

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR SHIP CORRECTLY?

The election of your cruise is fundamental: it will be your house and your floating hotel; therefore it is very important that you feel comfortable.

INFORMATION TO CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING YOUR CRUISE: shipping companies publish all kinds of information about their fleet. This information allows evaluating the cruises.

Tonnage: a boat of 78,000 tons tolerating 9 bridges is quite impressive. To give you an idea this is the equivalent to a 10 or 12 store building.

Space available: This is easy to calculate: take the tonnage and divide it by the number of passengers; the result of this operation will give you an idea of the space available on the following scale: for 50 or more, exceptional space; from 30 to 50: very extensive, from 20 to 30 extensive, 10 to 20 moderate space and 10 or less, little space.

Speed: speed comes expressed in "knots"; a knot represents the equivalent of one nautical mile 6,080 feet (1,852 kilometers) per hour.

Number of passengers: this information is important because it allows evaluating the cruises chosen: the atmosphere will be familiar, rather intimate, or we will be surrounded by a lot of people? There are cruises with a capacity going from 400 to 3,200 passengers.

Crew members: Independently of the capacity of the ship, 500, 2,000 or 3,000 passengers, most of the big companies apply a ratio of 1/3. The number of crew members in relation to the number of passengers allows verifying if the offered service will be of high quality.

The ship's flag: fleets register their ships in the ports that offer fiscal advantages. It is not rare to see ships registered in Liberia, Bahamas or Panama; however this does not contribute much in your mission to choose the right ship for you; on the contrary it is more interesting to know the nationality of the crew.

The date of baptism of the ship and the date of the latest modifications: The date of baptism indicates if the boat is old or not. Companies make renovations every 8 or 10 years. It is of your interest to find out the latest date the ship was improved.

Ship size: Newer boats are better equipped (tennis, casino, mini-golf, swimming pools). Their benefits are superior to those offered by older ships. They can welcome a bigger number of passengers; however they can also be a disadvantage in a delay when it comes to board, disembark and book activities of your choice. On the other hand, they offer more space for the diversity of activities. The following information will describe the advantages of the different ships you have to choose from:

Small boat: Between 2,000 and 20,000 tons, being able to embark up to 500 passengers. This type of boat is thought for those who prefer an intimate atmosphere, a small hotel to a big modern hotel but with an incomparable comfort.

Average boat: Between 20,000 and 50,000 tons, capacity to accommodate between 500 and 1,000 passengers. This boat is perfect for the small ports of the Mediterranean since it is easier to maneuver than the bigger boats. Many of these boats sail around the world and in general they are more stable than the small boats, have an ideal dimension, neither too big nor too small, and have the aspect of a traditional cruise.

Big boat: Between 50,000 to 150,000 tons, being able to embark more than 2,000 passengers. They offer an undeniable range of comforts, activities, restaurants... Its size imposes certain norms (food turns demand strict organization, the service is carefully supervised, however a little more impersonal due to the big size of the boat). Despite of this, the bigger boats are equipped with high-end technology, they can sail with any type of climatology, offer more space, flexibility in meals, activities and distractions.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL BY CRUISE...

WHEN DO I RECEIVE MY TRIP DOCUMENTATION?

In general, your trip documents are sent –by email or mail– one week prior to the departure; with the exception of last minute sales.

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE TO MY TRIP?

In most cruises the dress code is informal and sport, except for luxury companies like Silversea and Radisson Seven Cruises, for example. We recommend taking comfortable shoes for sport activities, informal clothes and several swim suits. Dress codes for dining and special celebrations exist according to the occasion and activities: full dress etiquette is suggested for dinner; for these occasions we recommended elegant and neat suits. Dining in a restaurant: we advise clothing such as a suit without necktie for men and a dress for the ladies. Informal Dinner: as its own name suggests, comfortable informal clothing; however, do not forget to take a jersey for the temperature changes between a/c rooms and outside.

Before leaving your house, make sure you have the following documentation: valid passport (s) – boarding tickets – airplane tickets – train or bus roundtrip tickets (if applicable) – all vouchers of transfers and hotels (if applicable) – insurance papers – cash, euro/travelers checks, and credit cards. If you take medications, not matter of what type, do not forget to take a sufficient amount, since you will not find medicines on board...and by all means, do not forget your camera!!!!

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MY SUITCASES?

When you receive the documentation of the trip, you will find in its interior several labels for the suitcases. Please fill them out with your full name, the name of the ship, the number of the cabin, date and port of departure. It is recommended to write in capital letters to facilitate its reading. When you embark, bellboys will take care of the suitcases and deposit them in your stateroom.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT OR A VISA?

If you are European and are going to travel only in the European Union, it is enough if you travel with your DNI or valid Passport. If you are not European, you must be in possession of a passport with a date of expiration of at least six months after your return. You also need to travel with a Visa when your nationality requires one. We invite you to check with our advisors by calling toll free USA 1-866-3198994 or send us an email at info@turvisa.co.cr.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GRATUITIES?

The tradition is to give gratuities on board of the cruises. This custom allows guaranteeing on board qualified personnel along with a high level of offered services. In some companies, gratuities can be paid in advance (for example Pullmantur, Royal Caribbean and Carnival). It is necessary to calculate an average of 8 Euros per day and person. In Europe this is not a common practice; however it is for the rest of the world.

CAN I PARK MY CAR IN THE PORT'S PARKING LOT?

Most of the ports are equipped with parking services of long stay. You need to estimate about 9 Euros per day and payment will take place directly. Some ports only accept cash as payment method.