



THE COMPLETE

Royal Caribbean Cruise Planning Guide

How to choose the right ship, itinerary, stateroom and experience for your family

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SHIP Icon, Oasis, Quantum and beyond	PLAN THE DETAILS Dining, packages, shows and excursions
CRUISE AS A FAMILY Kids, teens and multigenerational strategy	TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE Documents, packing and embarkation

7220 TRAVEL PHILOSOPHY

The best cruise is not the biggest ship, the cheapest fare or the itinerary everyone else is posting online. It is the sailing that fits your family, your pace, your priorities and your budget.

Prepared by 7220 Travel - Family and Group Travel Experts

Planning edition: September 2026

[START HERE](#)

Welcome Aboard

Royal Caribbean can be one of the easiest cruise lines to recommend to families - and one of the easiest to overcomplicate. The fleet ranges from destination-focused ships with a more traditional feel to enormous resort-style ships where the ship itself is a major part of the vacation.

This guide is designed to help you make the decisions in the right order. Start with the experience you want, then choose the destination, ship, cabin, dining style and optional extras. That sequence prevents a common mistake: booking a low fare first and trying to make the wrong ship or itinerary fit later.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Circle or highlight your family priorities as you go. At the end, complete the Cruise Planning Worksheet and send it to 7220 Travel. It gives us a strong starting point for narrowing dozens of sailings into a short list that actually fits.

Guide Map

Step	Decision
1	Decide what you want the vacation to feel like
2	Choose destination and sailing length
3	Choose ship class and ship
4	Choose departure port
5	Choose stateroom and location
6	Plan dining, packages and entertainment
7	Plan shore days and private destinations
8	Complete documents, app check-in and packing
9	Embark with a first-day plan
10	Enjoy the cruise without trying to do everything

DECISION #1

1. Start With the Vacation - Not the Ship

Before comparing ships, answer one question: what do you want this trip to do for your family? Royal Caribbean can deliver very different vacations depending on the ship and itinerary.

If your priority is...	Start by looking at...	Why
Big family wow-factor	Icon or Oasis Class	More neighborhoods, headline attractions, large-scale entertainment and many dining choices.
Cold-weather scenery + indoor fun	Quantum / Quantum Ultra	SeaPlex, Two70 and North Star pair well with Alaska and cooler-weather itineraries.
A balanced first cruise	Freedom or Voyager Class	Enough activities to feel distinctly Royal Caribbean without the complexity of the largest ships.
Ports + scenery first	Radiance Class	Glass-heavy design and a more destination-focused feel work well for Alaska and scenic itineraries.
Smaller ship / traditional cruise feel	Vision Class	Fewer headline attractions, easier navigation and often interesting itineraries.

7220 TRAVEL TIP

Do not pay Icon- or Oasis-Class pricing if your family plans to spend every port day ashore and mostly wants a quiet ship. Likewise, do not choose a small ship because the fare is attractive if waterslides, high-energy shows and kids activities are the reason your children are excited to cruise.

Your top five priorities

☐ Big waterpark / slides	☐ Quiet pool time
☐ Broadway-style entertainment	☐ Kids clubs
☐ Teen spaces	☐ Adult-only spaces
☐ Great food variety	☐ Specialty dining
☐ Easy ship navigation	☐ Scenery from the ship
☐ Active shore excursions	☐ Beach time
☐ Short getaway	☐ 7+ nights
☐ Drive-to port	☐ Suite experience

WHERE THE SHIP TAKES YOU

2. Choose the Right Destination

Destination changes the rhythm of the cruise. A port-heavy Mediterranean sailing feels completely different from a Bahamas getaway with a private-island day, even on the same cruise line.

