

Tips for Cruising with Goulds Travel

You are now about to embark on an incredible cruise adventure! Here are some tips –

What to have with you when you board:

- You should have already completed your online check-in and printed all of your documentation. Have your documents with you, (such as Passport, Driver's License, Certified Birth Certificate, Marriage License, Visas, Citizenship Information, etc.), and your cruise boarding pass.
- Luggage tags should be put on your luggage
- Take a light jacket/sweater with you on-board as it may be chilly. Wear what you plan on wearing for the day as you may not have access to your room right away.
- Medication should be put in your carry-on luggage.
- Some cruise lines will allow you to carry-on beverages to include water, juice, or soft drinks. Also, you may be allowed to bring a bottle of wine/champagne (up to 750mL) in your carry-on (corkage / carry-on fees may apply). Check with the cruise line or your travel advisor before departure!

Packing:

- Pack light! Leave room for things you might buy.
- Luggage that can collapse is best as you may be storing it under the bed.
- Be sure to pack a nice outfit for the dressy night(s). Jeans are not typically allowed in the Main Dining Room.
- There is shampoo and liquid soap in the bathrooms, so you do not need to worry about packing these two items, unless you prefer to do so.
- Some of the smaller ships do not have blow-dryers, so be sure to pack your own!
- DO NOT take irons / extension cords with you. They may be confiscated. They are a fire hazard and the cruise line can confiscate anything that they see as a hazard.

Carry-On Luggage:

- Even if you plan on checking luggage, there are several items that you never want to pack in your checked bags. For this reason, you will need at least one carry-on bag also.
- Below is a list of items that you should always keep with you when you travel:
 - Prescription medications
 - Passport
 - Photo ID (driver's license)
 - Airline and Cruise Tickets
 - Cash and Credit Cards
 - Electronic gear (computers, cameras, video camera, iPod, etc.)
 - Jewelry

Once On-Board:

- You may not be able to go to your cabin right away, so if you board early – find food, explore the ship, or kick back. Once your room is ready, you can put your carry-on luggage in the cabin.
- At the very beginning of the cruise there will be a safety drill, it is about 20 minutes and is REQUIRED! Find out where you must go as there may be more than one area!
- After the safety drill you are now able to do as you want and RELAX!

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- You will be given a card that is used throughout the ship as your credit card, room key, and identification. You can always check to see what was charged on your account by going to the reception area or using a kiosk on some ships. Gratuities and service fees will likely be added to your account, unless you pre-paid them. It is also useful to note that new ships also use their room keys to provide electricity to the stateroom. Upon walking into the cabin, there may be a gray device on the wall to slide the room key. This is a way ships are reducing the amount of energy they use.
- Make sure you check your on-board expense account prior to departing the cruise ship at the end of your vacation to ensure everything is accounted for properly.
- If there are stores onboard, there are many sales that will take place throughout the cruise! Keep in mind that they may sell out!

Unpacking In Your Cabin:

- Now you are in your cabin. Unpack right away and put your luggage away.
- If your beds are not arranged properly (king, twins, etc.), tell your cabin steward and they will change them for you (some ships/cabins may not be adjusted).
- Make sure that you have ice daily. Your cabin steward will take care of this for you – it just makes everything easier and more convenient if you need it!

Dining:

- Don't be afraid to ask for as many items as you want at dinner in the Main Dining Room. If you want two different entrees, then get two, but keep in mind that some entrees may come with an additional service charge (they will let you know in advance).
- There may be room service as well! You may get coffee delivered to your room in the morning, then go enjoy breakfast in the Main Dining Room or buffet. You may also have breakfast delivered right to you (keep in mind, there may be a fee).
- If you drink, you may want to consider purchasing an alcohol or soda package! This must be purchased on day one, and you must pay for the entire cruise (not just the days you choose). Sometimes you can purchase it on day 2 as well.
- Some ships have specialty restaurants that may require a reservation and an extra cost.
- If you have special dietary needs, you must let the ship know 30 days in advance or tell your travel advisor and they will make sure it is documented.
- Don't feel like you must eat everything! There is a lot of food!

Workout Room:

- There is a workout room on most ships that usually have up to date equipment!
- If you sign up for any classes that cost money, make sure that you show up. If you do not show up, you will still be charged – they will have cancellation deadlines as well.

Shore Excursions

- You can book these through the cruise line directly, through 3rd parties, or on the ship. We recommend doing this as soon as possible, as they do tend to sell out. You want to be able to do what you want, rather than what is left over.
- When out for the day, DON'T miss the ship! They have very strict time lines. If you miss the ship, you have to pay to figure out how to get back on your own.
- Don't feel like you have to go ashore, there are things to do on the ship such as the SPA, duty free (tax free) shopping on and off the ship, and more!

Gambling & Casinos

- If there are casinos on the ship, you will not be able to go to the casino while the ship is in port. They will operate again once they are a few miles out.
- You can transfer money from your on-board account to the machines at the casino, then put it back on your account when you're done playing (if you have some left).

Making Calls & Using Two-Way Radios While on the Ship

- Check with your cellular provider about roaming and international fees (these are different than charges you may expect while at sea – so be very cautious)!
- If you do not have an international rate with your cell phone carrier try not to call anyone on your cell phone. You may not have coverage at sea either.
- When you dock, ask the employees of the cruise ship where they make their calls in port. You may have to purchase a phone card or find a small shop that has calls for cents per minute.
- If there are a group of you on board, you may want to bring some two-way radios with you to keep in touch with each other, but you may have some interference!
- Some ships also offer Wi-Fi packages and messenger apps to stay in touch.

Packing to Come Back Home (The Night Before Your Leave the Ship)

- You may have to pack the night before and leave your luggage outside of your cabin if you want them picked up and taken off the ship.
- Be sure to leave out anything that you will need in the morning and remember, you will have to carry that off with you.

**If you take your own bags off the ship you can be some of the first passengers to leave the ship. There is still a line, so try to relax that last morning and don't be in a hurry – maybe see if you can grab breakfast first on the way out!*

Additional Free Things to Do on the Ship

- Wake up early and watch the sunrise on the deck.
- You'll get daily itineraries from the ship as to what is going on during the day, plan your day and catch some of the seminars, classes, or dance to the music by the pool.

WE HIGHLY ENCOURAGE Onboard Bookings!

- There will be a sales department area while onboard. You can go to that desk and look at future cruises. They may offer you a discount of some kind and shipboard credit as well!
- If you booked this cruise through a travel advisor and decide to book your next cruise onboard, let them know you worked with an advisor and they will automatically notate it.
- Once you return home, be sure to let your advisor know so they can follow up and make sure that all is in order for your next trip!

We hope this helps make your trip a little easier. Once you go on a cruise, you will know exactly what to do for the next one! When I took my first cruise, I packed a lot, bought too much, and almost couldn't get off the ship because I had too many bags. Don't let this happen to you!

Have fun, be safe, and most importantly – ENJOY!