



Destiny Travels

www.destinytravels.com

Deciding what to pack for your cruise is a personal choice....

The length of your cruise, expected weather, degree of formality, and your own taste should help you to generate a suitable packing strategy. We hope you'll use this list as a starting point, and not a rigid document.

As the old adage goes.... "When packing for a cruise, bring half the clothing and twice the money, and you'll never be sorry!"

Essentials

(Packed in carry-on bag)

- Passport or Certified Birth Certificate
- Medical/Dental/Health Insurance Cards
- Extra copy of above
- Cruise Documents
- Air Tickets
- List of credit cards/telephone numbers
(in case of loss or theft)
- Credit Card(s)
- Cell Phone
- Wristwatch *(invaluable!)*
- Eyeglasses/Contacts
- Sunglasses
- Medicines and prescriptions
(in original containers)
- Headache medication
- Motion sickness medication
- Medication for stomach disorders
- Light first aid supplies
- Cash *(Small bills, especially)*
- Travelers Checks (if desired)
- Telephone Number of Cruise Agent
(toll-free and direct)
- Important Telephone Numbers
- E-mail Address List
- Phone Card
- Jewelry/Valuables *(as few as possible)*
- Sun Screen *(SPF 30)*
- Set of casual clothing/underwear
- Swim suit

Toiletries

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste/Floss
- Shampoo/Conditioner
(your brand in small plastic bottle)
- Deodorant
- Q-Tips®
- Body Powder
- Hair Brush/Comb
- Hair Spray
- Skin Lotion
- Feminine Supplies
- Makeup Case/Bag
- Shaving Kit
- Manicure Kit
- Lip Balm

Miscellaneous

- Umbrella
- Small duffel bag or backpack
- Light Sewing Kit
- Flash Light (small)

Photography Equipment

- Photographic Camera
- Lenses *(if necessary)*
- Underwater Camera *(disposable)*
- Digital Camera
- Disks/Memory Modules
- Cables *(depends on camera)*
- Laptop Computer
- Extra Batteries
- Battery Charger

Packing Tips For Cruises

Always ask your cruise agent about any specific idiosyncrasies for your particular ship. Some ships have special requirements that may affect your packing plan....

Although you can purchase many items on ship or in cruise ports, you'll 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 enjoying dressing up, will go full tilt with tuxedo's, long gowns, etc. On most seven-night cruises this is not necessary. The majority of men wear a suit or blazer with white shirt and conservative tie on formal nights. Many women wear cocktail dresses, fancy dresses, or suits. If you think of getting dressed for a nice wedding, you won't go wrong. Young boys can wear nice slacks with a shirt and a tie. The more expensive the ship, the more likely that formal wear will be worn.

Many ships have self-serve laundry and ironing facilities in addition to the available washing and/or dry cleaning. Some times it makes sense to do a load or two during the cruise rather than pack enough of everything for your entire trip.

It's quite possible to avoid getting dressed up during a cruise. How? Simply plan to eat your evening meal in the Lido restaurant during formal nights, or have room service that night. You can even have a snack and a nap at dinnertime, and enjoy the midnight buffet in casual attire. If you're interested in a totally casual cruise, ask your cruise agent how the line you've chosen handles casual evening meals. By the way, Lobster tails are commonly served on one of the formal nights. If that's important to you, ask your waiter which night the lobster will be served.

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 your 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'll not need to plan for extra space on your trip home. If you under-pack (unlikely), you can often 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 (within airline carry-on requirements) is useful so that you can comfortably carry a change of clothing. Keep your carry-on bag safe when you're in the airport. 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/misplaced, can you exist with what you're carrying?

Do not plan to find space for a hang-up bag on an aircraft. 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.

There are several reasons to bring your cell phone with you on the cruise. 1) If you run into delays, you can call your cruise agent, airline, limo service, etc. 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. A wireless phone is great for calling a cab or a ride from home, or making arrangements with friends who are already ashore. 4) Many ports have wireless service so that you can make calls directly without finding a phone booth. Wireless rates are usually much less than the ship's satellite rates. Some common cruising areas have surprisingly good coverage (The Bahamas, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Grand Cayman, to name a few). 5) You never know how a wireless 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 keep close track of an investment portfolio.

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 thick 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!)

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.

