



FREE CRUISE GUIDE

AN INSIDER'S BUYER'S GUIDE

THE CRUISE DECODER

WHICH CRUISE IS REALLY RIGHT FOR YOU?



Discover your
cruise personality.



Compare the
choices.



Build a shortlist
you trust.

BY AMIT K • CRUISE PLAN WISE



WELCOME ABOARD

Your smarter, more exciting way to choose — and enjoy — a cruise.



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Cruising is more than a vacation—it's a collection of moments you'll cherish for years. This guide brings together the two most important parts of your journey: choosing the right cruise and planning your first sailing with confidence.

Inside, you'll find simple frameworks, real-world tips, and practical checklists to help you pick smarter, plan better, and make the most of every moment at sea and ashore.

Let's turn your cruise dreams into unforgettable memories.

Amit K

Founder, Cruise Plan Wise



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



1. Start with personality

Discover what kind of cruise fits you best.



2. Narrow your shortlist

Compare ships, lines, and itineraries with confidence.



3. Plan your trip

Pack, prepare, and set sail with peace of mind.



WHAT'S INSIDE

PART I — CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRUISE

- 1 Cruise Personality
- 2 Voyage Styles
- 3 Ship Size & Cabins
- 4 Cruise Lines
- 5 Destinations & Best Time to Go
- 6 Budget & Comparison



PART II — SAIL WITH CONFIDENCE

- 7 Documents & Insurance
- 8 Packing & Embarkation
- 9 Life Onboard & Shore Days
- 10 Final Checklist



Inspiring ideas.
Real experiences.



Smart choices.
Better value.



Unforgettable
memories.



FIND YOUR CRUISE PERSONALITY

The best cruise starts with the kind of traveler you are.



1 RESORT SEEKER

Loves pools, shows, restaurants, and easy fun.

✓ **BEST MATCH:** Large ocean ships and warm-weather itineraries.

⚠ **WATCH-OUT:** Too many port-heavy days can feel rushed.



2 CULTURE CHASER

Wants history, food, cities, and immersive port time.

✓ **BEST MATCH:** Mediterranean or river itineraries.

⚠ **WATCH-OUT:** Oversized ships may feel less intimate.



3 ADVENTURE VOYAGER

Wants wildlife, dramatic scenery, active excursions, and wow moments.

✓ **BEST MATCH:** Alaska, expedition, or nature-rich sailings.

⚠ **WATCH-OUT:** Weather and motion can be less predictable.



4 EASY ESCAPE PLANNER

Wants low stress, value, and simplicity.

✓ **BEST MATCH:** 5-7 night mainstream Caribbean sailings.

⚠ **WATCH-OUT:** Overcomplicating flights, ports, and add-ons.

MINI QUIZ

Circle the answer that sounds most like you!

1 What matters most on your vacation?

- A. Relaxation & fun
- B. Culture & learning
- C. Scenery & adventure
- D. Easy & stress-free



2 You love spending time in ports to...

- A. Grab lunch and get back
- B. Explore deeply
- C. Go on active excursions
- D. See the highlights



3 Pick your ideal day.

- A. Pool, spa, and a show
- B. Museum, local café, market
- C. Glacier, hike, or wildlife
- D. Beach time and a nap



4 Which word excites you most?

- A. Entertainment
- B. History
- C. Exploration
- D. Relaxation



5 On your first cruise, you want...

- A. Big ship, big fun
- B. Meaningful experiences
- C. Epic adventures
- D. Simple and smooth



You do not need the fanciest ship – you need the right fit.

CHOOSE YOUR VOYAGE STYLE



Not all cruises feel the same — that is the whole point.



1 OCEAN CRUISE

The classic choice. Think floating resort with endless entertainment, activities, and dining options.



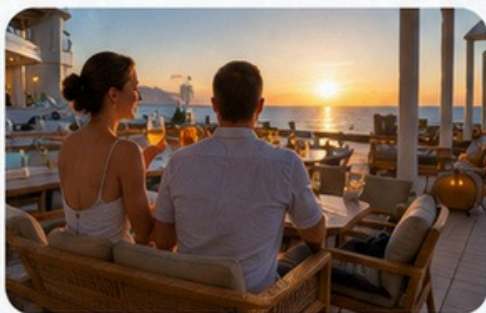
2 RIVER CRUISE

Smaller ships, iconic city-center docking and culture-rich days in the heart of every destination.



3 EXPEDITION CRUISE

Go farther. Explore rugged destinations, see wildlife up close and travel with experts who bring it all to life.



4 LUXURY / THEMED CRUISE

Elevated service and elevated experiences. Perfect for travelers who want something curated around their passions.



FAST DECISION GUIDE



CHOOSE OCEAN FOR VARIETY

Big-ship energy, more choices, and great value for a first cruise.



CHOOSE RIVER FOR CULTURE

Immerse yourself in history, food, and local experiences.



CHOOSE EXPEDITION FOR ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME ADVENTURE

Remote places, rare wildlife, and unforgettable stories.



CHOOSE LUXURY / THEMED FOR A CURATED EXPERIENCE

Indulge, learn, celebrate or relax — tailored to you.



WHERE WILL YOUR JOURNEY TAKE YOU?



SHIP SIZE, CABIN TYPE & WHERE TO SLEEP

Your ship and cabin shape the cruise more than most first-timers realize.

A) SHIP SIZE COMPARISON



MEGASHIP

- Vibe:** Resort city at sea with endless options.
- Strengths:** Everything onboard; activities, shows, dining variety.
- Ideal Traveler:** Families, first-timers, and those who love lots to do.



LARGE SHIP

- Vibe:** Big-ship amenities with a friendlier feel.
- Strengths:** Great mix of choice and comfort.
- Ideal Traveler:** Couples and multi-gen travelers who want balance.



MID-SIZE SHIP

- Vibe:** Laid-back and less crowded.
- Strengths:** Easier navigation and a more relaxed atmosphere.
- Ideal Traveler:** Couples and curious explorers.



SMALL SHIP

- Vibe:** Intimate, personal, and destination-focused.
- Strengths:** Access to unique ports and immersive experiences.
- Ideal Traveler:** Adventurers and travelers who value connection over crowds.

B) CABIN TYPE GUIDE



INSIDE

Best value for budget travelers who plan to be out and about.



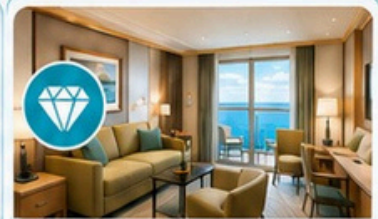
OCEANVIEW

Adds natural light and views—great middle ground.



BALCONY

Worth it for fresh air, privacy, and the best relaxation.



SUITE

More space, perks, and service for a premium experience.

C) CABIN LOCATION TIPS



Midship & Lower Decks

Feel less motion—closer to the ship's center of gravity.



Near Elevators

Convenient access to everywhere you want to go.



Away From Noisy Venues

Better sleep for light sleepers—choose quiet over convenience.

WHERE IT ALL IS ON BOARD

Top Decks

Midships

Lower Decks



Best Motion Comfort
(Midship & Lower)



Convenient Access
(Near Elevators)



Avoid Noise
(Stay Away From Venues)



BEST FIRST-CRUISE CHOICE:

BALCONY if budget allows, or **OCEANVIEW** for a practical middle ground.



VIEWS



QUIET



VALUE



LESS MOTION



CRUISE LINES AT A GLANCE

every line has a personality — compare the mood, not just the price.



Royal Caribbean

Big ships, high energy, family-friendly, wow-factor attractions.



FAMILY
FRIENDLY



LUXURY
LEVEL



NIGHTLIFE
VIBE



RELAXATION
FACTOR



Carnival

Fun-first, social, casual, value-driven.



Norwegian

Flexible dining, lively atmosphere, broad appeal.



Celebrity

More polished, modern, adult-leaning premium feel.



Disney

Family magic, top service, storybook atmosphere, premium pricing.



Virgin Voyages

Adults only, contemporary, nightlife, design-led feel.



Always compare the specific ship and itinerary — even within one line, experiences can vary a lot.



WHO SHOULD SKIP WHAT?



Skip megaships if you want quiet intimacy.



Skip ultra-family lines if you want adult-only calm.



Skip party-heavy lines if relaxation is your priority.



Skip premium pricing lines if budget is tight.

BEST REGIONS & WHEN TO GO



Pick the destination that matches your mood, your season, and your idea of adventure.



CARIBBEAN



BEST FOR

Easy sunshine, beaches, fun ports, and first-timers.



BEST MONTHS

Winter to spring.



WATCH-OUT

Hurricane season and crowding at peak weeks.



ALASKA



BEST FOR

Scenery, glaciers, wildlife, and nature lovers.



BEST MONTHS

Late spring to early fall.



WATCH-OUT

Cooler weather and higher excursion costs.



