

## ABOUT CRUISING – Things to Know

### Before the cruise:

1. 30 days before cruise: Check in online with Royal Caribbean, print your luggage tags, book evening entertainment and shore excursions.
2. Download the app, Signal. (As long as you have internet access, see #2) This is how we will communicate onboard.



Look for this app

Then follow this link:

[https://signal.group/#CjQKIHXWoUki90VV5zW8GSZIC\\_ylcCnCLWiYiROOX16Fw-wEhDRXHHe1X3w8HTcV-CAsbj4](https://signal.group/#CjQKIHXWoUki90VV5zW8GSZIC_ylcCnCLWiYiROOX16Fw-wEhDRXHHe1X3w8HTcV-CAsbj4)



Or scan this QR code  
to join our group

3. Purchase Voom internet if you want to be able to stay connected. It is usually discounted if you buy it before sailing. Another money saving tip: Have either you (or your cabinmate) buy internet access for both of you; it is cheaper than each of you buying access individually.
4. We will have an auction on the second to last night! Consider bringing an item, service or maybe a stay at one of your properties for this cruise's repeat designated charity, Chair the Love.org. Last year's cruise raised \$44K that provides wheelchairs to very needy recipients. Stop by their website to learn more. Augie Bylott is trying to arrange a very special wheelchair distribution field trip for us while in Costa Maya. This is sure to touch your heart.



**The night before the cruise:** Rendezvous at Dogs R Us, 4200 S. Washington Av, Titusville, 5pm Saturday February 10, 2024. Let's get the party started!

### **Day of Cruise:**

- Get to the cruise ship about **two hours** before boarding time. Often, they let you on the boat early – sometimes your stateroom is available early (but don't count on this.)
  - Check your bags at the cruise line port. The main reason we check our bags: Often you can't get into your stateroom until the afternoon. If you board the ship at 11, then this means you'll be toting your luggage all over the ship for a bunch of hours. NOT FUN!
  - If you don't check your bags, you carry your luggage to your room once your room is available for occupancy; sometimes there's a several-hours delay.
- **Check in at conference room on 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor between 2-4pm to get your lanyard, shirt and directions for dinner. Wearing your shirt will be a surefire way to recognize your fellow travelers!!! Wait til you see these shirts!!**
  - **Welcome aboard meeting from 7-8pm in conference room. Come mingle with your fellow Investor Addicts and meet the speakers. A worthwhile gathering because the next day, our first full day, we will be in CocoCay. We won't be in the classroom until Tuesday, so if you want to jumpstart the most important activity: relationship building, and meet some friendly faces, come join us!**

### **What to Have in your Backpack When Boarding on Ship**

To board, you will need a passport, the boarding pass you got from the cruise line, a current driver's license, and a current credit card. There may be a metal detector – so leave your pocketknife in your luggage, don't have it in your carry-on bag.

You can check your luggage, but sometimes luggage doesn't make it to your room until late that evening...or even the next morning. It's better to be prepared! Carry a few essentials in a backpack:

- Wallet
- Cell phone
- Passports
- Shore leave cash and for tips
- Medication
- sea-sick patch/medication; (Bonine is non-drowsy tablet)
- Shaving kit/toiletries
- Water bottle
- Extra t-shirt
- Swim suit
- Suntan lotion

- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sleep wear
- Phone charger
- Over shirt
- Gum/mints
- Computer/iPad/paper pad and pen to take notes in conference room
- On board, all you need is your Cruise Card. Everything else stays in the safe. Pretty much everything you buy on the ship is with your Cruise Card – cash *isn't* accepted. It's when you arrive at a port and get off the ship that you need cash.

Each adult is allowed one 750ml bottle of wine and a case of soda or water.

### **Attire:**

- Investor Addicts shirts from 2023 and 2024—always a hit!
- **Wonder of the Seas will have two formal dinner nights.** Some folks dress up in tuxes or a suit. Women wear a nice dress. Some folks just dress casual.
- The other nights at dinner, most folks dress casual - Men usually wear slacks and a dress shirt, women wear something pretty and comfortable.
- Workout clothes: Bring two workout shorts, two workout shirts (you have one to wear while the other is drying after washing it.)
- Swim suits
- Bring a windbreaker. It's often chilly – and VERY windy – at night. (This is because the ship speeds up at night.)
- Shoes: Sandals, Crocks and sneakers during the day. Many wear dress shoes at night.

