



Cruise Packing Checklist

Everything you actually need, plus the things people forget every single time - and the few items that get taken off you at the terminal.

This PDF is fillable. Open it in any PDF reader - Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview on a Mac, or your browser - tick the boxes and type in the fields, then save. It also prints perfectly well blank if you would rather use a pen.

SAILING

SAIL DATE

Carry this on - never in a checked bag

Your bags may not reach your cabin for several hours after you board. Anything you need on day one goes in a small day bag you keep with you.

- ☐ Passport or birth certificate, and photo ID
- ☐ Boarding documents and luggage tags (printed)
- ☐ Credit card and some cash in small bills for tipping porters
- ☐ All prescription medication, in original labelled bottles
- ☐ Phone, charger and a battery pack
- ☐ Swimsuit and sunscreen - the pools are open before your bags arrive
- ☐ A change of clothes
- ☐ Motion sickness remedy, if you are prone to it

Documents and money

- ☐ Passport (or birth certificate plus photo ID for closed-loop sailings)
- ☐ Travel insurance policy number and emergency phone number
- ☐ Flight confirmations and hotel bookings
- ☐ A photo of your passport saved to your phone and emailed to yourself
- ☐ Cash for shore excursions, taxis and crew tips

Clothing

Cruise lines are far more relaxed than they used to be, but most still have one or two smarter evenings. Check your line's dress code before you pack a suit you will not wear.

- ☐ Daytime: shorts, t-shirts, sundresses, one light layer for air conditioning
- ☐ Evening: smart casual most nights, one dressier outfit for formal night
- ☐ Swimwear - at least two, so one can dry
- ☐ A cover-up: swimwear alone is not allowed in most dining rooms
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes for port days
- ☐ Flip flops or pool sandals



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- ☐ A light rain jacket or packable poncho
 - ☐ A warm layer for Alaska, Europe or shoulder-season sailings

Toiletries and health

- ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen - far more expensive onboard
- ☐ After-sun or aloe
- ☐ Prescription medication, plus a couple of spare days' worth
- ☐ Painkillers, antacid, anti-diarrhoeal, plasters
- ☐ Motion sickness tablets, patches or wristbands
- ☐ Insect repellent for port days
- ☐ Hand sanitiser

Electronics

- ☐ Phone charger and a USB wall plug
- ☐ A power bank for long port days
- ☐ A USB-only charging hub (see the prohibited list below)
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Waterproof phone pouch for beach and excursion days
- ☐ Travel adapter if sailing in Europe

Things people forget every single time

- ☐ A lanyard for your keycard
- ☐ Magnetic hooks - cabin walls are steel and wall space is scarce
- ☐ A highlighter for marking up the daily planner
- ☐ A collapsible tote for the beach
- ☐ Ziplock bags for wet swimwear
- ☐ A small nightlight for a windowless cabin
- ☐ Downloaded shows and playlists - shipboard wifi is slow and costs extra

Anything else you always take

YOUR OWN ADDITIONS

Commonly prohibited - leave these at home

Confiscated items are held until the end of the cruise, which means queuing on the last morning to get them back.



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- ☐ Irons and clothes steamers - the single most confiscated item
- ☐ Extension leads and power strips with surge protection
- ☐ Candles, incense and anything with an open flame
- ☐ Kettles, coffee makers and hotplates
- ☐ Hoverboards and similar self-balancing devices
- ☐ Weapons of any kind, including pocket knives and multi-tools
- ☐ Illegal drugs, and CBD products even where legal at home
- ☐ Alcohol beyond your line's allowance

Alcohol policies differ by line. Royal Caribbean typically allows each adult one 750ml bottle of wine or champagne at embarkation; spirits and beer are not permitted. Confirm your line's current policy before you pack - Katie will tell you.

Questions about any of this? Ask Katie - it costs nothing, and she would rather answer it now than have you find out at the pier. cruisingwithkatie@gmail.com