



### Formal Wear

black tie,  
evening wear

### Smart Casual

dressy daytime or casual  
evening wear

### Resort Casual

shorts, sundress,  
Hawaiian shirt

### Country Club Casual

polo shirt, khaki pants,  
designer brands

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR ON A CRUISE

We've all been there before: you're standing in front of an empty suitcase and you don't know what to pack. Hawaiian shirt or three-piece suit? Sweatshirt or shorts? Tuxedo or tie? The dress codes on cruise ships are as diverse as the cruise ships themselves. We've gathered these tips on cruise line dress codes to help you decide what you should wear on your next cruise. With the help of our useful infographic, you'll always know what you should bring with you, and what clothing you can leave at home.

Every cruise line uses terms like "casual," "semi-formal," and "formal" to describe their dress code, but not every cruise line interprets them the same. In the following infographic, we've summarized the dress codes for all cruise lines, with examples of outfits which are appropriate for each cruise line. With this information, packing for your next cruise will be a piece of cake!

## WHICH DRESS CODE APPLIES ON A CRUISE SHIP?

On mass-market cruise lines, daytime wear is casual, and gets more formal after 6 p.m. During the day, you should dress for the weather and the activities you'll be participating in. Going on a shore excursion? Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes to get around. Lounging by the pool? Don't forget the bikini! Plan on going to the spa, the fitness center, or on taking a few laps on the running track? Pack appropriate clothing for each occasion.

This is different than on premium and luxury cruise lines, however, as well as traditional brands like Cunard. There, you'll want to trade your shorts and t-shirt for slacks and a polo shirt or button-down shirt.

Evening dress codes are a bit more formal. Here, you should wear a cocktail dress or a shirt and slacks, with a jacket.

You can really go all out on special occasions such as Formal Night, the Welcome Dinner, or the Captain's Dinner. These special events take place once or twice per cruise on most cruise lines. On these nights, ladies should wear an evening gown or a nice pantsuit, and gentlemen should wear a dark suit or tux, complete with jacket and tie.

One thing that all the cruise lines agree on: Swimwear belongs at the pool – and nowhere else. While it's fine to wear your swim trunks or bikini when you're lounging by the pool, be sure to throw on a t-shirt or coverup when you're on your way back to your stateroom. If you'd like to get a bite to eat after your time at the pool, it's best to change back into daytime wear before entering the restaurant – swimwear and flip-flops aren't allowed in any dining areas, not even the buffet.

# Cruise ship dress codes

Captains advice – choice of clothes



Day











In the evening



Gala evenings

	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Resort Casual	Active wear, summer dress, nice jeans, capris, shorts, polo shirt, long pants, sweater	Elegant Casual	Cocktail dress, skirt, blouse, slacks, button-down shirt, optional sport coat	None	None
	Cruise Casual	T-shirt, jeans, shorts, capris, short-sleeved shirts	Cruise Elegant	Summer dress, skirt, capris, buttoned shirt, polo shirt, blouse, long pants, light jacket or sweater	Elegant Nights	Evening dress or cocktail dress, elegant pantsuit, dark suit, long pants and shirt, dinner jacket
	Casual	Summer dress, polo shirt, flowy skirt, khaki pants, capris	Smart Casual and Above	Long pants, skirt, top, blouse, pantsuit, dress, sports jacket, blazer	Evening Chic	Slacks, designer jeans, cocktail dress, smart skirt, sweater, optional jacket
	Casual	Light colors, cotton clothing	Country club casual	Long pants, skirt, top, blouse, pantsuit, dress, sports jacket, blazer	Formal	Cocktail dress, jacket and tie
	Casual	Shorts, T-shirt, sundress	Resort casual	Long pants, blouse, skirt, dress	Formal	Suit with jacket and tie, cocktail dress or pantsuit All white on White Night
	Casual	Long pants, dark jeans, sweater, polo shirt	Informal	Suit, smart jacket, slacks, tie, cocktail dress, pantsuit	Formal	Evening gown, full-length skirt, dinner suit, closed-toe/dress shoes
	Resort Casual	Jeans, shorts, t-shirt, sundress, sweater, polo shirt, V-neck shirt	Crystal Casual	Blouse, sweater, slacks, skirt, dress, collared shirt, dress shirt, sport coat optional	Black Tie Optional	Dark suit (jacket required), tuxedo, evening gown, cocktail dress, pantsuit White on Crystal White Extravaganza

