



## First Time Cruiser Packet – Everything you need to know about cruising.

### **Important Travel Document Requirements for Your Cruise Voyage**

When traveling on a cruise, each country you visit may have specific document requirements, such as a passport, visa, and vaccination certificates. These requirements vary depending on the ports of call and your citizenship. It is your responsibility to obtain and have the appropriate travel and health documents necessary for air travel, voyage check-in, disembarkation at the various ports of call, and re-entry into your country of origin. Failure to possess the proper documentation will result in denial of boarding.

#### **Passport Requirements:**

- Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the completion of your travel. Please check your passport to ensure it meets this requirement.
- Ensure your passport has sufficient blank pages for entry and exit stamps, as well as any visas that may be required. If necessary, allow adequate time to renew your passport or obtain additional pages.

#### **Visas and Vaccinations:**

- Visa and vaccination requirements vary by destination. Please verify these requirements well in advance of your voyage.
- For specific identification and document requirements, we strongly encourage you to contact your local consulate or embassy.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that all travelers apply for or keep their passports up to date. Government regulations are subject to change, and having a valid passport ensures you are prepared for any situation. A passport opens a world of cruise vacation options!

**Important Note:** Passports are required for all international flights. If you need to fly home from a port outside of the United States, you must have a valid passport.

### **Onboard Expense Account**

Your onboard expense account is a cashless system used for all purchases and services during your cruise. You can set up your account using a credit card. To ensure a smooth experience, it's important to inform your credit card provider and/or bank of your travel schedule before your cruise. This will help prevent any disruptions or declined transactions during your voyage.

### **The Freedom and Luxury of Cruising**

Cruise ships offer a unique sense of freedom that no land-based resort can match. With ample space and a wide array of activities, it might take you two or three days just to explore everything on board. One of the greatest conveniences is that you can visit multiple destinations while only having to unpack once.

Think of a cruise ship as a floating resort, offering all the amenities and entertainment options of a fine luxury resort—and then some. You can unwind in a lounge chair, breathe in the fresh sea air, soak up the sun, dive into a good book, or simply watch the ever-changing seascape.



For those looking to stay active, there's plenty to do. Join an exercise class, learn new dance moves, or compete in a sports contest. Enjoy a run on the jogging deck, take a swim, relax in the sauna, or work out in the gym. Indoors, you can watch a feature film, attend an enriching lecture by an expert, or enjoy a board game with friends.

When night falls, the ship truly comes alive. Dance the night away, enjoy live entertainment, or relax in a lounge. Watch a movie under the stars or join the fun at a themed party with your new friends. You can even try your luck at the casino! The evening entertainment also includes spectacular Broadway-style shows and Las Vegas-inspired revues—all included in your cruise fare, with no cover charges or ticket fees.

Whether you choose to fill your days with activities or simply do nothing at all, it's your vacation—tailor it to your preferences. The possibilities are endless.

### **Endless Adventures at Every Port**

Each port of call on your cruise offers a wide variety of activities, making it tough to choose how to spend your day. Whether you prefer to explore on your own or take a guided tour (known as a shore excursion), there's something for everyone. You can delve into ancient ruins, hunt for shopping bargains, or embark on thrilling adventures like rafting down river rapids or horseback riding across scenic hills and beaches.

For the more adventurous, why not climb a waterfall, trace the footsteps of history, or follow the wake of a waterskiing boat? If you have the time, you can also play a round of golf or a match of tennis, learn to windsurf, or simply relax on some of the world's most stunning beaches. For those who love the water, there's the opportunity to catch a record marlin, sail, snorkel, or even scuba dive. You might take a cable car to the top of a mountain or explore the mysteries of dark catacombs.

In short, cruising is the perfect way to sample a variety of new destinations and experience all the adventures you've ever dreamed of—all while only having to pack and unpack once!

### **Packing for Your Cruise**

When packing for your cruise, think of it as preparing for a stay at a resort. During the day, whether on the ship or ashore, casual attire is the norm. However, evening attire can vary depending on the cruise line and the specific occasion.

On formal evenings, you may want to dress up a bit more—consider wearing a dark suit, cocktail dress, or even a tuxedo or gown if you prefer. That said, many cruise lines today embrace a more relaxed and casual dress code throughout the voyage. You don't need to purchase a tuxedo for your cruise; on even the most formal ships, a dark suit and tie are perfectly acceptable for the dressiest occasions.

