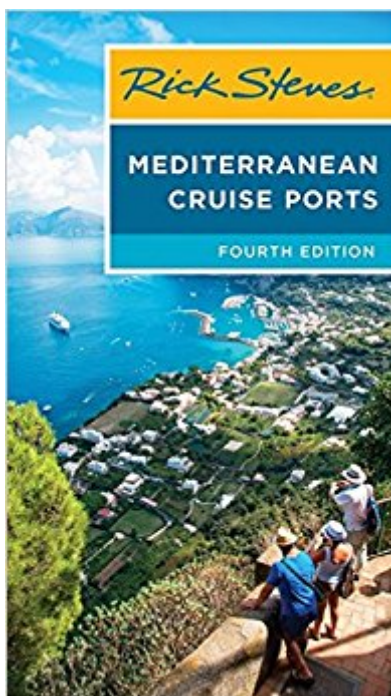


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Rick Steves Mediterranean Cruise Ports



Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when cruising the Mediterranean. In this guide, Rick Steves focuses on some of the grandest sights in Europe. As always, he has a plan to help you have a meaningful cultural experience while you're there; even with just a few hours in port. Inside you'll find one-day itineraries for sightseeing at or near the major Mediterranean ports of call, including: Barcelona, Marseille, Toulon, Nice, Villefranche-sur-Mer, and Monaco. Florence, Rome, Naples, and Venice. Dubrovnik, Split, Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini. Istanbul and Ephesus. Rick Steves' Mediterranean Cruise Ports explains how to get into town from the cruise terminal, shares sightseeing tips, and includes self-guided walks and tours. You'll learn which destinations are best for an excursion; and which you can confidently visit on your own. You'll also get tips on booking a cruise, plus hints for saving time and money on the ship and in port.

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Customer Reviews

Since 1973, Rick has spent about four months a year exploring Europe. His mission: to empower Americans to have European trips that are fun, affordable, and culturally broadening. Rick produces a best-selling guidebook series, a public television series, and a public radio show, and organizes small-group tours that take over 20,000 travelers to Europe annually. He does all of this with the help of a hardworking, well-traveled staff of 100 at Rick Steves' Europe in Edmonds, Washington, near Seattle. When not on the road, Rick is active in his church and with advocacy

groups focused on economic justice, drug policy reform, and ending hunger. To recharge, Rick plays piano, relaxes at his family cabin in the Cascade Mountains, and spends time with his partner Trish, son Andy, and daughter Jackie.

I have yet to even finish this 1000 page book, but know already that its going to be invaluable for my Mediterranean cruise in October. It does exactly what I need; tells you how to get to the places you want to see in the fastest and most efficient way possible, offers invaluable insight into the idiosyncrasies of each port destination, and of the cruise ship experience in general, and provides very practical guidance all around. This is going to be my cruise ship "bible," without a doubt, I will be carrying this little thing with me wherever I go. This book is targeted at the adventure travelers who want to make the most of every port city. Rick Steves offers invaluable advice as to which excursions are worth paying for and which are a run fro your money. If you're going on a cruise to the Med, this is the best book there is. Thank goodness someone finally wrote a practical book that is worth the money. I've seen what else is out there--why waste \$20 plus for a book of color photos of sights you're going to see in person? Why waste \$20 on a book that mostly gives you a history lesson? I can get that on the internet for free. This book does for me what I can't do; provides all the inside advice for each port that only a seasoned traveler would know, that will streamline, simplify, and enhance my own experience!

My family and I went on a Mediterranean Cruise and had a couple extra days before the cruise in Rome, and a couple extra days after the cruise in Athens. We used this book to plan what to do during those days and it was really useful! It has great recommendations on what to see, which tour agencies are reputable, and what restaurants are worth visiting. We didn't use the book so much during the cruise because we booked all our travel packages through the cruise liner--we liked the guarantee that our cruise won't leave the port without us if we book our tours through the cruise company. Overall this book included about 75% of the ports we visited on this trip. I will definitely purchase another Rick Steves travel book in the future.

Rick Steves is so colorful and helpful that I bought a copy as a gift for someone who would be new to cruising and to the Med. As usual, there is nothing dry about Rick's interpretation of not just area highlights but also serious need to know comments about each area. This is a practical guide for anyone traveling along the Med.

Planning on a Greek Isles and Mediterranean Cruise this summer. Rick Steves never fails to make our trips a joy. Every port we are hitting was covered! Walk tours...on our own...or guides to pre-book with are provided. Never travel without him in our pocket!

Rick Steves (and his gang on virtually anonymous writers) provides outstanding service. His guides have incredible amounts of information, and if, for example, you were doing a 2 week visit to Rome, his "Rome" guidebook would tell you virtually every gory detail of what you could do to fill your time in and around that city. But what if you're taking a European cruise and are only spending 12 hours or less in any given great city? Well, this book is what you need. It has detailed instructions on transportation, essentially telling you EXACTLY what your options are for things like transportation from the port to your destination (since many cities don't actually have ports right next to their historic sites!). He'll tell you how to go on foot, by bus, subway, train, taxi, etc. His mission is to make you feel comfortable in doing these cruise stops BY YOURSELF. Many of the critical sites have detailed walking tours, so that you can be your own tour guide. Let me give some examples. My wife and I completed our first cruise last November. Among the stops we made was Athens (Pireus). We had initially thought we'd be springing for a guide/driver. This would, no doubt, have set us back a few hundred bucks. We really only had time for the the Acropolis and then some shopping in the Plaka. Steves' book told us exactly how to go from our ship to a bus stop that would take us to the Metro station, where we rode the metro to a stop that basically looked right up at the Acropolis. From there, getting to it on foot was a breeze. Once up on the plateau, we used his book to guide us from place to place. I read aloud for the two of us and we really enjoyed commenting on what he was "saying." It worked GREAT! In Katakolon, Greece, the port for Olympia, we hired a driver to take us to the historic site, but saved about \$60 by foregoing a "guide" and simply read his walking tour. We saved money! Big time. And now, we're going on another cruise later this year, and going through his book, we were able to decide which ports we thought we could manage on our own and which would require some help. We were surprised by how many ports turned out to be self-serve. Without this book, I probably would be booking a great many more pricey shore excursions (and in Europe, especially Italy, they ain't cheap!). So the book was ideal for us, and if you are a cruiser in Europe, likely will be for you as well. It is NOT for those going on River Cruises. The book isn't perfect, of course. I found the walking tour of St. Peter's to be a little skimpy...many seemingly significant spots were not mentioned. And Steves' is clearly not a religious man, and sometimes a little note of sarcasm about the holy relics crept in. Amusing, but perhaps off-putting to the very faithful with little tolerance for fun. But this same breezy tone and immense readability is

what makes his books so great overall. I HIGHLY recommend this book!

I am SO glad that I purchased this book before going on our Mediterranean Cruise! Having never visited our cruise stops before, it was overwhelming to try to plan on our own. But this book saved us! We used it while planning the trip, and then used it daily aboard the ship. It helped a ton in planning our very short stays at each port, and saved us a lot of money by avoiding ship excursions because we had a game plan ahead of time. Highly recommend!

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