



Website

There is a tremendous amount of information, packing lists, and more on your cruise line's website. All of your documents can be printed off from the website, as well. I am very happy to print them and mail them to you if you do not have access to a printer.

You can check-in online to save time. This must be done **at least** 3 days prior to boarding. If you don't do your online check-in, you will have to do it at the port, which will take considerably more time.

Check-in and Boarding

Boarding begins about 11:30am. I suggest arrival around 10:30am; the earlier you arrive, the sooner you will be able to board and begin the fun! All passengers must be aboard the ship 90 minutes prior to sail time.

At boarding, you will need either an original, GOVERNMENT ISSUED, raised seal birth certificate (not a photocopy) and a valid driver's license OR (preferred) valid passport (not expiring within 6 months of the date of return); a credit card, debit card, or about \$500 cash to put on your account for incidental spending while on-board the ship (for each stateroom) is also required. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you need to fly back into the US for an emergency while in an international port, you cannot without a passport.

Passengers must keep their travel documents (birth certificate and driver's license or passport) on them at ALL times when disembarking and embarking the ship at all ports of call. A photocopy of a passport or birth certificate is NOT a valid form of identity.

Money and Gratuities

Call your credit card company and notify them that you will be cruising so that if you use your credit card in a foreign port, it will not be flagged for suspicious activity and therefore leave you without a method of paying our shipboard account at the conclusion of your trip. It is always a good idea to have at least two forms of payment with you.

Bring a copy of your credit card or take a picture of it on your phone so that you have the "lost or stolen number" with you in case of theft.

The ship is an almost cashless society. The only time you will need cash on-board is for tipping for room service (\$1 per person is standard). Bring small bills for tipping your limo driver, airport baggage handlers, shuttle drivers, and shore excursion tour operators.

For tipping shore excursion tour operators, usually 10% of the cost of the excursion is recommended for tipping. I usually just plan on \$10 per person - this is usually a good tip.

If you don't give your servers a rating of 10, they will not get their gratuities. These can be prepaid ahead of time or they will automatically be added to your shipboard account at the end of your cruise. I like to have as much prepaid as I can when I cruise so I don't feel the sting of coming off with a high bill at the end.



Cell Phones and Internet

You can keep your phone and WiFi on when you can connect. KEEP YOUR DATA OFF unless you have an international data plan.

If you have data on your cell phone and plan to have your cell phone on at all, call your service provider and get the directions on how to turn your data off so you are not downloading emails at roaming rates. This is NOT a fun surprise when you get your bill.

Internet access is available on the ship. You can use WiFi from anywhere on the ship with your own laptop or there are Internet cafes where you can use the ship's computers. The VOOM packages are actually pretty decent and the speed is okay, too.

Celebrations

If there is a celebration that I do not know about, please let me know, so I can make sure that the celebration is noted on your reservation. If you are unsure if I know, just email me, and I will let you know if it has been noted.

Your Stateroom

Bring some magnets or something that you can put on the outside of your door to identify your door from all the others. It's quite easy to get "turned around" on a ship and not know whether you are looking forward or backward in the stateroom hallways.

If your beds are in the twin configuration when you arrive, and you want them together, just ask your room steward to put them together for you. I've requested it on all your reservations (if applicable), but sometimes they don't read all the requests. It's easily changeable.

Pack light! There is not a lot of room in the staterooms for empty luggage. Under the beds is the best area for luggage storage. Packing cubes are also an excellent way to help organize your suitcase! You can purchase these on Amazon - just search "packing cubes."

You will not need a converter for any of your electronics. The ships are 110 AC current (although I'm not an electrician, so I really don't know what that means!)

There are hairdryers in each stateroom, so you don't need to bring one with you. They are located in the desk drawer of your stateroom.

Issues or Sickness

If you have a problem or issue, go to Guest Services and ask for a resolution. Do NOT suffer in silence. This is your cruise, so make it a good one.

If you have a tendency to get motion sickness, take some Bromine before you embark on the ship and keep it in your system the entire trip. The medical station on the ship should have free packets for passengers outside their door. Also, looking out at the horizon will help with this. Ginger ale can also help calm a queasy stomach.



Travel Documents

If you have Travelex Insurance, bring a copy of your Travelex confirmation with you so you have the emergency number handy. There is a collect call number from foreign countries listed in the bottom corner of your Confirmation.

If you have purchased Shore Excursion Group Excursions, be sure to bring your vouchers with you when you disembark the ship at your ports of call. Also, please let me know that you've booked these!

I've prepared an itinerary for you through the Pocket Travel Consultant app. Your full itinerary and important documents and information will be on that app. Please look for that email invitation from me. You can download the app in your App Store and plug in the ID and Passcode that I send you. I think you will like this app! If there is anything that you want added that I don't have it in, please let me know.

Lastly...

The most important tip I can give you is the first thing that you should pack: FLEXIBILITY! Sometimes vacations don't go exactly as you planned them to go. We all do the best we can, but sometimes, things just happen. If there is an issue I can help you with, please let me know. You can email from the ship if it's an emergency. If you have Travelex insurance, and there is an emergency, contact the number on your confirmation.

Have a wonderful cruise!