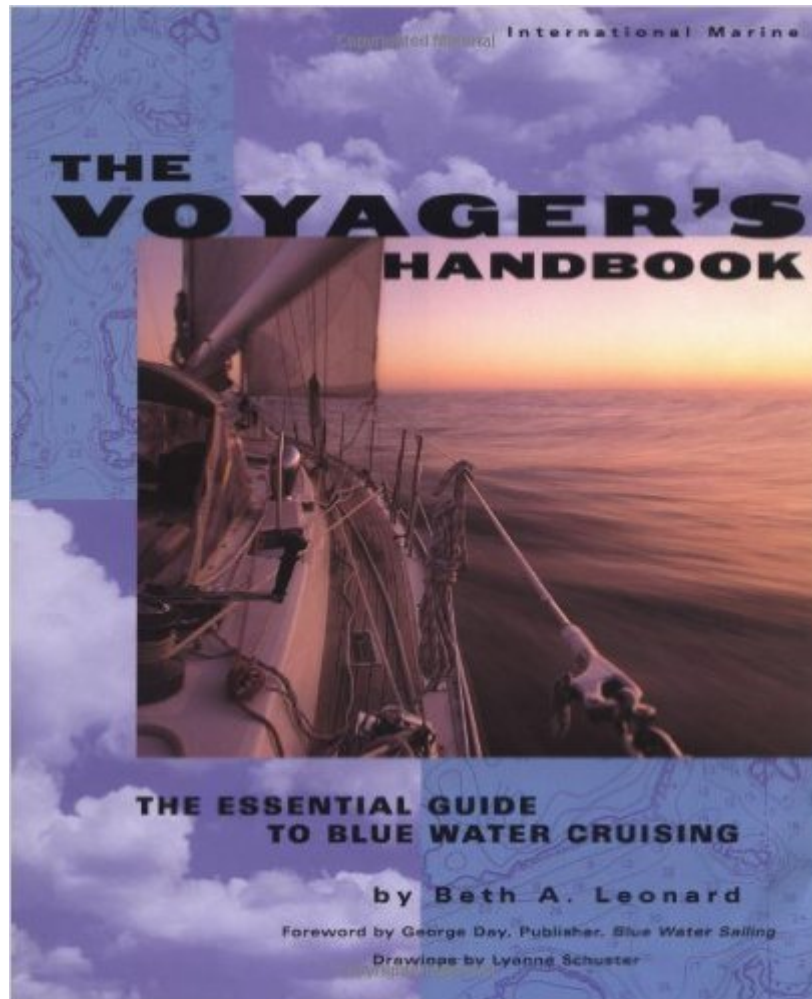


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The Voyager's Handbook: The Essential Guide To Blue Water Cruising



Synopsis

Here's how to see the world from your boat. More and more people are taking off on their cruising boats for a few months or even a year. After they've tasted the cruising life, prepared and equipped their boats, and developed some experience, many cruisers begin to dream of voyaging farther--maybe even an around-the-world voyage. The Voyager's Handbook offers specific information for cruisers considering such a vast undertaking. An experienced circumnavigator, author Beth Leonard shows cruisers how to prepare their boat and themselves. She offers complete, up-to-date information on the latest gear and techniques and detailed, hard-earned advice from dozens of experienced sailors, about boats, crew, and costs as well as crucial but easily overlooked aspects of long-distance passagemaking such as health, safety, weather, provisions, fresh water, and foreign port protocol. With a balanced, down-to-earth approach, The Voyager's Handbook tells it like it is, for any cruiser considering that voyage of a lifetime.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A few of the other customer reviews have pointed out that the author may not be the most experienced sailor in the world, and that her circumnavigation experience was limited to relatively non-dramatic tradewinds sailing. While this may be true, what I found most helpful about this book was the author's open-minded analytical approach to the issues, and the fact that she backed her opinions up with her surveys and "research" results. She also presents various alternative solutions to the reader- for example when she specs out how a cruiser can be outfitted in either a simple, a

moderate, or a complex way. This is very helpful in a field that tends to be dominated by more "fundamentalist" writers such as the Pardeys or the Dashews who bring their own conclusions very much to the table when they share their experiences. In that sense, I think her relative lack of experience can be a virtue, in that she seems to have kept an open mind.

