

How To Pack for a Cruise – The AbbeyPost Way

By Jen (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/author/jena/>) **Tuesday, May 6, 2014** 0

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Are you headed on a cruise vacation this summer? Lucky you!

Packing for a cruise can be more daunting than packing for any other type of vacation. With other kinds of trips, if you forget to bring a sweater, you can pick one up in a shop. On a cruise ship you might be able to do the same, but it'll cost a lot more. And if you're plus size, you might not even have that option.



On a cruise, you'll have so many activities available to you, and you need to be prepared for all of them. While keeping your suitcase light enough to avoid overweight fees on your flights to and from the ship.

Here's an awesome fact: AbbeyPost's Made to Measure dresses are perfect for traveling. Case in point: our CEO once got 15 (!!!) dresses, plus a cardigan and a blazer,

a pair of heels, and a makeup bag (plus toiletries) into one carry-on roller bag. WOW!

Follow the Rules

You can dress casually during the day, but in the evenings you'll be expected to stick to a dress code, even on a casual ship. Your itinerary can tell you which [dress code \(http://www.cruisecritic.com/articles.cfm?ID=545\)](http://www.cruisecritic.com/articles.cfm?ID=545) will be in force on each night. This can mean casual, smart casual, resort casual, or formal.

Check with your cruise line about what you're [not allowed to pack \(http://www.cruisecritic.com/blog/index.php/2012/06/12/what-not-to-pack-5-things-you-want-to-bring-on-a-cruise-but-shouldnt/?isalt=0\)](http://www.cruisecritic.com/blog/index.php/2012/06/12/what-not-to-pack-5-things-you-want-to-bring-on-a-cruise-but-shouldnt/?isalt=0). You won't be allowed to bring an iron – it's a fire hazard. Wrinkle-release spray is a good alternative, though your best bet is wearing fabrics that don't wrinkle – like ponte and jersey, which are what [AbbeyPost Made to Measure dresses \(http://abbeypost.com/shop\)](http://abbeypost.com/shop) are made from. And as we mentioned they fold up to practically nothing, so they're perfect for travel.

What Will You Be Doing?

On a cruise, you can soak in the hot tub, try rock climbing or relax in the on-board spa. If you want to try something sporty, then pack some active wear. If you're plus size, and don't want to risk that the spa won't have robes in your size, bring a light, summer-weight robe from home.

Packing for a cruise requires being realistic. If you're going to hit the on-board ice skating rink, then you'll need long pants and warm socks. But if you fell and hurt yourself the last time you went skating ten years ago, are you really going to try it on your cruise?

You'll also be eating in fancy restaurants (or a formal dining room), seeing Broadway shows and hitting the casino. Even on casual nights, you can't walk into the dining room wearing shorts and a souvenir t-shirt. You'll be on the water, but this isn't a beach vacation. Packing for a cruise means bringing along nice clothes for every single day.

Wearing two or three outfits each day can lead to packing everything you own, plus a bunch of stuff you bought just for the trip. Don't do it.

Make Your Clothes Multitask

If you wear certain clothes more than once on your cruise, then you'll have enough to wear without packing everything but the kitchen sink.

It's key to wear the same thing in different situations. You can dress up the [Rachel dress \(http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2fhnqigLOU\)](http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2fhnqigLOU) for dinner one night, then wear it for a casual day of sightseeing with different accessories.



(abbeypost.com/rachel.html)

The [Rachel dress](http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2fhngigLOU) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2fhngigLOU>) ready for a day of casual sightseeing.



(<http://abbeypost.com/rachel.html>)

The [Rachel dress](http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2fhngiqLOU) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop/rachel.html#.U2fhngiqLOU>) all dressed up for dinner and dancing.

Or wear the Shala dress for a casual dining night, add some sparkly accessories for a formal dining night, then once you reach your destination, wear it with comfy flats as you travel from the ship to a local beach.



(<http://abbeypost.com/shala.html>)

The Shala Dress, all dressed up with somewhere to go. Available in 8 colors!

Your shipmates won't notice that you wore the same dress three times as long as you accessorize it differently each time. And if they do notice, then you need to brush up on your small talk so that people will pay more attention to your dazzling conversational skills.

Bring on the Accessories

You can't make your clothes multitask without lots of accessories. Plan which pieces you're going to wear with each outfit so you don't overpack. Scarves and jewelry don't take up much room in your luggage. Shoes and purses are a different story. Pack a daytime bag and an evening bag, and that's it. Try to be equally minimalist with shoes – comfy sandals can go almost anywhere and one pair of heels should be enough. Only bring sneakers if you'll be hitting the gym or they're your go to sightseeing shoes.



(<http://abbeypost.com/audrey.html>)

The AbbeyPost Audrey dress is a classic sheath that's unmatched in its versatility!



(<http://abbeypost.com/audrey.html>)

The AbbeyPost Audrey dress is custom made to measure to fit YOU—and is designed to be super versatile in your wardrobe.

Beware the Sun

Whether you're going to Alaska or the Caribbean, you'll be spending time on deck soaking up the sun. Sunscreen is a must, but covering up is also an option. A weather appropriate jacket that goes with everything else you pack will keep your suitcase light. And remember that there are neutrals besides black and tan – white, brown, gold, silver, navy, and blue denim all will complement your entire cruise wardrobe.



(<http://abbeypost.com/shala.html>)

The Shala Dress, ready to hit the beach!

The Plan of Attack

Approach packing for a cruise like any other project. Looking at your itinerary, list out how many outfits of each type you'll need – sightseeing, relaxing on deck, formal dinners, smart casual dinners, and so on. Then plan

each outfit including accessories, mixing and matching as much as you can. Take notes or snap pictures – whatever you need to keep everything straight so you don't wear the same dress to dinner two nights in a row.

And the most important thing to remember when packing for a cruise? Leave room for souvenirs!

Interested in your own AbbeyPost Made to Measure dress? Just click on the image you like!

Each dress pictured in this post is available at [AbbeyPost.com](http://abbeypost.com) (<http://abbeypost.com/shop>), made in the USA specifically for your measurements, and delivered in 2 weeks or less to your doorstep—so you're sure to have a fantastic, perfectly fitting wardrobe in time for your cruise departure!

[AbbeyPost Made to Measure](http://abbeypost.com) (<http://abbeypost.com>) dresses are perfect for plus sizes, petites, tall, or anyone who just wants a great fit and high quality at a great price.

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