



## 100 Essentials to Pack for Your Cruise

Preparing for your cruise vacation can be a tricky task, here is a packing list to help you out on what to pack for a cruise no matter if it's in the Caribbean, Europe or Alaska.

You may be really good at packing but even the savviest cruise-goers are bound to forget some crucial items. Packing for a cruise trip is not the same as packing for other vacations. Cruise trips offer varying activities which cut across a broad range of outdoor activities and social events.

Here's what to Pack for a Cruise. If you are stuck wondering what to pack for your cruise trip, or even if you are sure. Check out this ultimate checklist which lists 100 things you can pack for a cruise plus packing tips as well. Go through it and ensure you have each and every important item packed. Save yourself a headache, extra costs and the hassle of buying overpriced common items that you already own, during the cruise.

Disclaimer: Just to let you know that by clicking on the links may lead us to receive a small commission on any purchases.

**NOTE: ITEMS IN ALL CAPS ARE WHAT I CONSIDER TOP PRIORITY FOR YOUR CRUISE.  
ITEMS UNDERLINED ARE LINKS THAT YOU CAN PURCHASE.**

### Essential Items

First and foremost make sure you have packed your travel documents and cash. We'll start with the most important items to pack for your cruise first. Forget any of these and there could be trouble ahead!

The first thing to think about and essential is a good set of [luggage](#) to put all these essentials in.

#### 1. **PASSPORT/ID**

Some regions you visit will require a passport to allow you entry. This is pretty much one of the most important things to have when you cruise. Actually, you shouldn't really pack this, keep it on you or in the safe in the stateroom. If you want some ID while you are in port, make a copy of your ID page on the passport and carry it with you, along with a driver's license. This will make due until you can get back to the cabin. (I laminated mine and it has worked great at every port so far). You can usually get a passport application at your local Post Office or you can download one [here](#). Everyone needs a passport holder. Here's one for the whole family from [Amazon](#). Another smart idea is to use your phone to **take a picture of it**. This way no matter where you go, you will have a digital copy that you can access from anywhere with Internet.

#### 2. Cash/Credit Card/ATM Card

Do not forget to carry cash. You will need it when buying things on your city/port visits and to pay cab fares. Carry small bills and if possible change some of your cash into the currency of the destinations you will be visiting.

ATM fees to get cash out can be expensive on the cruise ship. If you want to gamble but don't have the cash on hand, you can use a little trick to avoid paying exorbitant ATM fees. Cruise lines will let you charge your onboard account to get money for chips or slot machines. Be careful as it's an easy way to spend a little too much, but it's also easy to play at the casino without being charged extra to access your own money.

### 3. Wallet/Purse

This is a no-brainer, carry your wallet to store your cash and important documents. There are so many good travel Wallets available, [here](#) is one I like.

## Clothes and Accessories

This may seem obvious, but you would be surprised at how many people forget to pack essential clothing attire for a cruise vacation. Take a look at the list below to help you what kind of travel wear to pack.

### 4. Underwear/Undershirts/Bras

Not unless you are planning to stay au naturel, pack enough underwear, undershirts, and bras to last you the entire vacation period. You can also wash these garments onboard using a [Scrubba Portable Wash Bag](#).

### 5. Socks

Socks reduce friction between your feet and shoes when walking. You will be doing a lot of walking on your cruise, pack light soft cotton socks. If you don't have your sea legs your feet can also hurt from being on the ship constantly. You'll need some perfectly comfy travel socks. If you have problems with swelling or pain in your feet. [Check this out!](#)

### 6. Sleepwear

You don't want to sleep in your wet, dirty daytime outfits. Pack comfortable light pajamas for sleeping.

### 7. T-shirts

T-shirts are casual and very essential because they go with just about anything. Amazon actually has cruise related and fun t-shirts [here](#).

### 8. Dress shirts

Most cruise lines have formal evening themes with strict dress codes. Ensure you carry at least 2 dress shirts for two formal wear evenings.

### 9. Casual shirts

Button-down casual shirts and polo shirts match well with shorts, jeans or khakis. Pack at least 2 pieces each.

### 10. Jeans

Jeans are flexible and worn for any activity/event except formal evenings and water events.