Region	Best for	Planning notes
Bahamas + Perfect Day CocoCay	First cruises, families, short getaways	Easy beach days, strong ship time, and a simple introduction to cruising.
Eastern Caribbean	Beaches + classic island ports	Often a good mix of sea days and port days.
Western Caribbean	Adventure + variety	May include Mexico, Honduras, Belize, Jamaica or private destinations depending on sailing.
Southern Caribbean	Island collectors	Often longer sailings and more port-intensive itineraries.
Alaska	Scenery + wildlife + multigenerational trips	Prioritize itinerary, port times, viewing areas and excursion budget over the newest ship.
Mediterranean / Europe	History + culture	Port-intensive. Build in energy management and consider pre/post-cruise nights.
Mexico / Pacific Coast	West Coast access + shorter trips	Useful for families who want to reduce flight time from western states.
Transatlantic / repositioning	Sea days + value per night	Best for travelers who genuinely enjoy ship time and have flexible schedules.

CHOOSE ITINERARY BEFORE UPGRADES

A balcony on the wrong itinerary will not fix a vacation mismatch. Pick the region, sailing length and port rhythm first - then decide how much to spend on cabin and onboard extras.

THE BIGGEST DECISION MOST FAMILIES UNDERESTIMATE

3. Choose the Right Royal Caribbean Ship Class

Royal Caribbean ships are not interchangeable. Activities, entertainment venues, dining choices, cabin types and even how long it takes to walk from one end of the ship to the other can vary dramatically.

Class	Examples	7220 Travel fit	Signature strengths
Icon	Icon, Star, Legend	Families wanting the newest, largest resort-style experience	Surfside family neighborhood, AquaDome, Category 6 waterpark, large variety of dining and entertainment.
Oasis	Oasis, Allure, Harmony, Symphony, Wonder, Utopia	Families and groups who want the ship to be a destination	Neighborhood design, AquaTheater, Boardwalk/Central Park, broad dining and entertainment.
Quantum / Ultra	Quantum, Anthem, Ovation, Spectrum, Odyssey	Families, Alaska, cooler-weather and tech-forward travelers	SeaPlex, Two70, North Star; strong indoor activity options.
Freedom	Freedom, Liberty, Independence	First-timers and families wanting a medium-large ship	Royal Promenade, FlowRider, family activities and easier scale than Oasis/Icon.
Voyager	Voyager, Explorer, Adventure, Navigator, Mariner	Value-conscious families who still want signature Royal features	Promenade, rock climbing, ice rink on many ships; features vary by amplification.
Radiance	Radiance, Brilliance, Serenade, Jewel	Scenery-first and destination-driven travelers	Large windows, views, more intimate scale.
Vision	Vision, Grandeur, Rhapsody, Enchantment	Traditional cruisers and itinerary-first travelers	Smaller scale, simpler navigation, fewer large attractions.

SHIP-SPECIFIC FEATURES VARY

Never assume every ship in a class has every attraction. Amplifications, dry docks and venue changes matter. We verify the exact ship before using a feature as a reason to book.

A simple rule of thumb

- **Choose Icon/Oasis if** your children would be disappointed if the ship did not have headline attractions and huge entertainment choices.
- **Choose Quantum if** you want strong onboard activity options plus scenery or cooler-weather flexibility.
- **Choose Freedom/Voyager if** you want a strong Royal Caribbean experience but do not need the newest mega-ship.
- **Choose Radiance/Vision if** the destinations are the star and you prefer a smaller, calmer ship experience.

YOUR CRUISE STARTS BEFORE EMBARKATION

4. Choose the Departure Port Strategically

A cheaper cruise fare can become an expensive trip after flights, hotels, transfers, parking and an extra travel day are added. Compare the total trip, not only the cruise fare.

- **Fly in early.** For most families flying to the port, we recommend arriving at least one day before sailing. For international embarkation cities or complicated flight routes, two nights can be smarter.
- **Price the whole route.** Compare airfare, baggage fees, airport transfers, pre-cruise hotel, parking and time away from work or school.
- **Think about the return day.** Do not schedule a flight so early that a delayed ship clearance, customs line or ground transfer can derail the trip.
- **Match the port to your family.** A drive-to port may be worth choosing a different ship if it meaningfully reduces stress and cost.