When you board the ship, it's a good idea to pack a small carry-on bag with essentials that you'll keep with you. This should include your travel documents, passport, any necessary medications in their original prescription bottles, and a change of clothes. Keep in mind that your checked luggage may not be delivered to your cabin until later in the evening on embarkation day.

### **Bringing Beverages Onboard**

Each cruise line has its own policy regarding bringing non-alcoholic beverages onboard, so it's important to check ahead. Bringing hard liquor on embarkation day is prohibited across all cruise lines. However, some cruise lines do allow you to bring one bottle of wine per person (750 ml), which must be packed in your carry-on luggage.



If you purchase alcohol while in port, the ship will typically hold it for you until the last day of your cruise. To ensure you are aware of the specific policies, be sure to check with your cruise line directly.

### **Special Dietary Requests**

Most ships can accommodate special dietary needs such as salt-free, low-carbohydrate, low-cholesterol, diabetic, Kosher meals, and other dietary preferences. To ensure that the ship can best accommodate your needs, please make your request in advance at the time of booking your cruise. This allows the cruise line to prepare and provide the appropriate meals throughout your voyage.

### **Dining Options Aboard**

Choices, choices, and more choices await you! During the day, you can enjoy a variety of dining options, including the formal dining room, casual venues on deck, or a pizzeria, among others. In the evening, most ships offer several dining venues to choose from.

Some ships feature dining rooms that can accommodate all guests at once, with designated "seatings." Additionally, many ships offer upscale dining options for an additional fee. You will receive detailed information about your scheduled dining time and available dining venues prior to sailing.

### **Cruise Ship Dining: A Culinary Delight**

Everything you've heard about cruise ship dining is true. You'll find a diverse selection of entrees, including appetizers, salads, soups, vegetables, and desserts, with different options available each day. Feel free to experiment with new cuisines or try multiple entrees, appetizers, or desserts if you wish.

Despite the abundance of delicious food, you don't have to worry about coming home out of shape. Many ships offer low-calorie, spa, vegetarian, or fitness menu options that are just as tempting as the regular fare. Most meals are included with your cruise, though some ships have specialty dining venues that may charge a cover fee.

### **Celebrate Special Occasions**

Make your birthday or anniversary even more memorable with special touches like champagne, flowers, or canapés for a small fee. If you have a special occasion you'd like to celebrate, please let us know in advance so we can help make it a memorable experience.

### **Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Services**

Nearly all cruise ships offer laundry facilities, and many also provide dry-cleaning services. Please note that additional charges for professional laundry and dry-cleaning will be billed to your onboard account. Some ships also feature self-service laundrettes for your convenience.



### **Electrical Outlets and Appliances**

Ships are equipped with 110-volt outlets in the staterooms. For safety reasons, it's best to leave your hair dryer at home, as it may be confiscated if brought onboard.

### **Tipping and Gratuities**

Tipping is a matter of individual preference. Gratuities for your cabin steward, dining room waiter, and assistant waiter will be automatically added to your onboard account. When you order from the bar, a service charge will be included in your bill to cover the tip.

You can prepay your automatic gratuities by calling Player's Travel. Other shipboard personnel can be tipped for exceptional service at your discretion.

### **Medical Services Aboard**

While cruise ships are not equipped as comprehensive medical facilities, cruise lines are committed to providing first response and emergency care to guests. Ships have 24-hour medical services, with staff operating under guidelines developed in conjunction with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

It is highly recommended that vacationers obtain medical insurance, travel with an adequate supply of medical prescriptions and devices and disclose any pre-existing medical conditions before sailing. Player's Travel and the cruise lines strongly encourage these measures to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

### **Health and Hygiene on Your Cruise**

Follow your mom's advice—wash your hands regularly! Cruise ships work closely with public health agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to ensure a healthy environment for all guests. To avoid illness while on vacation, make it a habit to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water. Be sure to wash your hands after using the restroom, before eating, and avoid touching your face.

You can also bring your own hand sanitizer for extra peace of mind.

### **Smoking Policy**

All dining rooms and most areas onboard the ship are smoke-free. There are designated smoking areas available on the ship. Smoking, including vaping, is not permitted in any stateroom or on balconies. If you violate this policy, a fee will be applied to your onboard account.