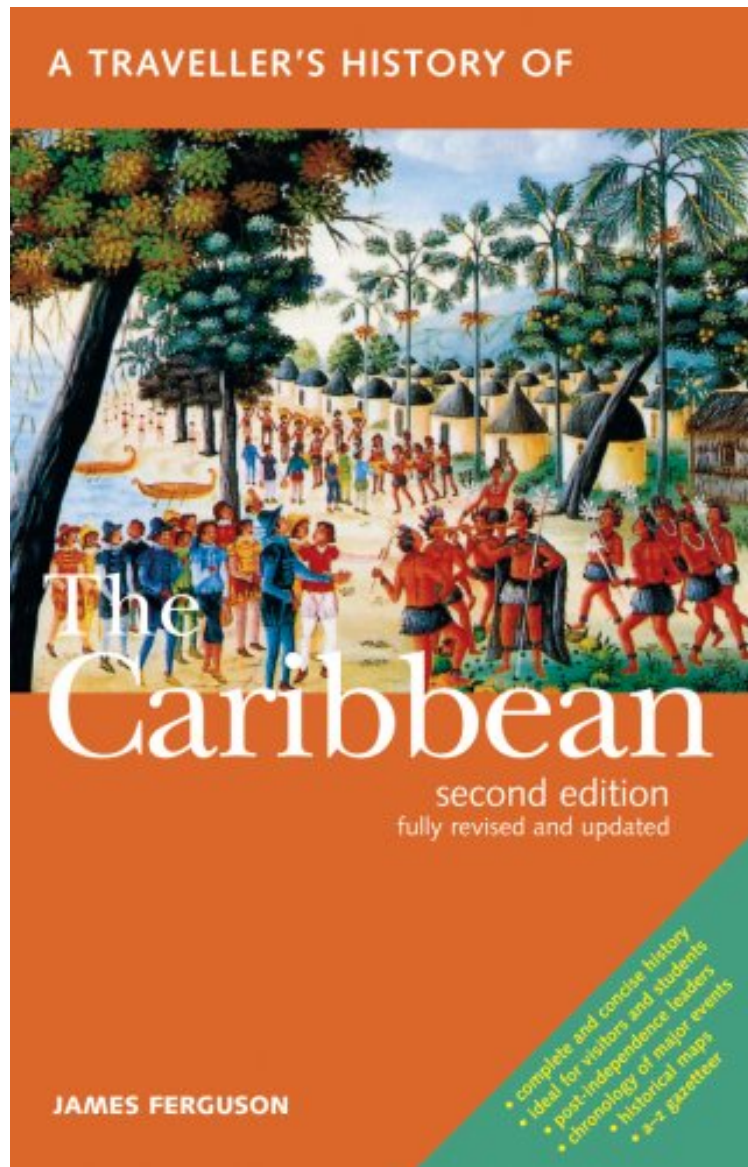


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A Traveller's History of the Caribbean

Prof James Ferguson

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Prof James Ferguson : A Traveller's History of the Caribbean before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Traveller's History of the Caribbean:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. DisappointedBy Richard A. WardI was a bit surprised when I read this book, considering it had primarily glowing reviews. There is almost nothing included about the original inhabitants of the Caribbean islands, except for the destruction of their culture. This isn't an exaggeration, it's covered

between page 6 and 12 of a book with 336 pages of text. There is very little material regarding piracy, which was a major influence on the history of a number of Caribbean islands. The book is primarily a discussion of the evils of the colonial process in the Caribbean, along with the evils of slavery on the sugar plantations. While these are extremely important topics, and had a massive impact on modern Caribbean culture, they aren't the only important events in Caribbean history. I bought this book because I wasn't looking for a text book, and most of the books available were text books. Looked at from that perspective, the book is okay, not great, but when compared against other available options it's better than nothing. I've been on a few Caribbean cruises, and found the local history museums on a number of the islands very interesting. I was hoping to get a more in depth discussion of Caribbean history, but I was disappointed by this book in that respect.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding history of the West Indies By W. Wedenoja In spite of its title, this fine book is simply a comprehensive history of the West Indies. There is scant mention of the wider, mainland Caribbean, and it's not just for travelers. That said, it is an authoritative, complete history of the area, in my view the best there is. I would like to think that travelers to the region would read a history such as this, but I'm sure they rarely do. Nonetheless, it is a very engaging read. If you like history, then by all means take it on your next cruise. The book begins with the first European contact and goes up to 2008, when it was published, covering Spanish, Dutch, British, French and American exploration and colonization of the region, as well as independence and post-independence. In addition to being well-written, I would like to note the typeface is pleasant on the eyes, the book is bound well, and it is cheap. The first edition was, in contrast, poorly bound and inclined to come apart. The second edition has a stout, seemingly plasticized cover that will travel well. Aside from that, there is little difference between the first and second editions; just a few sentences concerning recent history. I used this as a text for a course on peoples and cultures of the Caribbean and it worked well, in my opinion. You need to understand the history to understand these societies. Some of my students found it too detailed, but it is a complicated - and rather dramatic - history, with pirates, genocide, slavery and revolts.

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Good introduction to complex area By Noho48A good read, suitable for beach or pool-side, especially if in the Caribbean. Covers many topics, loops back to important islands more than once. Covers Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti in some detail. Dutch Caribbean also well covered. Smaller islands (Barbados, French Caribbean, etc.) not as well-covered because of smaller populations. Basically focuses most on islands, with little detail about adjoining continental nations. Very good place to start (or think about beginning) more Caribbean study.

The Caribbean, a region of spectacular natural beauty, has a long and turbulent history. Described by Columbus as an earthly paradise, it has enticed travellers for hundreds of years - from gold-seeking Spanish conquistadors to modern-day tourists. A Traveller's History of the Caribbean traces the island's journey from slavery to revolution to independence, and finally to tourist paradise. It looks at the history of nations as diverse as Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Dominican Republic, exploring their differences and their common experiences. It reveals a region that has created a culturally vibrant future from a tumultuous past. For anyone taking their travelling seriously, this is a recommended read.

"An excellent series of brief histories." "Exceptional... Ferguson's in-depth guide to the Caribbean - from the arrival of its indigenous races to the political climate of the region in its current state - is a necessity for the tourist whose tastes are broader than pink sands... An excellent portrait of the Caribbean. A Traveller's History of the Caribbean will be equally meaningful for both the student and the traveler." "Best travel series of the year... The best tourists are well-informed tourists... To be familiar with a country's history at a relatively deep level only enhances the tourist experience. To that end the titles in the Traveller's History Series offer sprightly and accurate historical portraits of countries and regions that are often tourist destinations... It cannot be stressed enough that the more prepared the tourist is, the better the trip will be." About the Author James Ferguson is a former researcher with the Latin America Bureau, London and is the author of several books on Caribbean countries.