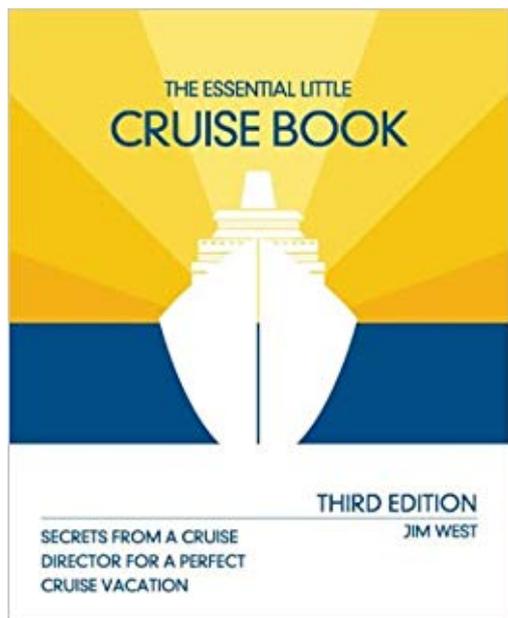


The Essential Little Cruise Book, 3rd: Secrets from a Cruise Director for a Perfect Cruise Vacation *by* Jim West



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This compact collection of cruise wisdom holds everything you need to know for a perfect vacation at sea. Jim West has logged millions of nautical miles as a cruise director and doles out the answers to cruise questions with wit and style. This new edition includes two new chapters with tips directed toward cruises in the Caribbean and Alaska.



Reviews of the [The Essential Little Cruise Book, 3rd: Secrets from a Cruise Director for a Perfect Cruise Vacation](#) *by* Jim West

Quashant

Written by Jim West, this tiny book can easily fit into a pocket or suitcase corner. It's full of short, quick to read tips on every aspect of cruising.

You're not going to get a long, drawn out planner here. This is really about quick hints to help make your cruise more enjoyable. Much of it is common sense - pack light. Have a happy attitude. Don't sweat the small things. Plan ahead. Use sunblock, carry antacid.

A lot of the wisdom, though, is common sense earned by Jim after thousands of days at seas. He recommends lower floors for their more steady ride. He suggests arriving in port a day ahead of schedule so you're more than ready for departure. When you are leaving the vessel, also don't try to rush. Have a leisurely breakfast and do a crossword puzzle while the ship's crew do all of the docking and final departure preparations.

For those who have never been on a cruise, a lot of the information is invaluable. Always bring a carry-on, because your main luggage might not get to your room until late in the evening on the first day. You always want to do the reverse on the way off the ship - the crew will take your luggage the night before. You need to have a carry-on with you to carry your PJs and toiletries off the ship with you.

The price is relatively reasonable for such a tiny book full of nuggets of wisdom. It's well worth buying a copy and passing it along to each member of your party before you leave. You never know who will find which pieces of information to be critical!

Blackworm

I've never been on a cruise but am going on my first next month! I decided to get this book because of the decent reviews and reasonable price. I must say, it definitely has several tips that I think will be useful: the best cabin is in the center of the ship both horizontally and vertically, bring Dramamine just in case, and don't think because you feel the cool breeze from the ship moving that you're not getting sunburned! It also has some interesting tips on cruise etiquette (like never decline an invitation to sit at the Captain's Table at dinner)...Some of the items are pretty obvious (don't go into a door that says "Crew Only") and seem to be there to just to lengthen the book.

Overall, it's a fun read, and even if you've been on a cruise before I guarantee you will learn something new from this book. One thing to note is that the book is really just a big bulleted list of hints and suggestions from a former Cruise Director. No real details or war stories from the "inside." The tips are helpful but I wouldn't call them "essential." It would definitely make a thoughtful Bon Voyage gift for someone going on a cruise, though!

Zulkigis

Have cruised several times before, however thought it would not hurt to review things to keep updated or if we missed something. Plus my parents were taking a cruise for first time, so shared the book with them also. Lots of helpful information! For the price I would say it was worth it. Reminder in the book on packing cannot be stressed enough and is so true. (Pack less, you don't need that much stuff) I liked the fact that the person writing the book has some years of experience.

Tejar

I bought this even though I have already been on several cruises, hoping to pick up some pointers I

might have missed. But nope! It was just what I had already learned "the hard way." It should be subtitled "From the cruise company point of view." For instance, anyone who believes they can pick up a valuable piece of art cheaply from a shipboard art auction probably has purchased the Brooklyn Bridge at some time in the past!

Hulbine

A new edition is due by Fall of 2008, and is needed. This remains a VERY useful guide for first-time cruisers; for those with several cruises under their belt [given the amount of food on a cruise ship, this may be a double entendre] this little book is probably of minimal use.

Wire

GREAT REFERENCE MATERIAL

Fegelv

This little book is filled with "common" sense ideas that are not so "common" these days. Great information for any traveler.

I am returning this item.

Its a small little book with just general information nothing specific or insightfull.

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