

# Ultimate Cruise Packing List

Packing for your cruise vacation can be a challenge. The only thing we can think of that you might dread more is unpacking when you get home! Through the years, we have learned that a packing list is essential. Over the years, we have have learned "the hard way" by forgetting some essential item and then having to purchase it at double (or more) the price on the cruise ship or in a port of call.

**One important packing tip** -- If traveling with a companion or spouse, divide your checked items into two (or more) suitcases. That way, if one is lost, you will both have some clothing to wear! It would be terrible for your spouse to have all of his clothes and you to have nothing but your carry-on. Also, be sure to carry-on anything that you cannot live without for a couple of days (or more), just in case your luggage is lost or delayed

**Use the list below as a starter and modify it for your personal tastes.** Some essentials and general items are found below.

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## Essentials

- Cruise documents
- Passports
- Wallet and fanny pack
- Medical insurance cards and medical history (especially if traveling alone)
- Another picture ID - if you don't take driver's license
- Credit cards - be sure to call credit card companies before traveling to alert them you are traveling outside your normal area ATM card
- Watch
- Pre-paid phone card
- Cash

- 3 copies cruise tickets, passports/visas, itinerary - pack 1 copy in carry on, 1 copy in checked luggage, and leave one copy with someone at home

- Contact numbers to report lost/stolen credit cards
- Emergency numbers at home
- Prescription drugs and any other essential medications in carry on bag
- Glasses, contacts, contacts cleaner
- Extra reading glasses
- Sunglasses
- Reading sunglasses
- Foreign language phrase book or dictionary
- Reading material - books to read while lounging by the pool
- Journal or notebook and pen/pencil - for making notes to tell your friends back home about your experiences

- Cell phone and charger
- Home and email addresses of friends/relatives back home - for sending postcards, email or gifts

- Disposable underwater camera - for snorkeling or beach days
- Digital camera
- Extra memory cards for digital camera
- Batteries for digital camera
- Battery charger
- Extension cord with multiple plug-ins
- iPod/mp3 player
- Small travel alarm clock - battery operated
- Extra plastic cable-lock ties for securing luggage for return trip (better than locks, but one time use only)

- Extra luggage name tags (in case yours are lost on the outbound trip)
- Zip loc bags of all sizes and garbage/laundry bags
- Small flashlight
- Night light
- Small umbrella

- Small first aid kit (band aids, Q-tips, vaseline, dramamine, antibiotic cream, bandages, anti-diarrheal medication, cortisone cream, aspirin/tylenol/advil)
  - Playing cards
  - Bug spray (not for your cabin on the ship, but for those pesky mosquitoes and "nonos" ashore)
  - Sun screen/sun block and lip sunblock
  - Germicidal hand cleaner
  - Hand lotion
  - Rubbing alcohol or foot lotion for soothing tired, hot feet
  - Hats/caps/visors
  - Empty folding tote bag - for souvenirs or the beach
  - Handi-wipes
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### **Women's Cruise Clothing Packing List**

- Bras (include strapless if needed for evening wear)
- Panties
- Lingerie/night gown/pajamas/robe
- Exercise/walking socks
- Trouser socks or pantyhose
- Camisole/slip
- Purses (day and evening)
- Belts
- Scarves
- Walking shoes
- Walking sandals
- Rubber sandals for reef walking and beach
- Evening shoes
- Costume jewelry and extra watch
- Swim suits
- Swim suit cover-up/pareo/sarong

- Thongs/flip flop shoes
- Work out clothes and jog bra
- Dress/outfit for informal nights on ship
- Dress/outfit for formal nights on ship
- Dress/outfit for casual nights on ship
- Shorts
- Tops of all types (sleeveless, short-sleeved, long-sleeved)
- Capri pants
- Slacks
- Windbreaker jacket
- Sweatshirt
- Evening sweater
- Raincoat with hood

### **Don't Pack More Than You Need**

Be frugal when you pack. Not only will it lighten your load.

### **Women's Sundries and Miscellaneous**

- Blow dryer
- Curling iron or curlers
- Comb/brush
- Hair gel
- Hair spray (non-aerosol)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shower cap
- Bar soap in plastic container
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss

- Mouthwash
- Tweezers
- Make-up mirror
- Make-up and make-up bag (list can be endless!)
- Make-up remover
- Cleanser
- Moisturizer and freshener
- Nail polish and remover
- Nail clippers and file (be sure to pack in checked luggage)
- Razor and shaving cream

### **Men's Cruise Clothing Packing List**

- Underwear
- Undershirts
- Pajamas and robe
- Exercise/walking socks
- Black dress socks
- Belts
- Walking shoes
- Walking sandals
- Rubber sandals/shoes for reef walking and beach
- Evening or dress shoes
- "Docksider" casual shoes
- Performance Attire (bow tie)
- Sport jacket
- Regular ties
- Dress shirts
- Swim suit
- Swim suit cover-up
- Work out clothes/T shirts
- Shorts

- Casual shirts
- Slacks (casual and dress)
- Windbreaker jacket
- Sweatshirt
- Raincoat with hood

### **Men's Sundries and Miscellaneous**

- Comb/brush
- Shampoo and hair products
- Bar soap in plastic container
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Mouthwash
- Tweezers
- Nail clippers and file (be sure to pack in checked luggage)
- Razor and shaving cream (or electric razor and supplies)

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### **Leaving Home Checklist**

To ensure peace of mind while you are away, why not run over this last-minute checklist of things to do before you go?

