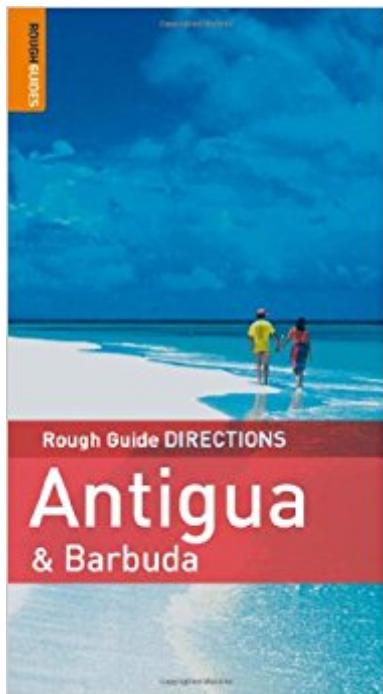


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Rough Guide Directions Antigua And Barbuda



Synopsis

Slim, stylish and pocketable, Rough Guide DIRECTIONS Antigua & Barbuda is packed with ideas for making the most of your trip to this scenic and lively island. Full-colour throughout, the guide highlights all the diverse attractions and activities, from diving at Sunlen Rock to watching Test cricket at St Johns Recreation Ground - helping you to decide what to do, 24 hours a day. Use the practical "Places" section of the guide to explore the islands, every attraction, walk, restaurant, hotel, bar and beach is given a review and organised by geographical area so you always know what's immediately around you and what's worth making a special trip to see. Rough Guide DIRECTIONS Antigua & Barbuda is like having a local friend plan your trip!

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Customer Reviews

Adam Vaitilingam is author of Rough Guide DIRECTIONS Barbados and co-author of The Rough Guide to Jamaica.

Decent book. Covers the majority of the basics, found the information to be fairly useful. When I bought this book I read a review from a person who said they never rely on just one book, but always use at least two of them together to try to get the whole picture. I did the same and used this book as well as the Antigua and Barbuda Island guide by Christopher Beale. I found this book to be more informative on the "how the island works" end of things, I found the other a better guide as far as what life is like on the island. Between the two of them and some common sense, we had a great trip.

I couldn't find many guides on Antigua. I ended up buying both this one and the Insight Guide. We used the Rough Guide more as it was organized in a way that I preferred and seemed to contain more information. At the end of the day, it's really not that hard to find your way around Antigua - nothing is terribly far away (it takes ~1/2 hour to drive across the island), the roads are decent, and there aren't too many twists and turns to get lost. There are only a few sights that you really ought to see and the rest of the time is easily filled at beaches (there are an endless number of pristine, undeveloped, private beaches and a few developed ones that seem to attract the masses if you prefer that sort of thing) doing whatever you like to do at beaches. My only complaint is that it would have been nice to have a solid snorkelling guide. For some reason, we had the impression that Antigua has quality snorkelling, but we did not find much of it (and the guides did not help in this regard). It seems there are about three places with reefs offshore that you can boat to, and one reef that you can access from onshore that is decent, but really, snorkelling is not one of the big features of the island and most beaches are sandy (and pristine - really lovely). Anyway, you really can't go wrong visiting this island. I would put some quality thought into what part of the island you would like to stay before you go. It really depends on what you are seeking: if you like to be around touristy crowds, go to St. John's or Jolly Harbour, if you are seeking a different, more private experience, I would head South and/or East. Best of luck!

Have not had a chance to use this book for touring the islands since we won't be traveling to Antigua/Barbuda for another 5 mo., but it appears to be the most comprehensive guide a tourist can buy for these places. If it's anything like the Rough Guide we used for Trinidad/Tobago, it should have the islanders in awe of all the information it contains. Looking forward to carrying all around Antigua & Barbuda when we get there.

This book neglects to mention one important aspect about traveling to Antigua. You must pay \$20 USD in cash to get out of the country. When I was there, both ATM machines were out and no one seemed to care.

If you're planning on heading to Antigua and Barbuda and, like me, value a guidebook, then the Rough Guide Directions is essentially your only option within major guidebook circles. Fodors/Frommers/Lonely Planet/Moon/Eyewitness don't bother with destinations so small, so Rough Guide it is unless you're willing to get a "Caribbean" type compendium or you want to try

something offbeat. Thankfully, this is a pretty good guidebook, but there are two things you should know before you purchase it...Number 1: this book is *old.* The publishing date says 2007, which means it was probably written in 2006. That's over six years ago now. I suppose the lack of competition doesn't give them a big incentive to publish a new one, but heck I feel leery of guidebooks which are two years old, let alone six. Now it should be mentioned that I didn't actually run into any troubles, with the exceptions of some price disparities, from the old guide--no restaurants that the book recommended had closed, for example. However, I would imagine that some of the restaurants/hotels/etc written up by the book have changed or don't exist any more. Number 2: Antigua can be a confusing place to drive around, and the guidebook could do a better job with directions. There are some maps in the book of course, but I would recommend picking up a bigger one at a car rental agency (assuming you're driving) because I had significant trouble getting around. The book isn't terrible with its directions, and by and large I did find everything I was trying to reach, but often there was a lot of frustration before getting there. Other than those two issues, however, this is a nice guide. Lots of pretty pictures, clear organization, good recommendations, etc. I am happy I purchased it for my trip. As long as you know its limitations going in, I think you'll be fine.

This book was well written, organized, and designed. The maps throughout the book were informative and helpful. (Although we did not use them for driving, just for orienting ourselves on the island and for figuring out what to do and where, we used taxis). Nice photos and clear and easy to understand system of listing places to stay, eat and things to do. Almost all of the prices are outdated, so our trip was even more expensive than we accounted for. And some store times were outdated, but that kind of stuff is to be expected. Whenever I travel I usually buy two books about my destination to be able to compare and see different points of view. And although this book was by far the more comprehensive of the two, the other book Antigua and Barbuda: Island Guide by Christopher Beale did have more emphatic personal recommendations which I found useful. Although Beale's book had faults, I found that the combination of the two books to be complementary.

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