

How to Pack for a Cruise



For most cruise lines, you will encounter formal (very dressed up), informal (in ship terms, this means slightly dressed up), and casual settings. The number one rule is don't over pack. Not only are there restrictions on how many bags you can carry on or check in at the plane, but there may not be much closet or drawer space in your cabin.

Depending, of course, on your destination, here are recommended packing lists for most cruise lines:

For Women:



Two bathing suits and a cover-up
Two pairs of shorts
Four tops (T-shirts are okay)
Two sundresses or skirt or pants outfits (casual)
Two formal outfits (fancy party dress or pantsuits or long dresses)
Two or three less formal (but still nice) dresses or outfits
Dress shoes One pair of sandals
One pair of comfortable walking shoes and socks
Accessories (clutch purse, scarves and shawls, costume jewelry)
A light sweater or jacket
A night shirt or pajamas Underwear
Gym clothes and sneakers
A sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, bug spray
A camera and plenty of film
A good novel and/or magazines
Travel guides
Passport/identification and travel documents
Shampoo and conditioner (keep in mind not all ships provide this)

For Men:



Two bathing suits
Two pairs of shorts
Four polo shirts (some can be T-shirts)
Two pairs of lightweight slacks (one can be jeans)
One pair of comfortable walking shoes and socks
Gym clothes and sneakers One pair of sandals
Pajamas Underwear Two belts
Dark business suit or A tux (plus appropriate shirts, ties, cufflinks, etc.)
A sports coat
A light sweater or jacket
Two pairs of dress slacks
Two button-down shirts
A sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, bug spray
A camera and film
A good novel and/or magazines
Travel guides
Passport/identification and travel documents

As for laundering your clothes, some cruise lines, such as Carnival, have coin-operated laundry facilities, while others, such as Royal Caribbean, do not. All offer some sort of laundry or dry cleaning service. Most ships, but not all, offer hairdryers. This is something you can check in advance. You'll need to ask if you can plug in with a standard American plug.