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Frommer's Bermuda 2010 (Frommer's Complete Guides)



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Customer Reviews

As a team of veteran travel writers, Darwin Porter and Danforth Prince have produced numerous titles for Frommer's, including guides to Italy, France, the Caribbean, England, Germany, and Spain. A film critic, newspaper columnist, and radio broadcaster, Porter is also a Hollywood biographer, author of at least four critically acclaimed overviews of little-known aspects of, among others, Humphrey Bogart, Katharine Hepburn, and Howard Hughes. Porter's 2006 biography of Marlon Brando (Brando Unzipped) was cited by London's Sunday Times as "one of the best show-biz biographies of the year." Prince was formerly employed by the Paris bureau of the New York Times, and is today the president of Blood Moon Productions and other media-related firms. Porter and Prince's latest project, Hollywood Babylon - IT'S BACK!!, released in 2008, presents a "brainy but prurient" overview of celebrity excess, as filtered through 75 years of Hollywood scandal.

I've bought other Frommer's books, but this is the first that has disappointed me. We used it for our recent trip to Bermuda- lovely island by the way- but found the information in the book lacking. We ate at two highly recommended spots and were hugely disappointed in them both (I don't think it's fair to name them as it's possible, we just hit an off night). We also tried two other spots, The Point and Port O Call, both of which we loved (we especially enjoyed The Point- impeccable service and delicious food!). But when you're on vacation and have a limited amount of time you don't want to like half your meals - you want to love them all! I feel like we could have basically guessed and / or asked around and wound up with a better success rate. Also, Bermuda has so many amazing things

to do that are free, it's a shame this isn't highlighted in the book. We took the most lovely walking tour of the City of Hamilton and another amazing tour of the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) that we both free and top highlights of our trip. And we really enjoyed walking parts of the railway trail (as did others staying at our resort), so I feel the book could have expanded more on that as well. I actually think visiting Bermuda is a lot like visiting DC. There's a ton of stuff to do regardless of your budget. You can take a free tour or get a \$300 massage, and either way you'll have a blast. It's unfortunate that the book does not highlight these amazing free experiences. Deciding to go to Bermuda can be inexpensive- but you wouldn't know it from reading this book. One more thing! I was so so so disappointed that the book recommended renting mopeds on the island when the average tourist fatality rate is 46 people per year (and that's just fatalities, not injuries). Every single local we spoke to said it was simply crazy for tourists to get on those bikes given the roads (crazy narrow and curvy) and the fact that the drive on the opposite side (left). We left the mopeds to the silly tourists and relied on the amazing bus, ferry, and occasional cab. If you're still leaning towards a moped, chat with your taxi driver about this on the way to your hotel.

Frommers Bermuda is a good basic book that gives info on prominent hotels, prominent restaurants and any sightseeing spots. But, it does not help much for those on a budget. Bermuda is an island for the very wealthy. Even those renting housekeeping units must buy groceries that are well beyond what we pay in the States. The guide should warn people about that. It would be better if the book had made some suggestions as to how to eat fairly simply (ex: buy pre-made foods in grocery stores-hot buffets), or foods you might bring with you to cut expenses. It also should make a point of telling people that car rentals are not allowed(may have done this) and scooter rental is now dangerous because of much increased traffic. One must take a cab (big expense) or learn the bus system which is a very good way to get around. Such hints as these would be helpful. If money is no object than these suggestions aren't important. But, a complete tourist guide should help all travelers know what awaits them.

As always, you can't go wrong with a Frommer's guide. Anytime my wife and I go on a cruise or vacation, we buy a Frommer's guide and thoroughly research it. They have proven invaluable in identifying hotels, restaurants, and attractions. We tend to avoid the more touristy aspect of vacation destinations, and the Frommer's guides can accommodate people who like touristy things and those who don't. The maps are also quite handy. As to this specific guide, this will be my third cruise to Bermuda, and I hadn't purchased a guide the last two times. The book provides good information

regarding what to do at the time of year we'll be traveling. As an aside, I've never seen a guide book that basically said "if you are gay, there are better places to go". From what I understand, Bermuda is quite intolerant of homosexuals, I've just never seen a guide book state it so bluntly. Better to find something like that out from an inexpensive guidebook than after you've paid to travel.

Frommer's is my usual go-to for travel books and this is no exception. The book starts out with approx 10 pages of glossy photos that make you ready to jump on the next plane headed East. I have never been to Bermuda but have traveled extensively and am looking forward to a trip in May. The book is broken out into sections: 1. Maps - limited high-level without much detail. I think we'd probably want a better map, but since there's no such thing as rental cars in Bermuda maybe we won't need one... 2. The Best of Bermuda (best beaches, dive sites, golf courses, places to stay for honeymooners... for families, best restaurants, etc.) 3. Bermuda in Depth - covering history, art and architecture, and 'locals' type information 4. Planning your trip - when to go, entry requirements, getting around (no rental cars!), money, costs, calendar of events 5. 6. 7... Suggested Itineraries, where to stay, where to dine, seeing the sights, shopping, club scene, and an index. After cross-referencing with a few other books, this one will be our companion for the trip. It covers everything and is fairly compact and light. The info appears up-to-date and describes in detail our hotel, close beaches, how to get around, what to do, eating etc. I imagine it will provide equally pertinent information to most any traveler headed that way so I consider this a valuable resource in planning a great vacation!

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