

The Ultimate Cruise Packing List 2025

Cruise Essentials (Do NOT Pack These in Checked Luggage!)

Passport, Visa(s), & Photocopies: Ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your cruise ends. Take a picture of them on your phone and bring physical photocopies stored separately.

Driver's License/Government ID: For boarding at ports if you don't want to carry your passport.

Cruise Documents: Boarding passes, luggage tags (often pre-printed from the cruise website), e-tickets, and any pre-booked excursion confirmations.

Credit/Debit Card & Cash: Inform your bank of your travel plans. Bring small bills (\$1s, \$5s) for tips for porters, taxi drivers, and guides.

Health Insurance Card & Travel Insurance Info: Have a digital and physical copy of your policy.

Car Keys: You won't need them on the ship, but you'll need them to get home!

Medications: Always in your original containers. Keep at least a few days' extra supply in case of delays.

Clothing: Daytime & Casual

Shorts: 3-4 pairs (various styles)

T-Shirts/Tanks/Tops: 5-7, a mix of casual and activewear

Sundresses/Rompers: 2-3 (easy and cool)

Swimsuits: 2-3 suits (so one can dry while you wear the other)

Swim Cover-ups/Sarong: Essential for moving around the ship poolside.

Lightweight Pants/Capris: 1-2 pairs (great for sun protection or cooler evenings)

Active Wear: Gym shorts, shirts, leggings if you plan to use the fitness center.

Underwear & Socks: One pair per day, plus a few extras. Consider moisture-wicking for active days.

Sleepwear/Loungewear: 2-3 sets

Clothing: Evening & Formal

"Cruise Casual" Outfits: For main dining rooms on most nights.

- Men: Khakis or nice jeans with collared shirts (polo or button-down).
- Women: Sundresses, skirts, dressy capris, or nice jeans with a blouse.

"Formal Night" Attire (Usually 1-2 nights on a 7-day cruise):

- Men: Suit and tie, sport coat, or even a tuxedo (can often be rented on board).
- Women: Cocktail dress, elegant pantsuit, or a formal gown.

Shoes for Evening: Dress shoes, heels, or elegant flats to match your outfits.

Light Jacket/Wrap/Cardigan: The air conditioning indoors can be very strong.

Footwear

Water Shoes/Sandals: For beach days, rocky shores, or kayaking.

Flip-Flops: For the pool deck and quick trips to the buffet.

Comfortable Walking Sandals: For exploring ports.

Sneakers/Athletic Shoes: For the gym, jogging track, or active excursions.

Evening Shoes: As mentioned above.

Dressy Sandals/Wedges: A versatile option that can go from day to night.

Toiletries & Personal Items

Liquid Toiletry Bag: Leak-proof!

Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash: (Preferred brands)

Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Floss

Razor & Shaving Cream

Deodorant

Hairbrush/Comb, Hair Ties, Clips

Hair Styling Tools: (Curling iron, straightener) – Check if your cruise line allows them.

Sunscreen (Lotion & Spray): High SPF! It's extremely expensive on the ship.

Aloe Vera or After-Sun Lotion: In case you get burned.

Lip Balm with SPF

Facial Moisturizer & Cleanser

Makeup & Makeup Remover Wipes

Prescription Medications: In original bottles.

Motion Sickness Remedies: Patches, pills, or ginger chews. Even if you don't think you'll need them.

First-Aid Kit: Band-aids, antiseptic wipes, antibiotic ointment, pain relievers (ibuprofen, acetaminophen), antacid, anti-diarrheal medication, laxative.

Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins

Accessories & Miscellaneous

Sunglasses: Polarized are best.

Sun Hat/Visor: Wide-brimmed is ideal.

Beach Bag/Tote: For carrying items to the pool and on shore excursions.

Backpack or Crossbody Bag: More secure for port days.

Reusable Water Bottle: Stay hydrated without constantly buying plastic bottles.

Insulated Tumbler: For keeping drinks hot or cold by the pool.

Lanyard with Plastic Sleeve: To hold your keycard. Makes it easy to carry hands-free.

Watch: You'll often leave your phone in the safe.

Jewelry: Costume jewelry is safer than bringing expensive pieces.

Beach Towel Clips: To secure your towel to your lounge chair and prevent it from blowing away.

Over-the-Door Organizer: A cruise hack! Hangs on the bathroom door to hold toiletries and small items, saving precious counter space.

Highlighter: For marking interesting activities on the daily paper itinerary.

Technology & Electronics

Smartphone & Charger

Camera & Accessories: Memory cards, extra battery, charger.

Underwater Camera/GoPro: For snorkeling and water activities.

E-Reader/Tablet: Load it with books for poolside reading.

Portable Power Bank: Essential for long port days.

Outlet Adapter/Power Strip: CRUCIAL! Cabins are notorious for having only 1-2 US outlets. Note: Cruise lines often ban power strips with surge protectors. Bring a non-surge multi-USB hub or a cruise-approved outlet adapter.

Waterproof Phone Pouch: For taking your phone near water and on excursions.

Earbuds/Headphones

Small Flashlight or Nightlight: Cabins can be pitch black at night.

Documents & Money

Passport & ID

Cruise Documents & Luggage Tags

Credit/Debit Cards

Cash (Small Bills)

Health & Travel Insurance Info

For Kids & Families

Child-Specific Medications: Children's pain/fever reliever, allergy medicine, etc.

Swim Diapers: Mandatory for any child not potty-trained in pools.

Baby Supplies: Diapers, wipes, formula, baby food (more than you think you'll need).

Stroller: Lightweight/umbrella stroller is best.

Baby Monitor: If you have a balcony or suite and want to sit outside while they nap.

Toys/Books/Tablet: For downtime in the cabin.

Glow Sticks: Fun for kids at night and cheaper than the glow toys sold on board.

Optional & "Nice to Have" Items

Binoculars: For spotting wildlife and watching sail-ins to ports.

Playing Cards/Travel Games: For quiet moments on deck or in lounges.

Walkie-Talkies: Can be useful for keeping in touch with your group if you don't buy the ship's Wi-Fi (but range can be spotty).

Wrinkle Release Spray: Irons are often unavailable for safety reasons.

Air Freshener: For the bathroom.

Ziploc Bags (Various Sizes): For wet swimsuits, storing snacks, protecting electronics.

Collapsible Laundry Hamper: Keeps the cabin tidy.

Door Decorations: Magnets to personalize your door and make it easy to find.

What NOT to Pack

- Clothing Iron or Steamer: Prohibited for fire safety reasons. Use wrinkle-release spray or send items out for pressing.
- Surge Protector Power Strips: Banned. Use a non-surge multi-USB port.
- Alcohol or Beer: Most lines prohibit bringing your own on board (some allow 1-2 bottles of wine).
- Drones: Typically prohibited.
- Candles or Incense: Fire hazard.
- Household Appliances like hot plates, coffee makers, etc.
- Weapons of any kind.
- Illegal Substances.

Final Pro-Tips:

- Check the Forecast: A week before you go, check the weather for all your ports to fine-tune your packing.
- Leave Room: You'll likely buy souvenirs, so pack a foldable duffel bag for the return trip.

- Carry-On: Pack your first day's essentials (swimsuit, medication, change of clothes, documents) in your carry-on, as checked bags can take hours to arrive at your cabin.
- Roll, Don't Fold: Rolling clothes saves space and reduces wrinkles.

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