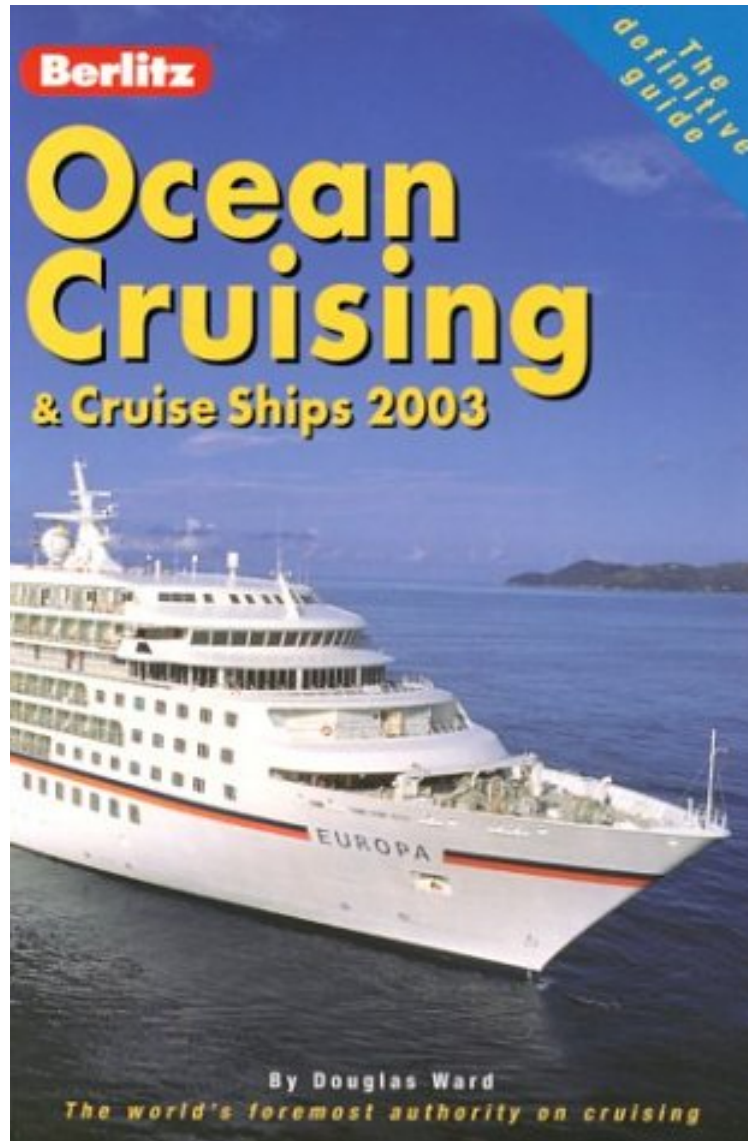


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## Ocean Cruising Cruise Ships (Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships)

*Douglas Ward*

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#12851798 in Books Berlitz Publishing 2003-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.96 x 1.23 x 6.54l,  
#File Name: 9812460586638 pages | File size: 53.Mb

**Douglas Ward : Ocean Cruising Cruise Ships (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 Ocean Cruising Cruise Ships (Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising Cruise Ships):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Detailed Thorough Work By A Real ProBy Greg FendersonDouglas

