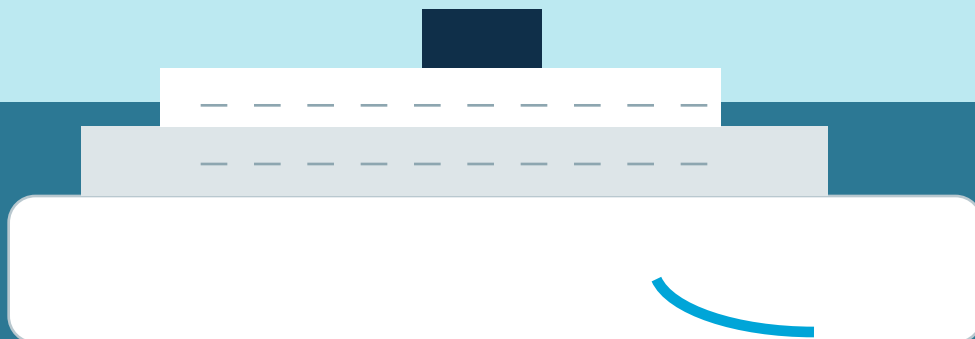




**PHOTO SOURCE / INSPIRATION**

[Norwegian Cruise Line embarkation day guide](#)

Source link is clickable

7220 TRAVEL

GUIDE 3 | NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

# Choosing Your Departure Port

**COMPARE THE TOTAL TRIP - NOT JUST THE CRUISE FARE**

A cheaper sailing can become more expensive after airfare, hotels, parking, transfers and lost vacation time.

Prepared by 7220 Travel | Family & Group Travel Experts

**Plan unforgettable family adventures.**

7220travel.com | 307-314-2517 | dave.engel@7220travel.com

Updated September 11, 2026 | Verify live details in My NCL and NCL.com

# The Port Is Part of the Vacation

Your departure city affects airfare, hotel nights, transfer stress, timing and how much margin you have when travel goes sideways.

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## BUILD THE REAL COST

Compare cruise fare + airfare + pre-cruise hotel + airport/port transfers or parking + meals + extra vacation days. A higher cruise fare from a convenient port can be the less expensive trip overall.

## FLY IN EARLY

For flights to a cruise, 7220 Travel generally recommends arriving at least one day before embarkation. Weather, aircraft issues and missed connections do not care that your ship leaves that afternoon.

## USE THE ITINERARY TO PICK THE PORT

Miami and Port Canaveral are common warm-weather gateways; Seattle and Vancouver are major Alaska gateways; New York, Boston and Philadelphia can simplify Bermuda / Northeast options; Honolulu is central to Pride of America.

### DO THE MATH

If one sailing is \$300 less but needs \$900 more airfare, an extra hotel night and a complicated transfer, it is not the cheaper vacation.

## 7220 TRAVEL DECISION FILTER

If this choice makes the trip easier for the people taking it, it is probably the right direction.

### PHOTO SOURCE / INSPIRATION

[Norwegian Cruise Line embarkation day guide](#)

# Your Planning Checklist

Use this page to make the decision before the cruise makes it for you.

---

## CHECK WHAT MATTERS TO YOUR TRIP

- |                                                       |                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive-to port available      | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct flights available        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel near port fits budget  | <input type="checkbox"/> We can arrive 1+ day early      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking cost checked         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer plan checked           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return flight timing is safe | <input type="checkbox"/> Passport/document needs checked |
- 

## FAMILY / GROUP WORKSHEET

Cruise fare:

---

Airfare / fuel / parking:

---

Pre-cruise hotel:

---

Transfers / rideshare:

---

Total trip cost:

---

### ONE MORE QUESTION

What part of this decision is creating the most uncertainty? That is usually the part worth solving before you book.

# Final Check & Current Sources

Save this page with your cruise notes and recheck live details before travel.

## THE 7220 TRAVEL FINAL CHECK

- ☐ The choice fits the people traveling
- ☐ The total trip cost has been considered
- ☐ Travel documents are understood
- ☐ Critical reservations are on the calendar
- ☐ We have a backup plan for delays / weather
- ☐ The family knows what matters most
- ☐ We have permission to change the plan

### VERIFY BEFORE TRAVEL

NCL can change itineraries, venues, policies, package details, age rules, reservation windows and onboard offerings. Use My NCL, the NCL app and NCL.com for the final live details.

### CURRENT INFORMATION SOURCES

[NCL cruise preparation](#)

[NCL departure day](#)

**PHOTO REFERENCE:** [Norwegian Cruise Line embarkation day guide](#)

Source pages were checked September 11, 2026. NCL policies and promotions can change without notice.

**Ready to match the cruise to your family?**

**7220 Travel can help narrow the choices and build the full trip around you.**

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