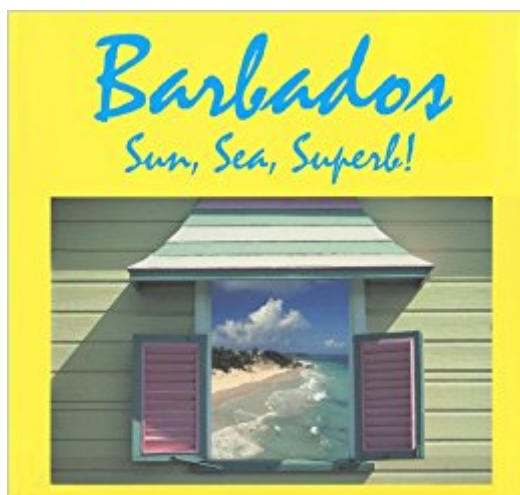


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# Barbados, Sun Sea, Superb!



## Synopsis

Barbados, Sun, Sea, Superb! is a photographic-essay coffee-table book about the island of Barbados. It covers, in photographs, maps, and text Barbados's history, culture, people, flora, fauna, geography, and scenery, with a special emphasis on the touristic aspects of the island.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Born and raised in California, photojournalist Roger LaBrucherie began his exploration of islands in the late 1960s, when he undertook his training and service as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. His formal education as an economist and lawyer at Harvard College and Stanford University has enabled him to bring an unusually deep and analytical approach to his subjects. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that his works are as highly acclaimed for their commitment to the research and accuracy of their texts as they are for the beauty of their visual presentations. Among the islands he has covered to date are: Bermuda, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, as well as the Hawaiian Islands.

"As my car crests the rise and plunges down Horse Hill road toward the Atlantic shore below, I search the still-dark eastern horizon with a photographer's anxiety: will this dawn bring that just-right balance of clouds and clear sky for a spectacular sunrise? Minutes later, with my tripod set up on the beach, I have my answer, and the sun rises majestically through the mist beyond Bathsheba's coral sentinels, as it has done for eons. Just when man first witnessed this sometimes stunning scene is impossible to say with precision, but the current evidence suggests that peoples of the

Saladoid-Barrancoid culture may have migrated northward to Barbados from their ancestral home in Venezuela's Orinoco Valley as early as the first century B.C. Few traces of their culture have been uncovered in Barbados, but from excavations at other sites they are known to have been primarily an agricultural people, who relied on fishing to supplement their diet. For the next fourteen centuries the island would be home to Native American peoples historically referred to as Indians, or, in the anthropologists' word, Amerindians. Those earliest Saladoid-Barrancoid colonizers would, over time, be supplanted by another South American people, the Arawaks, who had established themselves on Barbados by about the eighth century A.D. The traces the Amerindians left on the landscape were slight, so it is easy to forget the fact that they made Barbados their home for far longer than has the present Euro-African civilization. And yet, when the first English colonists arrived in 1627, there were no people on the island. Why? Because the Indians who had once lived on the island had already fallen victim to another people aggressively exploring and colonizing the Caribbean in the early 16th century: the Europeans. While Columbus's daring feat of navigation and discovery may have been a heroic advance from the European viewpoint, for the peoples of the New World it was clearly a disaster. The stable world the Indians had known for centuries was suddenly and violently transformed. Within just a few decades of European contact, the island populations of the Caribbean had been decimated by warfare, enslavement, loss of lands for hunting, fishing, and farming, and, above all, by exposure to European diseases to which the Indians had no immunity." --Excerpt from Chapter One: Origins

In a word, Wow! This is a superb "portrait" of this island. The photographs are absolutely stunning. But this isn't just a "postcard" view of Barbados -- there's lots of coverage of the people, history, and culture, too. The author-photographer has been traveling to Barbados for over two decades, and it shows both in his photographs and his extensive text, which gives a solid but concise presentation of Barbados' history in a very readable way without being dry. (Kind of National Geographic style.) And the picture captions are in-depth, presenting little gems of info about the picture subject matter if you're in too much of a hurry to read the whole text. I've lived in Barbados, and this has the feel of an insider's view, not just someone who has breezed through the island and shot a few pictures.

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