



Tips for Life On Board a Cruise



- It generally takes a few hours for your luggage to arrive at your stateroom. Don't panic if you see your neighbors' luggage in front of their door but not yours.
- Two-way walkie-talkies are a good way to keep in contact with members of your party.
- Many ships sell unlimited soft drink packages at approximately \$6 per day per person. If you drink a lot of soda this is a good investment. Most ships offer free iced tea, hot tea, lemonade, coffee, and water, so if you do not drink a lot of soda you can get away without buying the package.
- The ship will have a shipboard credit account on which you will charge your on-board expenses. Be careful - it's easy to overspend with this convenience.
- Tap into the friendly and knowledgeable staff members on your ship, who have probably visited your ports dozens of times. They are likely to have invaluable tips and suggestions, or be able to answer your questions.
- Most cruise lines allow you to prepay your gratuities or put them on your shipboard credit account.
- Most bar, beverage, and deck service bills automatically add the gratuity. Check yours to make sure you don't double tip.
- Plan to spend an average of \$10 to \$15 per person per day for gratuities.
- Don't leave valuables out in your stateroom. Lock them in your luggage or stateroom safe.
- If you have any issues with your cabin, report them immediately.
- When you first get on the ship, walk around and try to familiarize yourself with the layout of the ship and each deck.
- Most cruises have great sales on the last day. Try to resist the urge to buy until then.