

# Disney Cruise Tips



## What to pack?

- Passports, identification, and the completed and signed cruise documents from your online check-in. Visit <https://disneycruise.disney.go.com/why-cruise-disney/experience-updates/us/> to see the latest updates from Disney Cruise Line.
- Some \$1 bills handy for any late-night room service calls – those servers aren't included in your gratuities. All other purchases on the ship will be charged to your room.
- Make sure to pack your swimsuits in your carry-on bag before you board the ship. It's a great time to experience the water slides or have a quick dip as your luggage won't arrive at your stateroom until later in the day. Also don't forget to pack any medication and liquids in your cruise carry on.
- Sunscreen is a must! You don't realize when you're up on deck how much sun you're getting!
- Don't forget some inexpensive beach toys for Castaway Cay!
- You can also bring reusable mugs, or tumblers with lids (like Tervis cups) to use at the drink stations. It cuts down on the paper waste (plus the paper cups are really small).
- Purchase water bottles ahead of your cruise, or while on board. These are great for port adventures. Remember to carry water bottles in your cruise carry on.
- A pillowcase, or a photo matt, or an autograph book or any other Disney approved items. Select characters will be able to sign during the meet and greet. Be sure to review your Personal Navigator for a full list of character meet and greet opportunities. Don't forget to bring some Sharpies.
- Disney will allow you to bring certain types and quantity of alcohol on board in your carry on. Make sure to pack a bottle opener in your suitcase though to avoid paying the corking fee! Any alcohol you bring on board must be enjoyed in your room. Each guest 21 years and over may bring 2 bottles of unopened wine or champagne bottles (no larger than 750 ml) or 6 beers (no larger than 12 oz) onboard in carry-on luggage at the beginning of your cruise, and at each port of call.
- Ziplock bags and a day bag. On the last night of your cruise, you need to put your luggage out in the hall for it to be taken off of the ship when you dock. The day bag and Ziplock can hold your toiletries, PJs and anything else you could not pack the night before.
- A Ziplock with sample size laundry detergent and a few dryer sheets just in case you need to do a load or two of laundry while on board.
- Costumes! If your cruise has a themed night make sure you've got all the gear to dress up and join in the fun! Caribbean and Bahamas itineraries have a Pirate night – so pack your finest swashbuckling outfits. Bring those princess dresses too – there's some great photo opportunities! For specific cruise ships and sailings don't forget to pack Pixar and Avengers costumes as well. Certain cruise ships may also have Star Wars character meet up opportunities.

- One or two long sleeved shirts or sweaters (especially for cruises from November through March, or the Alaskan cruises). Even if you're doing a tropical cruise – it can get chilly up on deck when you're enjoying those late-night movies under the stars or the Pirate night party!
- A night light is handy – the state rooms are dark at night. The bathroom doors don't always stay open so leaving that light on like you do in the resorts might not work.
- Travelling with small children? Request a diaper genie, bottle warmer, bottle sterilizer or bed rail from guest services when you arrive. Pack and plays are also available.
- Magnets to decorate your stateroom door or a dry erase magnet board to leave notes for family and friends. If you prefer something more, there is also the option of a "Fish Extender". It's kind of like a "cloth mailbox" that you hang with a string on the "Fish" outside of your stateroom. Through online groups you can connect with others who will be cruising and you leave each other trinkets, notes and gifts. If you're interested in the fish extender – let me know and we'll find the online group for your sailing! Stickers and adhesive materials not permitted on your door.



## What about the food?

- Not only is the food on a Disney Cruise incredible, so are the dining rooms! Don't miss out on experiencing the different dining rooms for dinner. Rotational dining each night of your cruise lets you "rotate" through each of the themed restaurants. Your servers rotate with you so they'll get to know you and your preferences pretty quickly!
  - Note: Cabana's or Marceline Market are currently not open for dinner.
- For breakfast and lunch, you have several options (Cabanas and Marceline Market buffet, or one of the other sit-down restaurants). Be sure to ask your server, or check your Personal Navigator, or ask Guest Services which dining rooms will be available. Room service is also available (except on the day you disembark).
- The adult exclusive restaurants on board are an additional charge and require reservations, but the experience is out of this world! If you like fine dining, don't miss them.
- TRY the desserts – they are not to be overlooked! Once when I ordered "nothing" – that's exactly what I got!
- Mickey ice cream bars are always available, you just have to ask!
- If early (MAIN) seating is not available I can add you to the early (MAIN) dining waitlist.
- Don't worry if you are unable to get early (MAIN) seating for dinner. You can check on board at Guest Services for early dining availability. Or you can always visit the poolside Quick Service locations or order room service for a light dinner or snacks for the children before dinner. Most items on room services are included in your cruise. There is a cost for pre-packaged items including cans of Pop delivered to your stateroom. Please allow some time for your room



service order to be delivered to your stateroom (it can take up to 45 minutes but usually it comes much faster).

