



CRUISE SHIP TRAVEL

Cruise ship travel is an increasingly popular way to see the world. Millions of U.S. citizens embark on cruise ships without incident. However, it is important that applicants be prepared so they can enjoy their trip with peace of mind. Here are some things to share with your customers who are planning to go on a cruise.

HERE IS SOME GOOD ADVICE TO SHARE:

Visit travel.state.gov and read our [Traveler's Checklist](#) and make sure to:

Research their [destination](#) to learn about important health and safety precautions to take.

Apply early for their passport, or make sure their current [passport](#) will be valid for at least six months beyond the travel dates, and has two or more blank pages.

Have the right foreign visas for all stops on their cruise, if required, even if they do not plan to disembark in those locations.

Take a list of [U.S. embassies and consulates](#) located in the countries you will be visiting, in case you have an emergency.

Sign up for our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) to receive important safety and security information about the countries that will be visited. Follow @TravelGov on Twitter and/or Facebook for travel and security information as well.

Have medical, emergency evacuation, and other [insurance](#) to cover unexpected travel expenses when abroad. Check with cruise line, travel agency, health/homeowner's insurance providers, credit card companies, and other sources to learn what they do and do not cover overseas. Consider buying supplemental insurance.

Make color copies of their passport photo page, foreign visas, and itinerary. Leave one copy with a trusted family member or friend and carry one separately from their actual documents.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a passport to take a cruise?

Depending on where the cruise starts and ends, they may not be **required** to have a passport but the Department of State recommends that everyone who takes a cruise which leaves the United States, has a passport book. Also, the cruise line may require a passport even if U.S. Customs and Border Control may not.

"If I am not required to have a passport for my cruise, why should I get one?"

Let them know that unexpected circumstances can occur that make it impossible to return to the United States on the cruise ship. For example, an illness or injury that requires them to be admitted to a local hospital overseas. If they cannot be discharged before the cruise ship is scheduled to depart, the cruise ship may leave without them. In this case, they would need a U.S. passport to fly home upon clearance from their doctor. Or, occasionally cruise ships are damaged or have mechanical issues that cannot be fixed during the trip. In these cases, they would need a U.S. passport book to fly home.