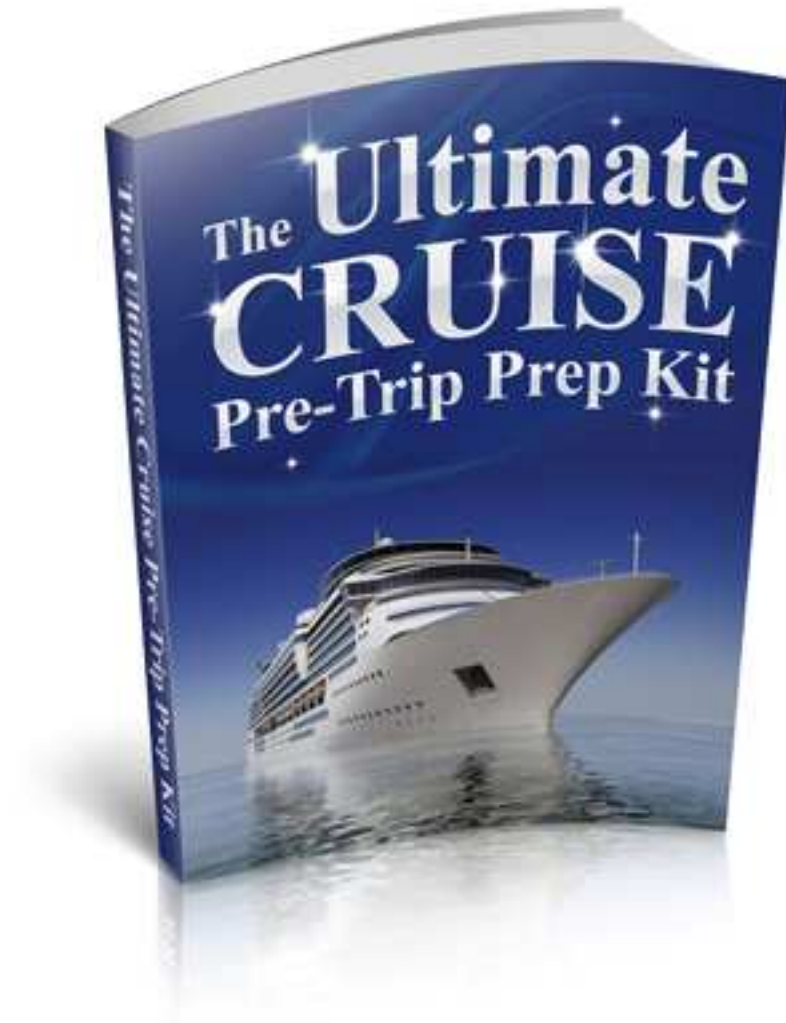


Ultimate Cruise Pre-Trip Prep Kit



Your Ultimate Cruise Pre-Trip Prep Kit

- ∴ Pack like a Pro
- ∴ Be in the Know
- ∴ Get Help in Case of Accident or Injury

Brought to you by Harris & Moure, your source for
Cruise Ship Injury legal services.

Call for your free consultation 206-227-5657.

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You're at least considering a cruise vacation. Maybe you've even booked your trip. If that's the case, congratulations!

There's often no better – or safer – way to experience the wonders of distant and exotic locales than by traveling on the world's largest ships.

But, remember, there are many things to consider once you've bought your trip package, from ensuring that you pack all of the things you'll need to remembering to have fun! See our comprehensive list of what to bring so you assure yourself a worry-free trip.

Before You Go

Be sure to take care of all of the scheduling and planning necessary to ensure the things that you leave behind are still there when you get home.

- Contact the post office and have your mail held until you return.
- Arrange for someone to feed/take care of your pets.
- Hold any newspaper subscriptions while you're away.
- Contact your bank and/or primary credit card company and tell them you'll be traveling. Large vacation expenses can often trigger identity theft protection measures.
- Make sure you have all of your documentation – hotel receipts, ship receipts, airline tickets, etc. You don't want to end up stranded because you forgot to bring along a single document.

What to Pack

What you bring on your cruise vacation depends largely on your travel style. Some people prefer to bring everything they own – including the kitchen sink – while others prefer to throw caution to the wind and bring only the basics. Either way, there are a few standards that everyone should include in their luggage.

The Basics

- Passports – Make sure you also bring along two copies of your passport cover and interior ID page. Store them separately from the actual passport.
- Tickets/Cruise Receipts – Bring two copies of these documents as well.
- Itineraries
- Power Strip – Most rooms have few outlets.
- Alarm Clock – You don't want to miss out on anything!

