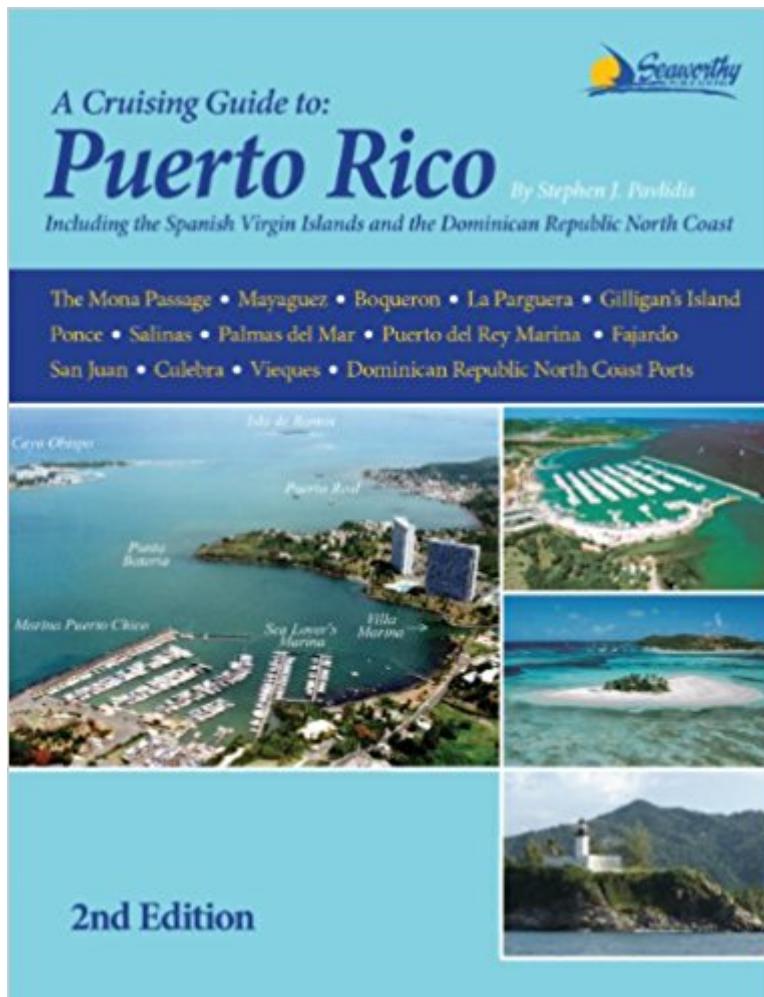


The book was found

Puerto Rico Cruising Guide, 2nd Ed.



Synopsis

A complete guide to cruising in Puerto Rico including the Spanish Virgin Islands with 53 detailed, full-color charts, color photos, GPS waypoints, piloting instructions for the whole island chain. Now includes the north coast ports of the Dominican Republic.

Book Information

Paperback: 158 pages

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Customer Reviews

Stephen J. Pavlidis has been cruising and living aboard his 40' sloop IV Play since the winter of 1989. Starting in the Exuma Cays, over a decade ago, Steve began his writing career with his guides to the many fascinating destinations he visited. Many of his books stand alone to this day as the quintessential guides to the areas he covers. His books are different than most other cruising guides in some very significant ways. All of the charts in Steve's books were created using data personally collected while visiting each area using a computerized system that interfaces GPS and depth soundings.

I really enjoyed Stephen's books on the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos. I found them to be well-researched and provide comprehensive coverage, as well as conveying the sense that the author really knew and loved those cruising grounds. Unfortunately, this is not so much the case with his Cruising Guide to Puerto Rico. The information is not comprehensive and often does not provide the details needed to plan a route or anchorage. Some areas are given no mention at all, and others are superficial at best. The info on the marinas is limited, and usually does not indicate which VHF channel they monitor. There are also more spelling mistakes, which while not a deal-breaker are

nevertheless indicative of the lack of care that went into this book. I get the feeling that he has not spent as much time here, or connected as deeply with the people and the land. As to route planning, mostly he just says to get Bruce Van Zandt's book. Most cruisers have this book (Gentleman's Guide to Passages South), and try to follow Bruce's advice, but for those who don't, or who don't like reading Bruce's endless tirades against ignorant cruisers, it would be nice to have a section devoted to transits and passages to complement the main information in the book. Another gripe is that the section on the Dominican Republic is repeated straight from the other book (Cruising Guide to Southern Bahamas and Turks & Caicos). Maybe this is a good thing, as not everyone is planning to go north to the T & C and so wouldn't need to buy that other book, but it feels like it was added to pad the book out, make it thicker. There is just not a lot of material here to begin with. The charts are also not well done. Mostly they are too small to be of much use. It is difficult to put usable charts into a book format, for sure, but the Bahamas and T & C books did a pretty good job of it. I used them many times, as a supplement to the Explorer Charts. Here in Puerto Rico I found them mostly not worth getting out the magnifying glass. So that's not a very good review. Sorry, but that's how I found the book. I don't have another one to recommend, and I'm not a writer trying to publish my own guide. I get the feeling that the author is a good guy, the type of person you'd like to buy a beer or two and thank for sharing the wealth of his knowledge in book form. But I think he dropped the ball a bit with this one.

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