Donnie's First-Cruise Checklist

Print it. Check it off.

PORT2PIER TRAVEL · Everything a first-timer needs — nothing they don't.

Sail away calm.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

- ☐ Keep a day or two of flex in your dates — it can change the fare
- ☐ Choose your cabin on purpose: interior, ocean view, balcony, suite
- ☐ Ask about every discount: past guest, military, 55+, teacher, first responder
- ☐ Plan to arrive in the port city the day BEFORE you sail
- ☐ Note the deposit and mark final-payment day on your calendar

DOCUMENTS & DETAILS

- ☐ A passport book is the stress-free choice — check the expiry date
- ☐ Names on the booking must match your ID exactly
- ☐ Decide on travel insurance before final payment day
- ☐ Download the cruise line's app and finish online check-in early
- ☐ Leave your itinerary and ship name with someone at home

PACKING SMART

- ☐ Carry-on: meds, documents, chargers, swimsuit, change of clothes
- ☐ Sunscreen, a light jacket, one outfit a step up for elegant night
- ☐ A lanyard for your ship card — you'll carry it everywhere
- ☐ Magnetic hooks and a non-surge power strip for the cabin
- ☐ Seasickness remedies, just in case: ginger, bands, or meds

MONEY & WHAT'S EXTRA

- ☐ Your fare covers the cabin, main dining, and most entertainment
- ☐ Budget separately for gratuities, drinks, Wi-Fi, and excursions
- ☐ Specialty dining is extra — and usually worth one night
- ☐ Check your onboard account mid-cruise; no surprises at the end
- ☐ Small bills for tips and port days; tell your bank you're traveling

EMBARKATION DAY

- ☐ Arrive at your assigned check-in time — not hours early
- ☐ Keep documents and meds in your hand, never in a checked bag
- ☐ Have lunch onboard, explore, and find your muster station
- ☐ Be up on deck for sail-away — that's when it gets real
- ☐ Phone on airplane mode before you leave port. Roaming at sea is pricey

DONNIE'S #1 TIP

The day before your cruise is part of the vacation. Fly in early, sleep near the port, and board the ship already on island time.

MY NOTES

Ready when you are — no fees. Ever.

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