For anyone contemplating crossing an ocean in a small boat, this is the most informative book available on the subject. Leonard successfully combines the experience of her three-year circumnavigation with the analytical skills of a high-powered business consultant--the job she abandoned. Because she was a total novice when she initially set off, she looks at voyaging through fresh eyes, no small advantage in a field too often ruled by dogma. *Voyager's Handbook* addresses every imaginable aspect of offshore cruising. I found the book to be extremely well researched, and Leonard's recent firsthand experience makes it authoritative. Definitely two thumbs up. I recommend it without reservation. --Don Casey

We bought our cruising boat one year ago. Three years before that we started buying/reading every cruising "how to" book out there. Tania Ebei's book, *Maiden Voyage*, got the whole dream thing started, and this book finalized it. You'll find each chapter complete and filled with relevant and detailed information. I have yellow highlights throughout the entire book. I refer to it monthly, especially the monthly maintenance section. It got to be my bible, until my husband thought he'd explode if I offered "Beth said..." during any of his projects. OK, so I gave some other books a shot, some written for the woman cruiser, and I joined cruising associations, but none of them have come close to the first rate information Beth provided. As detailed and meticulous as you could ask for. Before I start a project for the first time, I still take Beth out and read her chapter on whatever it is, and believe me, she addresses it all from the cost of cruising, what equipment you need and what it will cost, what each piece of equipment will draw from you batteries, how to provision, how to package the foods to prevent moisture and cockroaches etc...Buy this book!

This book was by far the most complete guide to cruising and living aboard that I was able to find. As long-time charter boat people, in mid-1999 we purchased a sailboat in France and sailed to the Caribbean, where we now live. Before leaving, we read everything we could find for advice. This book was far more complete than anything else we could find. We found that we had much less experience and knowledge than we had thought before we read it. No book has ALL the answers for living aboard and sailing, but this comes the closest.

I am new to sailing. None of the "fundamentals of sailing" books answer any of my questions about the decision and preparation required to travel the world on a sailboat. Nor do those books adequately describe the "best practices" for a successful journey. This one does. Apparently, the author was a management consultant prior to her long voyage and it shows - she does an excellent job of distilling and summarizing relevant information by use of word, diagram, and especially charts and tables, which I found to be enormously informative. But it's not just facts and figures, there is also a wealth of anecdotal information from not only her own voyage but also from the voyages of others whom she met. In summary, it is a great read even if you just skim it first and then read it later in detail, or if you just want to use it as a shelf reference. I am learning a lot about what I want in a boat and what I want to do with one and this book deserves all the credit for making me think and consider all of the many options available. I hope you enjoy it too.

I bought this book about 3 years ago as it was by far the most detailed and easily read book on the topic of blue water cruising. The book is filled with factual information as well as opinions based on the authors experiences. The first chapter covers the psychology profile of successful voyagers. This section is a must read for couples considering a live aboard lifestyle. The remainder of the book covers all the information required to live and travel safely on your sailboat. PS when you buy this book don't lend it to anyone it took me 6 months to get it back from a friend.

Beth Leonard, the author of this book is an MBA and it shows in the organization and structure of her book. In parts, much like a textbook, "The Voyager's Handbook" lays out useful information and facts in well researched tables, charts, and diagrams. Interspersed with these data driven sections are numerous vignettes and personal accounts from Leonard's 3 year circumnavigation. Her often poetic descriptions contrast nicely with the drier facts that make up the more technical side of cruising. Overall, a detailed combination of "here's what I experienced" and extensive research.

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