MEDITERRANEAN



BEST FOR

Culture, food, iconic cities, and port-rich itineraries.



BEST MONTHS

Late spring and early autumn.



WATCH-OUT

Summer heat and busy ports.



ROUTE-PLANNING TIP

Great first cruise length:

5-7 NIGHTS

for the Caribbean,

7 NIGHTS

for Alaska or Mediterranean.



ALSO CONSIDER



RIVER EUROPE

Intimate ships, scenic waterways, charming towns, effortless exploration.



EXPEDITION POLAR SAILINGS

Remote landscapes, extraordinary wildlife, once-in-a-lifetime moments.

THE REAL PRICE TAG

The fare is only the starting point — smart cruisers budget for the whole experience.

A) INCLUDED IN MOST FARES



Cabin



Main Dining



Buffet



Entertainment



Pools



Transport
between ports

B) USUALLY EXTRA



Gratuities



Drinks



Specialty
Dining



Shore
Excursions



Wi-Fi

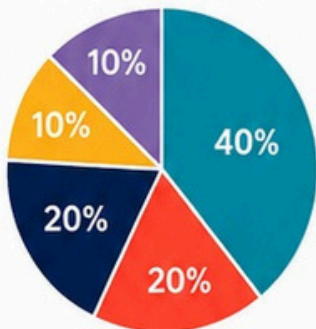


Spa



Shopping

WHERE YOUR CRUISE BUDGET GOES



- Base Fare (Cabin)
- Gratuities & Fees
- Drinks & Dining
- Shore Excursions
- Everything Else (Wi-Fi, Spa, Shopping)

C) BUDGET GUIDANCE



A practical first-cruise budget often runs above the base fare once extras are added — plan your spending early.



D) COMPARE 3 CRUISES SIDE BY SIDE

	 CRUISE A	 CRUISE B	 CRUISE C
 Itinerary	_____	_____	_____
 Ship Vibe	_____	_____	_____
 Cabin Value	_____	_____	_____
 Total Cost	_____	_____	_____
 Best Fit	_____	_____	_____



E) ADVICE

Do not chase the cheapest fare. Chase the best overall fit.



READY TO SAIL

Documents, packing, embarkation, and safety — the practical side made simple.



1 DOCUMENTS & INSURANCE

- ✓ **Passport:** Valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date.
- ✓ **Visas:** Check requirements for every port of call.
- ✓ **Boarding Documents:** E-ticket or cruise line app. Ready to go.
- ✓ **Travel Insurance:** Protects your trip, health, luggage, and more—peace of mind is priceless.



2 PACKING SMART

- ✓ **Carry-on Essentials:** Travel docs, passport, meds, valuables, chargers, and a change of clothes.
- ✓ **Swimwear:** For the pool, spa, and shore days.
- ✓ **Medications:** Bring enough for the entire trip in original packaging.
- ✓ **Chargers:** Phone, watch, camera & power bank.
- ✓ **Light Layers:** It can be breezy or cooler in the evenings.
- ✓ **What NOT to Pack:** Irons, candles, surge protectors (non-approved), most alcohol & some power strips.



3 EMBARKATION DAY

- ✓ **Arrive in Your Time Slot:** Reduces crowds and speeds up the process.
- ✓ **Drop Luggage:** Porters will deliver it to your cabin.
- ✓ **Complete Check-in:** Present documents and get your cruise card.
- ✓ **Explore the Ship:** Grab a bite, check out the activities, and get your bearings.
- ✓ **Muster Drill:** Your safety briefing is mandatory—don't skip it!



4 SAFETY BASICS



Know Your Muster Station: Find it on the ship map and on your stateroom TV.



Listen to Crew: They're here to keep you safe and informed.



Watch Your Onboard Account: Track charges daily through the app or at Guest Services.



Keep Valuables Secure: Use the safe in your stateroom and be aware of your surroundings.



TIP: FLY IN THE DAY BEFORE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

It gives you a cushion for travel delays and ensures a relaxed start to your cruise adventure.

YOUR EMBARKATION JOURNEY



ARRIVE AT TERMINAL

Follow signs and have documents ready.



DROP LUGGAGE

Porters tag and take your bags.



CHECK-IN & EECURITY

Show documents and get your card.



ONBOARD & EXPLORE

Find your way around and enjoy!



MUSTER DRILL

Mandatory safety briefing.



SAIL-AWAY!

Your vacation begins now.



— AN INSIDER'S BUYER'S GUIDE —

LIFE ONBOARD, SHORE DAYS & YOUR FINAL CHECKLIST

this is where planning turns into memories.



A LIFE ONBOARD

- ✓ Sea days are as exciting as you make them.
- ✓ Savor incredible food from casual to fine dining.
- ✓ Enjoy world-class shows, live music & activities.
- ✓ Find peaceful spots to relax and recharge.
- ✓ Your cruise, your pace—do more of what you love.



B SHORE DAYS

Ship tour vs independent tour vs exploring on your own.

OPTION	PROS	CONSIDERATIONS
Ship Organized Tours	✓ Convenient & easy ✓ Return to ship guaranteed	✗ Often more expensive ✗ Less flexibility
Independent Tours	✓ Smaller groups, unique experiences ✓ Often better value	✗ Must return on time ✗ Research is key
Explore on Your Own	✓ Total freedom ✓ Best way to discover your style	✗ Need to plan carefully ✗ Mind the all-aboard time



C MONEY & TIPPING

- ✓ All purchases go on your cruise card—set a budget.
- ✓ Gratuities are typically auto-added daily.
- ✓ Review your onboard account regularly.
- ✓ Ask about any onboard credits or offers.



D DISEMBARKATION

- ✓ Pack the night before.
- ✓ Keep essentials out for an easy morning.
- ✓ Follow your disembarkation instructions.
- ✓ Don't book an unrealistic early flight.



E 7 GOLDEN RULES FOR FIRST-TIME CRUISERS

- 1 Choose the right cruise for your style and budget.
- 2 Budget honestly and track your onboard spending.
- 3 Arrive early and start your vacation stress-free.
- 4 Carry essentials, meds, and important documents.
- 5 Learn the safety basics and ship layout early.
- 6 Get back before all-aboard—no exceptions.
- 7 Relax and enjoy—this is your time!



See you at the rail for sail-away.

DOCUMENTS, INSURANCE & WHAT TO DOUBLE-CHECK

The paperwork part is boring—until it saves your trip.



1 PASSPORT & ID CHECKLIST

- ✓ Passport valid for 6+ months after your return date.
- ✓ Carry a physical passport (not just a digital copy).
- ✓ Check visa requirements for every port of call.
- ✓ Keep a government-issued photo ID (just in case).



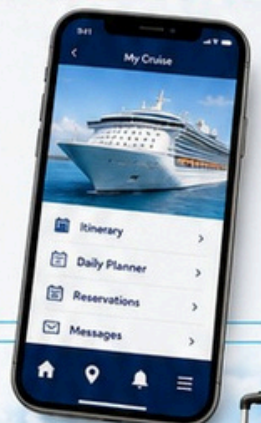
2 TRAVEL INSURANCE—WHAT IT COVERS

- ✓ Trip cancellation or interruption
- ✓ Medical emergencies on board & ashore
- ✓ Emergency evacuation & repatriation
- ✓ Lost, stolen, or delayed baggage
- ✓ Travel delays & missed connections



3 BOARDING DOCS & CRUISE APP

- ✓ E-tickets & cruise confirmation
- ✓ Online check-in completed
- ✓ Printed or mobile boarding pass
- ✓ Download your cruise line's app for alerts & updates.



4 BACKUP COPIES & EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- ✓ Make digital copies of passports, IDs, insurance & tickets.
- ✓ Store copies in email & cloud.
- ✓ Keep a printed set in your luggage.
- ✓ Save important contacts: embassy, travel insurance, cruise line & family.



QUICK CHECKLIST

- ☐ Passport valid 6+ months
- ☐ Visas confirmed (if needed)
- ☐ Travel insurance purchased
- ☐ Boarding docs ready
- ☐ Emergency contacts saved
- ☐ Copies made & stored
- ☐ Cruise app downloaded
- ☐ Payment method ready



WHEN TO CONFIRM WHAT



60 DAYS

- Check passport validity
- Research visa needs
- Compare & buy travel insurance
- Review itinerary & ports



30 DAYS

- Complete online check-in
- Book shore excursions
- Review packing list
- Inform bank of travel



7 DAYS

- Re-check travel docs
- Download cruise app
- Print boarding pass
- Confirm transportation



EMBARKATION MORNING

- Pack documents in carry-on
- Arrive early & relaxed
- Keep essentials accessible
- Get ready to Sail!

DO NOT ASSUME

Rules change. Policies change. Your responsibility stays the same.



Check each cruise line's current requirements.



Check each destination's current entry rules.



Re-check before you go—even if you sailed before.



