



Website

At this time, you should have been on **www.HollandAmerica.com** and completed your online check-in. There is a tremendous amount of information, packing lists, and more on the website.

The cruise lines no longer issue "paper documents" unless you would like to pay \$30 per passenger for them. 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.

Check-in and Boarding

Check-in at the terminal is between 12:00 - 2:30pm. You can get there earlier in the chance that they begin check-in earlier; they usually do. All passengers must be aboard the ship by 2:30pm in readiness for the 4:00pm departure.

For boarding, you will need either an original, GOVERNMENT ISSUED, raised seal birth certificate (not a photocopy) and a valid driver's license OR a valid passport (not expiring within 6 months of the date of return); and either 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. You do not need to carry them around the ship.

Make a copy of your passport and put it in your checked luggage or take a picture of it on your phone, if your phone is password protected.

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 for a cost. 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 internet package can be purchased online ahead of time or on the ship when you arrive. Again, a discount may be available if you purchase ahead of time.

Food and Drinks

Unlimited Fountain Drinks ("Bottomless Bubbles") and other Beverage Packages are available and can be purchased now or when you arrive onboard. There is usually a discount for purchasing ahead of time.

There are some specialty restaurants with surcharges - you can book those online now or when you get on board. These are totally worth it!

For vegetarian or other special diets, please let your server know on the first night at dinner and ask for menu suggestions. Ask for the "Spa Carnival" menu.

Entertainment and Celebrations

Entertainment can be booked ahead of time on your Cruise Planner, or you book it when you get on the ship. It's best to book all the shows, and if you don't make it to them all, it's okay. There will be a standby line waiting for 10 minutes before the show-time for the no-shows that didn't come.

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. I would suggest getting some magnetic notepads and Velcro pens, so you can write notes to each other.

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 your reservation (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 not purchased travel protection, it's not too late! Let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to add that your cruise.

If you have purchased ShoreTrips excursions (not through the cruise line), 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.

Don't forget to download the Carnival Hub app, as well! You can "chat" with each other for \$5 for the week.

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!

