

SMOOTH-SAILING PACKING HACKS

Pack right for your cruise trip to minimise hassle and maximise the fun



CZARAIM CARREON

WITH cruise vacations, you only need to unpack once. After all, there is no need to lug your luggage from hotel to hotel as you travel from one destination to the next.

But — as with any vacation — there is perhaps no denying the feeling of stress when it comes to the packing.

Thankfully, cruise ships are equipped with increasingly elaborate amenities and services. So if you forget to pack something you need, getting it on board shouldn't be too hard.

It still pays to take packing seriously to save yourself from the possible high mark-ups on some items if you purchase them on the ship.

Here are some packing tips for your next cruise:

Cover the basics

Pack enough clothes to last the duration of your trip, unless you can't live without laundry service. Pick clothes that are versatile, comfy and neat.

For men, linen shirts, polos, chinos and a pair of loafers can take them from casual to semi-formal when paired with a belt and a sports coat.

For women, sundresses, casual skirts and matching blouses are safe bets for looking "cruise casual".

Note that some cruises may have formal events that require gentlemen to be in a suit and tie ensemble, and ladies in cocktail dresses.

A rule of thumb is that it is always better to overdress than to look underdressed.



Pick clothes that are versatile and comfy, and ensure you have attire for both casual and formal events.

PHOTOS: ISTOCK

Keep things handy

Bring a day bag to carry essential items such as your camera, wallet, sunscreen and water bottle with you when you board the cruise ship, so you can explore its facilities right away while your luggage is being delivered to your room. It also comes in handy on day trips.

A drawstring bag or a tote is perfect as it is lightweight and stows away easily without taking up too much space.

Over-the-door toiletries organisers are useful when on-board bathrooms offer limited tabletop space. Find one that can compartmentalise everything, from shampoo and body soap to toothbrush and razor.

Note the must-haves

Make copies of important documents such as your passport and identification card. You may be asked to produce these when disembarking at foreign ports.

And whether you are just hanging out on the deck or checking out places of interest at various ports of call, carry a lightweight jacket or windbreaker in case of an unexpected change in the weather.

Lastly, don't let a low-battery situation ruin your vacation.

Get a multi-plug with USB power ports to charge all your electronic devices at once.

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