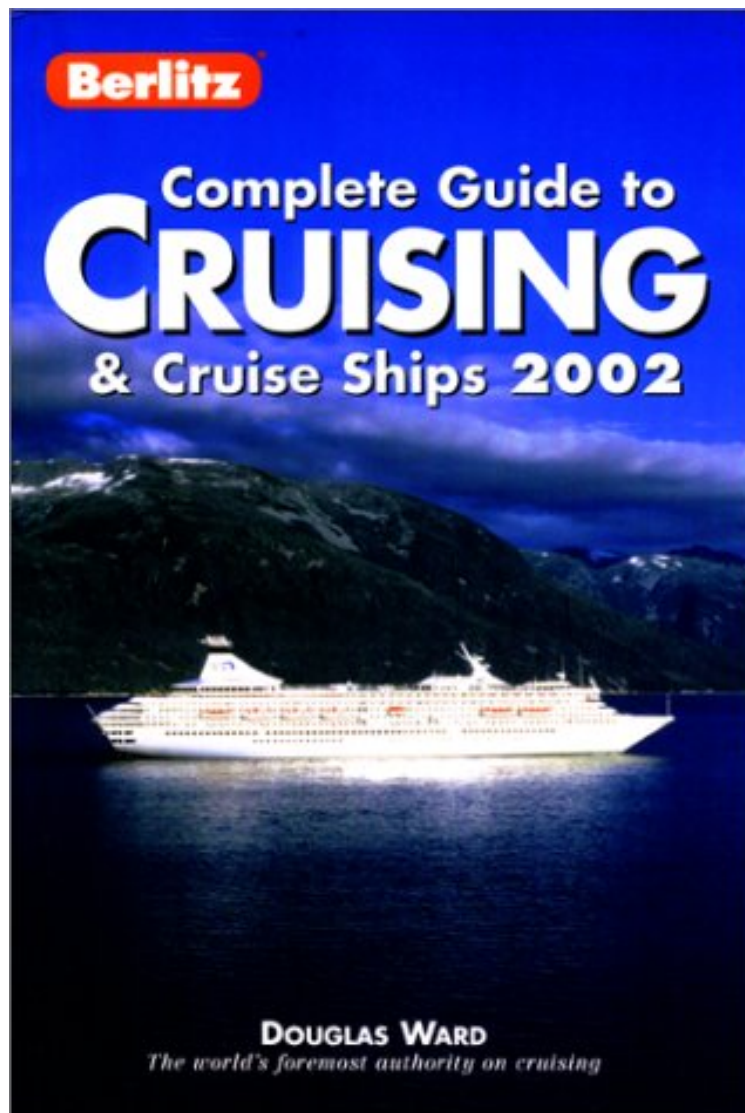


(Mobile ebook) Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships (2002) (Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships)

Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships (2002) (Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships)