### 11. Pants

Pack casual light pants for daytime and offshore activities. You can't go wrong with khaki and linen pants for your tropical-weather cruise.

### 12. Shorts

Shorts For that tropical Caribbean or Hawaii cruise, shorts are essential for excursions and daytime outdoor activities. However, keep the short shorts limited only to the poolside and the beach to stay modest. Browse all the [Shorts on Amazon](#).

### 13. Sun Dresses

Sunny dresses are simple yet gorgeous for vacations. Pack at least 3 dresses for a 7-day cruise vacation. Carry dresses that are easy to pack e.g. those that can be rolled when packing. Consider the colors as well and ensure they match with the shoes you carry to avoid carrying many shoes/accessories for matching the different dresses. Check these [trendy Dresses for a cruise](#).

### 14. Skirts

Skirts allow free leg movement. Pack light non-constricting skirts for your daytime activities.

### 15. Sweaters/Sweatshirts

It might sound bizarre to carry a sweater in the sunny Caribbean or a tropical destination cruise but the weather is not always sunny. You might encounter cold sea days and breezy nights on the deck. Therefore carry a sweater or a sweatshirt for such weather. Amazon actually has some really good [travel Sweaters](#).

### 16. Formal Wear

Most cruise lines have one or two formal evenings. The cruise expects you to dress formally for dinner in such evenings. Ladies pack an evening dress or two for this purpose. Men pack a dark suit with a tie or a tuxedo. Most cruises rent out a tuxedo but it's rather expensive, so just carry yours instead.

### 17. Swimsuits/Cover-ups

Almost all fun activities on a cruise involve water; you will definitely swim during your cruise so, carry at least 3 swimsuits. Do not forget however to carry cover-ups, try to keep modest especially when moving around the deck and eating areas. Buy from a range of fashionable Swimsuit Cover-Ups [here](#).

### 18. Coats/Rainwear

A not so fun fact is that it may rain during your cruise. So, pack a jacket/coat or a raincoat. If your cruise itinerary involves visiting a cold region, like Alaska then packing a raincoat or jacket is a must. Search a selection of great [TRAVEL RAIN JACKET](#)

### 19. Hats/Caps/Bandana

While sunscreen offers you adequate sun protection, your scalp is often left bare. Carry a wide-brimmed hat, a cap or bandana to protect your scalp, eyes, and shoulders from the sun. Find [Sun Hats](#) to help protect from the Sun.

### 20. Sunglasses

Carry a pair of emergency sunglasses in your suitcase, just to be sure you have a backup. The sun and sea surface reflect a lot of light, and you will need [SUNGLASSES](#) to protect your eyes.

### 21. [Gloves/Scarves](#)

Scarves are great for keeping you warm in the night's breeze on the ship's deck. A great way to pack your scarf is to roll it and pack it inside an empty paper towel roll. Pack your gym gloves or gloves to keep you warm if your itinerary involves visiting cold regions such as Alaska.

### 22. Umbrella or Ponchos

Don't be surprised to learn that it may rain during your cruise; this is a possibility even in tropical destinations. So for that not so perfect vacation day, carry an umbrella to keep from getting drenched in rain. Yes, you can even buy two [here](#). Ponchos can also be found [here](#)

### 23. Laundry Detergent

A laundry kit with travel size packet detergents and a sink stopper is an amazing ingenuity. You can hand-wash light clothing over the cabin's sink or the [Scrubba Portable Wash Bag](#) using the [detergent](#).

#### 24. Anti-wrinkle Spray

Long gone are the days of packing an iron for vacation. An anti-wrinkle spray will keep your clothes straightened and without creases. [Here's a set](#) you can get.

#### 25. Stain Remover

Stains left overtime on garments tend to set in; stained laundry sitting through a two weeks' vacation might get ruined. That's why it's a good idea to pack a stain remover, to pre-treat your stained clothes. Check all of these [Travel Stain Removers](#).

#### 26. Laundry bag

A nifty idea is to pack laundry bags to keep your dirty clothes from associating with the clean ones. Laundry bags will also organize your suitcase and save you extra costs charged by airport luggage check for minimizing their work. Plenty of different Laundry Bags can be found [here](#).