PRE-CRUISE HOTEL MINDSET

The hotel is not just a room. It is insurance against a missed cruise caused by flight disruption. Pick a location and transfer plan that make embarkation morning boring - boring is good.

WHERE YOU SLEEP MATTERS MORE THAN SQUARE FOOTAGE

5. Pick the Right Stateroom

Stateroom selection should balance price, sleeping configuration, location and how your family actually travels. A room can look perfect in a photo and still be frustrating if it is under a late-night venue, far from the elevator your family uses most or configured poorly for four adults.

Category	Best for	Watch-outs
Interior	Budget-focused travelers who use the room mainly to sleep	No natural light; can feel tight for families with lots of gear.
Ocean View	Travelers who want daylight without balcony pricing	Window does not provide outdoor access; layouts vary.
Balcony	Couples, scenic routes, families who value private outdoor space	Neighborhood balconies may not face the ocean; privacy/noise varies.
Connecting rooms	Families needing more beds, bathrooms or privacy	True connecting inventory is limited; request early.
Family / specialty cabins	Larger families wanting purpose-built layouts	Categories vary substantially by ship and can sell out early.
Suites	Space, priority benefits and elevated experiences	Benefits differ by ship/class and suite category; compare inclusions carefully.

- **Look up and down.** Check the deck plan above and below your cabin. Pools, theaters, clubs, galleys and crew/service areas can create noise.
- **Think in routes.** Near an elevator is convenient, especially with grandparents, strollers or mobility needs. Farther down the hall may be quieter.
- **Consider motion.** Lower and more central cabins generally feel less movement than high, far-forward or far-aft locations.
- **Do not assume “balcony” means ocean.** On some large ships, balconies may face internal neighborhoods.
- **Guarantee cabins trade control for price.** If location matters, choose an assigned stateroom rather than relying on a guarantee category.

MULTIGENERATIONAL CABIN STRATEGY

Before booking, decide whether the goal is togetherness or independence. Adjacent/connecting rooms can be better than forcing everyone into one suite, especially when grandparents and children keep different schedules.

BUILD THE REAL VACATION BUDGET

6. What Is Included - and What Costs Extra

Royal Caribbean cruise fare includes far more than a hotel room, but not everything onboard is included. Knowing the difference prevents “nickel-and-dime” frustration and helps you decide which upgrades are actually worth it.

Generally included	Often extra
Stateroom + housekeeping	Specialty dining and dining packages
Main Dining Room, Windjammer and selected casual venues	Alcohol, specialty coffee and many premium beverages
Select water, tea, juices and classic coffee	Beverage packages
Pools, fitness center and many activities	Some premium attractions or experiences
Production shows and many entertainment options	Spa and salon
Adventure Ocean youth programming	Royal Babies & Tots nursery sessions
Entry to Perfect Day CocoCay when on itinerary	Paid CocoCay areas/activities such as Thrill Waterpark, Hideaway Beach and Coco Beach Club
Use of Royal Caribbean app onboard	VOOM internet package
Continental breakfast room service items	Most other room service orders + gratuity

CURRENT GRATUITIES - SEPTEMBER 2026

\$18.50 USD per guest, per day for non-suite staterooms and \$21.00 USD per guest, per day for suites if not prepaid. Royal Caribbean also adds service gratuities to many beverage, dining, room-service, spa and salon purchases. Always re-check your sailing because policies can change.

Budget categories to decide before sailing

☐ Cruise fare	☐ Taxes/fees
☐ Daily service gratuities	☐ Flights or fuel
☐ Pre-cruise hotel	☐ Port transfers/parking
☐ Travel protection	☐ Beverage package
☐ Specialty dining	☐ VOOM internet
☐ Shore excursions	☐ CocoCay upgrades
☐ Spa/salon	☐ Photos
☐ Casino/gaming	☐ Souvenirs

FEED THE FAMILY, PROTECT THE VACATION

7. Dining Without Overplanning

Dining is one of the easiest places to overspend or over-schedule. Start with the included venues, then buy specialty dining because you want a particular experience - not because you think the complimentary food is unusable.