Douglas Ward

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Douglas Ward : Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships (2002) (Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships (2002) (Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Source
By Greg Fenderson
This work is detailed and provocative in that it will have the reader comparing vessels/cruiselines thoroughly. If read prior to sailing, there'll be no surprises.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. WHO KNOWS CRUISE SHIPS LIKE A FORMER EMPLOYEE?
By Patricia Poole
Who knows cruise ships like a former cruise ship employee? No one. That's why Douglas Ward's quarter century of experience with the "back of the house" makes fascinating reading. Don't look here for tips on how to save money on cruises. Don't expect Mr. Ward to tell you which cruise to take. Don't even rely on him to be completely unbiased - Cunard (his ex-employer) and other British lines fare better than their U.S. based counterparts. Instead, what you can expect is painstaking detail and some surprising insights. Want to know whether if a ship has a smoke free dining room? He'll tell you. Fussy about your towels? Discover which lines use luxury cotton, and who settles for cheaper blends. Want to stroll and take in some sea air? Find out the vessels that feature wrap-around promenade decks. Readers will learn which ships have the most space and best crew-to-passenger-ratios, as well as the others that are always so crowded you'll have to bribe someone to get a deck chair. And did you realize you have to bring your own shampoo on Carnival cruise ships? The book does have its drawbacks. Ships are listed alphabetically, rather than by cruise line. As other readers have pointed out, many reviews have repetitive descriptions. And the aforementioned bias in favour of ships that serve a decent afternoon tea may disconcert American readers! That said, Mr. Ward is one of the few cruise reviewers willing to criticize as well as praise. He'll warn you about annoying repetitive announcements, about waiters who can't speak English, and design flaws that exacerbate the ever present line-ups. You'll also find listed here charter cruise ships overlooked by other reviewers, and excellent ship histories that track when a vessel changed hands or was refurbished. You'll get the most out of this book by reading a cross section of reviews for ships from different lines. If you've cruised before, check what Mr. Ward liked and hated about a ship you know. That way you'll get a feel for his priorities and preferences, and how they differ from your own. Remember that movie critic who hates every film you like (and vice versa)? Douglas Ward's Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising is updated yearly, and for my money is a better value than any of its cruise review counterparts.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Look Elsewhere for a Helpful Cruise Ship Guide!
By A Customer
I have purchased this book for the past several years for the single reason that it is very informative with basic facts and figures. If you are interested in specifics of ships such as tonnage, crew and passenger size, and other factual information, it is fine. However, I have been on over 300 cruises myself and have worked for several major cruise lines for years. I find Mr. Ward to be extremely bias and a down right anti-American snob. He insults anything he can about American service and hospitality, including mentioning the cheeses from America being of poor quality (I hope he doesn't visit Wisconsin anytime soon!) and statements like, "Americans eat anything put in front of them on their plates", etc. I also disagree with about half of his reviews, as do most major publications, such as Conde Nast Traveler which rates large cruise ships very differently. I do agree with some of the reviews, however he places so much importance on things such as afternoon high tea (fine if you are British and 85 years old), whether the jelly and jam is in glass jars or disposable containers (gasp!), and the percentage of cotton vs poly blend in the sheets and towels. Sure, perhaps this is nice to know, however, what Mr Ward does not seem to bear in mind is that over 75% of the Cruise Passengers in the world ARE the Americans whom he is insulting and buying this book. Cruise vacationers care more about issues such as entertainment, ship safety, health inspections, and many other facts which he consistently fails to mention in specifics. Cruise Lines vary from ship to ship with entertainment quality. Very often one cruise line will have several different producers in charge of shows which means quality can fluctuate from very good to mediocre from ship to ship within one line. Some ships have brand new, state of the art shows, while some ships, due to the high expense of new shows keep the same tired shows for years. Some get an old show from a different ship and passengers can see the same shows they saw years before. Yet he rates all ships the same throughout one single cruise line. Also, Even though a ship may be the exact same layout as another, as cruise lines often mass produce one "class" of ships, each also has it's own distinct flavor, style, and some are maintained better than others. Each ship also has it's own head chef and food does vary in quality within each line, yet he once again groups ratings exactly the same for an entire cruise line. If you have purchased this book, you know the snobbery and the annoying repetitive information I am mentioning. If you have not bought this book, look elsewhere, or you will be disappointed. If you ARE Berlitz, you will realize Douglas Ward who self claims to be the "Leading authority on cruising in the world" is not what he claims, or perhaps was back in 1950's Britain. Today however, most cruise ship passengers, whether first time cruising or a 300 cruise veteran, want young, fresh attitudes, ideas, and more important details that will actually have an impact on their vacation.

The Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships 2002 rates over 240 major and minor ships cruising the world's oceans and waterways. Providing all the advice the first-time or experienced cruiser will ever need, this is the essential guide to choosing the perfect cruise. With over 275,000 copies sold since its first publication in 1986, the Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships has been hailed as the definitive cruising guide by the cruise industry and

travellers alike.