#### 27. Mini Sewing Kit

You'll be surprised at how many cruisers find themselves asking the onboard shop staff if they sell Sewing Kits! An essential part of keeping clothes in order. Check small [travel Sewing Kit](#).

#### 28. Walking shoes

Consider your comfort when packing walking shoes, sneakers offer the best comfort. You will be walking a lot during excursions, so consider getting inner soles for your shoes to stay comfortable during those long walks. Pack your boat shoes, flat shoes or sneakers for walking. Find a collection of [walking shoes](#) online for your cruise.

#### 29. Dress shoes (good for dancing)

Pack a pair of [dress shoes](#) to accompany your formal evening attire. Ladies don't carry very high/sharp stilettos, but good comfortable heels to dance in like wedges.

#### 30. Sandals/flip-flops

Sandals and flip-flops are great leisure shoes. Consider flip-flops with thick soles as most foreign terrains are quite rough. Also, consider flip-flops with a good grip that you can walk with over water covered areas without slipping. You'll see everyone wearing Sandals or Flip-flops during the voyage, check some [here](#).

#### 31. Water shoes

Pack a pair of good water shoes to wear around the pool and during water activities. For certain shore excursion you'll need [Aqua Shoes](#), check them all here.

#### 32. Belts

A belt doubles up as collar support for keeping your dress shirt's collar stiff by preventing it from collapsing under the weight of other items in your suitcase.

#### 33. Jewelry

Carry a [jewelry case](#) for your jewelry to keep them from tangling with other items. Keep your necklaces untangled by inserting a drinking straw on one end to keep them straight. Keep your earrings together with the help of a button. We have found that our old pill pods are great for earrings. On Amazon [Here](#)

#### 34. Fanny Pack

A modern slim body-hugging fanny pack will help you carry your passport, medical card, phone, cash and other valuables when out on city tours. So many creative Fanny packs can be purchased on [Amazon](#).

#### 35. Collapsible Totes and Light Backpacks

Totes and light backpacks are also great for carrying back home all the memorabilia you purchased during the trip. Plenty of Cruise totes can be purchased online. This [Cruise Tote](#) on Amazon folds up to fit in the palm of your hand when not in use.

## Toiletries

Here are toiletry items you can pack for your cruise vacation. Some items are provided by the cruise line in the stateroom but many cruisers prefer to take their own so they know what they are using. The onboard gift shops also sell some toiletry items but they are more expensive than on land.

### 36. Toothbrush / Dental Floss

You would be surprised at how easy it is to forget such essential items such as a toothbrush or dental floss. While you can find these at the cruise's gift shop, they are often overpriced and limiting in brand variety. Get a [foldable travel toothbrush](#) from Amazon for \$5 and above.

### 37. Toothpaste

Same as the toothbrush, pack [travel size toothpaste](#) that goes for as little as \$2 on Amazon.

### 38. Soap

Some cruise lines don't have bar soap but if you are picky or allergic to some soaps, carry your own.

### 39. Deodorant

Pack your own deodorant to avoid buying an overpriced and probably not your brand type, from the cruise.

### 40. Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Lotions

Again, most cruise lines will offer these items, but if you are picky, pack yours.

### 41. Brush/Comb

Carry your combs and brushes to keep your grooming at par.

### 42. Hairstyling appliances

Pack your low-wattage [hair straighteners](#), curlers, and basic hairstyling appliances, most cruise ships will only provide you with a low-wattage hair dryer.

### 43. **SUNSCREEN**

Places such as the Bahamas and Caribbean are much hotter than you would think, therefore, carry a lot of Sunscreen to avoid painful sunburns or looking like a lobster. Sunscreen on the ship can be expensive so it's best to get from [Amazon](#) before you leave.

### 44. **ALOE CREAM**

But just in case you do get sunburnt, pack [aloe cream](#) to relieve the effects of the burn.

### 45. Moisturizer

It is very windy on the ship; you need to moisturize regularly to keep your skin from drying out and getting damaged.

### 46. Contact Lenses/Solution

Carry extra contact lenses and [contact solution](#) or glasses for when you lose the ones you are wearing.

