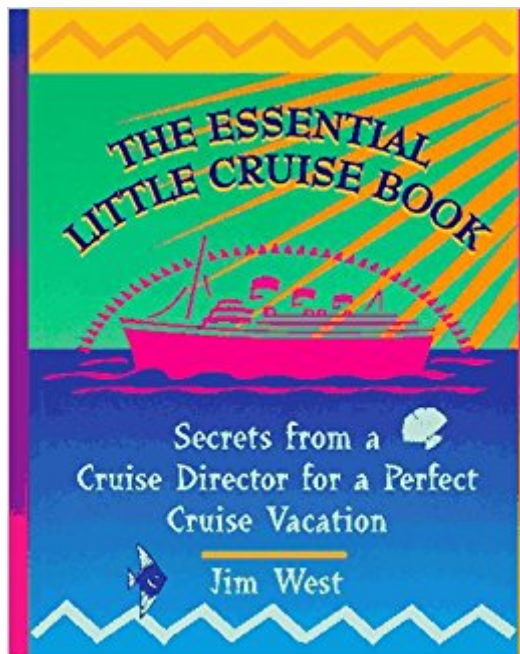


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# The Essential Little Cruise Book



## Synopsis

Having worked as a cruise director with three different shipping lines, Jim West has sailed on 500 voyages with 500,000 people, seen all seven continents, and heard every complaint and suggestion imaginable. This compact collection of insider cruise wisdom is the product of his vast experience. West doles out tips with wit and style and tells you everything you need to know to make the most of your time at sea.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Globe Pequot Pr; 1st edition (October 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0762701307

ISBN-13: 978-0762701308

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 4.5 x 5.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,949,824 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing > Narratives](#) #479 in [Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation > Cruises](#) #5279 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel](#)

## Customer Reviews

This smart little book offers helpful advice both for those embarking on their first cruise as well as salty veterans. The Essential Little Cruise Book covers everything from how to choose a cruise that's right for you, picking a travel agent and cabin, what to bring, cruise etiquette, and how to cure sea sickness: "Old-fashioned cures that sailors have sworn by: If you do begin to feel sick, go outside, look at the horizon, and stay in the middle section of the ship. Also, eat some dry crackers or bread sticks, and stay away from liquids." With more than 500 cruises under his belt as a cruise director, author Jim West provides insight and tips that can greatly improve a cruise vacation.

"A very practical book with sound information for everyone, from people planning their first exciting cruise adventure to hardened travel agents."--Sir Edmund Hillary  
"Cruisers will find noteworthy nuggets in The Essential Little Cruise Book by veteran cruise director Jim West."--New York Post  
"Nuggets of wisdom from a veteran cruise director ... a real charmer."--Chicago Tribune --This

text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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!

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.

Jim West's little book may be pint-sized but it packs a whopping amount of practical information. Even old salts can learn new tricks and, as a veteran of over two dozen cruises, I found his thoughtfully presented insights to be an excellent reminder of why I love cruise ships and voyages at sea. This cruising guide should be tucked into every cruise passenger's document package. I heartily recommend it to anyone contemplating their first cruise.

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!

## GREAT REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

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.

I am returning this item. Its a small little book with just general information nothing specific or insightfull.

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