### **Other items to pack:**

- Bring an **extension cord** (with USB ports) for your cabin (but NOT a surge protector as it will be confiscated and returned at end of cruise. This is a new ship so maybe it is different but the older ships have limited outlets in awkward places.
- **Seasickness meds:** some *get violently seasick with the least bit of motion*, Kim Cook uses “The Patch.” With it, she never experiences any seasickness. Even with a few rocky days at sea she's never had a problem with seasickness. NOTE: If you're prone to motion sickness, leave the patch on for a *couple of days* AFTER getting off the ship until you get your land legs back. The first time Kim used The Patch, she took it off as soon as she got off the ship the final time. For the next two days – WHILE ON DRY LAND – she was miserably seasick. It took her inner ear a couple of days to stabilize. (Note: Some folks experience side effects from The Patch like sleepiness, dry mouth, blurred vision. Talk to your doctor!)
- Consider bringing old real estate investing books to give away. We will have a “library” set up in the conference room. Clean off those overfilled bookshelves and bring home a new gem!

- Computer/iPad/paper pad and pen to take notes during class. The room will be set up classroom style, so you will have a table to write on, yay!
- Bring your own cup/mug with a lid for coffee, drinks
- Binoculars

### **General tips:**

- When you get on the ship, your first day will probably be spent exploring the ship and getting your bearings. Also, make your appointments for spa treatments – often they offer deals for those who book the first day.
- **Excursions:** Have a main excursion. Then have two backups in case one cancels.... also, have one that is a land excursion – if seas are ruff, water excursions will be cancelled, so you'll need a backup plan.
  - **This is important:** If you go on an excursion sponsored by the cruise line, the cruise ship will usually wait on you if your excursion gets back late. If, however, you go off on your own and for whatever reason you miss the boat, **TOO BAD!**
  - If there's an excursion you really want to do, but you're concerned it will sell out, consider reserving your spot before boarding the ship.
  - Or, decide on an excursion once on the ship and you have talked to other passengers who have been to that particular port of call.
- Bring two swim suits with you – one to wear and one that's hanging up drying.
- Hot tubs are always empty early in the morning. It's a great way to relax after a morning workout.
- There's always a 24-hour coffee/tea/cocoa place on the ship. Look for Bill Cook at the coffee shop. This can lead to many interesting conversations. Old guys know stuff!!!!
- Most suitcases can be stored under the bed or in the closet.
- About every ship has a casino. They allow smoking – which means it's unpleasant to breathe in the casino, and when you walk out you stink like a cigarette.
- Each cruise line has it's on frequent traveler program. Royal Caribbean's is Crown and Anchor. We recommend you join if you plan to cruise regularly.

## Going ashore:

- Cargo shorts (If the weather is bad, you may want to bring a pair of cargo pants with legs that zipper off)
  - T shirt
  - Hat
  - Sunglasses
  - Bathing suit if you will be doing any type of water sport
  - Swim goggles – if you'll be swimming
  - Suntan lotion
  - **Bring tip money** with you - \$1s, \$5s & 10s. You'll need tip cash to pay your driver to and from the boat, cab drivers, on-shore restaurants, etc. One time we went ashore with \$100 bills – not a good idea because most places have a tough time making change.
  - Tickets to excursion/ Flyer with back up excursions listed
  - **Bring Zip-lock bags** for your smart phone/ important documents if going near a water environment.
  - **Cruise Card**
  - **driver's license, credit card, spending cash, tip money:** Wrap them together with a rubber band (carry a ziplock bag just in case you go swimming or get wet.) Carry this in your pants or bathing suit – make sure your pants AND swim suit have sealable pockets. You don't want these things left lying around.
  - **NOTE: Leave your passport in the room safe – don't take it ashore.**
- **Disembarking at end of cruise:** there are two ways to get off the ship (NOTE: Getting off the ship can be frustrating and it's time consuming. You *can't* just walk off the ship, pick up your bags at a bag carousel and get in your car and leave like you'd do after an airline flight.)
    - The first way: You can self-carry. This means you walk off the ship with all of your bags. It allows you to be the first off the ship and you don't have to go through the luggage pickup area – the luggage pickup area can be chaotic. This is – by far – the fastest way off the boat.
    - If you don't/can't self-carry, *then the night before arrival*, you will put new tags (given to you while aboard the ship) on your bags, and put your bags outside your room door. (Note: put colored tape or yarn on your luggage so they stand out. Almost everyone has black luggage and they all look alike). The porter will pick up your luggage and take them below. **(NOTE: It's critical that you have a small travel bag with your next-day's clothes in it, along with your toiletries and any medication you take regularly.)** The next day, according to the number on your new bag tag, you will be told when you can disembark from the ship. Once you're off the boat (**you will**

**need your Sea Pass to get off the boat**), go to the baggage claim area (there's no carrousel), and get your bags. (NOTE: It's usually faster to hire a porter to carry your bags through customs. They often have their own special customs line, which makes getting through customs much faster.) At customs, you present your filled-out customs card, Pass Port and answer any questions you're asked. (NOTE: This ISN'T the time to be funny. In order to avoid a full-body cavity search, just answer the nice man's questions until he tells you to move along. Once you're through customs, you're free to leave the terminal.

**\*\*Thank you to Bill and Kim Cook for giving us this template to share with you!\*\***