### 47. [Shaving Supplies](#)

Carry your shaver, shaving cream and aftershave to stay well-groomed.

### 48. Makeup/Makeup

Bag Pack your makeup, you have onboard events to attend that will need you all dolled up. Keep your make up organized and accessible in a [make-up bag](#).

#### 49. Feminine Hygiene Products

Changes in time zones might interfere with your menstrual cycle, pack an emergency tampon/ sanitary pad set. Carry your panty liners as well, to stay fresh and comfortable in different weathers.

#### 50. Birth Control

Avoid oops moments and life-changing accidents by packing your birth control pills.

#### 51. Nail File / Clippers

Nails can chip and break during a cruise due to all the activities, keep them well-groomed with nail files and [nail clippers](#).

#### 52. **HAND SANITIZER**

This is a must-pack, you will be touching a lot of shared surfaces such as staircase railings, menus and other different surfaces that could be riddled with disease-causing germs, make sure to carry hand sanitizer to stay safe. Find handy travel Hand Sanitizer right [here](#).

#### 53. **FIRST AID KIT**

Carry a first aid kit, with items such as bandages, cold medicines, pain relievers, vitamin C, sea sickness medicine, alcohol swabs, antibiotics, digestion aids and constipation medicine. A [first aid kit](#) can save you and your family a lot of money and a trip to the cruise's infirmary.

#### 54. Insect Repellent

Tropical regions are hosts to mosquitos, and while there aren't mosquitos in the sea, pack an [insect repellent](#) for those city visits and outdoor excursions.

## **Electronics**

We all to stay with our electronic devices during the cruise so don't forget to pack the items to back them up like chargers, adapters and memory cards. Find all electronic items for your cruise.

#### 55. Cellphone

Carry your cell phone and your cell phone's charger. Be wary however of roaming charges and steep internet costs on board your cruise line.

#### 56. Camera

Pack your camera for taking all the fun pictures of your cruise vacation.

#### 57. Laptop/tablet

Download movies and music to your laptop/tablet from home to watch if it's possible to be bored during the cruise. Streaming movies on the cruise ship is very expensive because of the high internet charges.

#### 58. Electronic Chargers

Carry chargers for all your electronics your phone, laptop, e-reader, camera, portable game players and others. Amazon has some of the best range of [TRAVEL CHARGERS](#) available. Or one for a [European outlet](#)

#### 59. Binoculars

There is a lot of site-seeing even out in the ocean. Get inexpensive binoculars such as [Bushnell binoculars](#) from Amazon ranging from \$16-\$200 and enjoy discovering distant lands, birds, sea creatures and beautiful sites.

#### 60. Video/Audio

Music is always a great companion. Download your favorite music and videos to your phone, to enjoy your music while on the cruise.

#### 61. [Headphones](#)

Listen to your music, or watch your videos privately and without disturbing others.

#### 62. Walkie-Talkie or cruise lines chat

At sea, most cruise lines offer chat on their app. If not, get walkie-talkies to communicate with your friends or families who might be on the cruise with you. Here's where you can buy [Cruise Walkie-Talkies](#). Cruise lines like Carnival offer an app to communicate with other passengers, you need to pay a one-time fee of \$5 per person for the entire cruise.

## Carry on

You may not receive your luggage until hours later; therefore pack the things you need urgently on the first day of the cruise in your carry on. Make sure you have **BOARDING PASSES** for each person in your group. Carry valuables such as **MEDICATION**, jewelry, your camera and memory card, **PASSPORT/Visa /DRIVERS LICENSE**, a paper/pen, **CASH OR CREDIT CARD**, insurance card, direction map, guidebook, address book and house keys in your carry on. To get your cruise started great, don't forget to pack your swimsuit here also.

#### 63. Medication

If you are on medication, carry your medicines in your carry on for ease of access. Having an organizer saves time and hassle. [Weekly Pill Organizer](#)

#### 64. [Airpods](#) or [Beats Studio Buds](#)

Invest in earbuds, they will come in handy if your room is near noisy areas such as the engine, a nightclub, noisy neighbors, or a snoring partner.

