

Six Stress Free Tips for Packing on your next Cruise

Written by: Susan Helfrich



Successful Packing Tip 1:

Write down what you plan to wear each day.

Planning what you will do on vacation is half of the fun. The best way to pack sensibly is to look at your Day by Day itinerary. Envisioning what you will do each day will help you decide what you'd like to wear.

Successful Packing Tip 2:

Complete each outfit.

Once you have decided what you'd like to wear each day, lay the complete outfit on the bed from head to toe. For example, when deciding on your bathing suit, include beach sandals, matching cover up, sun hat, beach bag, sunglasses. Same formula for your sun dress, sweat suit, etc... This is an important step as this is where you begin to mix and match. As you begin to build your daily outfits, you'll notice that with a basic color scheme you will not need as many coordinating items such as shoes, handbags, hair accessories, etc.

Successful Packing Tip 3:

Hangers are the secret!

Want to unpack in minutes? Hangers are the secret. Hangers allow you to take your clothes directly from your suitcase and hang them in the closet. For a bathing suit, hang the suit, cover up, and beach bag all on one hanger. This is convenient and a great way to make sure you didn't forget anything.

Successful Packing Tip 4:

Don't over pack your suitcase because:

1. Airlines now charge fees based on weight of your luggage Stocking up on magazines for your upcoming vacation can cost you. Lots of magazines are heavy. Bring only one or two for the plane ride and buy the rest in the airport when you land.

2. Dirty clothes always take up more space.

3. You will want room in your suitcase for items you purchase on vacation which leads us to tip 5.

Successful Packing Tip 5:

Pack a smaller suitcase inside.

This can be accomplished in one of two ways. Pack a smaller bag with soft sides that will fold up. With this option you will probably have to return home with his bag as a carry on as it may get crushed if you try to send it as checked baggage. Option 2: Luggage sets usually have 2 large pieces. You can place the smaller case inside the larger case and pack. This will appear that you have one suitcase going and you'll have the option of two hard suitcases that you can check on the return.

Successful Packing Tip 6:

Completely Unpack

Unpack as soon as your luggage arrives in your room. Floor space is limited in staterooms. There is plenty of room to walk around, but not with a large suit case on the floor. Unlike a hotel where you may leave your suit case on the luggage rack or open on the floor, you will want to completely unpack and store your luggage under the bed.

Below you will see how to pack light by mixing and matching outfits. On a cruise you'll wear each outfit for a few of hours. An average day begins with a light weight sweat suit and sneakers for breakfast and a morning walk on the deck. After breakfast, change into a bathing suit with sun dress. Enjoy an island tour in your sun dress, then off to the beach for the afternoon. Return back to the ship, shower and change for dinner. You will see below that most outfits can take you from day to evening.



Day 1 & Day 8
Travel Days: Capri Pants, tank top & Jacket. This outfit takes you from the plane to dinner



Day 2 & Day 7
Sun dress for touring the islands, or bathing suit cover up.



Evening
A shawl for evening will keep you warm



Day 3
Skirt & Top for touring the islands, or bathing suit cover up



Day 4
Add a Jacket to dress down the look for another day



Day 5
Capri pants & blue T-shirt



Day 6
Same top as day 3 with different skirt takes you from day to evening

8 Days:
2 Jackets,
Capri pants
3 Tank Tops
2 skirts, short-Long
Sun Dress
Evening Dress
Dress Shoes & bag
Sandals & handbag
Add Sweat Suit
Sneakers &
Swim Suit