



TRAVEL TIPS

How embarking on a cruise?



You are finally there ! It is the day of **embarkation**. Here is a description of a typical day and some tips for a successful boarding.

Transfer to the cruise ship for embarkation

If you booked your flight through the cruise line, you will probably also booked a transfer to the port. Otherwise, it is best to evaluate the transfer options to the boat before departure. Taxi, train, or bus services are probably available. Depending on the number of people in your group, the least expensive option may vary. A taxi can be cheaper for groups of four, while the transfer offered by the cruise line or an independent company or tour operator may be more economical for a couple or a single person.

Not to take risks, be sure to keep with you your medication and valuables.

Arrival at the port

On arrival at the port, the first thing you will do is to deposit your luggage at the dock. Make sure your bags are properly identified with the labels provided by the cruise line and including your booth number. Porters will take charge of your luggage and will transfer to the ship. Tipping is appreciated for porters. A dollar a suitcase should be enough.

Registration

Afterwards, you will continue your way through the cruise terminal for registration. Usually, registration starts between 11am and 1pm. You will find this information on the cruise ticket. The first hours are busiest and sometimes numbered ticket systems are used to record travelers a group at a time. You will have to wait in the waiting room. On the other hand, if you are a frequent traveler and have booked a suite, you can benefit from a priority check-in.

At check-in you will be asked to fill out a form on your health history, where you must declare if you have gastroenteritis, flu or fever. You will be asked to present your cruise ticket and passport. They will also take the imprint of your credit card for your spending on the boat. You will be given a key card to allow you to embark and disembark the boat, to open the door of your cabin and it will also be used as your credit card for your onboard expenses. A plan of the ship should be given to you at that time, depending on the cruise line.

Security

If you have some questions that are related to a cruise or other travel , do not hesitate to contact me, Gabriel Turcotte, on my email: gturcotte.clubvoyages@hotmail.com or my cell : 514-973-5928



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Following registration, you will have to go through security. As at the airport, your hand luggage will pass through X-rays and you with a metal detector. Your other luggage also go through the x-rays once they are loaded on the ship.

Exploration of the ship

You are finally on the ship. Your cabin may already be ready. Sometimes you may have to wait a specified time before taking possession of your cabin. Take the opportunity to explore the ship and the services offered.

You can also bring your bathing suit in your hand luggage to enjoy the pool until your cabin is ready. The buffet will open and, if the weather permits, a BBQ will probably be offered around the pool. Activities and entertainment (games, music) also highlight the ship's departure.

If you have planned dinner at a set time and you have special requests or want to know where your table is set, it is time to contact the waiter in the main restaurant.

Access to your cabin

You now get to your cabin. On some cruise lines only, one protective mat is lying on the bed to lay your suitcase. The TV will be turned on to the safety instructions channel. You will also find the guide of the day's activities and other information about the services offered on board. Locate the life jackets that you will probably be useful for the evacuation exercise later.

Evacuation exercise and safety tips

The first day, before departure, cruise lines must hold an evacuation drill. The evacuation signal will sound and you should proceed with your life jacket, depending on the cruise line, to your meeting place, where they will explain the various safety precautions to be observed on board if evacuation was necessary. Information on the meeting place, and the path to get there can be found on your cabin door.

Reception of your luggage

Your luggage will be delivered to the door of your cabin at the end of the afternoon or evening. With several hundred passengers, this process can take some time.

The first night on the ship is an occasion to discover the restaurants, bars, shows and other activities offered on board. You will also be offered different packages for drinks, specialty restaurants or spa. On some boats, specials are offered only the first day for drinks or relaxation packages. Figure out if these packages will make you actually save.

If you have a day in another port the next day, see the list of excursions in your room or office trips. If you had booked trips before your departure, your tickets should be in your cabin.

After this busy day, you'll be happy to return to the comfort of your cabin to rest and be ready for the next day's activities. Happy cruising!

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