#### 65. Travel Blanket

Carry a thin microfiber blanket for your flight to the cruise. These are great for traveling to the cruise, find some at [Amazon](#).

#### 66. Travel Pillow

You don't want to start your vacation with a stiff neck. Therefore, carry a [travel pillow](#) for the long flight to your cruise starting point.

#### 67. Eye Mask

Get some good shut-eye with an [eye mask](#) during the flight to the cruise and even during your cruise trip. Don't be bothered by lights in your room, in case you are sharing it with a partner.

#### 68. Lip Balm/Chap Stick

Dry and cracked lips are what you will end up with if you forget to carry a [lip balm](#) or a [CHAP STICK](#). It gets very windy on the ship's deck, and lips can get damaged by constant lack of moisture.

#### 69. Change of Clothes

Carry a change of clothes in your carry on, for it might be hours till you receive your luggage.

#### 70. Food/Snacks

Carry food, snacks and any medication you need during the flight to the cruise departure point for ease of access.

## Miscellaneous

#### 71. Books

While out at the sea, you can enjoy reading a book. However, to save space, carry an e-reader with plenty of books to read. Choose a [Nook](#) or a [Kindle](#)

## 72. **POWER STRIP**

Most cruise ships cabins have only a single outlet, and you are probably planning to carry multiple electronic items, you need a power strip with several outlets. Just make sure that it is cruise compliant.

## 73. Dry Bag

Keeping your valuables such as phone, cash, and camera dry can prove a challenge when out in the open waters. Invest in a good dry bag to keep your items dry as a bone despite water exposure. Buy quality [dry bags from Amazon](#).

## 74. Wine

If you are a drinker, most cruise lines allow one bottle of wine or champagne per person. However, that's as good as it gets, you cannot bring any other alcohol on your cruise vacation.

## 75. Wine Bottle Protector

Invest in a wine bottle protector, to keep your wine bottle from breaking. [Buy one from Amazon](#).

## 76. **REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE**

Pack a refillable water bottle, great for carrying water during excursions and beverages from eating areas. You can get quality [water bottles at Amazon](#).

## 77. Water/Soda

Just like wine, most cruise lines (except MSC) allow you to bring on board soda and water (in 12 oz. cans only). This helps keep your budget in check as soft drinks are expensive on board unlike at your local grocery store.

## 78. Snacks

Similar to water and soda carry your own snacks such as popcorn, candy bars, crackers or healthier alternatives for kids. Skip the overly priced and limited variety of snacks that are available at the shops on the ship. *Note: For food and drink items, get your cruise lines guidance.*

## 79. Alarm Clock

An alarm clock going off during your vacation may be the last thing you want to hear. But you should make an exception for a cruise vacation, most cabins are located deep in the interior of the ship, where telling whether it's day or night is almost impossible. If you don't have an alarm on your phone, then an alarm clock will help you wake up in good time so as not to miss any fun activities you have signed for on the cruise. There are good small [travel Alarm Clock](#) options here.

## 80. Extra Storage

Cabins are usually small places, and you need extra storage ideas to organize and manage your things during your vacation. [Shower suction hooks](#) are good for hanging towels and wet clothes in the bathroom. An over the door [\\*SHOE HOLDER](#) offers extra storage, use its pockets for storing your things, so that it's easy to locate everything. [\\*MAGNETIC HOOKS](#) work well to hold up the shoe bag

## 81. Extra Bag

Pack an extra bag or a small suitcase to carry all the things you purchase during your cruise.

## 82. **ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES**

Sometimes there are virus outbreaks and diseases spread in destinations visited by a cruise. Stay safe by packing [antibacterial wipes](#) to disinfect your hands regularly.

## 83. Folding/Wire Hangers

If you are going on a long cruise it is a good idea to bring extra hangers to hang out the extra outfits you carried. Wire hangers are good because they are thin and don't take up a lot of space in the suitcase, though you might also want to try space-conserving [foldable travel hangers](#) from Amazon.

#### 84. [Cork Screw](#)

Unless you want to spit bits of wood every time you sip your wine, pack a corkscrew in your suitcase. Don't carry it in your carry on, to keep it from being confiscated.