PACK LIKE A PRO

Pack lighter, smarter, and with less first-day stress.



1 CARRY-ON ESSENTIALS

Keep these with you—always.

- ✓ Passport & travel documents
- ✓ Medications & prescriptions
- ✓ Swimwear & cover-up
- ✓ Chargers, cables & adapters
- ✓ Valuables (jewelry, electronics)
- ✓ One change of clothes



2 CHECKED BAG BASICS

Pack smart for comfort and style.

- ✓ Daywear (shorts, tees, casuals)
- ✓ Dinner outfits (smart casual)
- ✓ Layers (light jacket, sweater)
- ✓ Toiletries & personal care
- ✓ Shoes (comfortable + dressy)



3 WHAT NOT TO PACK

Leave these at home—they're not allowed.

- ✗ Irons / Steamers
- ✗ Candles / Incense
- ✗ Non-approved power strips
- ✗ Bulky extras you won't use



4 SHORE DAY MINI-KIT

Small kit. Big difference.

- ✓ Sun protection (sunscreen, hat)
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ ID copy / photo of passport
- ✓ Cash (small bills)
- ✓ Portable charger



5 OUTFIT PLANNER

Plan ahead, pack less, look great.



SEA DAYS



PORT DAYS



EVENING DINING



TIP: Roll, don't fold. Use packing cubes.
Label chargers. Weigh your bag.

*Pack once.
Enjoy more.*



THE CRUISE DECODER

EMBARKATION DAY GAME PLAN

A smooth first day sets the tone for the whole cruise.



1 ARRIVE AT TERMINAL

- ✓ Arrive in your time slot.
- ✓ Have IDs and documents ready.
- ✓ Follow signs and staff instructions.



2 DROP LUGGAGE

- ✓ Use porters to check your bags.
- ✓ Attach luggage tags provided.
- ✓ Your bags will deliver to your cabin later.



3 CHECK-IN & SECURITY

- ✓ Check in & get your cruise card.
- ✓ Go through security screening.
- ✓ Keep your card handy — it's your key to everything!



4 BOARD THE SHIP

- ✓ Walk the gangway with excitement!
- ✓ Greeted with smiles & refreshments.
- ✓ Get ready to explore your floating resort.



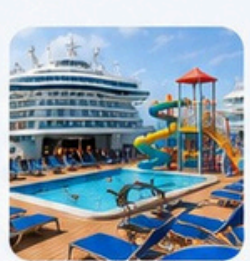
5 MUSTER DRILL

- ✓ Mandatory for your safety.
- ✓ Find your muster station (on your card).
- ✓ Pay attention — it's quick and important.



6 FIRST AFTERNOON SMART MOVES

- ✓ Unpack light & settle in.
- ✓ Explore the ship while it's quiet.
- ✓ Check the daily planner for must-do activities.



FIRST DAY DO THIS



EAT WELL

Grab lunch early or late to avoid the rush.



EXPLORE

Walk every deck. Get to know your new playground.



BOOK KEY RESERVATIONS

Reserve shows, specialty dining & activities early.



FIND YOUR CABIN

Settle in, check storage spots, and test everything.



CARRY ESSENTIALS WITH YOU

Medications, chargers, swimsuit, IDs, and valuables.



DON'T DO THIS



ARRIVE TOO LATE

You might miss check-in and experience longer lines.



PACK MEDS IN CHECKED BAGS

Keep medications and essentials with you.



SKIP THE MUSTER DRILL

It's required for your safety and peace of mind.



OVERBOOK THE FIRST AFTERNOON

Don't overschedule — you'll miss the fun and feel rushed.



IGNORE THE DAILY PLANNER

You might miss important info and exciting events.

TIP:



TAKE IT EASY, STAY CURIOUS, AND SMILE — you're on cruise time now!



SAFETY, MUSTER & SMART ONBOARD HABITS

Cruise safety is simple when you know the basics early.

1 KNOW YOUR MUSTER STATION

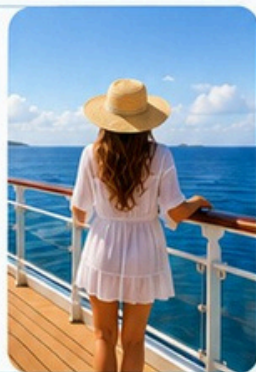


- ✓ Your muster station is assigned on your key card.
- ✓ Locate it on embarkation day.
- ✓ Attend the short drill. It's quick and important.
- ✓ In an emergency, follow crew instructions calmly.

2 BALCONY & DECK SAFETY



- ✓ Never climb or sit on railings.
- ✓ Walk, don't run—surfaces can be slippery.
- ✓ Keep doors closed in wind.
- ✓ Watch children at all times.
- ✓ Follow posted pool & deck safety rules.



3 SUN, HEAT & HYDRATION



- ✓ Use reef-safe sunscreen SPF 30+ and reapply.
- ✓ Wear a hat, sunglasses and light clothing.
- ✓ Stay hydrated—drink water throughout the day.
- ✓ Take breaks in the shade when needed.



4 VALUABLES & CABIN SAFE



- ✓ Use your in-cabin safe for passport, cash, jewelry and electronics.
- ✓ Keep your key card and phones secure.
- ✓ Report lost items immediately.
- ✓ Don't leave valuables unattended.

5 WHEN TO ASK CREW FOR HELP



- ✓ Feeling ill or injured?
- ✓ Unfamiliar with the ship or the schedule?
- ✓ Need accessibility assistance?
- ✓ See something unsafe?

We're here to help.
Don't hesitate.



SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

A little awareness today leads to worry-free memories tomorrow.



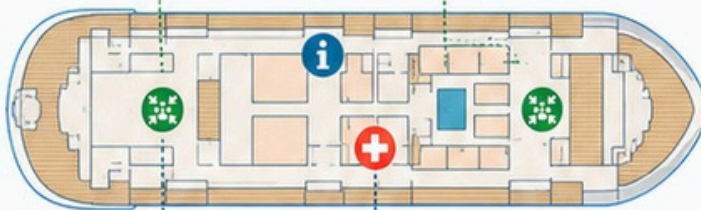
YOUR SHIP: KEY LOCATIONS



MUSTER STATION
(Your Assigned Point)



SAFE MEETING POINT
(Open area outside in case of emergency)



GUEST SERVICES
(Help Desk)

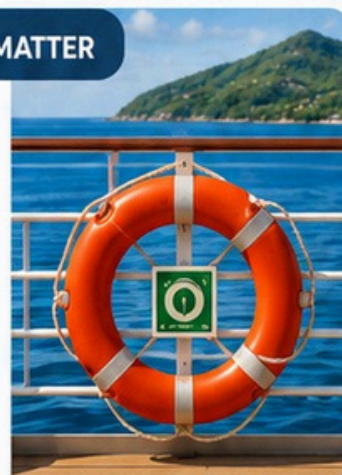


MEDICAL CENTER
(Deck 2)



SAFETY HABITS THAT MATTER

- ✓ Listen to all announcements.
- ✓ Watch your footing—especially when wet.
- ✓ Use handrails on stairs and around the ship.
- ✓ Hydrate and pace yourself.
- ✓ Respect all-aboard time.



LIFE ONBOARD: FOOD, FUN & FINDING YOUR PACE

A cruise works best when you mix excitement with downtime.

1 DINING OPTIONS



Main Dining
Sit-down meals
with friendly
service & variety.



Buffet & Casual
Endless choices,
whenever
hunger strikes.



Specialty Spots
Unique flavors &
experiences worth
savoring.



2 ENTERTAINMENT



Broadway-style
shows & comedy



Live music &
rock the night



Themed parties &
dance floors



Enrichment talks,
workshops &
cultural sessions



3 QUIET CORNERS



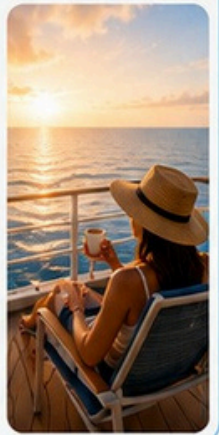
Sun-deck
loungers &
quiet nooks



Library,
lounges &
observation
decks



Sunrise coffee
moments that
stay with you



4 SEA DAY IDEAS



Pool time &
splash zones



Spa &
wellness
retreats



Walking deck &
fitness classes



Trivia, games &
team challenges



Read, relax &
unplug



5 FAMILY / ADULTS-ONLY BALANCE



Kids' clubs &
family adventures



Adults-only
zones for
peace & quiet



Mix together
today, then
recharge
separately



Everyone
gets their
perfect day



BUILD YOUR PERFECT SEA DAY

MORNING

- ✓ Sunrise walk on deck
- ✓ Hearty breakfast
- ✓ Spa or workout
- ✓ Pool time or reading



AFTERNOON

- ✓ Lunch with a view
- ✓ Fun in the sun
- ✓ Trivia or activity
- ✓ Nap or quiet time



EVENING

- ✓ Sunset on deck
- ✓ Dinner & wine
- ✓ Catch a show
- ✓ Dance & celebrate



Find your rhythm. Enjoy every moment.

