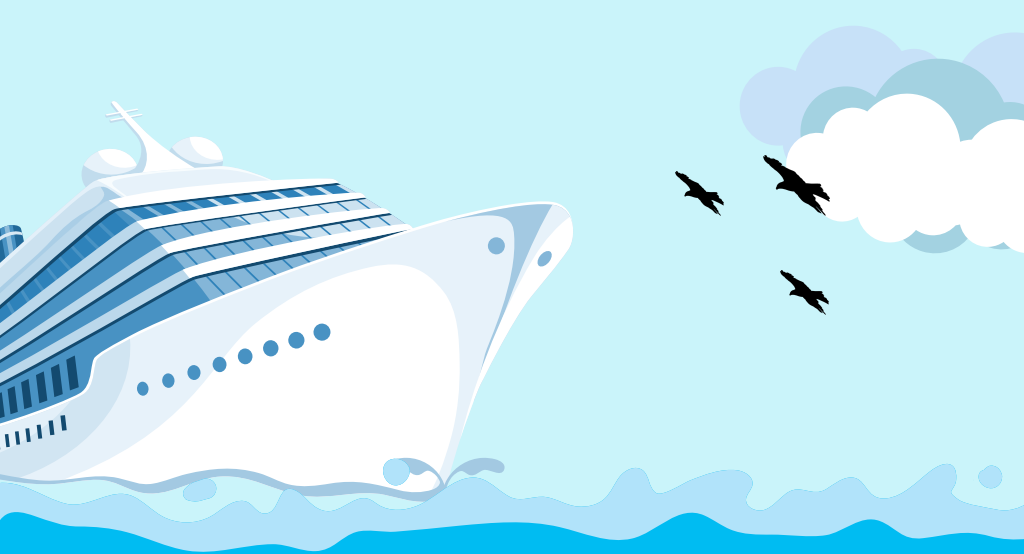


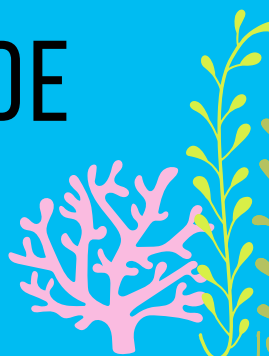


DISNEY FOOD BLOG'S



DISNEY CRUISE

ULTIMATE GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

Thinking of planning a Disney Cruise but don't know where to begin? We get it. There are SO many things to consider before sailing the seven seas. Where do you want to cruise? Which ship should you choose? What about excursions or on-ship entertainment? It's FUN to think about, but also *overwhelming*.

That's why we're here: To help you get a running start towards your best cruise experience EVER! In this guide, we're breaking down everything you need to know about planning a Disney Cruise BEFORE you set sail -- with introductions to each ship, an easy-to-follow planning timeline, and LOTS of full-color pictures! By the end of this guide, you should have both the tools (and the confidence) to start planning your dream Disney Cruise getaway.

While you're busy planning your Disney Cruise, be sure to download the FREE **Disney Navigator App**. This will be the jump-off point for your entire vacation and will help you manage your reservations, make payments, book activities (both on board and while at port), and even allow you to check into your stateroom!

PRO TIP



Want personalized recommendations for your cruise? Small World Vacations' agents have been on over 600+ cruises. Their FREE service can help you get the BEST price, room, & itinerary for your vacation.



DISNEY MAGIC

The **Disney Magic** is the original Disney Cruise Line ship, first setting sail in 1998. This ship is based in the Atlantic Ocean and sails to the **Caribbean, the Bahamas, Northern Europe, and the Mediterranean.**

DISNEY WONDER

The **Disney Wonder** is the sister ship of the Disney Magic, first setting sail in 1999. This ship is based in the Pacific Ocean and sails along the **American West Coast, as well as to Hawaii and Alaska!** Additionally, the Disney Wonder now sails to **Australia and New Zealand, too!**



DISNEY DREAM

The **Disney Dream** marked its debut in 2011. This ship has **Bahamian itineraries** (including stops at Disney Cruise Line's private island, **Castaway Cay**). It also offers unique **European itineraries to the British and Greek Isles, Norwegian cruises, and Transatlantic crossings.**



DISNEY FANTASY

The **Disney Fantasy** first set sail in 2012. This ship offers seven-night **Eastern and Western Caribbean** sailings. The Fantasy (as well as the Magic and Dream) will each offer sailings to Disney's brand-new island destination, **Lookout Cay at Lighthouse Point**, starting in the summer of 2024.

