

Cruising Earth Pre-Cruise Checklist

Cruise Ship:

Embarkation Port:

Departure Date:

When Booking Cruise

- Install your cruise line's mobile app if available and create an account if you do not already have one. Most cruise line mobile apps are extensive and will allow you to do bookings, make pre-cruise purchases, dining reservations and more.
- Decide if you are going to purchase travel insurance. To qualify for full coverage, you typically must buy travel insurance within 15 days of booking your trip. It can be a good safety net for all costly non-refundable purchases.
- Book your flights.
- Book your pre-cruise and/or post-cruise hotel accommodations.
- Research and book your shore excursions. The popular ones can fill up quickly, book them as early as possible.

90 Days Before Cruising

- Apply for a passport or track down your passport and/or other required travel documents. Check with your cruise line for their specific requirements. **Cruising Earth always recommends travelling with a passport, even if it's not required.*
- Book any onboard beverage or dining packages.
- Book any onboard spa treatments and specialty dining reservations. The earlier you book the more options you will have.
- Get any immunizations or vaccines needed.

After Final Payment Is Made (typically 30 to 90 days before cruising)

- Print out any boarding passes / luggage tags and anything else your cruise line may issue to you online.
- Make a new cruise playlist for your phone. Use it while traveling, onboard poolside, in your cabin, etc.
- Arrange for any required shuttle service(s) to and from the port.
- Arrange for any needed accommodations for your pets while away.
- Order any gifts / liquor / etc. through your cruise line. Cutoff date for pre-cruise purchases through a cruise line is usually one to two weeks prior to departure.
- Make doctor's appointment to get refills on any prescription medications.
- Create a packing list for the cruise (see "What to Bring" example list below). Be sure to also check out the: [Cruising Earth - Pre-Cruise Packing Guide](#) for additional recommendations and the [Cruising Earth Amazon Storefront](#) for some great prices on cruise essentials and items you may want to make your cruise vacation run a little smoother.

What To Bring – these are general recommendations, adjust according for cruise length and cruise destination(s).

Casual Clothing

- 2 - bathing suits (they don't dry overnight)
- 1 - pair of flip flops
- 1 - pair of sneakers
- 1 - sweatshirt/sweater
- 1 - hat or visor
- ? - shorts, pants/jeans, shirts, socks, underwear (adjust quantity according to your cruise length)

Cruise Line Dress Code

Make sure you are familiar with any dress code your cruise line may have. Whether the code is for dining or any other formal onboard events. You may not be excluded but you may feel out of place if you don't have the recommended attire to wear for the occasion.

Non-clothing

- Cell phone / camera with charger(s)
- Prescriptions
- Non-prescriptions - aspirin, ibuprofen, sea sickness pills/patches, antacid, etc.
- Hot/Cold cup with a lid - take drinks to and from cabin, easily distinguish from others onboard
- Bug repellent - for some shore excursions
- Sunglasses / Sunscreen / Aloe Vera
- Flashlight with extra batteries - no need to wake everyone up in the cabin at night
- Febreze® (or similar) - keeps room and clothes smelling fresh in humid cruising environments
- Downy wrinkle release

Formal Clothing

Ladies: Dress or dress slacks and dress shoes
Gentlemen: Dress shirt & pants, tie, dress shoes or Suit/Tuxedo if you want to go to the next level

***** Don't Over Pack *****

If you don't necessarily need it, don't bring it!
Most cruise lines offer laundry services for a fee onboard. Some cruise lines offer a discounted laundry price mid-cruise.

1 Week Before Cruising

- Notify banks (debit/credit cards) that you will be travelling, where you will be travelling to and when you will return.
- Be aware of phone and text message rates, they may be significantly higher while cruising or in foreign countries. Check with your cellular company for international rates for the countries you are visiting. Your cabin phone and onboard cellular rates may be cheaper. Check with the cruise line for these rates.
- Verify your required travel identification (passport, birth certificate, etc.) is in hand.
- Pick up prescription medications.
- Arrange to have mail held and suspend newspaper deliveries: [USPS - Hold Mail Service](#)
- Print a copy of your itinerary.
- Become familiar with your cruise ship's deck plans. These are typically available on your cruise line's mobile app or website. We also have many ship deck plans available for download here: [Cruising Earth - Downloads](#).
- Leave contact information, ship name and travel dates with family in case of emergency.
- Drop off / pick up dry cleaning for any clothing items you'll be cruising with.
- Notify school that children will be out, ask for work in advance.
- Register with the US Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): <https://mytravel.state.gov/s/step>

1-2 Days Before Cruising

- Re-verify with banks (debit/credit cards) that your accounts are noted correctly for international travel.
- Pay bills that will come do when you are gone.
- Get cash prior to cruising - plenty of small bills for tipping and/or shopping in port(s). You can also at times negotiate lower prices with cash purchases in many port locations. Keep in mind ship and port ATMs typically have higher fees.
- Print any cruise line purchase (gifts / liquor / etc.) confirmations you have already and take them with you.
- Print excursion confirmations to take with you. If you purchased through the cruise line, check their policy for delivery. There may also be a copy in your cabin when you board.
- Pack luggage - Don't over pack! Cruise Packing Rule of Thumb: "You'll need about half of what you think." Don't forget you'll likely be coming back with more than when you left, leaving room for some travel souvenirs can be important.
- If you are issued luggage tags from your cruise line, attach them to any bags that you will be checking in. If you are flying to the port, it may be best to attach them after your flights, so they are not lost or damaged prior to the cruise.
- Print an 8 ½ x 11 sheet with your name, address, cabin # and phone # on it and put it inside each piece of luggage in case your luggage tag(s) fall off.
- Confirm any accommodations (hotels, Airbnb, etc.) and transportation services (port shuttles, etc.) you will be using pre-cruise and/or post-cruise.

Morning of Departure / Before You Leave Home

- Turn off or adjust air conditioning / heat & verify doors, windows and gates are closed and locked.
- Drop pets off at kennel.
- Set garage door on vacation mode (can only be opened from the inside).
- Set alarms on vehicles and home.
- Put your keys where you will easily find them after the vacation.
- Verify you have hard copies of all cruise & other travel documents, booking confirmations, and required identification with you. Do not rely on digital devices, they can break or be lost. Don't make things harder by not having hard copies available just in case.

Get on the ship and enjoy your cruise!