SHORE DAYS THAT ACTUALLY WORK

The best port days balance freedom, timing, and zero panic.

3 WAYS TO EXPLORE YOUR PORTS

1 SHIP-ORGANIZED TOURS



Easy, convenient, and worry-free.

PROS

- ✓ On-time guarantee
- ✓ No planning needed
- ✓ Expert local guides
- ✓ Air-conditioned transport
- ✓ Great for first-time visitors

CONS

- ✗ More expensive
- ✗ Larger groups
- ✗ Less flexibility
- ✗ Popular tours sell out

2 INDEPENDENT TOURS



More choice, often better value.

PROS

- ✓ More affordable
- ✓ Smaller groups
- ✓ Unique experiences
- ✓ Flexible itineraries
- ✓ Support local businesses

CONS

- ✗ You manage time
- ✗ Return delays are your risk
- ✗ Research is required

3 EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN



Your adventure, your pace.

PROS

- ✓ Total freedom
- ✓ Set your own plan
- ✓ Best for city strolls & beaches
- ✓ Budget friendly
- ✓ Spontaneous & fun

CONS

- ✗ You manage time
- ✗ Navigation can be tricky
- ✗ Fewer amenities in some areas

PORT-DAY CHECKLIST



KNOW ALL-ABOARD TIME

Check it the night before and set a reminder.



CARRY ESSENTIALS

ID, room key, cash/card, phone, charger, meds, sunscreen.



LEAVE BUFFER TIME

Plan to be back at least 60–90 minutes early.



CHECK LOCAL WEATHER

Dress smart and pack for the forecast.



KEEP THE SHIP ADDRESS

Save it in your phone and carry a card.

SMART PORT DAY FLOW (SAMPLE TIMELINE)

- 7:00 AM **BREAKFAST ONBOARD**
Fuel up and check the plan.
- 8:00 AM **DISEMBARK & EXPLORE**
Head out as crowds thin.
- 9:00 AM **TOP EXPERIENCE**
Do your must-do first.
- 12:30 PM **LUNCH & RELAX**
Enjoy local food & vibe.
- 2:00 PM **EXPLORE & SHOP**
Stroll, shop, and soak it in.
- 4:00 PM **HEAD BACK**
Return with plenty of time.
- 4:30 PM **RETURN TO SHIP**
Refresh and relax onboard.

WHERE COULD YOU GO?



MISTAKES TO AVOID

- ✗ Overbooking your day—leave time to enjoy.
- ✗ Ignoring all-aboard time—ships don't wait.
- ✗ Underestimating travel time back to port.
- ✗ Skipping the weather check—pack smart.
- ✗ Losing your ship card or ID—keep it safe.
- ✗ Wandering without a plan or map.

Great port days are planned with smart choices and plenty of time to soak it all in.

BEAT MOTION & STAY HEALTHY AT SEA

A few simple habits can make your first cruise much more comfortable.

1 SEA SICKNESS PREVENTION

A little prep goes a long way.



Choose Midship

Book a midship, lower-deck cabin for the smoothest ride.



Get Fresh Air

Step outside, look at the horizon, and take slow, deep breaths.



Eat Light

Avoid heavy, greasy foods. Stick to simple, bland meals.



Medications & Patches

Consider motion sickness meds or patches if you're prone to nausea.

BEST CABIN ZONES FOR LOWER MOTION



AVOID

Forward (bow) and Aft (stern) feel more motion.



BEST CHOICE

Midship is the most stable both ways.



GOOD OPTION

Lower to mid decks reduce movement significantly.



PRO TIP: Avoid very high decks if possible — the higher you go, the more you feel the motion.

2 DAILY COMFORT

Small habits. Big difference.



Hydrate Often

Drink water throughout the day. Avoid too much alcohol or caffeine.



Sun Smart

Use sunscreen, wear a hat, and reapply often.



Sleep Well

Keep a consistent sleep routine to help your body adjust.



Move Lightly

Short walks and stretching improve circulation and reduce fatigue.



3 MEDICAL CENTER & WHEN TO GO



Onboard medical centers are staffed by professionals.



Go for persistent symptoms, injuries, high fever, or anything that concerns you.



There is a charge for services and medications.



Most major insurances work at sea — keep your details handy.

4 ACCESSIBILITY / MOBILITY TIPS



Plan Ahead

Request mobility assistance at the time of booking.



Use Elevators Smartly

Ships are big — plan extra time between venues.



Accessible Cabins

Book early for wheelchair-friendly or roll-in showers.



Ask for Help

Crew members are always happy to assist — just ask.

5 IF YOU FEEL OFF

- ✓ Step outside and get fresh air.
- ✓ Look at the horizon. Don't stare at screens.
- ✓ Sip water or an electrolyte drink.
- ✓ Avoid heavy foods and alcohol.
- ✓ Rest in your cabin in a cool, quiet space.
- ✓ Try motion sickness meds or patches.
- ✓ Symptoms persist? Visit the medical center.



A well body makes the best travel companion. ♥



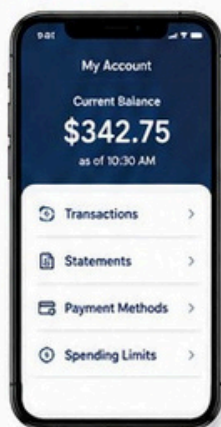
MONEY, TIPPING & ONBOARD SPENDING

You do not need to overspend to enjoy a great cruise.



1 HOW ONBOARD SPENDING WORKS

- Your cruise card (or app) is your key to everything onboard.
- All purchases are charged to your account.
- Settle once at the end with your linked card.
- Track in the app or at kiosks anytime.



2 COMMON EXTRAS

These are the most common additional costs.

- Drinks**
Alcohol, specialty drinks, coffees
- Wi-Fi**
Browse, stream, stay connected
- Specialty Dining**
Upscale restaurants & chef experiences
- Excursions**
Shore tours & unique experiences
- Spa & Wellness**
Massages, treatments & salon services
- Shopping**
Souvenirs, apparel & duty-free

3 GRATUITIES & SERVICE CHARGES

- Most cruises add daily service gratuities automatically to your account. It covers your dining, housekeeping, and behind-the-scenes service teams.

It's not extra—it's how great service happens.

★ You can adjust or prepay gratuities in advance if your cruise line allows.

TYPICAL DAILY AMOUNTS (USD)

Standard Stateroom	\$16 – \$18 per guest
Suites	\$18 – \$23 per guest

4 SMART WAYS TO SAVE

- Set a daily budget**
Decide your spend limit and stick to it.
- Check your account often**
Small purchases add up. Stay aware, stay in control.
- Skip impulse upsells**
Say no to things you don't truly want or need.



SPEND SMART, SAIL HAPPY!

WHERE CRUISERS SPEND (TYPICAL SPLIT)



5 DAILY BUDGET TRACKER

Plan it. Track it. Enjoy it.

CATEGORY	BUDGET (USD)	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	TOTAL
Drinks	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Dining (Specialty)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Excursions	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Shopping	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Wi-Fi / Spa / Other	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL SPEND	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____



BUDGET LEAKS

Watch out for these sneaky spenders.



Impulse Drinks
"Just one more" round" adds up.



Port Shopping
Prices ashore can be much higher.



Auto Add-Ons
Extra Wi-Fi or photo packages you forget.



Photo Traps
Photo packages sell themselves.



FOMO Purchases
You don't need everything.



PRO TIP: Plan your splurges, enjoy them guilt-free, and save on what doesn't truly matter.



THE CRUISE DECODER

DISEMBARKATION WITHOUT STRESS

Your last morning should feel organized—
not rushed and chaotic.

1 THE NIGHT BEFORE

- ✓ Pack most of your luggage—use all the space!
- ✓ Keep essentials out (clothes, meds, docs, chargers, etc.).
- ✓ Review your bill and settle any charges.
- ✓ Set alarms and plan your morning.



Label your luggage tags the night before if required.

2 DISEMBARKATION MORNING

- ✓ Enjoy breakfast and stay on schedule.
- ✓ Listen for your luggage group or self-carry instructions.
- ✓ Have your documents and keycard ready.
- ✓ Exit calmly and follow crew directions.



Self-carry? Keep it light and easy to manage.

3 TRANSFERS & FLIGHTS

- ✓ Allow plenty of buffer time.
- ✓ Consider traffic, border checks, and airport lines.
- ✓ Do not book unrealistic flights on disembarkation day.



Safe bet: 6+ hours before your flight departure.

4 CUSTOMS / PORT EXIT BASICS



Keep passport and keycard handy.



Follow signs to immigration (if applicable).