Main Dining Room

- **Traditional dining:** assigned early or late seating, with the same general table/time each evening.
- **My Time Dining:** more flexible, but reservations are strongly recommended because popular times can fill.
- **Family Time Dining:** on eligible sailings, families with children ages 3-11 can use a faster dinner flow before Adventure Ocean evening activities.

Specialty dining

- **Buy an experience, not fear.** Choose specialty dining when the venue itself matters to you.
- **Packages can create value, but also homework.** An Unlimited Dining Package is only a good value if your family wants to use it often enough.
- **Reserve early.** Popular venues and prime dining times can disappear quickly, especially on short sailings.

ROOM SERVICE

Royal Caribbean currently lists a \$7.95 room-service service charge for most non-continental breakfast orders, plus an automatic 18% gratuity; the amount is subject to change. Continental breakfast items are complimentary.

CONVENIENCE IS PART OF THE VALUE

8. Beverage Packages: Do the Math

Royal Caribbean uses dynamic pricing for beverage packages, so there is no single universal “good price.” Instead, compare the package cost for your sailing with what your household realistically drinks in a day.

Package type	Good fit when...	Remember
Deluxe Beverage Package	Adults want alcohol plus premium nonalcoholic drinks and value a predictable bill	If one adult of legal drinking age in a stateroom buys Deluxe, Royal Caribbean policy requires all legal-drinking-age guests in that stateroom to purchase it.
Refreshment Package	Guest wants premium coffees, mocktails, water, juices and other nonalcoholic options	As of March 15, 2026 it no longer automatically includes a Freestyle cup.
Classic Soda Package	Guest drinks enough fountain soda to value unlimited refills	Continues to include a Coca-Cola Freestyle cup under the 2026 policy.
No package	Light drinkers, port-heavy itineraries or travelers comfortable paying a la carte	Included beverages still cover basic hydration and meal drinks.

2026 FREESTYLE CHANGE

Effective March 15, 2026, Deluxe and Refreshment packages do not include the Coca-Cola Freestyle cup. Guests using those packages can purchase a Freestyle cup onboard; the Classic Soda Package continues to include one.

- **Package use:** Deluxe is honored in many onboard bars, restaurants and at Perfect Day CocoCay, but exclusions apply such as room service, minibar and Starbucks purchases.
- **One guest, one package.** Packages cannot be shared.
- **Reprice before finalizing.** Cruise Planner promotions change. If cancellation/rebooking terms allow, compare later sales rather than assuming the first price is the best price.

DO NOT TRY TO “WIN” THE CRUISE

9. Entertainment and Activities

The largest Royal Caribbean ships can have more to do than a family can reasonably fit into one sailing. The goal is not to complete the ship. Pick a few must-do experiences and leave room for spontaneous fun.

Experience type	Where you may see it	Planning strategy
Aqua shows	Icon and Oasis classes	High priority; reserve when your sailing allows.
Ice shows	Select Icon/Oasis/Quantum and other ships with ice venues	Arrive early or reserve where offered.
Two70 productions	Quantum / Quantum Ultra	Reservations may be available on eligible ships.
Broadway / production shows	Varies by ship	Check exact ship lineup before booking if a show matters.
FlowRider / rock climbing / slides	Select ships	Check height/weight/waiver requirements and weather/operational limits.
SeaPlex / bumper cars	Quantum-class ships	Great for families on cooler-weather routes.

CURRENT SHOW RESERVATION TIMING

For eligible Icon, Oasis and Quantum-class entertainment, Royal Caribbean currently says reservations open on the first day of the month before sailing and can be made online until four days before departure. Other ship classes often use first-come seating. Always verify your exact ship in the app/My Royal Cruise.

The 3-3-3 rule

- Pick 3 must-do activities.
- Pick 3 must-see shows or entertainment experiences.
- Pick 3 “nice if we get to it” items - and be willing to skip them.

