

All aboard  
for the Door2Tour.com

# MINIGUIDE TO OCEAN CRUISING



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## WHAT ARE THE CABINS LIKE?

Depending on which ship you are travelling on the cabins can vary. It's wise to remember that cabins aren't always very large, so don't be shocked when you visit your cabin for the first time.



## WILL I HAVE A WINDOW OR BALCONY?

Again it depends on the ship, although the best prices are normally for inside cabins and you'll have to pay to upgrade to a cabin with a window or balcony. Don't

worry though, inside cabins aren't as dark as they sound and you'll be too busy with the facilities on board to spend much time in your room!



## IS IT FORMAL?

How traditional the cruise experience is will depend on the cruise line you're sailing with. The recent introduction of 'freestyle' cruising means you can do whatever you want at your own pace. If you're unsure whether the ship you're travelling on will be **traditional or more flexible**, check with us before booking.



## WHAT'S THE DRESS CODE?

Some ships prefer guests to dress smartly for dinner, where others are more laid back and less formal. Attire is usually defined as casual but not 'sloppy', i.e. swimsuits are confined to the pool area only. If your cruise includes a **Captain's Dinner** you will be expected to wear black tie attire.



## CAN I GET OFF AND WALK TO LOCAL ATTRACTIONS WHEN DOCKED?

It depends on where the ship is docked - some ports are right in the heart of the city or town meaning you can get off the ship to explore to your heart's content. Sometimes you'll need to catch a coach transfer to the destination, but these should be listed within **the cruise tour inclusions** where they apply.



## WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL FACILITIES?

A medical centre will be on-board, fully stocked with everything you may need in case of an emergency. In addition a doctor and nurse are on call 24 hours a day.



## WHAT IF THE WEATHER IS BAD?

Cruising can be slightly unpleasant if the weather is bad. If you suffer with sea-sickness, take some travel sickness medication with you just in case. If it's raining or cold outside there should be plenty of indoor activities to keep you amused.



## HOW MUCH LUGGAGE CAN I TAKE?

You can take as much luggage as you like with you, but just remember the cabin is quite cosy so big suitcases can take up a lot of space. Some cruises include flights, so you need to check you observe airline guidelines.



## ARE THEY SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES?

Depending on the ship you are travelling on, some cruises offer fantastic facilities to entertain the kids, whilst others don't. Check before you book to find the ship for you.



## WHAT'S THE FOOD LIKE?

Which ship you stay on will determine the dining experiences available. Some ships are more formal offering fixed dining times in the evening, whilst others offer a more 'freestyle' approach. Either way, expect freshly prepared food with lots of choice and variety. Many ships will offer a **buffet option offering a variety of different cuisines**.



## DO I HAVE TO TIP?

Cruise ships tend to automatically opt you in for a per-day tipping scheme which gets taken from your credit card at the end of your cruise. If you want to opt-out of this and tip staff as you go, you can normally do so by visiting reception. As an example, gratuities on the Marco Polo are £5 per person per night (for cruises of less than 16 days in duration) and automatically charged to passengers' onboard accounts.



## DO I NEED MY PASSPORT?

Yes - for any cruises heading abroad you'll need a Passport to join the ship, although once you've checked in you shouldn't need to use it again.



## WHAT FACILITIES ARE THERE ON BOARD?

The Marco Polo and Discovery include a variety of leisure and shopping possibilities from relaxing lounges and on-deck swimming pools and whirlpools to gyms, libraries and spa and wellness centres where you can enjoy beauty treatments and hairdressing. There'll also be a **traditional promenade allowing you to take in the views** and fresh sea air. If you're purchasing anything on board the ship, just remember to use the correct currency for the ship, otherwise it can be charged to your room.



## CAN I BRING ALCOHOL ON BOARD?

It's best to check this before you leave for your holiday. Some cruise lines are happy for you to consume your own alcohol in your cabin, but others aren't. Be advised that you're likely to get searched as you board the cruise ship and your luggage may well be scanned.



## ARE SHORE/LAND EXCURSIONS AVAILABLE?

Generally cruise ships offer extra land excursions to various sites and attractions, which are available at an additional supplement. These can normally be booked online before you travel or when you are on board the ship.



## WHAT IF I'M DISABLED?

No problem. Many of the ships have lifts and wider corridors to help you navigate and in addition to this there are disabled cabins available with wider doors, disabled bathroom facilities and easier access.



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