Collect luggage and proceed to customs.



Declare items if required and exit the terminal.



5 LAST MORNING TIMELINE



7:00 AM
Wake up & freshen up



7:30 AM
Have breakfast & relax



8:30 AM
Listen for luggage group or self-carry instructions



9:15 AM
Leave your cabin & head off the ship



9:45 AM +
Collect luggage (if any), clear customs & exit terminal



PRO TIP: Times vary by ship and port. Always check your daily program for exact instructions.

DO THIS

- ✓ Plan ahead and follow the process.
- ✓ Keep essentials with you.
- ✓ Allow buffer time for everything.
- ✓ Stay patient and follow crew guidance.
- ✓ End your cruise with calm and confidence.



DO THIS, NOT THAT



NOT THAT

- ✗ Don't oversleep or miss announcements.
- ✗ Don't overpack last-minute.
- ✗ Don't book tight or unrealistic flights.
- ✗ Don't ignore instructions or signage.
- ✗ Don't rush—chaos steals the joy!

You did it—now take those memories and go even further.

FIRST-TIMER FAQ & FINAL GOLDEN RULES

The answers you are most likely to need right before you sail.



FAQ: QUICK ANSWERS



1. WILL I FEEL THE SHIP MOVE?

You might, on day 1 or in rough seas. Mid-ship, lower decks feel the least motion.



2. DO I NEED CASH?

No. Your ship card handles everything. Carry a little cash only for ports.



3. WHAT IF I GET SICK?

Visit Guest Services or the Medical Center. Seasickness meds help—take early.



4. CAN I BRING A POWER STRIP?

Yes—most allow non-surge protected strips (no extension cords or surge protectors).



5. SHOULD I BUY WI-FI?

Yes, if you need to stay connected. Buy early for better prices and easy planning.



6. HOW EARLY SHOULD I RETURN TO THE SHIP?

Aim to be back at least 60–90 minutes before the all-aboard time. Don't be the one left behind!



7. WHAT SHOULD I CARRY ON EMBARKATION DAY?

Essentials: docs, meds, chargers, swimwear, change of clothes, and anything you can't live without until your bags arrive.



8. DO I NEED SPECIALTY DINING?

Not at all—but it can be worth it for special occasions or if you love unique cuisines.



9. IS IT FAMILY-FRIENDLY?

Absolutely! Kids' clubs, family activities, pools, and shows make it fun for all ages.



10. HOW DOES TIPPING WORK?

Gratuities are usually added daily to your account. You can adjust or prepay.

7 GOLDEN RULES

OF SMART FIRST-TIME CRUISERS

1

PLAN SMART, NOT HARD

A little planning now = a lot more joy later.



2

PICK THE RIGHT FIT

Your perfect cruise matches your style, budget & pace.



3

BUDGET LIKE A PRO

Know what's included. Decide what's worth extra.



4

ARRIVE PREPARED

Documents, packing, and mindset—set the tone for a smooth start.



5

SAVOR THE EXPERIENCE

Try new things, make memories, and be present.



6

STAY SAFE & AWARE

Follow guidelines, watch your surroundings, and enjoy with confidence.



7

BE KIND & CONSIDERATE

Small acts = big impact. Good vibes make better cruises.



FINAL PRE-SAIL CHECKLIST

- ☒ Passport & ID ready
- ☒ Cruise documents saved (digital + print)
- ☒ Flight & transfers confirmed
- ☒ Packing done (essentials + extras)
- ☒ Online check-in completed
- ☒ Shore plans & return times noted
- ☒ Travel insurance in place
- ☒ Mindset set to joyful & flexible!



*You do not need
the fanciest cruise—
YOU NEED
THE RIGHT FIT AND
A SOLID PLAN.*



KEEP THIS IN MIND

- ★ It's normal to feel excited and a little nervous.
- ★ You cannot do it all—focus on what matters most to you.
- ★ Things won't always go as planned—that's part of the adventure.
- ★ Ask questions, be curious, and say yes more often.
- ★ The best cruises aren't perfect—they're unforgettable.



WE PLAN. YOU SAIL. UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES AWAIT.



BEST CRUISE REGIONS & WHEN TO GO



The right destination at the right time makes everything easier.



1 CARIBBEAN



BEST MONTHS
December – April



VIBE
Sunny, relaxed, fun



WEATHER
Warm & dry, low rain



BEST FOR
Beaches, easy getaways,
families & first-time cruisers

2 MEDITERRANEAN



BEST MONTHS
April – October



VIBE
Historic, vibrant, foodie



WEATHER
Warm summers,
mild shoulders



BEST FOR
Culture, history,
food & iconic cities

3 ALASKA



BEST MONTHS
May – September



VIBE
Wild, scenic, serene



WEATHER
Cool, crisp, variable



BEST FOR
Nature, wildlife,
glaciers & adventure

4 NORTHERN EUROPE



BEST MONTHS
May – September



VIBE
Charming, cultural, cozy



WEATHER
Mild summers,
cool evenings



BEST FOR
Cities, castles, fjords
& northern charm

5 ASIA / SOUTH PACIFIC



BEST MONTHS
May – October



VIBE
Exotic, laid-back, tropical



WEATHER
Warm & humid,
rainy season varies



BEST FOR
Islands, snorkeling,
unique cultures

QUICK COMPARE

- 1 CARIBBEAN
- 2 MEDITERRANEAN
- 3 ALASKA
- 4 NORTHERN EUROPE
- 5 ASIA / SOUTH PACIFIC



SUN



CULTURE



WILDLIFE



VALUE



FIRST-TIMER
FRIENDLY



PEAK VS SHOULDER SEASON

PEAK SEASON

PROS

- ✓ Best weather
- ✓ More activities
- ✓ Everything is open

CONS

- ✗ Higher prices
- ✗ Bigger crowds
- ✗ Book earlier

SHOULDER SEASON

PROS

- ✓ Lower prices
- ✓ Fewer crowds
- ✓ Great weather (most times)

CONS

- ✗ Some rain possible
- ✗ Fewer sailing dates
- ✗ Limited holiday vibes



BEST FIRST-CRUISE BETS



CARIBBEAN

Easy to reach, sunny,
relaxing & packed with
beachy fun.



MEDITERRANEAN

Incredible mix of culture,
scenery, food & unforgettable
ports.



PRO TIP

- ✓ Plan your trip around your ideal weather & crowd level.
- ✓ Book early for peak season, or be flexible and save big in shoulder season.
- ✓ Pack for the season—layers are your best friend!

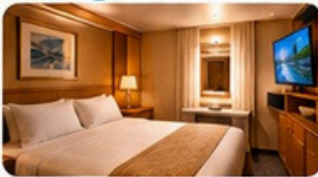


CABIN CLASSES, FARE TYPES & WHAT YOU REALLY GET

Not all cruise deals are equal—know what you are buying.

1 CABIN CLASSES: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

INSIDE



PROS

- Most affordable
- Great for sleeping & saving

CONSIDER

- No windows
- Can feel smaller

OCEANVIEW



PROS

- Natural light & views
- Feels more open

CONSIDER

- Window can't open
- May cost more

BALCONY



PROS

- Private outdoor space
- Great for scenery & fresh air

CONSIDER

- Higher price point
- Usually most popular

SUITE



PROS

- More space & comfort
- Extra perks & priority

CONSIDER

- Highest cost
- Diminishing returns for some

2 FARE TYPES: PICK YOUR PRIORITY

BASIC / SAVER FARE

Lowest upfront price.



- ✓ Lowest price
- ✓ Most restrictions
- ✓ Changes often not allowed
- ✓ Limited or no perks

STANDARD FARE

Best balance of value & flexibility.



- ✓ Flexible changes (varies by line)
- ✓ Some perks included
- ✓ Better cancellation terms
- ✓ Great for most cruisers

PREMIUM / ALL-INCLUDED FARE

More upfront—more included.



- ✓ Drinks, Wi-Fi, tips & more
- ✓ Best flexibility & cancellation terms
- ✓ Exclusive perks & priority
- ✓ Worry less, enjoy more

3 WHAT'S INCLUDED? (TYPICAL BY FARE TYPE)

FEATURE	BASIC / SAVER	STANDARD	PREMIUM / ALL-INCLUDED
Flexibility to change dates	✗ (rarely)	○ (some)	✓ (usually)
Onboard perks (credits, discounts)	✗	○	✓
Wi-Fi	✗ (add-on)	○ (add-on)	✓ (included)
Drinks (alcoholic)	✗	○ (packages)	✓ (included)
Prepaid gratuities / tips	✗ (add-on)	○ (optional)	✓ (included)
Specialty dining	✗ (add-on)	○ (select)	✓ (most included)
Shore excursion credit	✗	○ (sometimes)	✓ (often)
Priority boarding & reservations	✗	○ (some)	✓ (usually)

✓ Included ○ Sometimes / Limited ✗ Not Included

4 BEST VALUE FOR FIRST-TIMERS

GO OCEANVIEW OR BALCONY WITH A STANDARD FARE.

