



The

Disney Cruise

PLANNING KIT

for Families

Your Guide to a Magical Disney Cruise Vacation!

Laura Judd | Family Travel Advisor

When to Book Your Disney Cruise

When Is the Best Time to Book a Disney Cruise?

One of the biggest surprises for first-time Disney cruisers is that prices usually increase over time, not decrease like airline tickets.

Because Disney Cruise Line has such high demand, the earlier you book, the more likely you are to:

- Get the best price available
- Choose from the best stateroom locations
- Secure preferred dining times
- Have more choices for your itinerary and ship

Many families choose to book their cruise 12–18 months before sailing for the best selection and peace of mind.

Another benefit of booking early is that you can make smaller payments over time instead of paying for the whole trip at once.



Tip from a travel advisor:

If prices drop after you book, sometimes Disney allows adjustments before final payment.

Disney Cruise Planning Timeline

When Is the Best Time to Book a Disney Cruise?

Planning ahead helps you avoid missing reservations and activities that families love.



12-18 Months Before Sailing

This is the best time to:

- Book your cruise
- Choose your preferred stateroom
- Decide if you want connecting rooms
- Begin budgeting and making payments
- Start researching ports and excursions

Popular sailings and room types can sell out quickly, especially during school breaks and holidays.



6-12 Months Before Sailing

Now is a good time to:

- Check that passports are valid
- Begin researching port adventures
- Join Disney Cruise planning groups online
- Plan flights or travel to your departure port
 - Consider travel insurance

This is also when the excitement really starts building!

Disney Cruise Planning Timeline



75 Days Before Sailing

★ (Important!) ★

For first-time Disney cruisers, many onboard activities become available to reserve 75 days before sailing.

This includes some of the most popular experiences on board.

You can book things like:

- Port adventures (excursions in each port)
- Nursery reservations for babies and toddlers
- Adult dining experiences like Palo or Remy
- Beverage tastings and special experiences

These reservations open at **midnight Eastern Time**, and some popular options fill up quickly.

Setting a reminder or alarm helps make sure you don't miss your chance to reserve your top choices.

Disney Cruise Planning Timeline

30 Days Before Sailing

As your cruise gets closer, you'll want to complete a few final steps.



Around 30 days before sailing, you can:

- Complete online check-in
- Upload required travel documents
- Choose your port arrival time
- Download the Disney Cruise Line Navigator app

The Navigator app becomes your best friend on board, it shows:

- daily schedules
- showtimes
- character meet-and-greets
- dining locations

Selecting an earlier arrival time can help you get on the ship sooner and start enjoying your vacation right away.

Disney Cruise Planning Timeline

What's Included on a Disney Cruise

Many families wonder what is actually included in the price of a Disney cruise.

The great news is that Disney Cruise Line includes a lot of experiences that families love.

\$ Included in your cruise fare:

- Broadway-style live shows
- Kids clubs and youth programs
- Character meet-and-greets
- Rotational dining at themed restaurants
- Pools and water slides
- Family entertainment and deck parties
- Fireworks at sea (on select sailings)
- Soft drinks, coffee, tea, and ice cream

Because so much is included, many families find the experience to be excellent value for a family vacation.

Disney Cruise Planning Timeline



Stateroom Tips for Families

Choosing the right stateroom can make your cruise much more comfortable, especially when traveling with kids.

Here are a few tips families often find helpful:

Connecting rooms

Perfect for larger families who want more space.

Mid-ship staterooms

Often feel the most stable if anyone is sensitive to motion.

Verandah rooms

Provide private outdoor space and beautiful ocean views.

Interior rooms

A budget-friendly option that still offers a comfortable place to sleep and recharge.

A travel advisor can help you choose the best room location for your family's needs.

Disney Cruise Planning Timeline



Packing Tips for Families



A little preparation makes cruising with kids much easier.

Helpful items to pack:

- Pirate Night outfits (a fun Disney cruise tradition)
 - Disney costumes for kids
- Door magnets for decorating your stateroom
 - Autograph books for meeting characters
 - A small beach bag for Castaway Cay
 - Refillable water bottles

Some families also enjoy participating in **Fish Extender gift exchanges**, where cruisers leave small gifts for each other outside their staterooms.

Disney Cruise Planning Timeline

Want Help Planning Your Disney Cruise?

Planning a Disney cruise can feel overwhelming, especially when you're traveling with young kids.

As a family travel advisor specializing in Disney vacations and Disney Cruise Line sailings, I help parents:

- Choose the right sailing and itinerary
- Select the best stateroom for their family
 - Navigate reservations and activities
- Plan a smooth and stress-free vacation

If you'd like help planning your family's Disney cruise, I'd love to help.

Start Planning Your Trip

[SweetLittleAdventures.com](https://www.sweetlittleadventures.com)

My planning services are completely complimentary when you book your cruise through me.

Follow along for more Disney cruise tips and family travel inspiration.