

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

DESTINATIONS, DINING, WHAT TO EXPECT + MORE



**first
TIME
cruisers**

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CRUISE LINGO

Cabin or stateroom – these terms mean the same thing. Basically, this is your hotel room on board the ship.

Studio, interior, oceanview, balcony, suite... help! These are the types of rooms you can choose. Studio rooms are only available to 1 person. They may have a porthole window, but typically no balcony. An interior cabin has no windows, but is the least expensive option for 2+ people. An oceanview is exactly what it sounds like! You'll see the ocean from a window, but you won't pay the price for a balcony. A balcony is more expensive than an oceanview, but is a good solution if you're occasionally claustrophobic. Mini-suites and suites are the most expensive option, but offer you additional space, accommodations and sometimes even a butler!



WHAT TO EXPECT

What can I expect when I get to the ship at embarkation day? Security, waiting, check-in, luggage, food, etc?

Prior to sailing, you will receive a tag to place on your luggage. Your travel specialist will notify you of your check-in time for the cruise (typically these times are staggered to prevent congestion).

When you arrive, the cruise staff will take your luggage on board. You will pass through security and can bring a 'carry-on' similar to air travel (don't worry about the 3 ounce restrictions here!). After passing through security, you will check in and get your photo taken. You'll take a seat and wait to board.

Once on the ship, you'll navigate to your room where your luggage will be waiting for you. Most seasoned cruisers head for the nearest buffet, but embarkation day is also a great opportunity to get reservations at a specialty restaurant when wait times are typically shorter. Whatever you decide, there will almost always be a restaurant open for a good meal.





ARRIVAL TIMES

How will I know when to arrive?

Depending on your port of departure, your travel specialist will recommend what time you should arrive. If you are sailing from ports in Manhattan, NY, Bayonne, NJ or Baltimore, MD, you can typically arrive in late morning if your sail time is mid-afternoon. Pro tip: leave the driving to us! For select sailings, Boscov's Travel offers local round-trip transfers to the pier from our Camp Hill, Lancaster, Reading, and Easton locations. Ask your travel specialist for more details!

For departures from ports in other states, your travel specialist may recommend that you fly the day before and stay overnight near the port. Because delays and layovers can happen with flights, arriving a day early will ensure you will make embarkation.

CHOOSING CABINS

I'm afraid of getting sea sick. Any thoughts of where I should choose my cabin?

If you're afraid of getting seasick, we recommend choosing a lower deck and staying towards mid-ship. In most cruise ships, this means that you will have an inside cabin with no windows. Some of the newer ships such as the Royal Caribbean International Oasis Class offer Boardwalk and Central Park cabins. These are inside but overlook an outdoor space below.

HOW TO PACK

How should I pack? Light, heavy?

What you pack depends on where you're going. Of course, if you're headed to a colder climate, pack warm clothes. If you're headed to the Caribbean or somewhere tropical, you probably need less than you think. Gone are the days of being dressed to the nines for ocean cruises. Cruising has become much more casual. Men are typically not required to wear jackets and may only need to bring a pair of dress pants and a tie. For the ladies, a sundress may suffice. Talk to your travel specialist about their recommendations on what to bring.

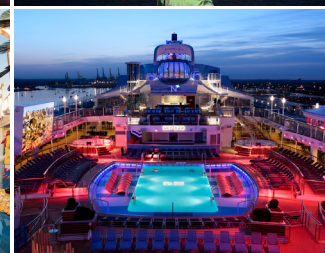
PASSPORTS

Do I need a passport?

We highly recommend passports for our clients. Though you can technically use a birth certificate and photo ID to board the ship in many Caribbean destinations, the best contingency plan is to use a passport. Pro tip: if you are recently married and changed your last name, but haven't updated it on your passport yet, the cruise line will also require a marriage license.

ANY OTHER ADVICE?

Let us help you to plan ahead! From specialty dining reservations, to entertainment to shore excursions, make your cruise stress-free by allowing us to do the planning for you (for free!). When you board the ship, you can focus on having fun without the headache of making reservations.





INCLUSIONS

Let's talk food, drinks, entertainment. All included?

Basic dining options are always included on a cruise. This is included with the cruise price. Of course, you always have the option to enjoy a meal at a specialty restaurant for an additional cost.

You also have the choice to order breakfast in bed! Room service is available aboard most cruise lines, though some charge a small delivery fee.

There are many options available when it comes to beverage packages. Ranging from bottled water packages, to soda, to alcohol, you decide what's right for you. Depending on the cruise line and the specials going on, you may get an alcoholic drink package for free. You can always pay for drinks as you go or purchase a beverage package.

On board entertainment is typically included. From Broadway Shows to rock-climbing, there's always something to do on board an ocean cruise! Shows and experiences should be booked in advance to confirm that you can do what you want, when you want.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

How do I plan a shore excursion?

You can plan it yourself or plan on board. Your best option is to pre-schedule the excursions through your travel specialist.



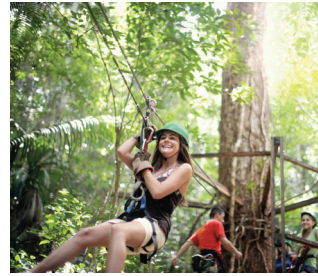
ENTERTAINMENT

Will I be bored on board?

The beauty of a cruise is that you can do as much or as little as you like! On large ocean cruises, an “activities menu” is delivered to you each day. There are activities morning till night! Offerings can include zip-lining, bingo, craft sessions, cooking lessons, language seminars, dance parties, and much more! Most cruises have activities for children as well, including daycare for kids and programs for teens.

Large ocean ships typically have a running/walking track on the top deck, as well as gym facilities. Go for a stroll, take a spin class or play a game of basketball!

On river cruises, expect a smaller but still enticing list of activities. You'll find more low-key activities ranging from evening music to cheese pairings or educational seminars.



INSIDER TIPS

Any fun tips?

The walls of the cabin are magnetic! Bring a few magnets and hang your notes, daily activities schedule, and notes directly on the wall.

Celebrating an anniversary or birthday? You can order a package to have your room decorated before you arrive or on a specific day!

Turn on the TV to create an extra window! On ocean cruises, there's always a channel showing a live feed of just outside the ship.

Avoid arguments over charging space. The back of the TV typically has a USB outlet that you can use to charge your phone or tablet.





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