GIVE THEM INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT LOSING THE FAMILY VACATION

10. Cruising With Kids and Teens

Adventure Ocean can be one of the biggest reasons a Royal Caribbean cruise works for families. It gives children age-appropriate activities and gives parents room to have adult time without needing every family member to love the same schedule.

Age / program	What to know
Royal Babies & Tots: 6-36 months	Nursery drop-off sessions are available on participating ships and may involve an additional charge. Availability can be limited.
Aquanauts: 3-5	Hands-on, supervised youth programming.
Explorers: 6-8	Games, science, creative activities and group fun.
Voyagers: 9-12	More independence and age-appropriate activities.
Teens: 13-17	Dedicated teen programming/spaces vary by ship; teens often value flexibility more than a rigid schedule.

- **Register early.** Visit Adventure Ocean on embarkation day so you understand hours, pickup rules and capacity.
- **Do not overschedule.** Kids may love the club more than the adult-planned activity.
- **Create a meeting plan.** On a huge ship, “meet me later” is not a plan. Choose exact times and locations.
- **Protect sleep.** Late shows plus early excursions can turn a fun family cruise into a tired family cruise by Day 3.

PARENT STRATEGY

Choose one daily family anchor - breakfast, dinner, a show or a shore excursion - and let everyone have some independence around it. This is especially effective with teens and multigenerational groups.

TOGETHER - WITHOUT BEING TOGETHER EVERY MINUTE

11. Multigenerational Cruising

Cruising is naturally suited to multigenerational travel because meals, entertainment and transportation between destinations are built into one vacation. The planning challenge is creating enough structure to connect everyone without forcing one pace on three generations.

Plan together	Allow independence
Choose cabins in a practical cluster	Grandparents can rest while kids use pools/activities
Set one daily family meal or event	Adults can choose different shows or nightlife
Book key excursions early	Different mobility levels can choose different port plans
Agree on spending expectations	Each household can manage its own onboard extras
Use exact meeting points	Families can split up confidently on sea days

MOBILITY MATTERS BEFORE SHIP SIZE

A “better” ship can be a worse fit if long walks, stairs, crowded elevators or tender ports create unnecessary stress. We look at the ship layout and itinerary through the least-mobile traveler’s experience, then make sure everyone else still has enough to do.

YOU CAN HAVE A GREAT DAY WITHOUT BUYING AN UPGRADE

12. Perfect Day at CocoCay

Perfect Day at CocoCay is Royal Caribbean's private destination in The Bahamas. Entry is included when your itinerary visits the island, and many of the core beach-day experiences are complimentary.

Included / complimentary examples	Paid upgrades / extras
Island entry	Thrill Waterpark
Oasis Lagoon pool	Hideaway Beach (18+)
Chill Island and South Beach	Coco Beach Club
Beach chairs and umbrellas	Cabanas and daybeds
Splashaway Bay + Captain Jill's Galleon	Zip line / Up, Up and Away
Selected island dining venues	Rental equipment and selected excursions
Tram service, showers and lockers	A la carte purchases outside inclusions

- **For a low-cost day:** Pick a complimentary beach, use the included food venues, swim, relax and return to the ship when you are ready.
- **For families with thrill-seekers:** Price Thrill Waterpark against the amount of time your family will actually use it.
- **For adults wanting a party/chill zone:** Hideaway Beach is an adults-only paid area.
- **For premium relaxation:** Coco Beach Club is a paid-access experience with its own beach/pool/dining features.
- **Beverage package note:** Royal Caribbean beverage packages are generally usable at CocoCay during operating hours, subject to package terms.

7220 TRAVEL TIP

Do not buy a CocoCay upgrade because social media makes the free areas look "lesser." First decide what kind of day your family wants. A chair, an umbrella, a beach and lunch can already be included in the cruise fare.

