

Caribbean Packing Guide

Everything You Need to Pack for the Perfect Caribbean Cruise



Pack Smart, Travel Easy

Packing for a Caribbean cruise is easier than many travelers expect. With warm tropical weather, casual island attire, and plenty of sunshine, you'll spend most of your vacation in lightweight, comfortable clothing.

The key is packing for three things:

- ☀ Warm weather
- 🌊 Water activities
- 🚢 Life onboard the ship

A little planning before your cruise means you'll spend less time worrying about what you forgot and more time enjoying your vacation.



Essential Travel Documents



Never leave home without:

- Passport (strongly recommended)
- Cruise boarding documents
- Government-issued photo ID
- Travel insurance information
- Credit cards
- Small amount of cash
- Copies of important documents
- Emergency contact information

Keep these items in your carry-on bag, not your checked luggage.

Clothing Essentials



Pack lightweight clothing that mixes and matches easily.

Suggested items:

- T-shirts
- Shorts
- Casual dresses
- Polo shirts
- Sundresses
- Lightweight pants
- Sleepwear
- Undergarments
- Light sweater or jacket for cool indoor spaces

Most Caribbean cruises have a relaxed dress code during the day.



Shoes



Bring footwear for different activities.

Recommended:

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sandals or flip-flops
- Water shoes
- Dress shoes (optional for formal evenings)
- Hiking shoes if your excursions require them

Water shoes are especially helpful for rocky beaches, waterfalls, and snorkeling excursions.



Beach & Pool Essentials



Don't forget:

- Swimsuits (2–3 recommended)
- Beach cover-up

- Sunglasses
- Wide-brim hat or cap
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Lip balm with SPF
- Waterproof phone pouch
- Dry bag
- Reusable water bottle
- Beach tote

Many cruise lines provide pool towels, so check before packing your own.



Electronics



Pack the technology you'll actually use.

Include:

- Phone
- Charging cables
- Portable battery pack
- Camera
- Memory cards
- Cruise-approved power strip (non-surge protected)
- Smartwatch (optional)
- E-reader or tablet

Download cruise apps, boarding passes, and maps before leaving home.

Health & Personal Care



Bring:

- Prescription medications
- Seasickness medication or patches
- Pain reliever
- Motion sickness bands (optional)
- Bandages
- Hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Razor
- Hairbrush
- Deodorant

Pack enough prescription medication for your entire trip, plus a little extra in case of travel delays.

Shore Excursion Essentials



For your port days, pack:

- Small backpack

- Water bottle
- Camera
- Waterproof phone case
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray (for rainforest excursions)
- Towel (if needed)
- Cash for tips or local purchases

Keep your day bag light and easy to carry.



What to Pack in Your Carry-On



Since checked luggage may take several hours to arrive at your cabin, carry:

- Passport
- Boarding documents
- Medications
- Swimsuit
- Change of clothes
- Sunscreen
- Phone charger
- Valuables
- Glasses or contacts

This allows you to start enjoying your vacation immediately after boarding.

✖ What NOT to Pack

Carry-On Luggage Rules		PROHIBITED ITEMS	CHECKED BAGGAGE	HAND CARRY BAGGAGE
Can Carry On ✓ Small tools 3.4 oz. or less of nonflammable liquids, gels, and aerosols Matches and lighters Batteries E-liquids, electronic cigarettes, and vaping devices Disposable and electric razors Medication and medical equipment		Items not allowed on an aircraft ► Explosive, flammable, corrosive or poisonous items ► Firearms and weapons	Items that must be checked in EXAMPLES* ► Sharp objects ► Bulky items ► Liquids, aerosols and gels of more than 100ml	Items that passengers can carry on board an aircraft ► Liquids, aerosols and gels kept in containers of not more than 100ml each • All must fit into a transparent, re-sealable plastic bag with maximum capacity of 1 litre that is completely closed ► Up to 2 spare lithium batteries for portable electronic devices (including power banks) • Packed individually to prevent short circuits • Must be hand carried, cannot be checked in
Must Check ✓ Sharp objects Sporting goods and athletic equipment Self-defense items Gel-type candles Large quantities of alcohol Guns and ammunition				
Can't Travel With ✗ Alcoholic beverages over 140 proof Flammable items Explosive materials Chemicals Outdoor and wildlife safety products				

Leave these items at home:

- Irons
- Steamers (unless specifically permitted)
- Surge-protected power strips
- Candles
- Illegal items
- Large quantities of alcohol (check your cruise line's policy)
- Weapons

Always review your cruise line's prohibited items list before packing.

★ Premium Travel Group Tip

Resist the temptation to overpack. Most travelers wear only a portion of the clothes they bring. Choose versatile clothing that can be mixed and matched, and save room in your suitcase for souvenirs you'll want to bring home.



Last-Minute Packing Checklist



Before leaving home, confirm you have:

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Cruise documents
- ✓ Wallet
- ✓ Phone & charger
- ✓ Prescription medications
- ✓ Swimsuits
- ✓ Walking shoes
- ✓ Water shoes
- ✓ Reef-safe sunscreen
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Day bag
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Travel insurance information



Why Packing Matters

Packing well sets the tone for your entire vacation. Having the right clothing, travel documents, and excursion gear allows you to relax and fully enjoy every beach, port, and adventure without worrying about forgotten essentials.

With a little preparation, you'll be ready for everything from snorkeling colorful coral reefs to exploring historic towns and enjoying elegant evenings onboard.



Joe's Logbook

If I could share one packing tip after years of cruising, it would be this:

Pack less than you think you'll need.

Almost everyone comes home saying the same thing—they packed too many clothes.

Instead, focus on the essentials. Comfortable shoes, a couple of swimsuits, lightweight clothing, good sun protection, and your travel documents will cover most of what you'll need.

One item I never leave home without is a waterproof phone pouch. Whether you're relaxing at the beach, taking a catamaran excursion, or caught in one of those quick tropical rain showers, it's inexpensive peace of mind.

And finally, remember this...

The goal isn't to have the biggest suitcase.

The goal is to have everything you need so you can spend less time worrying about your luggage and more time making memories.

After all, the best souvenir you'll bring home isn't something you packed—it's the experiences you'll never forget.