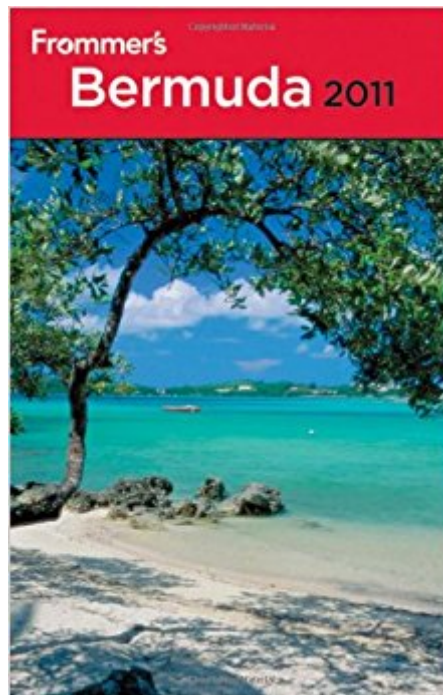




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Frommer's Bermuda 2011 (Frommer's Complete Guides)



Synopsis

Explore the colorful streets of Hamilton, Bermuda's capital, by bicycle. See chapter 7. Detailed maps throughout Exact prices, directions, opening hours, and other practical information Candid reviews of hotels and restaurants, plus sights, shopping, and nightlife Itineraries, walking tours, and trip-planning ideas Insider tips from local expert authors

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Customer Reviews

Veteran traveler writers Darwin Porter and Danforth Prince have written many popular Frommer's guides, including Italy, France, Spain, England, and Germany. Both journalists are island specialists, having written Frommer's first ever guide to Bermuda, which each of them discovered during spring breaks in their college years. The travel-writing team has written many island guides including the Caribbean, The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and the Cayman Islands.

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 is 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.

Frommer's 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 then 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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