

TRAVEL/LEISURE

CHOOSING A CRUISE SHIP CHECKLIST

Choosing a Ship:

- Size (small and intimate, large or somewhere in between)
- Activities and programs provided on ship and costs
- Areas, activities, programs restricted by age
- Off-ship excursions available and costs
- Destinations
- Prefer ship that caters to kids, singles, couples, adults only or families
- Prefer more time at sea or in ports
- Attire (casual or formal)
- Food (gourmet or just good food, requests accepted, healthy alternatives, specialty diets)
- Meal seating (assigned or flexible)
- Dining choices (specialty restaurants with dress and age requirements)
- Prefer activities or relaxation
- Trip price (savings or unlimited). Rates are quoted for double occupancy so bring a friend.
- Seek the knowledge of a travel agent

Tip: Compare the price of a cruise to a regular vacation.

Choosing a Room:

- Determine how rooms are categorized
- Cabin expense (luxury or budget)
- Cabin size (regular room, suite, etc.)
- Cabin location (small, inside location, balcony, etc.)

Tip: Avoid cabins closest to bow or nearest the stern of the boat. These can be noisy when docking and undocking from the vibration and sounds of the anchor and bow thrusters.

Discount Tips:

- Negotiate the price but make sure that your bargain price includes everything the normal fare includes
- Book early – a year in advance is not too early to earn a discount
- Book late – if your schedule is flexible, cruise lines often fill vacant rooms at a discount
- Choose a repositioning cruise (cruise that leaves out of one port and returns to another spending most time at sea)
- Book your next cruise while on a cruise

Other Decisions:

- Travel insurance:
 - Cost
 - Criteria for a refund
 - Percentage you receive back