For Alaska and Northern Europe: Replace shorts, t-shirts, and short-sleeve shirts with warmer counterparts. Although you may wish to have one set of warm-weather clothing for afternoon wear on a warm day, you'll be more comfortable with warmer clothing.

For Alaska: You can dress down just a bit. Jeans are acceptable/desirable for daytime wear. Bring rain wear, waterproof footwear, wool socks, a warm sweater, a wind-proof shell, warm gloves, and a stocking cap. Although you may not NEED this much if the weather is warmer, cold (low 50's), windy and rainy weather is not uncommon along the coast of Alaska.

For Northern Europe: Temperatures can be cool during the summer, particularly in the evenings. Baltic cruises tend to be dressier. A warm sweater and gloves might be useful, particularly in late August. Absolutely bring an umbrella!

For the Mediterranean: Summer temperatures are similar to the Caribbean. Spring/Fall are cooler and more formal. Winter Cruises in the Med can be very cool, although snow/ice are not likely.

For Bermuda: Weather is beautiful from May through October, although cruising to/from New York or Boston can be quite cool in early and late seasons. Bermuda is in the Gulf Stream, while New York and Boston aren't, so be prepared for a change in weather!

Most cruise lines do not permit you to carry alcohol on board due to customs regulations. Although this is a commonly broken rule, you should be aware that you'll probably be stopped if you try to blatantly carry on a case of beer (or a case of scotch, chardonnay or champagne, for that matter!)

Highlighters - Take one yellow and one blue. He uses one color and she uses the other. Mark those activities and excursions each wants to participate in. Whatever ends up in green ... you do together! If you're newlyweds, bring just the green.

Zip-Lock ® bags - I recommend the one quart, one gallon and two gallon size. Pack liquids (shampoos, lotions, etc.) in them. Also very handy for packing away those items that just didn't get dry by the end of the cruise.

Post-It ® notes - Use them to leave each other messages and reminders. Stick them to the mirror to save space on the dresser or desk top. Leave messages on the cabin door for the steward or friends.

Closet organizers - Also in the housewares section. Get one with pockets for shoes. Use this in the bathroom to hold all the lotions, shampoos, shave creams, etc. to free up counter space. Your cabin steward will love you. The other is the shelf type. Use it in the closet for your belts, hats, purses, and (maybe) even shoes.

Spritzer bottles - I found these in my local drugstore. One quart spray bottles with a AA battery powered, soft blade fan. Fantastic for cooling off at the pool!

Duct tape - Invaluable for emergency repair of a torn suitcase or holding cabin curtains together. On hangover mornings you'll be surprised at how bright the morning Caribbean sun is! Most supermarkets have a small roll, so don't let him drag along the large "industrial size". Can also be considered "a tool" to help satisfy his "Home Repair" cravings.

First, be prepared to eat. You don't have to if you do not want to, but the cruise lines make sure you are well fed. There is dining room service which is sitting at an assigned table where you can meet others who are cruising with you. In the dining room a waiter and an assistant waiter will serve you. It is their job to make sure you experience dining like you have never experienced before. Don't be surprised if you get to hear the wait staff sing a song for the dining room crowd! Each night the menu changes and you can try new and exciting dishes. You get an appetizer, salad, main dish and of course dessert. If you decide you want to take a more hands on approach to your dining, there is the buffet style dining. Here you can even grab a plate and go sit out on the deck. You will have a wide range of choices for your meals. You can also order room service if you decide to stay in your cabin. Or get your meal and head back to the cabin. Whatever you choose to do.

Luggage Precautions

Before departure, itemize your bags' contents and their worth, and label the bags with your name, address, and phone number. (If you use your home address, cover it so that potential thieves can't see it readily.) Inside each bag, pack a copy of your itinerary. At check-in, make sure that each bag is correctly tagged with the destination airport's three-letter code. If your bags arrive damaged or fail to arrive at all, file a written report with the airline before leaving the airport.

Airline liability for baggage is limited to \$2,500 per person on flights within the United States. On international flights it amounts to \$9.07 per pound or \$20 per kilogram for checked baggage (roughly \$640 per 70-pound bag) and \$400 per passenger for unchecked baggage. You can buy additional coverage at check-in for about \$10 per \$1,000 of coverage, but it excludes a rather extensive list of items, shown on your airline ticket.