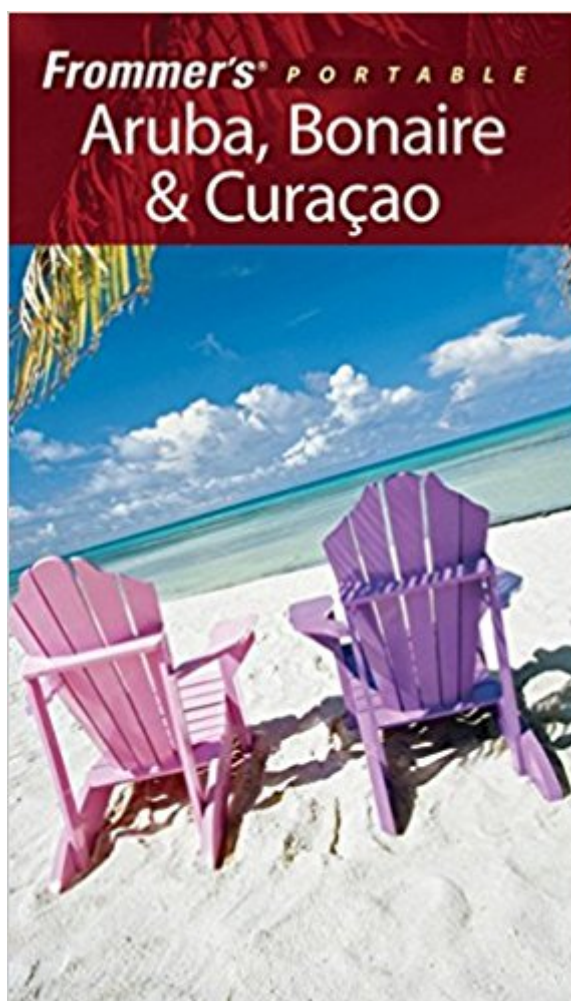


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Frommer's Portable Aruba, Bonaire, & Curacao



Synopsis

Tourism in Aruba increased 5.7% from 2001 to 2005, with 1.2 million people vacationing there in 2005. In 2006, one-fifth of the travelers to Curaçao were from the U.S.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Put the Best of Aruba, Bonaire & Curaçao in Your Pocket Insider tips on the best beaches, diving, snorkeling, and other fun in the sun. Outspoken opinions on what's worth your time and what's not. Exact prices, so you can plan the perfect trip no matter what your budget.

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Through travel writing, Christina Colón has managed to merge her three greatest passions in life: exploring nature, traveling to exotic destinations, and sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with others. With a doctorate in ecology and an M.A. in environmental education, she has conducted field research and field courses in the jungles of Borneo, Belize, and even the Bronx. In addition to writing for scientific and academic texts, videos, and websites, she contributes to numerous travel guides, including [Frommer's Caribbean Ports of Call](#), [Frommer's Caribbean](#)

Cruises & Ports of Call, Cruise Vacations For Dummies, The New York Times Guide to New York City, and several editions of the Fodor's USA Guides.

Like most Frommer's travel guides, this is a generally informative, pocket-size guide with accurate data for general trip planning to Aruba. Great if that is your destination. However, the title is very misleading as most of the book is dedicated to Aruba, with only one chapter each devoted to the other two ABC islands. The minimal coverage of Bonaire and Curacao mainly point out differences from Aruba, but offer few details regarding the other island amenities. Since I purchased the book in anticipation of a scuba trip to Bonaire, I found it of little use. There are other much better guides for Bonaire.

It's always a hit-and-miss proposition when it comes to a good travel guide for the Caribbean and so it is with this book as well. It's not so much that it's "bad" it just isn't that good either. Since I did purchase it for Aruba specifically it didn't bother me about the lack of detail for the other islands (I did a review of another publication for Bonaire a couple of years ago). I guess what I find lacking in many of the Frommer/Fodor books is the bias towards what the particular author liked as opposed to just providing info. For example: we did do the DePalm Island thing and since I had booked it prior to find a little blurb in this book on how she didn't find it all that big a deal, our group enjoyed it. That was a surprise to me because I felt like I had been taken after booking the non-refundable excursion and yet the 6 of us (ages 19 - 50) all found it to be just fine - expensive - but enjoyable nevertheless. So while I understand that what one person found stupid or not worthwhile doesn't necessarily translate into what you may enjoy, these books are somewhat of a necessary evil but are by no stretch the end-all, be-all of how you plan your vacation. One thing I will call out is the restaurant reviews were pretty accurate - so kudos for that! Lastly - as for the island itself...far too busy for this Caribbean traveler. Traffic in and around Oranjestad is THE WORST I have ever encountered. I will not make a return trip based on that nightmare. In ten years and 11 stays in and around the Caribbean, Aruba wins the award for worst traffic and least viable alternative for avoiding it by way of providing decent secondary roads around the city. I really feel that if you select the northern or southern end of the island, you're kinda stuck in the geographical area unless you want to spend 45 - 60 minutes negotiating Oranjestad. Your mileage may vary...good traveling!

Nice book to make planning your Aruba trip so much easier.

If you are planning on going to Aruba, you will get quite a bit of info. However, if you are traveling to Curacao, there isn't much information there and there really could be. There is a lot to do in Curacao and wonderful places to eat. I realize this book is old, but much more info should be provided about Curacao. Thought it was just "ok."

good book

I bought this book before going to Aruba. Overall it was pretty good and useful. However most, if not all, the info can be found online. This book is just a way to organize the information a little better. The problem with a book is that even the most current book isn't always the most current information. So for general information about Aruba it's great. However for details about restaurants, shopping, excursions, etc online might be your best bet. If you'd like a supplement to some other research you've done about Aruba this book fits the bill.

This guide should be about Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, but almost all the book is dedicated (badly dedicated) to Aruba. I read the whole book and it will have very little use for Aruba and no use for Bonaire and Curacao. The maps are very poor, despite the ease of mapping a tiny island. I would not recommend its purchase to users.

Covered everything in those three Islands (Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao) I was really interested in Aruba and this book did an excellent job of doing this, I would recommend this book to anyone.

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