- > Have the post office hold your mail.
- > Stop your newspaper delivery, or have a friend or neighbor take them in for you.
- > Leave copies of your passport, any credit cards you plan to use with a family member or trusted friend.
- > Distribute your ship communications cards to friends and relatives.
- > Place a card with your name and address inside your luggage, as well as on the outside.

- > Bring your travel and health insurance information and have it handy at all times.
- > Verify that your identification and travel tickets are in your carry-on bag and will be available at all times.

## More Packing Tips For Cruises

- Never pack anything in your luggage you couldn't stand losing forever.
- Tape your name, address, phone and cell numbers inside your luggage.
- Always carry your cruise documents on you and not in your luggage or carry-on bag.
- Stuff a small collapsible light weight bag or two into your suitcase. At the end of your cruise, use the bag for your laundry or those souvenirs' you bought.
- Before your go, take a picture of your luggage inside and out. This will make them easier to identify your belongings if they are lost.
- Although you can purchase many items on ship or in cruise ports, you will often pay a heavy premium, and may not find exactly what you need. For example, film for your camera will cost significantly more once you leave home and you may not find the size or speed you require.
- Try to pack clothing that is re-usable on the cruise. For example, a men's blazer may be used on a formal night if packaged with the proper shirt & tie. The same blazer can be used with an open-neck shirt or a less-formal shirt and tie for an informal night. A formal skirt can be mixed with different blouses and/or jackets for varying effects.
- Formal nights are not necessarily extremely formal. Some passengers, who enjoy dressing up, will go all out with tuxedo's, long gowns, etc. Many women wear cocktail dresses, fancy dresses, or suits. It's like getting dressed for a nice wedding. Young boys can wear nice slacks with a shirt and a tie.
- Many ships have self-serve laundry and ironing facilities in addition to the available washing and/or dry cleaning. Sometimes it makes sense to do a load or two during the cruise rather than pack enough of everything for your entire trip.
- If you choose to travel with expensive jewelry, use the purser's safe when you're not wearing it. Although room safes are available on many ships, only valuables locked up in the purser's safe are covered under the ship's insurance (check you cruise contract, usually supplied with your

cruise documents). Frankly, we'd recommend leaving your very expensive and/or priceless jewelry at home, or in your bank's safe deposit box.

- If you're planning to buy t-shirts, hats, etc. on the ship or ports of call, why not wear them on your cruise? You'll cut down on the amount of clothing you'll bring, and you won't need to plan for extra space on your trip home. If you under-packed (unlikely), you can purchase additional clothing during the cruise.
- In the tropics, use light cotton clothing as often as possible. You'll be cooler and more comfortable.
- Plan your carry-on load carefully. A larger carry-on bag is useful so that you can comfortably carry a change of clothing. Keep your carry-on bag safe and never leave it unattended.
- Carry all documents, medicines, essentials, and valuables with you in your carry-on. If your main article of luggage is lost or misplaced, can you exist with what you're carrying?
- Do not plan to find space for a garment bag. Better to carefully pack your clothing in a suitcase than to jam it into an overhead compartment.
- Instead of bringing full-size toiletries, like a full bottle of shampoo, save or purchase smaller plastic bottles and bring only what you need. Try sealing plastic bottles in zip-lock bags for added protection.
- Zip-lock baggies, preferably the thicker freezer-type, are great for keeping things dry, especially when you go to the beach. You can stuff your credit cards, driver's licenses, cash, etc. in them and keep them safe inside your bathing suit. We recommend double-bagging them and you won't have any problems with leakage.
- There are several reasons to bring your cell telephone with you on the cruise: 1) If you run into delays, you can call parents and relatives without standing in line for a telephone; 2) You can use your telephone on the ship before it departs, and while it is still close to land; 3) You can make calls on the day you return; 4) Many ports have cellular service so that you can make calls directly without finding a phone booth. Cellular rates are usually much less than the ship's satellite rates. Some common cruising areas have surprisingly good coverage, and if you have free roaming as a part of your service, the call might even be free; 5) You never know how a cell phone will help you in transit should an emergency arise. It gives someone else the ability to call you, which is sometimes invaluable.



