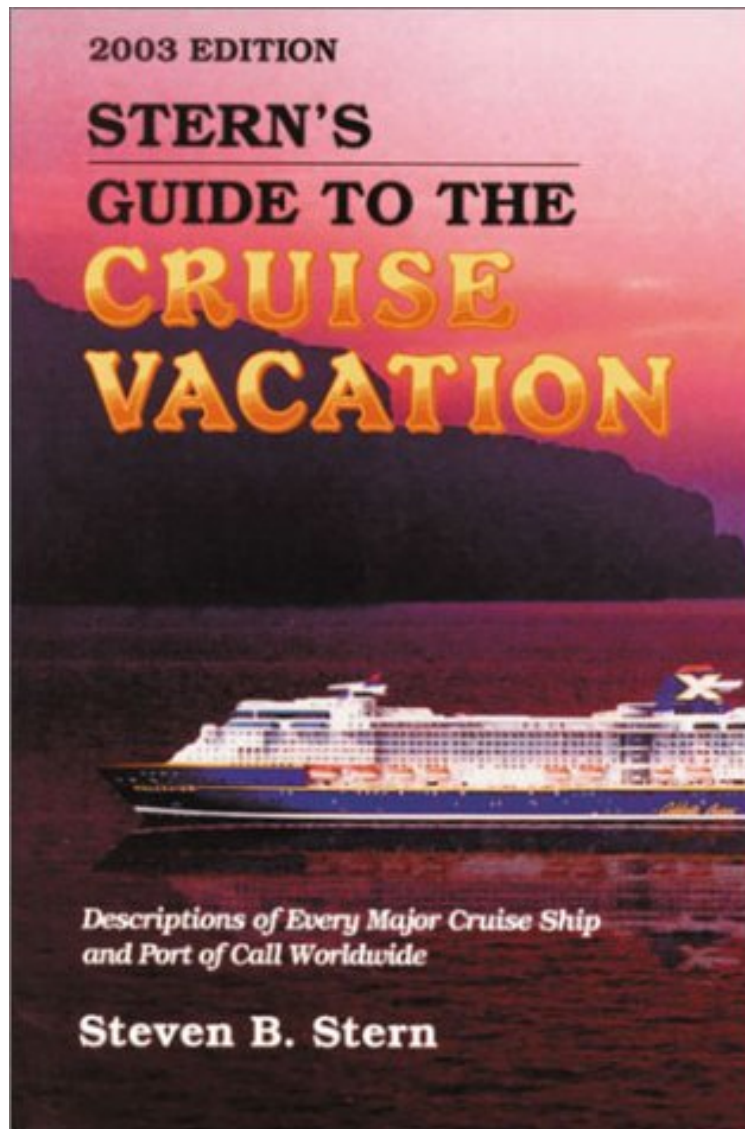


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Stern's Guide to the Cruise Vacation

Steven B. Stern

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Steven B. Stern : Stern's Guide to the Cruise Vacation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stern's Guide to the Cruise Vacation:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Complicated formatBy deut101Ordered both this and Berlitz volume by Douglas Ward on cruising. Both are detailed and full of information, but this seemed complicated to use. Pictures are all black and white and are cruise line provided. Port info seemed quite general and lacking much detail on Central and South America.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Ponderous BoringBy REVIEWER WITH

VIEWSI bought this book for one cruise. Stern has a lot of knowledge about the tonnage of ships! This is the same guide he puts out year after year with some editorial updates. In other words he inputs new ships that come out that year. The star awards are questionable - is it due to getting cruises gratis? Nowadays, you can get far more info on the internet and better itinerary guidance from the ship's websites or wikitravel. It appears to be low quality production. Perhaps you get what you pay for in self publication. After 41 years it should be crafted more smoothly considering all the techniques available for the writer. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A lot of information - but absolutely confusing. By Andreas Horn The book offers a vast amount of more or less useful information. On the pages with the ship reviews there are all medical facilities and personnel mentioned, but only by abbreviations. Unfortunately, the key for the more than 20 terms (like: N-3 = 3 Nurses) is to be found far away from the ship reviews. (It took me about 15 minutes to find it in more than 700 pages!). In the extensive listings on cabin grades or alternative dining areas (in fact, most interesting information) another flood of abbreviations comes along. The fact that each line in the listing is labeled with A., B., and so on, as well as having abbreviations like A (for Asian food), CG (for Continental Gourmet), E (for elegant) and many others makes the reading extremely difficult. The ship reviews concentrate on facts (from brochures) and give little information on the 'real' quality. Then there is a star rating; black stars mean that it is a luxury cruise ship, stars which are crossed out are for premium ships, hatched stand for standard and white stars for economy products. So it is possible that a ship has a 5-star economy rating - what can be confused with a premium product, according to ratings published in other guides. And to add to the confusion, there are ships with black AND crossed out stars, meaning that they are positioned between premium and luxury standards (Windstar for instance). A good idea is to show daily programs and menus from various cruise lines and there are several photographs, showing the interiors - unfortunately, in b/w and of very poor quality (no contrast on cheap paper). The book cannot be recommended for first-time cruisers who need a help to make their decision. For a marketing expert in the cruise industry - like myself - it might provide some interesting additional information.

Whether sailing the Caribbean or the Mediterranean, exploring the glaciers of Alaska or the fjords of northern Europe, readers can rely on this, the most detailed and user-friendly guide to cruise holidays. Veteran seafarer and luxury-travel expert Steven B Stern personally inspects more than 280 ships every year and rates them in all categories, including: vital statistics: the layout, physical details, and history of each vessel; on-board attractions: restaurants, shopping, and recreation; travel necessities: concierges, technology, and medical facilities; ports of call: including how to make the most of an eight-hour visit. The Star Awards help readers to evaluate quality and value as they plan their cruise vacations. The numerous photographs, actual shipboard menus, and daily activity programs combine with the annually updated text to make this the most comprehensive cruising guide available.

"One of the most noticeable (and useful) things about the Stern guide is that it publishes at least one menu and one daily program for each major cruise line in order to give a taste of the experience and what goes on aboard ship." - cruisingnetwork.com "It is well worth adding to your cruise book collection. Steve has sailed on more than 750 ships, so you can be sure he knows what he's talking about." - World of Cruising "People who've never cruised before-or those who have, but find themselves faced with a confusing onslaught of new ships-need to know a great deal, and this book goes a long way in providing it." - Chicago Tribune About the Author Steven B. Stern is the ultimate authority on luxury travel, especially cruise vacations. Whether readers are sailing the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the South Seas, Alaska, Southeast Asia, or the waterways of Europe, this is the most comprehensive guide available, with details on all aspects of cruise-ship travel. Updated annually, this edition lists descriptive information for all major cruise ships, including each vessel's history, vital statistics, appearance, itineraries, price range, and sport, dining, and medical facilities. Stern evaluates every detail by bestowing overall Star Awards as well as ratings in eleven specific categories. More than two hundred photographs of ships, decks, and interiors are included, along with actual shipboard menus and daily activity programs for each featured cruise line. This valuable guide assists you in selecting the ship best suited to your taste, advises you on how to prepare for your cruise, and explains what to expect once you are onboard. Stern discusses every major port of call worldwide, listing details on attractions, beaches, hotels, restaurants, shopping, sports, and other recreation. He also includes guidelines on how to make the most of an eight-hour stay in port.