- ✓ Great views + outdoor space (if balcony)
- ✓ Good balance of price, perks & flexibility
- ✓ Easy to upgrade later if you fall in love!



WHEN TO UPGRADE

- ☐ Celebrating a special trip or milestone
- ☐ Longer cruises (7+ nights)
- ☐ You value comfort, quiet & space
- ☐ You want perks, Wi-Fi & drinks included
- ☐ You plan to book last-minute or during high-demand seasons



TIP: Watch for promotions—upgrades can be more affordable than you think!



The right cabin. The right fare. The right experience.
PLAN SMART. CRUISE BETTER. ❤️



CRUISING WITH KIDS & TEENS

Family cruising is amazing when the ship fits your crew.

1 BEST SHIP FEATURES FOR FAMILIES



SPLASH ZONES

Pools, water parks & spray areas keep kids cool and happy.



KIDS CLUBS

Age-specific programs, games & activities led by trained staff.



FAMILY CABINS

Room for everyone—bunk beds, connecting rooms & more space.



FLEXIBLE DINING

Kids' menus, early seatings, buffets & room service options.



2 BY AGE GROUP

TODDLERS (0–3 YEARS)



- ✓ Baby centers & nursery care
- ✓ Stroller-friendly ships & elevators
- ✓ Flexible nap times & routines
- ✓ Choose aft cabins for less motion

KIDS (4–11 YEARS)



- ✓ Supervised kids clubs & fun zones
- ✓ Sports, arts, science & STEM activities
- ✓ Character meet & greets
- ✓ Kid-friendly shore excursions

TWEENS (12–14 YEARS)



- ✓ Cool hangout spaces
- ✓ Tech, gaming & creative labs
- ✓ Active excursions they'll enjoy
- ✓ More independence with safe boundaries

TEENS (15–17 YEARS)



- ✓ Teen lounges & dance parties
- ✓ Pool parties, games & events
- ✓ Social media friendly ships
- ✓ Time to explore on their own

3 FAMILY SURVIVAL TIPS



EMBARKATION DAY

- ✓ Bring carry-on essentials (meds, snacks, swimsuits).
- ✓ Arrive early & board as soon as you can.
- ✓ Explore the ship while it's quieter.
- ✓ Visit the kids club to get signed up.



MEAL TIMES

- ✓ Use early dining if little ones get tired.
- ✓ Buffets = variety & speed.
- ✓ Pack familiar snacks for picky eaters.
- ✓ Hydrate—hunger is often thirst!



SHORE DAYS

- ✓ Pick excursions that fit everyone's pace.
- ✓ Pack sun protection, water & snacks.
- ✓ Stroller or carrier can be a game changer.
- ✓ Plan downtime back on the ship.



4 BEST FAMILY SHIP PICKS



MEGASHIPS

Endless activities, water parks, shows & dining options. Great for all ages.



LARGE SHIPS

More space, more variety, tons of kids & teen programs.



PRIVATE-ISLAND ITINERARIES

Amazing beaches, safe waters & adventures the whole family loves.



5 DO THIS / AVOID THIS

✓ DO THIS

- ☐ Book kids club early.
- ☐ Choose cabins near elevators & stairs.
- ☐ Pack comfort items from home.
- ☐ Involve kids in planning excursions.
- ☐ Celebrate little moments.
- ☐ Take lots of photos!



✗ AVOID THIS

- ☐ Over-scheduling every day.
- ☐ Skipping nap/rest time.
- ☐ Packing too many "just in case" items.
- ☐ Ignoring seasickness prevention.
- ☐ Comparing to other families.
- ☐ Letting small hiccups ruin the fun.



HAPPY KIDS. HAPPY PARENTS. UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES. ❤️

ROMANCE, ADULTS-ONLY & CELEBRATION CRUISES

For couples, honeymooners, and anyone who wants a more curated vibe.

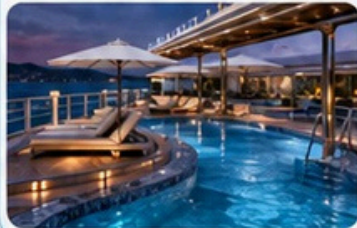
1 ROMANCE AT SEA

- ♥ Sunset sails & moonlit dinners
- ♥ Private balconies & turnaround with extra touches
- ♥ Couple's massages & spa suites
- ♥ Personalized service that remembers



2 ADULTS-ONLY SPACES

- ✓ Adults-only pools, hot tubs & sun decks
- ✓ Quiet lounges & cocktail bars
- ✓ Late-night entertainment made for grown-ups
- ✓ No kids. No chaos. Just good vibes.



3 WELLNESS & RELAXATION

- ✓ Spa sanctuaries & thermal suites
- ✓ Yoga, meditation & fitness with ocean views
- ✓ Healthy menus & juice bars
- ✓ Digital detox. Total reset.



4 CELEBRATION UPGRADES

- ✓ Champagne, flowers & sweet surprises
- ✓ Private dinners & toasts
- ✓ Custom cakes & décor
- ✓ Make any moment unforgettable.



CHOOSING YOUR PERFECT MATCH



OCEAN CRUISE

Epic escapes for two

- ✓ Big ship energy & endless options
- ✓ Exciting ports & onboard activities
- ✓ Great for adventurous couples
- ✓ Ideal for longer getaways



VS



RIVER CRUISE

Intimate & immersive

- ✓ Scenic routes & charming stops
- ✓ Small ships, big experiences
- ✓ Romantic & relaxed pace
- ✓ Perfect for culture lovers



VS



LUXURY CRUISE

Elevated in every way

- ✓ Small ships & high-end service
- ✓ All-suite luxury & fine dining
- ✓ Exclusive experiences
- ✓ All-inclusive indulgence



WORTH THE SPLURGE?

- ☐ **BALCONY**
Wake up to ocean views together.
- ☐ **SPECIALTY DINING**
Intimate meals, elevated flavors.
- ☐ **SPA TREATMENTS**
Relax, reconnect, rejuvenate.
- ☐ **EXCURSIONS**
Private tours & once-in-a-lifetime moments.
- ☐ **PHOTO SESSION**
Capture the memories beautifully.

BEST OCCASIONS



HONEYMOON

Start forever together.



ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate your journey.



BIRTHDAY

Make their day unforgettable.



PROPOSAL

Pop the question in paradise.



GIRLS' TRIP

Cheers to friendship & fun.



ROMANCE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Book early for best suites & perks
- ☐ Request special occasion upgrades
- ☐ Pack dressy outfits for date nights
- ☐ Download the cruise app for planning
- ☐ Set expectations & enjoy the moment



Love is in the details.
We help you plan the perfect escape.



EAT SMART ONBOARD: INCLUDED VS SPECIALTY DINING

You do not need to overspend to eat very well at sea.



1 MAIN DINING ROOM



- ✓ Three-course meals
- ✓ Rotating menus
- ✓ Sit-down service
- ✓ Great for classic favorites
- ✓ Included in your fare



Best for: relaxed dinners & traditional service



2 BUFFET



- ✓ Huge variety & flexibility
- ✓ Perfect for picky eaters
- ✓ Open for long hours
- ✓ Indoor & outdoor options
- ✓ Included in your fare



Best for: casual meals on your schedule



3 CASUAL INCLUDED SPOTS



- ✓ Pizzerias, grills, delis, taco spots & more
- ✓ Quick, tasty & convenient
- ✓ Great by the pool or on the go
- ✓ Included in your fare



Best for: quick bites & all-day cravings



4 SPECIALTY DINING



- ✓ Premium ingredients
- ✓ Unique menus & ambiance
- ✓ Perfect for celebrations
- ✓ Extra charge per person
- ✓ Reservations recommended



Best for: special nights & foodie experiences



WHEN TO RESERVE (SIMPLE TIMELINE)



BEFORE YOU SAIL

Book specialty dining as soon as your booking window opens.



DAY 1 (EMBARKATION)

Reserve any remaining spots once onboard. Popular times fill fast!



DAYS 2-3

Lock in your top choices for later in the week or sea days.



DAYS 4+

Be flexible—check for cancellations and walk-in availability.



PRO TIP

Reserve early dinners (5:00–6:15 pm) for the most options.



WHO SHOULD PAY EXTRA?

- ✓ Foodies & adventurous eaters
- ✓ Celebrating something special
- ✓ Couples wanting a date night
- ✓ Anyone craving premium steak, seafood or chef's tasting menus
- ✓ Travelers who enjoy elevated wine pairings & ambiance



VS



WHO SHOULD SKIP IT?

- ✗ Budget-conscious cruisers
- ✗ Picky eaters (stick to favorites)
- ✗ Families with young kids
- ✗ If you're happy with included options
- ✗ When ports are your main priority



SAMPLE CRUISE DINING DAY



BREAKFAST



Buffet or MDR eggs & favorites

Fuel up for the adventure.