- Since many ships are installing e-mail and internet capabilities, you may wish to bring along a list of important e-mail addresses and web site URL's. Although this can get expensive, you might find it worthwhile, particularly if you have important e-mail messages.
- If you really depend on a hair dryer, plan to bring your own. Even if the ship provides them, you may not find them to be powerful enough to handle your needs, particularly if you have long or heavy hair.
- *A pair of personal communications devices (as kids, we used to call these walkie-talkies) is useful in keeping track of your traveling companions on the ship. As ships become larger, it becomes more difficult to keep track of one another. This is a perfect tool for young teenagers (check your battery supply!). Some ships even offer them for rent during the cruise.*
- A few emergency items are useful, particularly the flash light. It's nice to know that you have an extra light for your room, and it could come in very handy should your ship develop some temporary generator malfunctions. You'll also want to take a nightlight if you're staying in an inside cabin.

## **Top 10 Cruise Packing Tips**

Camera. Sunscreen. Swimsuit. Okay, now that we've got the basics out of the way, here are a few must-have cruise items that'll help make your vacation more comfortable, enjoyable and memorable.

### **1. On the first day...**

For the first day of your cruise, pack a small carry-on bag with your travel documents, a change of clothes, bathing suit, workout clothes, and any medications you may need. That way you don't have to wait for your checked bags to arrive in your stateroom.

### **2. Onboard attire...**

Shorts, t-shirts, slacks, trousers, casual skirts, blouses and sundresses are all perfect during the day, whether indoors or out.

### 3. For lounging by the pool...

Pack two bathing suits (an extra suit in case the other is wet) and a pair of casual shoes (e.g., flip-flops, sandals, sneakers). You'll also need some casual shorts and a couple of t-shirts or a cover-up for getting to and from the pool areas.

### 4. Onboard fitness center...

If you're planning to visit our onboard fitness center, be sure to bring extra shorts, t-shirts and socks that you won't mind working out in – plus a pair of tennis or running shoes/sneakers.

### 5. Dinner attire...

Meals in the main dining room follow this schedule:

Cruise Length	Casual	Smart Casual	Formal
5-night	3	1	1

### Suggested guidelines for these nights are:

- Casual: Sport shirts and slacks for men, sundresses or pants for women
- Smart Casual: Jackets and ties for men, dresses or pantsuits for women
- Formal: Suits and ties or tuxedos for men, cocktail dresses for women

### 6. For fun...

There are four very important types of books you'll want to consider packing:

- Poolside pleasures - nothing beats a great read in the sun
- Journal - keep an account of your adventure for sharing and reminiscing
- Address book - send your friends a postcard to make them jealous

Binoculars are another often forgotten, yet indispensable travel item. Be sure to pack a pair for magnified excitement onboard and onshore.

### 7. Save space...

Be sure to leave some room in your luggage for all those souvenirs and mementos. Some space-saving ideas include:

- Bring shirts and pants/skirts that mix and match, turning three outfits into five or six.
- Wear your heaviest shoes during embarkation and disembarkation so you don't have to pack them.
- Pack small items inside larger ones for efficiency.
- Bring an additional empty bag for those acquired extras.

Remember, shorts, T-shirts, and bathing suits are not considered appropriate attire in the dining rooms at dinner.

### **8. Onshore attire...**

You'll need comfortable walking shoes, as well as a hat and sunscreen for protection from the sun.

### **9. What Not To Pack**

Weapons, illegal drugs, and other items that could interfere with the safe operation of the ship or the safe and secure environment of our guests and crew are prohibited. The United States Transportation Security Administration also recommends that you do not pack fragile or expensive items (such as jewelry) in checked luggage.

The following are examples of items that guests are not allowed to bring onboard.

These and other similar items will be confiscated upon being found. Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, flammable liquids, explosives, and dangerous chemicals will not be returned.

- Firearms & Ammunition, including realistic replicas.
- \*Sharp Objects, including knives and scissors.
- Illegal Drugs & Substances
- Candles & Incense
- Coffee Makers, Clothes Irons, & Hot Plates
- Baseball Bats, Hockey Sticks, Cricket Bats, Bows & Arrows
- Skateboards & Surfboards
- Martial Arts Gear
- Self-Defense Gear, including handcuffs, pepper spray, night sticks.
- Flammable Liquids and Explosives, including lighter fluid and fireworks.
- HAM Radios
- Dangerous Chemicals, including bleach and paint.

- **\*\*Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages**

Note:

\*Personal grooming items such as safety razors are allowed. Scissors with blade length less than 4 inches are allowed.

### **10. Don't Pack Valuable Jewelry. Blend in - Don't Stand Out.**

Vacationers are common targets for thieves and luggage often gets lost along the way, so don't pack anything you cannot afford to lose or replace. Criminals and con-artists look for people who stand out with flashy jewelry.

Leave all that stuff home and dress so you fit in with the locals. Pack any valuable items you bought while on your cruise in your carry-on.

Too many checked bags end up as lost luggage.