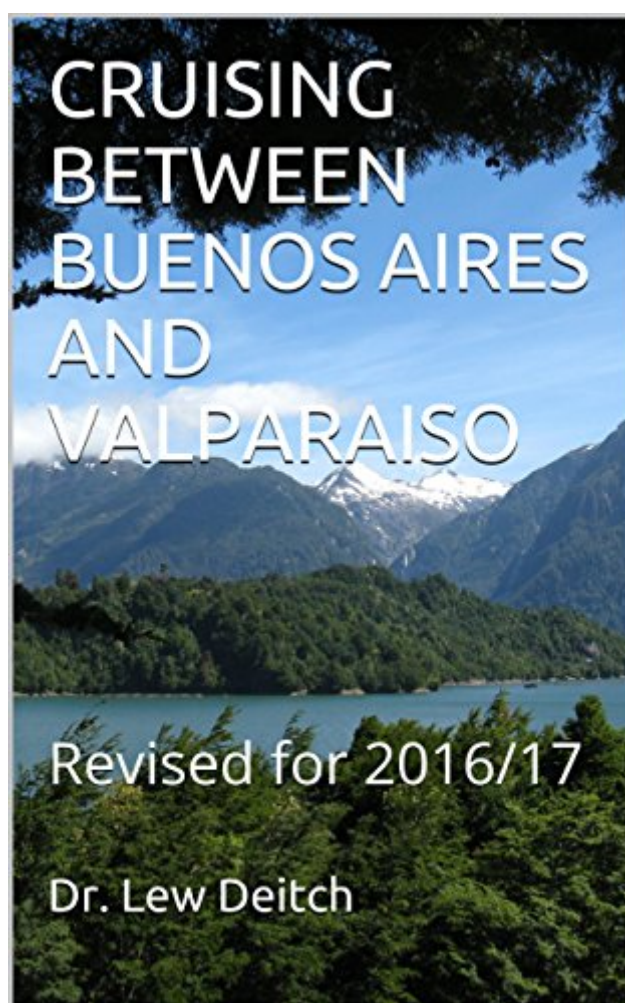


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CRUISING BETWEEN BUENOS AIRES AND VALPARAISO: Revised For 2016/17 (Traveler's Companion Series 2)



Synopsis

One of the most spectacular locations in which to cruise is around the lower portion of South America. Cruises begin in either Buenos Aires, Argentina westbound or Valparaiso, Chile eastbound and last around two weeks to 16 days. The spectacular scenery of snow covered mountains, many of them steep volcanic cones, rich forests of southern beech and crystal blue waters makes this one of the world's last unspoiled wilderness regions. Towns are few and far apart, but those that are visited exude an atmosphere that is a mix of frontier spirit with Old World charm. Although the countries are of Spanish origin, many settlers in these far southern reaches came from Germany, Wales, Ireland and other central European countries. They found a land that although harsh and remote it reminded them of home and thus they set down roots. At one end of the cruise is Buenos Aires, the Paris of the Americas. This is a vibrant city that looks and feels more like Europe than the Western Hemisphere. It was here that tango was born. And it is here that the delicious flavor of freshly grilled meat is almost a daily staple. On the Pacific side of the high Andes Mountains is Valparaiso, the somewhat ramshackle port city reminiscent of San Francisco that is the gateway to the central valleys of Chile where vineyards and fruit orchards stretch to the horizon. And on that eastern horizon is the towering wall of the Andes, second highest mountains on earth. The capital city of Santiago exudes a different charm than Buenos Aires. Here colonial Spanish architecture is being overshadowed by the high-rises of the 21st century, yet the city bustles with a mix of tradition and modernity. And like all of these southern lands, a mix of peoples settled, thus giving the culture a cosmopolitan aura. From Santiago you can take day trips into the depths of the Andes where ski resorts sit perched precariously on dizzying slopes. A cruise through the waters that surround southern South America is a memorable experience that can begin on the pages of this travel companion. The book will introduce you to the landscapes and cultures of Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, the three countries visited.

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Customer Reviews

Perfect digital companion for this cruise. I'm only sorry it's not available in print so that my wife could use it too. I've read the entire book at least once in preparation for our Feb 18 Holland America cruise, and I expect to re-read chapters on a daily basis as we continue. The book includes a digestible amount of historical, geographical background for the countries included, along with details for each port of call. Each chapter includes a selection of pictures for the site under discussion. It does not offer information on where to eat or stay, but does give general advice on what to do at each port.

When I was looking for guides for an up coming trip I came across this title. It's perfect, for this is the exact trip I'm taking. This book covers everything in perfect detail for just the places I will be visiting. It also gives plenty of history, geography, and political background on Chile and Argentina. Other general guidebooks cover so much that you only get minor details on the specifics. Check the preview and table of contents, you will be pleased.

Reading this helped fill in the gaps between our cruise ships itinerary outlines and beginning to understand why we might want to do more than just look at scenery. I am much more excited now about the options we have. Knowing the historical background makes a world of difference!

This is not an easy read. It 'feels' like a cut and paste effort. It's a list of events when it's presenting the historical events of a country...mind numbing...I read it because it traces the route over which I would be traveling (cruising) and visits the cities I would be seeing. I did gain a good feel for each city, and in that, it was helpful. I would not recommend this to anyone who could not speed read

through it.

This was a perfect book for cruisers doing the classic South American trip. Mr. Deitch imparts advice that is practical and helpful to travelers who are likely overwhelmed by the options on a trip this rich, in an area that is likely to be quite unfamiliar. He does a good job explaining history, geography, climate, wildlife, etc. I think the book could be edited into something even richer, with more professional photographs, etc. It is very well-suited to the needs of the traveler that might have difficulty finding just what they need in the bigger brand travel book sector.

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