LUNCH



Buffet, grill or casual spot

Keep it light or go all in!



SNACK



Ice cream, pizza, fruit or pastries

Perfect anytime pick-me-up.



DINNER



MDR or specialty dining reservation

Dress up. Relax. Savor the night.



LATE-NIGHT



Pizza, buffet bites or room service sweet treat

Because cravings don't take a night off.



TOP DINING MISTAKES

- ✗ Waiting too long to book specialty dining
- ✗ Only eating in the buffet (mix it up!)
- ✗ Skipping breakfast (you'll miss the energy)
- ✗ Overlooking included casual spots
- ✗ Ordering too much—pace yourself & enjoy!



Pro Tip ♥ ♥ ♥

Mix included and specialty dining for the perfect balance of budget, variety & vacation memories you'll talk about long after you sail.



DRINKS, WI-FI & PACKAGES: WORTH IT OR NOT?

Some bundles save money. Some just sound good.

1 BEVERAGE PACKAGES



- ✓ Unlimited alcoholic drinks, cocktails, beer & wine by the glass.
- ✓ Huge savings if you drink regularly.

Best for:
Social drinkers, cocktail lovers

2 SODA / COFFEE PACKAGES



- ✓ Unlimited soft drinks, mocktails & specialty coffees.
- ✓ Great for kids, teens & non-drinkers.

Best for:
Families & coffee fans

3 WI-FI PLANS



- ✓ Stay connected for maps, messaging, streaming & work.
- ✓ Choose by device or full cruise.

Best for:
Remote workers, streamers, sharers

4 PHOTO PACKAGES



- ✓ Unlimited photos from pro photographers.
- ✓ Digital downloads included.

Best for:
Memory makers & family groups

5 SPA PACKAGES



- ✓ Bundled treatments for massages, facials & wellness.
- ✓ Lower per-treatment price.

Best for:
Relaxation seekers & spa lovers

SHOULD YOU BUY? THE BREAK-EVEN GUIDE

BUY IT IF YOU WILL...

- ✓ Use it almost every day
- ✓ Exceed the break-even cost
- ✓ Value convenience & peace of mind
- ✓ Share benefits with travel companions



VS

SKIP IT IF YOU...

- ✗ Only use it occasionally
- ✗ Stay under the break-even cost
- ✗ Prefer pay-as-you-go or free options
- ✗ Are comfortable unplugging & relaxing



THE DRINK PACKAGE LOGIC

$$\text{Your average drinks per day} \times \text{Price per drink} \times \text{Days on cruise} = \text{Estimated total}$$

Compare to package price:

Estimated total is **HIGHER**
Package = Save

Estimated total is **LOWER**
Package = Skip

SMART BUYER RULES

- ✓ Compare package price vs what you'd likely spend.
- ✓ Check what's included & any limits (per day, per drink, by time).
- ✓ Look for promotions—book early or on board for deals.
- ✓ Consider sharing benefits with a travel partner.
- ✓ Cancel or adjust packages within the allowed window.
- ✓ Read the fine print for exclusions.



CONNECT SMART

Use Cruise Line apps & port Wi-Fi for basics. Save your plan for what matters.



CAPTURE MOMENTS

Take your own photos for sharing, upgrade if you want pro shots & prints.



INVEST IN YOU

Wellness & relaxation can be worth it—especially on longer sailings.

COMMON MONEY TRAPS

- Buying just because it's on sale.
- Not doing the math.
- Forgetting kids have separate packages.
- Assuming all drinks or services are included.
- Missing the refund/cancel deadline.

Spend smart. Enjoy more. Regret less. ❤️

EXCURSIONS THAT MATCH YOUR STYLE

The best shore day is the one that fits your energy, budget, and curiosity.



1 FIVE EXCURSION STYLES—FIND YOUR PERFECT MATCH



BEACH & RELAX

Slow down and soak up the good life.



- ✓ Beach clubs & resorts
- ✓ Snorkel & float
- ✓ Pools, spas & sunshine
- ✓ Perfect for downtime



CULTURE & HISTORY

Dive into stories, traditions & the past.



- ✓ City tours & landmarks
- ✓ Museums & heritage sites
- ✓ Local traditions
- ✓ Learn something new



ACTIVE ADVENTURE

Get your heart pumping and chase the thrill.



- ✓ Ziplining & ATV tours
- ✓ Hikes, climbs & paddles
- ✓ Water sports & more
- ✓ High energy, high reward



FOOD & LOCAL FLAVOR

Taste your way through every destination.



- ✓ Food tours & tastings
- ✓ Cooking classes
- ✓ Market visits
- ✓ Eat like a local



WILDLIFE & NATURE

Connect with incredible creatures & wild places.



- ✓ Wildlife viewing
- ✓ Nature reserves
- ✓ Eco-tours & safaris
- ✓ Perfect for curious souls

2 STYLE COMPARISON AT A GLANCE

STYLE	TIME COMMITMENT	BUDGET LEVEL	PHYSICAL EFFORT	PLANNING NEEDED
Beach & Relax	Half day – Full day	● ● ● \$	● Low	● Low
Culture & History	Half day – Full day	● ● ● \$\$	● Low – Medium	● Medium
Active Adventure	Half day – Full day	● ● ● \$\$\$	● \$\$\$	● High
Food & Local Flavor	Half day	● ● ● \$	● Low – Medium	● Medium
Wildlife & Nature	Half day – Full day	● ● ● \$	● Low – Medium	● Medium

3 WHICH TYPE ARE YOU?

Pick the answer that sounds most like you.

On the perfect shore day, I want to...



Chill & unwind



Learn something



Get my adrenaline up

My ideal souvenir is...



A tan & great photos



A story & new insight



A memory I can feel

I travel to...



Relax & recharge



Explore & understand



Challenge myself

MOSTLY A's: Beach & Relax | MOSTLY B's: Culture & History | MOSTLY C's: Active Adventure

Love food? Add Food & Local Flavor! | Animal lover? Add Wildlife & Nature!

4 PORT-DAY BUDGET GUIDE (PER PERSON)

Typical range for popular excursion styles.



5 BOOK NOW OR WAIT?

A quick guide to help you decide.

BOOK BEFORE YOU SAIL IF...

- ✓ It's popular or limited availability
- ✓ Small group or special experience
- ✓ You want peace of mind
- ✓ It's a must-do for you



YOU CAN WAIT IF...

- ✓ It's widely available
- ✓ You're flexible on plans
- ✓ You want to compare prices
- ✓ You enjoy spontaneous adventures



6 SCENIC SHORE DAY ROUTE—EXAMPLE ITINERARY



MEMORIES, PHOTOS & SOCIAL MEDIA AT SEA

Capture the trip without living through your phone.

1 BEST PHOTO MOMENTS ON A CRUISE



SAIL-AWAY

That first wave goodbye (or hello!) is magic.



BALCONY SUNRISE

Peaceful, golden & perfect for a quiet moment.



POOL DECK FUN

Bright colors, laughs & vacation vibes.



PORT VIEWS

Capture the culture, coastlines & local charm.



FORMAL NIGHT

Dress up, sparkle & celebrate your evening.

2 PHONE & CAMERA TIPS FOR SHIP & SHORE



- ✓ Clean your lens & tap to focus.
- ✓ Use grid lines for better composition.
- ✓ Shoot during golden hour for softer light.
- ✓ Stabilize your phone or use a mini tripod.
- ✓ Adjust exposure for bright ocean scenes.
- ✓ Back up your photos daily.
- ✓ Use burst mode for action & kids.
- ✓ Protect your gear with a waterproof pouch.

3 PHOTO PACKAGES: WORTH IT?

PROS

- ✓ High-quality, professional photos.
- ✓ Great for groups & formal nights.
- ✓ Convenient—photographers find you.
- ✓ Includes prints, digital files & discounts.

CONS

- ✗ Can be pricey.
- ✗ You may not love every shot.
- ✗ Limited control over poses/settings.
- ✗ May miss candid moments you capture yourself.



4 SOCIAL MEDIA & WI-FI: REALITY CHECK



- ✓ Wi-Fi at sea is limited, slower & more expensive.
- ✓ Upload less, enjoy more.
- ✓ Download offline maps & entertainment.
- ✓ Text apps (WhatsApp, iMessage) may work better than social apps.
- ✓ Leave the feed—live in the moment.
- ✓ Post a highlight reel, not every moment.
- ✓ Enable airplane mode to save battery.



5 WHEN NOT TO FILM OR POST

- ✗ During shows, movies or performances.
- ✗ In the spa, gym or adults-only areas.
- ✗ When staff or other guests prefer privacy.
- ✗ In ports where locals ask not to be photographed.
- ✗ At dining tables—enjoy the meal, not the phone.
- ✗ When it takes you out of the moment.