- If you have a very early morning port adventure then the continental breakfast room service is a great option. Be sure to fill out your order card and leave it outside your door the night before.
- For 2<sup>nd</sup> seating you may also choose to use the "Dine and Play" for kids aged 3 to 12. The purpose of the Disney Cruise "Dine and Play" program is to give parents more time to enjoy themselves. They can share a meal together without worrying about supervising the children or hurrying through dinner in order to check them into their activities. There is no need to pre-reserve this service in advance. Simply inform your server when you arrive for dinner that you would like to check the kids in for Dine and Play. Your serving team will serve the kids first. Youth Activity counselors will arrive at the dining room about 45 minutes after seating has begun and take the kids to activities at Oceaneers Club/Lab.
- The frozen treats, snacks and endless supply of chicken fingers means you will never go hungry! If you don't feel like hitting the quick service spots on the ship between meals – you can always call for complimentary room service. I love having my tea delivered in the morning as my wake-up call! Note that there is a charge for some items on the room service menu.
- If you have a special dietary request, please inform me as soon as possible. Disney Cruise will make every effort to try to accommodate your request. You can also pre-order your meals for the next day. Just ask your server for the menu for the following night (or view it on your Disney Cruise App). This will help you decide if you need to make any special requests due to dietary restrictions.
- Can't decide on which appetizer, entrée or dessert to order? You can choose more than one.
- In general, the dining rooms are "cruise casual" meaning no tank tops, swimsuits etc. If you have a formal night or dress up night on your cruise you can choose to dress up but this is not enforced.
- For Palo, Remy and Enchanté: No jeans, shorts, capri pants, swim-wear, flip-flops or running shoes are permitted:
  - At Remy and Enchanté:
    - Men: dress pants with sports jacket or suit are required for dinner but optional for brunch. Ties are optional.
    - Women: cocktail dress, pantsuit or skirt with blouse for dinner. Dress or pantsuit for brunch.
  - At Palo:
    - Men: dress pants and dress shirt. Jackets and ties are optional.
    - Women: dress or pantsuit.

## Stuff for kids (and the "big kids" too!)

- Make sure to register the kids online for the youth clubs to avoid waiting in line when you board. They have age-appropriate clubs for the kids that give them a chance to meet some new friends while being supervised by Disney Cast Members. The youth clubs are a big hit with the teens and tweens, especially since there are no parents allowed!

- **Oceaneers Club/Lab** is an activity center designed for kids ages 3 to 12 years old located on Deck 5 mid-ship on the four original Disney Cruise ships, and on Deck 2 on the Disney Wish. The operating hours varies but it's normally open from 9am until midnight. Check your personal navigator daily for the exact operating hours and for the activities at the Oceaneers Club/Lab.



- While The **Edge** experience aboard each of the ships differs, the idea behind them is the same: Edge provides Guests ages 11 to 14 years with their own special hangout where they can connect with other tweens from around the world. Equipped with high-tech entertainment including flat-screen TVs, computers and video games and featuring daily guided activities, this interactive play space is bound to become your tween's favorite on-ship destination!
- The **Vibe** is an exclusive space for teens ages 14 to 17 years to chill out, listen to music, watch TV, play group games and where they can break off from the family and connect with other teens from around the world. Check your personal navigator for the exact location and activities on each of the ships.
- While the kids are busy in their clubs, the "bigger kids" (21+) can explore some of the "adult only" areas of the ship! The Spa is a wonderful place to relax and pamper yourself while the adult pool offers a quiet place to enjoy a good book and one of those great tropical drinks!
- The nightclubs and lounges are worth discovering to take in the different themes and atmospheres.
- Don't forget to see the nightly entertainment that includes Broadway styled shows suitable for the whole family to enjoy together!
- Don't miss the various trivia games scheduled on the ship. They are a great chance to win Disney Cruise line keepsakes (we've come away with hats and key chains!). Bingo is also a big hit with the kids as they are allowed to participate and call BINGO if with a parent. There is a cost associated with activities like Bingo.
- Be sure to go to guest services as soon as you board to sign up for special holiday activities.
- The 5K Castaway Cay run no longer requires a formal sign up. After you complete the 5K please visit guest services to collect your 5K medal. Medals are limited in quantity and subject to availability.
- If you are unable to secure a spot for Royal Princess gathering, Marvel Character meets, Character breakfast in the Disney Cruise Navigator App 30 days before your sailing be sure visit the Guest Service Desk aboard your cruise to see if there are any spots left. These will vary from one cruise to another. Check your personal Navigator or inquire at Guest services for the times available and the meet locations. Spots are limited so **do this early to avoid any disappointment.**
- For guests 21 years and older there are classes such as Mixology, Wine tasting, Beer tasting, Martini tasting, Tequila/Margarita tasting, etc. at an additional cost. These can be booked on the Disney Cruise Line Navigator App as soon as your booking window opens. Please visit Guest services to inquire about additional spots for these classes.

