

Cruise Travel Checklist

By Bianca Hendriks

- Getting to your Ship
 - Arrive at the pier early.
 - Be onboard at least 90 minutes prior to departure.
 - Have your passport and cruise documents in-hand to speed check-in.
- Onboard Health and safety
 - Plan to take part in the ship's safety, or muster, drill.
 - Get familiarized with the location and operation of life vests, as well as the emergency exit locations.
 - Take time to explore the ship once onboard.
 - Familiarize yourself with the onboard doctor's location and services.
 - Visit the gift shop to see what items are sold.
 - If your cabin doesn't have its own safe, ask for the option of storing valuables in the ship's vault.
 - Avoid running on the decks.
 - Get a pair of comfortable shoes for the walking you'll be doing onboard and ashore.
- Shore Excursions
 - Book your excursions far ahead of time to secure your reservations.
 - Ask onboard for advice on what to wear for your excursion.
 - Dress appropriately.
 - Choose to skip a shore excursion and enjoy a quiet day onboard.
 - If you stay onboard, consider a spa treatment.
- Returning Home
 - Review your final onboard charges statement for accuracy.
 - Consider adjusting the tip, if your service was excellent.
 - Properly label your bags for easy identification.
 - Don't forget your carry-on bag.
 - Plan pickups at the pier.