6 MAKE THE MEMORIES LAST: IDEAS THAT GO BEYOND THE FEED



SCRAPBOOK IT

Add ticket stubs, menus, maps & photos to create a keepsake you'll cherish forever.



SHARED ALBUM

Create a shared album with travel buddies so everyone can add their favorite shots.



TRAVEL JOURNAL

Write down highlights, funny moments & new discoveries. Your future self will thank you.



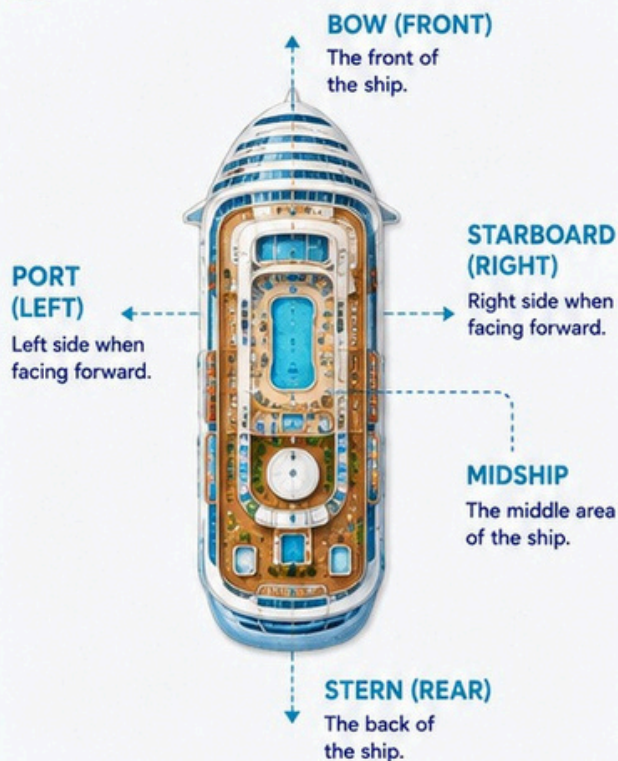
TOP TIP: Take the photos. Post the highlights. But never forget to put the phone down and live the story.



THE CRUISE LINGO DECODER

The jargon sounds complicated until someone explains it properly.

1 KNOW YOUR SHIP: BASIC DIRECTIONS



2 CRUISE LINGO GLOSSARY



EMBARKATION

The process of getting on the ship at the start of your cruise.



PORT DAY

A day when the ship docks at a destination for you to explore.



DISEMBARKATION

The process of leaving the ship at the end of your cruise.



STATEROOM

Your private cabin where you sleep, relax & recharge.



MUSTER STATION

Your assigned meeting place in case of an emergency.



GRATUITIES

Tips for crew members that are added to your account (or prepaid).



ALL-ABOARD TIME

The time by which all guests must return to the ship.



SPECIALTY DINING

Premium restaurants onboard that may require a fee or reservation.



TENDER

A small boat that takes you from the ship to port when it can't dock.



SAIL-AWAY

The exciting moment when the ship leaves port and the vacation begins!



SEA DAY

A day at sea with no port stops—perfect for relaxing & exploring the ship.



SHORE EXCURSION

Pre-booked tours & activities in port offered by the cruise line or local operators.

3 MOST IMPORTANT TERMS TO KNOW ON DAY ONE

- ✓ **YOUR STATEROOM # & DECK**
Know where you're staying and how to get there. 
- ✓ **MUSTER STATION LOCATION**
Find it early. Safety first! 
- ✓ **DINING TIME & LOCATION**
When & where you'll eat (even if it's flexible). 
- ✓ **ALL-ABOARD TIME**
Don't miss it—ships don't wait! 
- ✓ **DAILY SCHEDULE (DAILY PROGRAM)**
Your guide to everything happening onboard. 
- ✓ **WI-FI PLAN & APP**
Stay connected & use the cruise app for maps, menus & more. 

TALK LIKE A CRUISER

5 useful phrases

- 1 "What's the all-aboard time today?"
Stay in the loop & avoid being left behind.
- 2 "Where's the muster station?"
Safety first—always know where it is.
- 3 "What time is dinner?"
Because good food is important.
- 4 "What's on the daily schedule?"
Your key to a great day onboard.
- 5 "Do you recommend any shore excursions?"
Get insider tips from the pros.



PRO TIP



Learn a few terms on day one and everything gets easier (and more fun).



The cruise app is your best friend—use it to navigate like a pro.



When in doubt, ask a crew member—they're there to help you enjoy your trip!



YOUR CRUISE PLAN WISE MASTER CHECKLIST

Everything in one place—so you can stop stressing and start sailing.



BEFORE YOU BOOK

- ☐ Decide budget & travel dates
- ☐ Choose destination & itinerary
- ☐ Research cruise lines & compare options
- ☐ Read reviews & check what's included
- ☐ Check passport requirements
- ☐ Consider travel insurance
- ☐ Book your cruise with confidence!



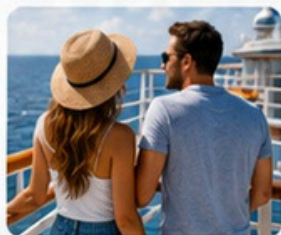
60 DAYS OUT

- ☐ Check passport validity (6+ months)
- ☐ Book flights & transfers
- ☐ Research & book shore excursions
- ☐ Reserve specialty dining
- ☐ Purchase travel insurance
- ☐ Set up onboard account (if available)
- ☐ Notify bank of travel dates
- ☐ Start packing essentials



30 DAYS OUT

- ☐ Online check-in (when available)
- ☐ Complete health & travel forms
- ☐ Print or save boarding documents
- ☐ Confirm excursions & dining
- ☐ Check travel & transportation
- ☐ Review luggage requirements
- ☐ Plan onboard activities & must-dos



7 DAYS OUT

- ☐ Check-in reminder (7 days before sail)
- ☐ Review cruise documents
- ☐ Download cruise line app
- ☐ Check weather & pack accordingly
- ☐ Charge devices & power bank
- ☐ Confirm pick-up or parking plans
- ☐ Get excited—your adventure is close!



EMBARKATION DAY

- ☐ Arrive early & allow extra time
- ☐ Bring passport & boarding pass
- ☐ Check luggage tags & drop bags
- ☐ Head to your assigned time
- ☐ Explore the ship & settle in
- ☐ Attend safety drill
- ☐ Relax—your cruise begins now!



PACKING MINI-LIST

- ☒ Passport & travel documents
- ☒ Boarding pass
- ☒ Medications & prescriptions
- ☒ Toiletries & personal care
- ☒ Swimwear & cover-ups
- ☒ Outfits for all occasions
- ☒ Comfortable shoes
- ☒ Electronics & chargers
- ☒ Sun protection
- ☒ Reusable water bottle
- ☒ Small backpack or tote
- ☒ Snacks (as allowed)



BUDGET TRACKER

- ☐ Cruise Fare \$ _____
- ☐ Flights / Transfers \$ _____
- ☐ Excursions \$ _____
- ☐ Dining & Drinks \$ _____
- ☐ Gratuities \$ _____
- ☐ Shopping / Extras \$ _____
- ☐ Travel Insurance \$ _____
- ☐ Other \$ _____

TOTAL BUDGET

\$ _____



TOP 7 REMINDERS

- 1 Travel documents are everything.
- 2 Arrive early, avoid stress.
- 3 Check-in online, save time.
- 4 Budget ahead, cruise happy.
- 5 Plan your days, but stay flexible.
- 6 Unplug to recharge & enjoy.
- 7 Be kind, have fun, make memories.



YOUR CRUISE PLAN

Destination: _____ Cruise Line: _____
 Sail Date: _____ Itinerary: _____
 Departure Port: _____
 Travel Companions: _____
 Budget Range: _____
 Must-Do Experiences: _____



You're
**READY
TO SAIL!**

You did the prep—now enjoy every moment.

Bon voyage & smooth seas!





TURN CURIOSITY INTO

a confident plan



BEST FOR FIRST-TIME CRUISERS
WHO WANT SIMPLE, STEP-BY-
STEP PREPARATION

FIRST CRUISE STARTER KIT

\$17

- Preparation timeline
- Check-in, documents and embarkation
- First 90 minutes onboard
- Fast confidence without overload

**GET THE FIRST CRUISE
STARTER KIT**



BEST FOR CRUISERS WHO WANT A
REUSABLE PLANNING, COMPARISON
AND BUDGETING SYSTEM

CRUISE PLAN WISE BUNDLE

\$29

- Reusable for any sailing
- Comparison, budget and cabin tools
- Port, excursion and daily planning
- The complete decision system

**GET THE CRUISE PLAN WISE
BUNDLE**



First cruise, but want the complete
reusable system? Choose *Cruise Plan Wise*.

