

Fish Extenders on Disney Cruise Line

Outside of every Disney cruise ship cabin, you'll find a metal hanger next to the stateroom door where DCL Cast Members leave your Key To The World Cards, personal notes, etc. On the original Disney ships, the hanger was a fish, hence the name 'Fish Extenders'.

Having sailed several times on Disney Cruise Line, we have only participated in a Fish Extender once. It was SO fun, but do not let it stress you out. If you do not participate, it is totally fine!

Aside from looking cute and nautical and serving as an official holder for important communications and messages from the Disney crew, fellow Disney passengers can communicate with your family too!

What is a Fish Extender?

A Fish Extender can be literally anything that can hold stuff. They can be handmade or purchased online; the possibilities are endless. Just do a Google image search for Fish Extender and you'll get tons of ideas.

How Do I Participate?

There is most likely a Facebook group for your cruise. This is where you will find Fish Extender details for your sailing.

Do a quick search on the social media platform to find the cruise for your dates. You can connect with other families who you may want to request to sit with at dinner, join group events like mixology classes, or sign up for a fish extender group.

What Kind of Gifts?

The short answer to this is, anything you want! Gifts can be small or large, homemade or store-bought! Most groups will set some guidelines as to roughly what the rules will be for their group that is sailing. Our particular sailing on the Disney Dream, we joined a "Kids Only Fish Extender" subgroup. We gifted only children in a few cabins, not the entire party, and vice versa.

Why should you participate?

Kids love coming back to their stateroom and seeing what's waiting for them – yes, big kids too! It is also fun to go from stateroom to stateroom to check out what everyone's Fish Extender looks like.

Fish Extenders are a great way to spend some family time, both making the gifts before the cruise and sharing in the fun during the cruise.

It is a commitment and if you are a part of a group you will need to spend time finding their staterooms on your cruise.

You can also participate in “Pixie Dusting” which is essentially giving little gifts to families with fish extenders without signing up to participate in a formal fish extender exchange group. This is a low pressure way to participate and still spread some magic!



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