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Packing for a cruise

Cruises are a fantastic way to see a number of different places in just one holiday with all the perks you get from staying in a resort, but with constantly changing scenery. Some trips can last for weeks, so knowing how to pack for a cruise can suddenly seem like a bit of an art. Not to worry! We have plenty of experience in this area so here are some useful tips to avoid having to sit on your suitcase to get it to shut:

The necessities

Let's start with the basics necessities which may seem obvious, but are still worth mentioning! Do you have any special medication you need to bring? How about travel documentation such as your passport, cruise tickets, any

visas, foreign money and your credit cards. Just like any other holiday, it's always good to be over prepared with the basics. Finally, always pack a good book!

Pack for leisure

For those of you hoping to get your annual tan by pool, make sure you pack a bathing costume, towel, flip slops, sun cream and some cool sunglasses! Depending on your cruise, find out what themed nights will be happening; you'll want the perfect outfit so you can play your part. Remember, in consideration of other cruisers, bathing costumes and vests are not allowed for lunches so pack some smart and casual stuff to be on the safe side. Some cruises offer a free laundry service, but in case they don't, maybe take on some detergent with you so you can do a bit of hand washing if need be.

Be ready for formal occasions

There will also be formal nights, so men don't forget your dinner jackets and ladies, your cocktail dresses. These nights are usually very enjoyable and are a great way to dress up and get to know your fellow cruisers. If these nights aren't for you, don't fret, there'll also be places available for you to enjoy a nice casual dinner without the formality.

Are you flying at any point?

If you're on a fly cruise you'll also need to comply with the luggage restrictions of the airline so talk to your cruise operator to find out what that is. To make things easier, many cruise operators provide a collection service in which they collect your luggage before you travel and drop it back home at the end of your holiday, a great service you can use to make your travelling more stress free.

Don't forget the excursions!

Think about the exciting new destinations you will be visiting and the type of shore tours you might be checking out. T-shirts and shorts will be perfect for [Mediterranean cruises](#) and climates but if you're going to one of the cooler destinations, pack some trousers, a jacket and possibly a raincoat. In either case, don't forget your comfortable walking shoes for all that sight-seeing! So

there you have it - you should now have some basic guidelines to pack everything you need for your cruise. Also, don't forget to leave some room in your luggage, or maybe take on a spare back pack for all your souvenirs and cruise shopping. For more information on cruising and how to be prepared, take a look at our [new to cruising](#) section.

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