	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Smart Casual	Collarless shirt, jacket optional, blouse, skirt, slacks. No jeans or shorts.	Informal	Jacket and tie, cocktail dress or smart separates. No jeans.	Formal	Suit and tie or tuxedo, evening gown or full-length skirt Check for costume/theme nights during your itinerary
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Cruise Casual	T-shirt, shorts, jeans, skirt, polo shirt	Casual or Dress Up	Casual: same as daywear Dress Up: Cocktail dress, smart separates, dress shirt, jacket optional	Semiformal or Formal	Semiformal: dress shirt and slacks, dress or pantsuit Formal: Suit and tie, evening gown
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Resort Casual	Jeans, t-shirt, sundress, sweater, polo shirt, khaki pants, blouse	Smart Casual	Long pants, slacks, button-down or collared shirt, knee-length dress or smart separates	Gala Attire	Suit jacket and tie, tuxedo, evening dress, elegant attire
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Resort Casual	Dark jeans, khaki pants, polo shirt, t-shirt, sweater, capris	Smart Casual or Casual-Elegant recommended	Dress shirt, slacks, knee-length dress, pantsuit, smart separates, jacket/tie optional	Formal (MS Europa only)	Suit and tie or tuxedo, formal dress or evening gown
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Resort Casual	T-shirt, shorts, jeans, sundress	Smart Casual	Slacks, polo shirt, sweater, cocktail dress	Gala Attire	Blouse, blazer, cocktail dress, pantsuit, collared shirt, slacks, jacket/tie optional
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Freestyle Cruising (Cruise Casual)	Shorts, t-shirt, jeans, sundress, capris	Cruise casual	Nice jeans, khaki pants, flowing skirt, collared shirt, nice top, capri pants, sundress	Formal Optional (for Norwegian's Night Out and specialty dining)	Slacks, cocktail dress, full-length skirt, pantsuit, button-down shirt, dark suit, jacket and tie optional
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Resort Casual	T-shirt, shorts, jeans, sundress, long skirt	Country Club Casual	Long pants, nice jeans, collared shirt, polo shirt, khaki pants, blouse, slacks, knee-length dress	None	None
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Resort Casual	Shorts, t-shirt, sundress, skirt	Elegant Casual	Long pants, skirt, capris, blouse, nice top, sweater, light jacket (optional)	None	None
	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>	<b>What it says</b>	<b>What it means</b>
	Resort Casual	Jeans, t-shirt, sundress, skirt, khaki pants, polo shirt	Smart Casual	Blouse, nice top or shirt, polo shirt, long pants, sundress, cocktail dress, capris, light jacket or sweater	Formal	Evening gown, cocktail dress, pantsuit, slacks, blouse, suit, dinner jacket

	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Resort Casual	Shorts, t-shirt, jeans, sundress, capris	Smart Casual	Cocktail dress, smart separates, sport jacket, slacks, tie	Formal	Cocktail dress, evening gown, suit and tie, tuxedo
 THE RITZ-CARLTON YACHT COLLECTION	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Yacht Casual	T-shirt, shorts, polo shirt, khakis, capris	Yacht Casual	Polo shirt, V-neck shirt, t-shirt, shorts, khakis, light dress, capris	Yacht Sophisticated (specialty dining)	Collared shirts, cocktail dress, smart separates, blouse
 SEABOURN®	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Resort Casual	T-shirt, polo shirt, shorts, sundress, jeans	Elegant Casual	Long pants, slacks, skirt, dress shirt, blouse, pantsuit, dress. No jeans.	Formal (specialty dining)	Suit and tie, jacket, evening gown, full-length dress, elegant pantsuit
 SILVERSEA®	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Casual Wear	Upscale athletic wear, upscale resort wear, long pants, blouse, skirt, V-neck shirt, slacks	Informal (except on casual nights)	Dress, pantsuit, slacks, suit with jacket, optional tie	Formal	Evening gown, cocktail dress, tuxedo, dinner jacket, dark suit, tie
 STAR CLIPPERS	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Resort Casual	Shorts, t-shirt, long pants, capris, blouse, summer dress	Smart Casual	Slacks, blouse, cocktail dress, knee-length skirt, collared shirt, dress shirt, optional jacket	None	None
 WINDSTAR CRUISES	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Casual	Shorts, t-shirt, polo shirt, sundress, skirt	Elegant Casual	Slacks, blouse, sundress, collared shirt, polo shirt	None	None
 VOYAGES	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	No dress code	Anything but swimwear (except at the pool)	No dress code	Slacks, blouse, sundress, collared shirt, polo shirt	None	None
 VIKING OCEAN CRUISES	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means	What it says	What it means
	Resort Casual	T-shirt, khakis, capris, slacks, jeans	Elegant Casual	Slacks, collared shirt, blouse, skirt, sweater	None	None