

BOOK #007

The Smart Traveler's Cruise Packing Guide

Chapter 8 — Destination-Specific Packing

Imagine unpacking in your stateroom and realizing you packed exactly what you needed for your destination. Whether you're watching glaciers in Alaska, relaxing on a Caribbean beach, exploring European cities, sailing a river cruise, or enjoying an all-inclusive resort before your cruise, adjusting your packing list for your itinerary can make your vacation far more comfortable.

Alaska Cruises

Pack layers, a lightweight waterproof jacket, comfortable walking shoes, gloves, a warm hat, and binoculars. Weather can change quickly, even during the summer months.

Caribbean & Tropical Cruises

Lightweight clothing, multiple swimsuits, sandals, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a reusable water bottle are must-haves. A rash guard or reef-safe sunscreen may also be useful for beach and snorkeling excursions.

European Cruises

Expect more walking than on many Caribbean itineraries. Comfortable walking shoes, modest clothing for churches and religious sites, a small daypack, and a refillable water bottle are excellent additions.

River Cruises

River cruises are generally more casual than ocean cruises. Pack comfortable walking shoes, lightweight layers, and clothing suitable for daily excursions through historic towns and villages.

Pre- or Post-Cruise Stays

If you're extending your vacation with hotel stays or land tours, remember to pack for those activities too. Check local weather, laundry availability, and any planned excursions before finalizing your suitcase.

Aimee's Insider Tip

One packing list doesn't fit every vacation. Before every trip, I review my itinerary day by day and adjust my suitcase to match the destination instead of packing the same items for every cruise.