

What to Pack for a Disney Cruise

Packing for a Disney Cruise makes it seem so much closer! One thing I have learned when cruising, is NOT to overpack. While I am guilty of this in other areas of travel, on a cruise, I really try to keep it simple!

ESSENTIALS

Passports/ Birth Certificates– Technically, if you are sailing a closed-loop cruise (leaving and returning to the same port in the United States), you are allowed to board with an official, raised seal copy of your birth certificate AND your driver's license.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND you bring a passport. This will make it so much easier if any issues arise when you are in port. Make sure you check the expiration date on your passports, as well.

Cruise Documentation– Make sure you have completed your online check-in forms and electronically signed anything required. Then be sure to have handy your QR code for your Port Arrival Form. It can be saved in your Apple Wallet or you can bring a paper copy. I prefer the paper copy because they ask to see it a ton and you can save the battery life of your smartphone.

DCL Issues Luggage Tags- Disney will mail you special Disney Cruise Line luggage tags. Attach these to your luggage on embarkation day, and they will allow the porters to deliver your luggage to your stateroom. ***(Don't stress if these tags do not arrive before you leave for your cruise or if you forget them at home! When you drop off your luggage, the porters will have some blank ones they can use to make your new tags.)***

Medical Insurance Card- always good to have in case of emergency.

Cash/ Credit Cards- for when in port or to leave as gratuity.

Cell Phones + charger- You will use your phone to access Disney's Navigator App to see what is going on around the ship and plan your vacation. It sucks up a ton of battery, so bring chargers + a portable charger.

iPads/ Tablets/ Kindles - with content pre-loaded or downloaded prior to boarding (to save on WiFi usage).

Headphones (+headphone splitter) - for entertainment.

Camera + charger + extra batteries + extra memory card - you will be making memories on your vacation that will last longer with a photograph. You will want to have slightly higher-quality photos than what you can take with a cell phone.

Medications/ Prescriptions - It is always good to have a few over-the-counter medications like Tylenol, Benadryl, and cold medicine to avoid paying cruise line prices. Also, make sure you pack motion sickness remedies. It is my belief if you have it, you won't need it.

CLOTHING

When I travel I typically aim to pack 1.5 outfits per person per day, but cruising is a little different. You are constantly changing after a long day of activities for your casual dinner.

So when I pack for a cruise, here's what I pack.

Shirts - enough for one clean shirt each day.

Shorts - we pack 2-3 for a 7-night cruise usually.

Slacks/Jeans/Trousers - It is always good to have one pair as it can be cold at dinner, in the theaters, and outside on the decks at night.

Sundresses - I usually pack a few casual dresses to wear with flip-flops for the daytime and a few that I can dress up with some sandals for dinner. Just be sure to have some sort of shawl or cardigan to throw on at night.

Swimsuits/ Coverups - I usually pack 3-4. Wet swimsuits won't dry very fast, and putting on a wet suit is never fun. Bring an extra one, so you always have a dry suit to put on. A comfortable bathing suit coverup is a good idea for walking around the ship.

Underwear - enough for one clean pair a day.

Pajamas - I usually pack enough PJs for half of the number of nights for the trip. Pack at least one cute pair if you plan to attend Goofy's PJ party.

Light jacket or sweater - it gets cold in the dining rooms, theaters, and out on the decks in the evening so make sure to pack a lightweight jacket, scarves, shawls, and/ or sweaters to keep you warm.

Shoes - You are going to want flip-flops for the pool, sneakers for adventures in port, walking sandals, flats, or dressy sandals for dinner. Always pack a few extra pairs for the kids in case they get wet. Water shoes are a great idea.

CRUISE ESSENTIALS

Lanyard - I saw this on all of the packing lists I read before my first cruise. I dismissed it because I hate lanyards and I regretted it every moment of my vacation. Hopefully, DCL will switch over to magic bands soon but until then bring a lanyard. **If you have previously sailed on the Disney Cruise Line, DCL usually will provide you with one in your room as a Castaway Club present.**

Reusable Water Bottle / Tervis Cup - The cups provided at the beverage stations are tiny. Minimize your trips to the station by bringing a large reusable bottle.

Sunscreen - you will need lots and lots of sunscreen and you will NOT want to purchase it onboard unless you are independently wealthy. Please note, some ports/excursions require "reef-safe" sunscreen.

Sun hat/Protection

Alcoholic Beverages - save some money by bringing your own adult beverages. Disney cruise line allows you to bring 2 unopened bottles of wine or 6 bottles of beer on board per adult. If you get off

the ship and load up on your Mom's favorite Mexican creme tequila then they will hold it for you until disembarkation (not that I know that from experience) and you can bring more beer or wine onboard in each port.

Goggles/ SandToys - Not a necessity but could entertain your children and save you some money if they see them on board and need them

Magnetic Hooks - most of the stateroom walls are magnetic, bring some hooks to put by the door to hold your lanyards, and bring magnetic clips for jewelry, the possibilities are endless.

TOILETRIES

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste - for some reason, I ALWAYS forget toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Moisturizer
- Haircare
- Skincare/Makeup
- Contacts/ Solution/ Backup Glasses

DISNEY FUN

Princess Dresses (or other character costumes) - If your child is looking forward to meeting a character it is so fun to bring an outfit so they can dress like them. If your little girl is going to the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique you can save some money by bringing your own costume for her to wear to the princess brunch. Don't forget the Jedi and superhero costumes too.

Pirate Attire - Another surprise I had onboard my first Disney cruise was just how into Pirate Night people got. I obviously had heard about it, packed a T-shirt with Red from Pirates of the Caribbean on it, and called it good. Even with my shirt, I felt SO underdressed. So when it comes to Pirate Night... Go Big!!

Magnetic Door Decor - One of the things I love about a Disney cruise is that so many people get excited about decking out their stateroom door. You can get magnets of your favorite characters or your names to set your room apart. A great bonus is that it makes it easy to find.

Dry Erase Board- A Dry Erase board is a great way to communicate at sea. Put it outside the room to meet new friends or to let your family know you went to the spa for the afternoon.

Autograph Book - Just like the Disney parks your favorite characters are out and about willing to sign an autograph for you. Make sure you have a book, notebook, or another way to capture it.

Pins for Trading - if you like pin trading in the parks you will love trading on the ship, bring pins

Movie Snacks - The only snacks that are not included in the price of your cruise are the individually packaged movie snacks outside the theater. Save some money and bring your own boxes of candy.

What not to pack is almost as important as what to pack. Disney is constantly updating their restrictions to what is allowed onboard. Make sure you [check here](#).

And last but not least ...

Remember, you'll be checking your bags with porters upon arrival at the port. They will be sending your bags through a security check-point and then onto the ship to be delivered later in the day. **You will not have access to your luggage until it reaches your stateroom, so be sure to pack a 'carry-on' bag for boarding the ship. You'll want to include your must-have items - like swimsuits for the kiddos, sunscreen for everyone, and necessary medications/prescriptions.**



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