

# Cruise Packing Checklist

Checklist · 29 items · 8 sections

Everything you need for a cruise vacation. Covers port days, formal nights, sea days, and the cabin essentials most first-time cruisers forget. For a generic alternative use the Travel Packing Checklist or the longer Vacation Packing Checklist. Sailing to foreign ports: cross-check the International Travel Checklist for visas and currency.

Open the editable version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/cruise-packing-checklist>

## DOCUMENTS

- Passport (valid 6+ months: required even for Caribbean cruises)  
**HIGH**
- Cruise booking confirmation and loyalty card  
**HIGH**
- Travel insurance documents  
**HIGH**
- Credit card (for onboard account: must register on embarkation day)  
**HIGH**

## CLOTHING

- Casual daytime outfits (shorts, t-shirts, sundresses: 1 per day)  
**HIGH**
- Smart casual evening outfits (most cruise nights are smart casual)  
**HIGH**
- Formal night outfit: suit/blazer or cocktail dress (1-2 formal nights typical)  
*Check your cruise line: some are now 'elegant casual' not strictly formal*
- Swimsuits (2-3) and cover-ups  
**HIGH**
- Comfortable walking shoes for port days  
**HIGH**
- Flip-flops or sandals (pool deck and beach)  
**HIGH**
- Dress shoes for formal nights
- Light rain jacket or poncho

## TOILETRIES

- Sunscreen SPF 50+ (reef-safe for port excursions)

HIGH

*Many ports require reef-safe sunscreen: check before you go*

- Standard toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, razor, etc.)

HIGH

## HEALTH

- Seasickness medication: Dramamine, Bonine, or Scopolamine patch

HIGH

*Take before you feel sick: most remedies don't work once nausea starts*

- Prescription medications (7+ day supply)

HIGH

- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes

HIGH

## CABIN ESSENTIALS

- Magnetic hooks (cabin walls are magnetic: amazing for organization)

HIGH

- Over-door shoe organizer (maximizes tiny cabin storage)

- Power strip (no surge protector: they're banned; plain strip is ok)

HIGH

*Cabins often have just 1-2 outlets. Plain power strip is allowed on most lines*

- Night light (cabin is pitch black when lights off)

- Lanyard for cruise card (keep around neck on port days)

- Reusable water bottle (ships charge \$3+ per bottle at bars)

## PORT DAYS

- Small day bag for port excursions

HIGH

- Waterproof phone case for beach and excursions

- Snorkel gear (if not renting at port: significant savings)

## ELECTRONICS

- Phone and charger

HIGH

- Portable power bank

HIGH

## ENTERTAINMENT

- Book, Kindle, or downloaded shows (for sea days and offline time)