



## DO I NEED A PASSPORT TO GO ON A CRUISE?

Dreamlines Guide for U.S. citizens

So you've booked your cruise, paid your deposit, and now have just one burning question on your lips: do you need to apply for a passport?

The answer is, it depends. A passport is not always required, but it is always recommended. We've created this useful guide on passports and cruising.

## WHEN IS A PASSPORT REQUIRED FOR CRUISING?

If your cruise begins or ends in a foreign country, if you'll be taking any international flights, or if you're not a U.S. citizen, you'll need a passport to travel. Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the end of your trip.

Getting a passport is one of the best investments in travel you can make. Most passports are valid for ten years, so once you receive yours, you can look forward to a decade of worry-free travel all over the world.

## NOT ALL CRUISES REQUIRE PASSPORTS

On certain closed-loop (round-trip) itineraries, U.S. citizens do not need a passport to cruise. If your cruise:

- Starts and ends in the same U.S. port
- Travels **only** to destinations in Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, or Bermuda
- Does not involve any international flights

Then you may use a different form of identification. You will need:

- A government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license  
AND
- Proof of citizenship, such as an original birth certificate, a certified copy of your birth certificate, or a passport card

Be sure to bring both documents with you so you can prove both your identification and your citizenship.

## **NO PASSPORT REQUIRED FOR DOMESTIC CRUISES**

If you go on a cruise that does not leave the United States, such as a Hawaii cruise or American river cruise, you do not need a passport to travel.

If your Alaska cruise starts and ends in the U.S., you don't need a passport to travel. However, if you plan on disembarking when the ship calls in Canada, a valid passport can ensure the process goes smoothly and quickly. The same goes for when you're returning to the United States at the end of your cruise.

## **PASSPORTS: ADDED SECURITY AND PEACE OF MIND**

Even if your cruise itself does not require a passport, you may need a passport to enter some of the destinations you visit on your cruise. If you plan to purchase alcohol or tobacco or go to a casino while ashore, your U.S. driver's license may not be accepted as identification. A passport is the only form of ID that is recognized all over the world.

Dreamlines *highly recommends* getting a passport before you go on a cruise. A passport is your key to international identification, simpler airport transfers, and additional peace of mind in case the unexpected occurs.

## **AND VISAS?**

As of 2019, U.S. citizens can travel to 186 countries without a visa. To find out if you'll need a visa to enter any of the destinations on your cruise, as well as any vaccination requirements or active travel alerts, look up each destination with the U.S. Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov/>

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

Dreamlines also recommends reading the Department of State's recommendations for cruise ship passengers.