#### 85. Luggage Tags

The stapled paper tag on your luggage might get lost during luggage boarding. Don't lose your luggage, buy proper [luggage tags](#). For your Cruise luggage tags, these [WATERPROOF HOLDERS](#) are great

#### 86. Silicon Travel Bottles

For your lotions, shampoos, and conditioner get silicon toiletry [travel bottles](#) and pack your essential toiletry liquids with ease.

#### 87. [PACKING CUBES](#)

Get more organized and conserve suitcase space using packing cubes. [Packing cubes](#) come in several pieces which help you store shoes, laundry, electronics, swimming gear, toys, clothes and other cruise paraphernalia separately and in order.

#### 88. Toiletry Bag

The last thing you want is to get is a leakage accident in your suitcase from mixing clothes with toiletries such as shampoos and lotions. Avoid this by getting a quality [leak-proof toiletry bag](#). Also put plastic wraps on your liquids before placing the caps on, to avoid spills.

#### 89. Cosmetic Train Case

Get an easy to pack [cosmetic train case](#) to pack all your makeup, jewelry and hair styling appliances in order.

#### 90. Snorkel gear

You don't want to rent out an item that goes in the mouth such as snorkeling gear. As such don't forget to pack snorkeling gear or if you don't have, buy the highly rated [Travel Snorkel Set](#).

#### 91. Coffee Tumbler

There are many steps and hallways in a ship, you don't want to keep burning your hands with hot coffee getting zero of it into your mouth. Pack your coffee mug to ensure you get your daily dose of caffeine. Find a [Coffee Tumbler](#) to purchase for the cruise.

#### 92. Beach Blanket

Let's face it, joining two or three towels together will still not prevent sand from getting on your body. Instead invest in a [thin beach blanket](#), which won't take up too much space in your suitcase.

#### 93. [Children's Swim Float Ring](#) for the toddlers

Toddlers easily get bored. Pack these for the beach and the pool.

#### 94. Inner Soles

You will be doing a lot of walking, whether you are exploring a city, or moving up and down the ship. Ensure to invest in a good pair of [inner soles for your shoes](#), so that you don't compromise your comfort during your vacation.

#### 95. Extra Memory Cards

It would be a bummer to have to delete some pictures to create room for more. Get extra memory cards so that you take as many photos as you like. [Memory Cards](#) can be cheap these days, check prices.

#### 96. Thumb Drive

A neat trick is to photocopy all your important documents such as visas, passports, ID, medical card, cruise itinerary and save them to a thumb drive. That way you will have copies in case the originals get lost. You can also store more pictures on the [thumb drive](#) to create room in your memory card.

#### 97. ZIPLOC BAGS

Ziploc bags are absolute must-have, they keep your personal items dry when exposed to water. They also carry snacks and store wet clothes to keep them from mixing with dry clothes. [Quart](#) or [gallon](#) size

#### 98. Night lights

Another uncommon but great item to pack for your cruise trip is a night-light. Cabins are extremely dark during the night and night-light guides your way when you wake up to go to the bathroom, saving your toes unnecessary pain. For extra convenience, get one with a motion sensor and magnetic base to easily stick on your cabin walls. This [cruise cabin night light](#) on Amazon offers both features.

#### 99. Lanyard

Get a lanyard for your key card and wear it around your neck at all possible times. Choose your favorite color and design from this assortment of [popular cruise lanyards](#) on Amazon.

#### 100. Wristwatch

Time zones change from region to region. Carry a wristwatch to keep it set on ship time, otherwise, you may return to the cruise ship an hour too late. Or better yet, set your smart phone to ship time and leave it there for the whole cruise.

### Conclusion on What to Pack for a Cruise

They say “if you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail” and we want you to succeed at your vacation and have an enjoyable, relaxing time at it. Even though this is not an exhaustive list we have provided you with a 100 essentials to pack for your cruise trip. If you would like to share a tip that has really helped your cruise experience, please contact me to get it added to the list.

Now that you have packed and doubled checked and purchased all the essential items you need for your cruise, go ahead and enjoy it.

To book your next cruise, check with me before you spend too much.

Jesus & Cruising,  
Bob Williams “the Cruise Guy”

[CHN Cruises](#)

[Booking Site](#)

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