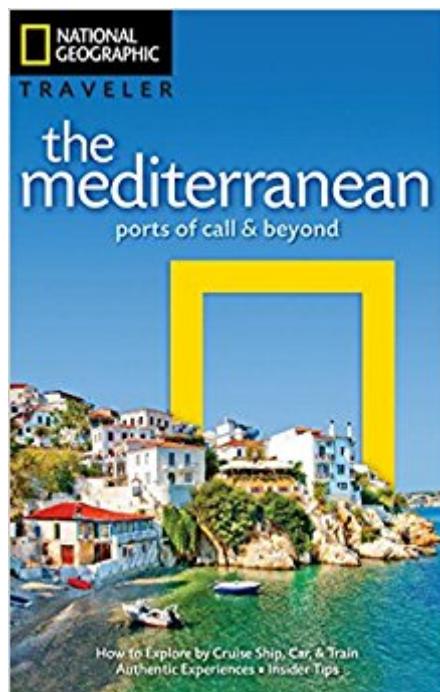


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# National Geographic Traveler: The Mediterranean: Ports Of Call And Beyond



## Synopsis

Mediterranean expert Tim Jepson takes you on a tour of the countries of the Northern Mediterranean & Adriatic, focusing on the major cruise ports from Gibraltar to Turkey, including Barcelona, Valencia, Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo, Genoa, Rome, Naples, Palermo, Bari, Venice, Dubrovnik, Split, Athens, and Istanbul, as well as nearby towns and sites. This all-new guide features an abundance of practical info on how to get to the main ports from the ship; maps to guide you around when you're there; and original, commissioned artwork to help you appreciate what you're seeing. The travelwise section provides a sampling of places to eat and practical information about the individual countries. Aimed at active travelers who want authentic, enriching, cultural experiences and expert advice from a trustworthy source, National Geographic Travelers provide ways for people to experience a place rather than just visit, and give the true feel of each destination not easily found online.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

TIM JEPSON has been a passionate and lifelong devotee of Italy. He has written 15 books on the countries around the Mediterranean, as well as numerous articles for the Daily Telegraph, Vogue, Condé Nast Traveller, and other publications. For National Geographic he has written the following guides in the National Geographic Traveler series: ~Florence & Tuscany, Naples & Southern Italy, Piedmont & Northwest Italy, and Sicily. Now based in London, Jepson continues to visit the Mediterranean regularly. As well as having spent much time on land, he has cruised along

the beautiful coasts of the Mediterranean.

Great Book

Can't wait to plan my trip..!Images and information are very useful

Not as comprehensive as I thought.

Great reference and planning guide.

This book is made for the cruise passenger. That isn't to say other travelers won't get utility out of this book, but the focus is undoubtedly on those who have awakened in their stateroom, look out the window, and see a new coastline every day of their vacation. This focus is evident on the structure of the book. It doesn't go into exquisite detail of the various sites and attractions. Instead it is organized by region, and then brief overviews of each region and the attractions found therein. The overviews themselves don't read all that differently than the guidebooks you may be provided when you get on the ship. The value add here, to be clear, is the freedom to plan your own itinerary without being funneled into a particular tour provider. As it's not unheard of for tour companies to pay to, ahem, encourage cruise lines to recommend them, something like this helps you to get with a provider you are comfortable with, or for that matter strike out on your own. I do wish the book were produced somewhat differently. The book is traditionally bound, with pages of high quality paper and marker covers that allow you to save a particular place in the book for easy reference. The downside is that maps and diagrams within the book sometimes span two pages, the middle of which disappear within the binding of the book. Also make no mistake - this is a relatively large book, owing to the wide range of countries and sites it covers. It's probably not something you are going to want to carry with you while ashore. I'm a fan of making photocopies of the relevant pages, but again, this is where the binding of the book is a weakness. It's hard to get it to lie flat on a photocopier. So the takeaway is that this is a book that offers you resources to tailor your own shore visits, which is good in and of itself. Sadly, those resources are sometimes tied up in a somewhat unwieldy presentation. It's still a valuable resource, if only to get you started on more in-depth research of those sites you want to see that may not be a part of a cruise ship's offerings.

The subtitle, "Ports of Call," explains the focus of the National Geographic "Mediterranean." The

book is for the cruise ship traveler who will spend a short time in each port. The book is excellent on history, culture, and landmarks. It showcases Mediterranean cities with beautiful photographs and well-drawn maps. However, it is skimpy on hotels and restaurants. For example, on the French Mediterranean coast, Marseille, Nice, Cannes, and Monaco are covered. There is nothing written about the area from the border with Spain to Marseille. The obvious reason for this omission is that there do not appear to be any large ports on this stretch of coast. This leaves out the Pyrenees, the Camargue, and everything in between. Thus, if you are thinking of cruising the Mediterranean, this book will give you an overview of the region. If your interest is in traveling by land, for example, by train, automobile, or even by bicycle, then try another guidebook.

This book is an excellent way to introduce you to the Mediterranean Ports of Call without "information overload." It's an enjoyable read and full of large pictures. I have several books on the Mediterranean Ports of Call from an 18-day med/transatlantic cruise that we took. When you are cruising, you often do not need information on lodging at each city, restaurants, etc. (This book does have restaurant suggestions, but they are at the back of the book). This allows you to get a brief overview of what you can see in a day. The pictures are helpful in helping you choose what excursions you might like to take, either through the ship or on your own. It provides practical advice about the ports and cruise logistics. It has maps and walking tours for various cities or areas of cities (i.e. Las Ramblas in Barcelona). It has more extensive coverage on some cities such as Barcelona, Rome and Venice. These are popular embarkation/disembarkation points where you may choose to stay a few extra days. I feel like this type of book is important to get you excited for your trip and help you narrow down the things you would like to do in each port. Then you can research further online to work out the logistics. I find it more informational than some of the DK books which are mostly pictures. Rick Steve's book does have much more specific information, that's true - but mostly drawings/sketches and not a lot of pictures. The chapters covered in this book are Charting Your Trip, History and Culture, Coastal Spain, French Riviera & Provence, Italian Riviera & Tuscany, Rome & Naples, Sicily, Malta & Puglia, Venice & The Adriatic, Athens & The Islands, Turkey, Travelwise (Practical Advice, Restaurant and Shopping Recommendations). If you need more detailed maps and information for a specific city, I recommend a small guide such as the Frommers Day by Day Guides as a low cost way to expand on your options. I would do this for the larger more important cities (to you) on your bucket list, or cities where you may be spending an extra day or two or three. Overall, this is a great introduction to the Mediterranean ports you may visit on your cruise - full of gorgeous pictures and printed on high quality paper (not flimsy). It's a

great way to get to know the cities you will visit and help you to choose activities for your day in port.

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