## Extra things to know

- Check out the Disney Cruise Navigator App for the list of activities for rest of your cruise so you don't miss anything!
- Download the Disney Navigator App before you leave home, there is complimentary wi-fi for app use only! <http://disneycruise.disney.go.com/disney-cruise-line-navigator-app>
- Don't forget to pre-book your adult dining, port adventures, onboard activities such as Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique and Pirates League (not available on all Disney Cruise ships), special character meets as soon as your booking window opens, or as soon as you get on board. Space is limited so do this as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Booking window opens at 12:00AM ET, 75 days before the cruise for first time cruisers, 90 days before for Silver Castaway Club Members, 105 days before for Gold Castaway Club Members, 120 days before for Platinum Castaway Club Members and 123 days before for Pearl Castaway Club Members. Visit <https://disneycruise.disney.go.com/why-cruise-disney/castaway-club/> for more details.
- Adult dining, Spa services, port adventures, drink classes and other activities will be charged to your onboard account even if you do not show up.
- Disney Cruise Line offers multiple internet packages for purchase based on your online needs. Use the onboard Wi-Fi anywhere on the ship to chat, post pictures on social media or simply stay connected while at sea. Once on board, open the Disney Cruise Line Navigator app and select "Connect to Internet," which will take you to a separate browser to view and purchase onboard internet plans.
- If you are not going to purchase a data package, make sure to turn your electronic devices to "airplane mode" to avoid roaming charges.
- There is often a Spa draw on embarkation day and a Shutters photo package raffle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. See your personal Navigator or inquire at Guest Services.
- If you plan to use any Spa services, be prepared for a "hard sell". Alternatively note "No Sales" on the form as you enter the spa to avoid this.
- In your stateroom you will find 2 Wave Phones. These phones will allow you to stay in touch with people in your party by calling or texting with each other! Additional phones if required are available for a fee. Just don't misplace them - it's a US\$250 charge to your onboard account per lost wave phone. Alternatively, the Disney Cruise Line app on your mobile devices has a messaging option that can be used the cruise to keep in touch with family and friends that are onboard with you.
- Pre-order and save on your photo package on the Disney Cruise App. The cost and savings will depend on the length of the cruise and the specific package you order. Packages can be pre-purchased more than 3 days before the cruise at a lower price, or onboard at the full price. Individual photos can be purchased onboard. Once you disembark the ship you will **not** be able to purchase any pictures. Let me know if you need help with this.
- Professional photographers are ready to snap candid photos of you and your family once you board the ship. You can view your pictures at Shutters – the onboard photo shop. If you have photos you want to purchase – I recommend you don't leave it until the final night of your cruise, it gets really busy in there on the last night!

- If you choose not to order a photo package you may give your camera or phone to a family member or cast members at various “character meet and greet” spots on the cruise.
- The TV in your room will show some of the informational seminars in case you miss one and want to know where to go shopping at the next port of call!
- Don’t leave clothes on your verandah to dry – I’ve lost more than one article of clothing due to a gust of wind! There is a clothesline in the shower you can use instead.
- If you have packed formal wear there are irons available in the laundry rooms. Please try to do all your ironing before formal night as there may be long lines to use the irons. Note that you are not allowed to bring or use any electrical appliances or power bars in your stateroom.
- If you see something on board that you like purchase it right away to avoid disappointment. If a specific size or item is not available ask a Cast Member at the store to check the stock room and give them your stateroom number so that they can call you back.
- If not pre-paid, gratuities are automatically added to your onboard account but can be adjusted at your discretion at Guest Services before your final night of sailing.
- Be prepared to tip luggage porters. The porters are NOT Disney employees.
- Your onboard account will be charged US\$12.95 per child for wristbands used in the Oceaneers Club/Lab. This amount will be automatically refunded when you return the wristband at the end of your sailing. Don’t forget to return it to Guest Services or to the Cast Members at the Oceaneers Club/Lab.

## Future cruises

- Since I’m sure you will love your Disney Cruise so much, if you decide to book another cruise while on board – please use the Disney Cruise Line App or visit Guest Services to book a “Placeholder” before you disembark! When you book the Placeholder while still onboard the ship you get all of the following benefits:
  - A 10% discount on the final cruise fare (with some blackout dates). Does not apply to Concierge bookings.
  - A lower deposit requirement of only 10% on 7+ night cruises (regular deposit requirement is 20%). Does not apply to Concierge bookings.
  - The placeholder is not an actual cruise, but it does have a reservation number, and that reservation can be moved to a real cruise once you’ve decided what cruise you want to take.
  - To book a placeholder, you put down a flat \$250.00 USD deposit per stateroom while onboard your current cruise.
  - When you switch your reservation to a real cruise date you will still retain the benefits, but you’ll have to pay any difference in deposit.
- **Once you have returned home let me know when you if you have booked a Placeholder and I can take care of the details for you!**

*The last piece of advice I can give you?*

*Relax, enjoy yourself and make some magical memories!*