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- Clothes – Don't forget to take along a single set of formal clothes if you plan on attending some of the nightly events.
- Toiletries – Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Makeup, Deodorant, etc.
- Tylenol/Advil – Headaches can strike anywhere.
- Camera – Avoid paying for photos taken by the ship's crew by taking your own!
- Batteries/Memory Cards
- Cell Phone/Charger
- Luggage Locks
- Suntan Lotion
- Dollar Bills (Many!) – Tips are an essential part of the cruise vacation. Make sure you bring many single dollar bills.
- Tote Bag
- Sandals
- Hats

For the Boy and Girl Scouts

All of the Above, plus:

- Antacids/Pepto Bismol
- Band Aids/Neosporin
- Saline Solution (If you wear contacts)
- Walkie-Talkies – Cruise ships are very large. These can come in handy if you're not always going to be side-by-side.
- Night Light
- Hand Sanitizers
- Lanyards – Great for keys, keycards, etc.
- Nalgene-style Water Bottles
- Assorted Plastic Bags – You can store wet items, snacks, and much more in these.
- Luggage Ribbons – These can help you identify your luggage.
- Books/Magazines
- Extra Towels
- Pens/Paper/Highlighter – You never know when inspiration may strike or when you'll need to write down your contact information for new friends!
- Duct Tape
- Iron/Spray Bottle

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- Snacks – Packing many little snacks – nuts, granola bars, etc. – will ensure that you always have a bite to eat when hunger strikes.
- Water Shoes
- Dish Detergent (Small)
- Door-Hanging Shoe Organizer – These are great not only for shoes, but for just about anything. The clear pockets let you organize all of your things in an easy-to-find manner.
- Alcohol - If you plan on drinking alcoholic beverages, consider bringing your own, because the bars can be pricy on cruise liners.

I Wish I Had Known

What the pros know that you wish you did.

Cruises are great, but there's always something new you can learn. Read on to learn the top five things to consider before, during and after your trip.

1. Know Your Contract

This is simple. Make sure you read the travel documents before you go. That will ensure that you don't get caught off guard when something you thought was included in the price – travels/tours through the ports – turns out to be an extra fee.

2. Watch Your Spending!

There are a lot of ways to throw your money away on a ship. Yes, a cruise can be a life-changing experience, but many travelers are surprised when they arrive home again to find they've spent a substantial chunk of money on non-essentials.

This can get really tricky since cash is usually not accepted onboard the ship.

With most cruise lines, your room key acts as your primary source of cash. At the start of your journey, you provide your credit card which then links to the room key. And when you can just swipe your room key to get a beer or a fancy dinner, it's easy to forget that you're paying for it.

In particular, beware of the welcome cocktail. Just as you board the ship, someone helpful will put a drink in your hand. It probably isn't free! Imbibe if you like. Just be aware you're paying premium prices for the luxury.

3. Speak Up Right Away if You're Not Pleased

The ship's staff is there to make sure that you have a great time. If there's something wrong, whether it's with your room or with a meal, let someone know immediately. If you do this, you can avoid festering problems that spoil your memories.

4. Enjoy the Ports But Remember that You Don't Have to Disembark

The stopping points of any cruise can be a great place to explore the region and absorb some of the local flavor. If you want to save a little money, skip the ship-sponsored tours and embark on your own. Just make sure to bring a watch so you make it back to the ship on time.

And remember, there will be no test. You don't have to disembark at every port of call. Sometimes the best memory of a lovely town is how it looked from your lounge chair as you sipped the last of your margarita!

5. You're on vacation!

Above all else, remember that your cruise is a vacation! There's so much to do on cruise line mega-ships, but don't get overwhelmed. Go with the flow when it suits you, but don't give up your own preferences and priorities.

What to Do in Case of Accident or Injury

If you are injured on board ship:

- Take photographs of the scene if possible before things change. If you can't, then come back and take photos later.
- Make a note of any witnesses – their names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- Report the injury in writing. Submit the report to the shipboard security staff.
- Don't leave without a copy of the report for your records.
- Get checked out by the ship's doctor and get treatment if you need it.
- If you need more extensive help, go to a shore side doctor.
- Contact a qualified maritime attorney to discuss the incident.

What Should Happen If You Are The Victim Of A Crime

You may not be the one to take these steps, but someone should

- The area where the incident occurred should be cordoned off until law enforcement investigators arrive.
- Photographs of the scene should be taken.
- Expect investigators to wear clothing to protect evidence – gloves and booties.
- Investigators should make a note of any witnesses – their names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- If someone has been sexually assaulted or raped, they should be instructed not to eat, drink, shower, bathe, brush their teeth, or go to the bathroom until they've had a thorough rape examination conducted by a qualified investigator.
- The victim should have blood samples taken by a qualified investigator.
- The victim's injuries should be thoroughly documented with photographs.

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Whom to Contact

You may be in foreign or international waters. Normal laws and jurisdictions may not apply. Please don't rely on the crew or cruise line representatives to act in your best interests.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington DC Field Office (202) 324-3000

Los Angeles Field Office (310) 477-6565.

Contact in case of: Rape, sexual assault, missing person.

United States Coast Guard

District Five (East Coast) Command Center (757) 398-6390

District Eleven (West Coast) Command Center 510-437-3701

Contact in case of: Missing person, man-overboard, fire on board

Maritime Cruise Ship Attorneys

Any jurisdiction (206) 227-5657

Contact in case of: Accident, injury, or crime on board ship or abroad.