home Ports to the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii More

Matt Hannafin, Heidi Sarna

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time, and all praised Frommer's Cruises Ports of Call 2005: From U.S. and Canadian Home Ports to the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii More:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. thorough and fun!By A Customerthis was a pretty good guide geared towards cruisers--only buy if you're interested on going on a big name cruise ship. port information was good for st. john, st. thomas, barbados, and aruba. the info on martinique was not good. the author described martinique's main town as cosmopolitan, people dress like paris, fort du france looks like new orleans. i don't know when he went to martinique. martinique was seedy and falling apart.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book for those who like cruisesBy Chuck Cameron. - Marine Mustang PABought it to learn more about Caribbean area - I did7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Great Overview - Start Here then Get Details ElsewhereBy Lisa SheaThis massive book (691 pages) manages to touch on just about every major cruise ship and port of call that there is in cruising. You get a little taste of everything.First, you get about 100 pages on the basics of cruising - how to get a good price, what to wear, how a cruise ship works. That will get you started on what a cruise trip is all about.Next, you get 300 pages on the actual cruise ships. While this seems like a ton of pages, they actually only do 1-2 page reviews of each ship in most cases. In many cases it's a review not just of that ship but of that ship class. For example if Carnival has 4 ships that are similar, you could get one review that covers all 4 ships, with small mentions of things that stand out on a given ship. Since no ship is REALLY identical to other ships, this isn't great.That being said, I really found the information given here to be FAR more valuable than in similar books. They actually review based on real information from real humans, not just copying from the cruise line's book. They tell you about "ridiculous 108 square feet" cabins. They warn you that on the Promenade deck, you're likely to have joggers running past (and peering in) your windows. They warn you which areas are noisy, they point out which lounges are usually not found by the masses and therefore are perfect places to escape from the noise.The rest of the book is a quite good write-up of the main port locations. Many people travel in to a port town and consider the port town part of their vacation. This area includes maps of the area, what to see, directions to the docks, and other information.I was a little put off by the 2005 in the title, implying that you had to buy a new book every year. On one hand you want to get a relatively new set of information - but even with this being "2005" I found errors in pricing. Obviously they can't update every single page in this every year. So it's a trade-off. Again, the book provides good guidelines but should never be taken as absolutely true.There is obviously no way that one book can cover ALL information on all towns, ships and ports!! Again, this is a sampler. You look through to find out which items appeal to you. Then you should get a full book on that ONE TOPIC. If you're going to Bermuda, don't expect this book to give you the full details. You should get a book on Bermuda.However, for what this book does, it does it very well. It takes you from the point of not knowing about cruising at all to the point of knowing what your options are and having a top-5 list to pursue further. At that point it's time to go to those cruise line websites, to go the forums, and to get some books on specific ports. That will get you the detailed information you need to make your final decision, and to enjoy your cruise!

A cruise is a complete vacation, so it's important that you choose the one that's right for you. Frommer's North American Cruises Ports of Call is the most user-friendly, opinionated, and comprehensive guide you can buy before you set sail. We provide in-depth coverage on cruises departing from U.S. ports to the Caribbean, Alaska, Bermuda, Mexico and Canada. Unlike rating systems used in other guides, our system is simple. We break down the essential elements of a cruise experience (dining, activities, children's activities, entertainment, service, overall enjoyment, and overall value), and rate them from "poor" to "outstanding." Photos of each ship combine with the text to give a better sense of the very real differences among the various lines. Most important, this is the only cruise guide that provides the real prices people pay for cruises, not just the rack rates. Other guides tell you that a seven-night cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's Brilliance of the Seas costs \$2,099. You can pay that if you want to, but only Frommer's tells you that the same cruise is selling for \$649. We give both the rack rates and the discount price for every cruise we review. This feature alone makes Frommer's North American Cruises and Ports of Call by far the most valuable trip-planning book among cruise guides. Our authors, noted cruise experts who've personally checked out every ship sailing in and around North America, offer candid and unbiased opinions on them all. They are completely up to date, with all the latest developments and the newest ships. You'll also get complete coverage of the major port destinations, with advice on how to spend your limited time ashore.

From the Back CoverExperience the best a place has to offer on the cruise that's right for you. Frommer's. Your trip begins with us. Expanded coverage of the hottest trends in cruisingtrips departing from all major U.S. ports to the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii, Bermuda, Mexico and Canada Exact prices, including cruise rack rates and the average discounted rates for every ship that we review, so you can plan the perfect trip no matter what your budget Extensive descriptions of all the major cruise ships sailing in North America, from cabin amenities and ship facilities to shore excursions and recreational activities Comprehensive ship ratings that grade the essential elements of a cruise experience (dining, activities, children's programs, entertainment, service, overall enjoyment, and overall value) from

"poor" to "outstanding" Special coverage of popular river cruise routes in the United States, including the Mississippi River, Californias Wine Country, the Hudson River Valley, and the Columbia and Snake rivers About the AuthorMatt Hannafin is a freelance writer, editor, and musician based in New York City. A former Frommers senior editor, he now writes a biweekly cruise newsletter for Frommers.com and a monthly column for the Boston Herald, writes for various magazines and newspapers, edits for most of the major New York publishing houses and several UN agencies, and is busy coauthoring 1,000 Places in the USA and Canada to See Before You Die (Workman Publishing), a sequel to the 2004 New York Times bestseller. Heidi Sarna has cruised on more than 75 ships of all shapes and sizes, and she loves them all (well, OK, some more than others). Her work appears regularly in Cond Nast Traveler, Frommers.com, and numerous other magazines, major guidebooks, websites, and newspapers, including the New York Times, Star Ledger, and Boston Herald. When shes not off cruising somewhere, she lives in the Big Apple with her husband, Arun, and their young sons.