DISNEY WISH

The **Disney Wish** is Disney Cruise Line's newest ship (currently), taking its maiden voyage on July 14, 2022! This ship sails from Port Canaveral, FL, offering 3- and 4-night cruises to **Nassau and Disney Cruise Line's Castaway Cay**.



DISNEY TREASURE

The **Disney Treasure** – which is set for delivery on **December 24th, 2024** – will be the sixth ship in the Disney Cruise Line fleet. The Disney Treasure will celebrate “Walt Disney's lifelong love of *adventure*.” Be sure to check back on the DFB website for more updates on what's to come!





ONBOARD EATS

Time to bring on the FOOD – and lots of it! Each Disney Cruise ship has a **buffet option, quick service (or fast-food) type options, snack bars, table service dining, and luxury signature dining**. While most of the food you'll find onboard is all-inclusive -- and included with your stateroom price -- the signature adults-only restaurants will be a separate (and rather pricey) cost.

Disney Cruise Line's **Rotational Dining** lets you dine at **three different, highly-themed restaurants for dinner** while designated servers rotate along with you each night. That means your servers will get to know you, your group, and all your specific dining preferences really, *really* well! Each ship has a variety of themed dining options. While some are completely unique to each ship, others are copy-and-paste versions across multiple ships.

But wait, there's more! The ships also have several immersive **lounges, coffee shops, and bars** that offer upgraded drinks and snacks (for a little extra cost).

And don't forget about that **FREE 24/7 room service**, which is also available across each of the ships! Bon voyage and bon appetit!

ONBOARD ACTIVITIES

If there's one thing Disney has a LOT of on its ships, it's entertainment. And nearly ALL of it is included.

Of course, there are entertainment options that are an additional cost -- such as **paid bingo opportunities with prize packages, spa services, wine tastings**, etc. But for the most part, a LOT of entertainment is available on Disney Cruise Line at no additional cost beyond what you've paid for your stay. This includes activities like **karaoke nights, nighttime extravaganzas, kid game shows, trivia, tours of the ship, drawing lessons**, and MORE.

Each cruise also includes select special events during themed and holiday cruises (like during the **Very Merrytime Cruises or Marvel Day at Sea**). You can check out the daily list of events for the cruise through the Disney Cruise Line Navigator app.

All of the cruise ships provide youth and teen clubs to keep the kids entertained during the cruise. This includes the **Oceaneer Club and Oceaneer Lab (ages 3-12), Edge (ages 11-14), and Vibe (ages 14-17)**. There's even a nursery for those wee ones for an extra fee (ages 6 months to 3 years). Each youth club is tailored to a different age range and includes different entertainment elements. And each ship has its own unique take on each space.

If you're looking to book a massage or enjoy a nice dinner, you can take your baby over to the **its a small world nursery!** Space is limited, so be sure to book your child's stay as soon as possible.

Adults who want to stop by these locations -- just to get a peek at what the fun is all about -- can stop by during **open house** days/hours.



DISNEY CRUISE PLANNING TIMELINE

12-18 MONTHS



Book your cruise!

6-9 MONTHS



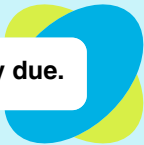
Budget for premium activities that require reservations.

75 DAYS



Online check-in and activity bookings open for new cruisers.

60-75 DAYS



Final payments typically due.

1-3 WEEKS



Print travel documents and luggage tags. (And PACK!)

DAY BEFORE



Stay in a hotel near your port of call.

12-18 MONTHS

You're going to want to book your cruise at **LEAST** a year out for **SEVERAL** good reasons...

