

BOOK #007

The Smart Traveler's Cruise Packing Guide

Chapter 1 — Cruise Packing Basics

Imagine opening your suitcase the night before your cruise and realizing everything fits perfectly. Your documents are organized, your clothing is neatly packed, and you know exactly where every important item is. Good packing doesn't happen by accident—it starts with a solid plan.

Choose the Right Luggage

Select luggage that matches the length of your cruise and your travel style. A medium or large suitcase is ideal for most week-long cruises, while a carry-on is perfect for shorter sailings. Look for sturdy wheels, durable zippers, and a lightweight design.

Know Your Cruise Line's Guidelines

Before you pack, review your cruise line's luggage recommendations and prohibited items. While most cruise lines don't limit checked luggage as strictly as airlines, you'll still want to pack only what you need and avoid bringing restricted items.

Use Packing Cubes

Packing cubes make it easy to organize clothing by category or family member. They also help keep your suitcase neat throughout your trip and make unpacking in your stateroom much easier.

Pack with a Plan

Think about your itinerary before filling your suitcase. Consider formal nights, shore excursions, weather, and any special activities you have planned. Packing with your schedule in mind helps eliminate unnecessary items.

Create a Packing Timeline

Avoid waiting until the last minute. Start a packing list a week or two before your cruise so you can add items as you think of them and purchase anything you're missing.

Aimee's Insider Tip

I always recommend laying everything out before it goes into the suitcase. Most people discover they can remove several items they really won't use, making the suitcase lighter and leaving extra room for souvenirs on the trip home.