Ward returns to a format, in his 2003 edition, that enables the reader to compare similarly-rated ships in a manner that distinguishes between cuisine, service, entertainment, etc. Therefore, his critical eye and high standards combine to provide the reader with the tools to choose a sailing so that, by disembarking, they'll be thinking of their next cruise vacation. Indeed, this thorough analysis is a "must have" for any person selling cruises, contemplating their first cruise, or their fifteenth voyage. Don't leave home without it!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Book For Planning A Cruise  
By Robert I. Hedges  
I am fond of this book for giving detailed information on most major cruise ships currently afloat. There is virtually nil on the actual itineraries, but there is an abundance of insight into the technical details of the ships themselves, and more importantly excellent analysis of a ship's ambiance, which is critical for making a good decision on whether to cruise on a specific ship or not (e.g., the differences between a Celebrity ship and a Carnival ship). Before I consider a cruise on a specific ship, I open this wonderful book up and read the entry for that ship, and have never been disappointed with the informative analysis and technical information. I just finished a Bermuda cruise on the Celebrity 'Horizon,' and found the book to be right on target, and the cruise to be perfect. One minor nitpick, that does not really detract from the overall value of the book (but would be nice in future editions) is the general absence of information on the ships that specialize in coastal cruising in Norway (Norwegian Coastal Voyage). I know that is a fairly specialized area, but there are many other specialized ships in here. If you are interested in itinerary details, this book is of limited use, but if you use it in the planning stage, you will greatly increase your chances of a great cruise suitable for you.

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Berlitz Ocean Cruising Cruise Ships 2003  
By Max Petterson  
I now own the 1995, 2000 and 2003 editions of this guide, and this new edition is, as it claims to be, indeed a guide to the world of cruising. My previous review of the book seems to have been helpful to 123 readers, so I feel encouraged to rewrite and update my views on this new edition. There are many cruise ship guides on the market, but none as complete and thorough as this one which gives very detailed reviews of no fewer than 254 cruise ships, ranging from the modest to the, some would say, immodest. Certainly there is a very important first section dealing with many aspects of the cruising experience, but thankfully not the huge amount of space that many cruise book writers feel they must devote to descriptions of ports and cruise destinations. There are many other travel books that can give you that information. The major part of the book [around 75%] is devoted to the very detailed descriptions, reviews and ratings of the individual cruise ships, each review giving a general description, accommodation, dining, entertainment, and, very importantly, . You may not agree with all of Douglas Ward's comments, but he is generally very fair in his criticisms. Some reviewers feel that Mr. Ward is too in his viewpoint, but my own view is that although Carnival, Princess or Royal Caribbean are excellent introductions to cruising for first-timers, each with their own particular strengths, however it's sad to see so many cruisers who won't venture past their , and this is where Mr. Ward's expertise comes in. Most cruisers won't have the means, nor perhaps the desire, to travel on his top rated ship , but his description of life aboard such a superb ship makes a mouth-watering read. One reviewer took Mr. Ward to task for a perceived stance, however I can detect no such bias. Rather, his approach is truly international, unlike most cruise ship writers who look at the cruising scene only from the American perspective. The most interesting cruises are those which have a truly international clientele. If the ship were full of only Los Angelesans, or Londoners, or Sydneysiders, it would be a very dull cruise indeed. The inclusion of colour photos and maps in this new edition makes a welcome innovation, as are the descriptions of ships, like the Queen Mary 2, that are yet to be launched. Some may argue that the cruise enthusiast can find all he or she needs to know on the internet, however I would counter that few writers could compete with Ward on completeness or detail in their reviews. The blurb on the back cover claims and I would have to concur with this judgement. It's a great read, both for the experienced cruiser, and the novice - and I defy any non-cruiser who delves into it to resist after sampling Ward's enthusiastic tome. Good reading - Good cruising!

All aboard that's going aboard! Berlitz is pleased to launch the most opulent and useful edition of its renowned guide to cruises ever - a monumental feat for a publication already considered "the bible of cruise industry." Ocean Cruising Cruise Ships 2003 rates more than 256 major and minor ships cruising the world's ocean and waterways. Providing all the advice the first-time or experienced passenger will ever need, this is the essential guide to choosing the perfect cruise. Loaded with comparative charts and in-depth analysis, Ocean Cruising Cruise Ships is relied upon by more than 35,000 North American travel agents who use its unsurpassed data and recommendations to ensure the best possible fit for their clients. Author Douglas Ward is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on cruising and cruise ships. As President of the Maritime Evaluations Group, an independent agency, that rates cruise ships worldwide, he spends 10 months of every year shipboard and has logged nearly 5,000 days at sea in his 30 years of exploring ocean liners with tape measure in hand.