The biggest reason? Disney Cruise Line uses a **tiered pricing system** -- meaning you'll find lower rates the earlier you book. So booking early will potentially save you money, as well as increase the choice of staterooms that you'll have to choose from. **(Beware: Disney Cruises book up FAST.)**



6-9 MONTHS

Time to start budgeting! Now's the time to research different premium experiences to see what options are going to become the "must dos" of your trip. This includes **shore excursions, specialty dining, and other onboard/offboard activities.**

75 DAYS

Disney Cruises open their **online check-in and activity booking windows** (for specialty dining, Disney excursions, exclusive meet and greets, etc.) for first-time cruisers 75 days before your ship sets sail. The more you cruise, the earlier your booking window will be for the next one!



60-75 DAYS BEFORE

Start wrapping up those **final payments**, friends – because those are typically due two months (or more) before your cruise begins. It's also important to double-check your cruise details and identification to make sure you've got all your ducks in a row before taking off.

30 DAYS BEFORE

NOW is the time to book any last-minute specialty dining or excursion experiences (IF they're still available). This is also a good time to start gathering cruise items that you might need before sailing -- like phone chargers, pirate costumes, swimsuits, snorkel gear, reusable water bottles, etc.

14 DAYS BEFORE

Won't be long now! When you're 1-3 weeks out, print travel documents and tags for luggage. And then? Start **PACKING!** Again, this is a good time to double-check your reservations and make sure everything's in tip-top shape. If you need to modify your reservations at any time, head to your **Disney Cruise account** and click on the **Modify Reservation page**. From here, you can edit your travel party, modify your stateroom, or cancel reservations (if need be).





DAY BEFORE

You're almost there! We recommend booking a hotel near the port you're traveling to for this night – instead of trying to fly in the day of – to avoid any last-minute stress. Make sure important documentation (i.e: **vacation confirmations, medical documents, and emergency contact information**) are safely stowed away in your carry-on bag.

PRO TIP



Cruises that take place over weekends are often the busiest, so if it fits into your schedule consider booking a trip that primarily takes place over weekdays.

CRUISE DAY

The day is finally here! Now it's time for the fun to BEGIN! If you have any last-minute concerns about your reservations and itinerary, **go to guest relations just as soon as you get on the ship** to get everything squared away. You may also be able to put your name on a walk-up waitlist for signature dining at the restaurant's host stand.

BEST TIME TO SAIL?

The best time of year to set sail on a Disney cruise entirely **depends on your cruise destination!** Each region has its own “**high season**” — the busiest times of the year — and a “**shoulder**” or “**low season.**” Booking a cruise during the shoulder or lower seasons can often mean **cheaper rates and less crowded destinations.**

PACKING LIST

Important Stuff!

- Passports
- [Passport organizer](#)
- Pre-boarding documents
- [Luggage tags and tag protectors](#)
- Driver's license
- Excursion reservations + contact info (if not Disney)
- [Phone + charger](#)
- [USB splitter](#) (NOT a surge protector)

Clothing

- [Daily outfits](#) (t-shirts, shorts, pants, sun dresses, bathing suit coverups)
- 2 Bathing suits per person (they take a while to dry!)
- [Sweater or sweatshirt](#)
- [Comfortable shoes](#) for shore excursions + walking the decks
- Dress-up evening attire (jacket for men, dress or pantsuit for women, lots of young ones will wear princess dresses)

Fun Stuff!

- [Pirate attire for Pirate Night](#) (if you're on a specialty cruise -- Marvel, Pixar, etc. -- you'll want to dress in that theme, too)
- [Autograph book](#)
- [Fish extender + gifts](#)
- [Magnetic door decorations](#)

Pool & Beach Gear

- [Goggles](#)
- [Snorkel gear for Castaway Cay](#) (you can rent it there, too!)
- [Pool/beach bag](#)
- [Wet bag for bathing suits](#)
- [Chair clips or bands](#)

Miscellaneous

- [Reusable water bottle](#)
- Any old card to keep your lights on in your cabin
- [Toiletries in a large hanging bag](#)
- [Over-the-door organizer](#)
- [Magnetic hooks](#)

DISNEY CRUISE PLANNER

Print as many sheets as you need to cover your trip. We hope it's a lot!

DATE: / DATE:	
PORT	
SPECIALTY DINING	
ONBOARD ACTIVITIES	
EXCURSIONS	