

Booking a Pre Cruise Hotel Stay

If you are taking a flight to your cruise, it is *always* recommended that you add at least one pre-cruise night to your travel itinerary.

The ship does not wait, and you do not want to be stressed out and frustrated with getting to the port. That's definitely, NOT the way you want to start a vacation!

There are many reasons for this recommendation, such as:

- **Possibility of flight delays** – With the increase in security measures and the fickle nature of airline travel, flights are often delayed. Add that to the unpredictability of the weather, and you'll have a sure recipe for stress. This is especially true for pre-cruise flights. If your flight happens to get delayed and you miss the ship, you either have to pay for your own transportation to meet it in the next port, or you are out the cost of your cruise!
- **Possibility of misplaced/missing luggage** – If you have the unfortunate bad luck of having your bags delayed, and your flight arrives the same day as your cruise departs. Then, you will have to do without whatever you've packed in that piece of luggage for the duration of your journey.
- **Start your vacation right** – When you arrive the day before your cruise, you have a chance to relax, have a good breakfast, and be ready for your vacation before boarding the ship. You'll be able to arrive at the port refreshed and prepared for the total experience of the cruise.
- **Know what to pack in your day bag** – Arriving the day before gives you a chance to better prepare your day bag. You don't have to worry about airline carry-on restrictions for your day bag, and you don't need to carry your airport carry-on onto the ship with you. Basically, you can prepare your day bag without having to either carry too much or not enough with you. It's convenient to have some necessities with you while waiting for the rest of your luggage to arrive at your stateroom. Some of the items to consider are any medication you might need for the following 24 hours, a swimsuit, a possible change of clothes (especially if you have early dining), phone/camera chargers, and anything else you could need if there is a delay getting your bags up to your stateroom. If you are bringing any type of beverages on the Disney Cruise Line, those will have to be hand-carried with you as well.

Not flying? You should still consider arriving the day prior. You never know if on the way you'll get a flat tire, or if there will be a problem with the train, or something else. Arriving just one day early can help to make things run so much smoother on the day your cruise sets sail.

The best way to avoid any additional stress is to prepare ahead of time by booking a pre-night stay.

Not only will you reduce stress around travel dates and deadlines, but you'll be giving yourself a chance to disconnect from the daily routine and relax into vacation mode, so when you board the ship, you're ready to maximize your vacation experience.

Depending on your cruise itinerary, you may want to add a post-cruise stay in your last port, but if you are on a closed-loop cruise (*leaving and returning to the same port*), I recommend adding days to the

beginning of your trip. Adding the hustle and bustle of city tours or theme parks to the beginning of your trip allows you to fully relax on your cruise and return home completely rejuvenated.

We should begin talking about your pre cruise stay options. I am happy to offer you some options that we can book to get you into the area the night before you set sail!



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