



# FIRST-TIME CRUISERS

## SO IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME ONBOARD...

Most first-time cruisers have a number of questions, and we want to make sure you are ready for the experience that awaits you during your upcoming cruise vacation! This document, along with our "Cruise Tips" flyer, should help answer all your questions so you are ready to board, and enjoy a smooth sailing.

## WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED?

You will need to bring with you several important documents in order to board your ship.

- your cruise line's Boarding Pass - this is typically also known as your eDocument or eDocs. These are generally emailed to you from the cruise line between 30-45 days prior to departure AFTER you complete their online pre-check-in process. *(We provide them to you as well, to ensure you have what you need).*
- your valid US passport (the expiration date must be at least 6 months + one day beyond the last day of your trip)
- the cruise line's luggage tags (don't put them on your luggage until the morning of departure)
- and any vaccination records that your cruise line requires.

## GETTING TO THE SHIP

### ✓ FLYING TO GET TO THE CRUISE PORT

If you are flying to your cruise, then we make sure that ground transfers are included, either from the airport to the cruise port, or from your pre-cruise hotel to the cruise port. We also make sure that ground transfers are included to get you back to the airport at the end of your voyage.

### ✓ DRIVING YOUR OWN VEHICLE

If you choose to drive to the cruise port, we recommend arriving several hours in advance. You'll want to be sure to arrange long-term parking in advance, as most sites cannot accommodate "drive-ups". Often there are local hotels that might offer various "stay & park" type of arrangements.

## RECOMMENDED ARRIVALS

### ✓ MINIMIZE THE STRESS BY ARRIVING EARLY

Please keep in mind that none of us are in control of the weather or the airlines. That is why we always recommend arriving the day before your cruise departs, regardless of whether you fly or drive.

### ✓ EARLIER SHIP BOARDING TIMES

When completing your online pre-check-in process with the cruise line, we recommend selecting/requesting the earliest boarding time possible. Boarding typically begins at about noon, and once onboard, you may start enjoying the assorted shipboard dining and amenities available, including the pool. Your vacation officially begins once you board the ship!

# THINGS TO BE PREPARED FOR FOR YOUR UPCOMING CRUISE



## AT THE PIER - YOUR LUGGAGE

Upon arrival at the cruise terminal, you will turn in your luggage to the porters. Your luggage will be delivered directly to your stateroom, but keep in mind you might not see it for several hours. Be sure to bring a light daypack (backpack or similar) to carry any necessary medications or any other important items that you can't be without for that time period.

The cruise luggage tags that were given to you in your documents packet are important for making sure your luggage arrives safely in your room. These tags should be placed on your luggage on the morning of departure but not before! The tags are paper tags and are flimsy. They will easily rip off if you attach them before leaving home.



## HOW FORMAL IS IT?

Cruising has become much more of a casual vacation, even on more formal lines, especially since airlines often charge for checked bags. Packing lightly, with mix-and-match apparel is great. Depending on your cruise line, evening dress codes range from resort casual to formal.

For the lines that offer a "formal night", ladies should pack a cocktail dress or pantsuit, and men a suit or dinner jacket with slacks. Feel free to dress to impress if you choose!

Daytimes are always casual. Keep in mind swimwear is never appropriate in any table service restaurant, and coverups will be requested for the buffet restaurants.



## WHAT ABOUT EXCURSIONS?

A cruise vacation is filled with flexibility and discovery. Making the most of the trip is up to you. Filling time in port with excursions or tours helps supplement the experience. Be sure to ask us about options.

Cruise line excursions tend to be larger group experiences. If you want something smaller and more intimate, we have options for you through assorted vendor partners, who are experts in each port of call, and will provide memorable experiences for you.



## TIPPING ONBOARD THE SHIP

Tipping - often referred to as Gratuities or a Daily Service Charge, is generally split between your stateroom steward(s) (who make up your room daily) and the dining room waitstaff. The gratuity amounts vary by cruise line, and if not included in your cruise purchase, will be added to your onboard account each day to be settled at Guest Services prior to disembarkation on the final day of the voyage.

Other tips that are NOT included with the voyage fare include bar service and specialty dining restaurant servers. These tips will be done at the time of purchase and added to your stateroom folio.



## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?

Most cruise lines and ships feature an array of onboard activities and entertainment options throughout your voyage. From knowing the layout of the ship to dining times, shows, and more, keeping them all straight can seem daunting at times! Each cruise line provides help to you in the form of printed materials, apps, or video screens around the ship showing the various daily activities. Be sure download any cruise line apps before you leave home so you can start exploring right away!



## AVOID ROAMING CHARGES

Be sure to know your cell carrier's policies and your individual plan allowances to avoid any costly roaming charges! Roaming typically begins within 2-3 miles of the coast, so if you don't want to have surprises on your next cell bill, be sure to turn off the data and only use wifi. The shipboard apps will generally allow you to use the ship wifi for free - you'll only use the paid portion of the wifi for connecting to the internet, streaming, or downloading.



**317.678.7320**



**[info@wonderfuladventures.com](mailto:info@wonderfuladventures.com)**



**[wonderfuladventures.com](http://wonderfuladventures.com)**