THE RIGHT ANSWER CHANGES BY PORT

13. Shore Excursions: Ship Tour or Independent?

Book through Royal Caribbean when...	Consider independent exploration when...
The excursion runs close to all-aboard time	The port is compact, walkable and easy to navigate
Transportation is complicated or remote	You have substantial time buffer
The activity is a “must do” and logistics matter more than price	You want a private/custom experience from a reputable operator
You are nervous about missing the ship	You understand the return-risk responsibility
Mobility/access requirements need coordinated handling	The independent operator clearly meets your needs

IMPORTANT PROTECTION

Royal Caribbean states that when a Royal Caribbean-booked shore excursion is delayed, the ship will wait; if a significant delay makes that impossible, Royal Caribbean will arrange return to the ship at no expense. Guests exploring independently are responsible for returning before departure.

- **Verify ship time.** Your phone may change time zones automatically while the ship operates on a different schedule.
- **Know all-aboard time.** It is normally before the published departure time; verify it onboard.
- **Leave buffer.** Independent port days should not be timed to the minute.
- **Carry essentials.** SeaPass card, photo ID as instructed, medications, emergency contact information and an appropriate payment method.

PUT THE CRUISE IN YOUR POCKET

14. The Royal Caribbean App and VOOM

The Royal Caribbean app is useful before and during the sailing. Features vary by ship, but the app can handle check-in, daily schedules, reservations, onboard account review and departure planning.

Before sailing	Once onboard
Complete app check-in beginning 45 days before sailing	Review daily activity schedule
Upload security photo / scan passport where available	Make or modify eligible dining/excursion reservations
Choose terminal arrival time	Review SeaPass account
Purchase dining, drinks, internet, spa and excursions	Use ship maps and activity details
Reserve eligible shows/activities	Receive operational notifications and departure details

CHECK-IN TIMING

Royal Caribbean currently opens app check-in 45 days before sailing. App check-in remains available until the morning of sailing; website check-in closes earlier. Guests must still bring their physical travel documents to the terminal.

VOOM internet

VOOM is Royal Caribbean's onboard internet product and is available fleetwide. Pricing varies by sailing and number of devices. Pre-cruise pricing can be lower than onboard pricing. If you are trying to disconnect, you may not need it; if you need work access, video calling or reliable messaging, include it in the budget before you sail.

PHONE SAFETY

Put phones in airplane mode before the ship leaves port, then manually turn Wi-Fi back on if needed. "Cellular at sea" roaming can generate expensive carrier charges if your phone connects automatically.

WHAT TO DO - AND WHEN

15. Your Royal Caribbean Planning Timeline

When	Focus
12-18+ months before	Choose region, ship class, sailing dates, stateroom strategy and travel protection. Reserve connecting/family cabins early.
6-12 months before	Plan flights, pre-cruise hotel, passports/visas and major shore-excursion priorities.
3-6 months before	Watch Cruise Planner pricing. Decide beverage, dining, internet, spa and CocoCay upgrades.
60-90 days before	Confirm travel documents, airport/port transfers, accessibility needs, medication supply and excursion details.
45 days before	Complete Royal Caribbean app check-in as soon as practical and select terminal arrival time.
Month before sailing	On eligible ships, watch for show reservations opening on the first day of the month before sailing.
1-2 weeks before	Reconfirm flights/hotel/transfers, download app updates, print backup documents, finalize packing and luggage tags.
Day before	Travel to the embarkation city when flying; charge devices; place documents/meds in your carry-on.
Embarkation morning	Follow your assigned arrival time, keep documents accessible and start vacation mode.

DYNAMIC PRICING REMINDER

Beverage, internet, dining, excursions and private-destination add-ons may be dynamically priced. Check cancellation/rebooking rules before trying to “reprice” a purchase.

DO NOT LET PAPERWORK CANCEL THE VACATION

16. Travel Documents and Passport Strategy

Documentation depends on citizenship, departure port, itinerary and sometimes the age/relationship of travelers. Royal Caribbean states that guests are responsible for having the documents required to board and enter the countries visited.

- **Passport is the safest default.** Royal Caribbean strongly recommends a valid passport and notes that many itineraries require one. Requirements can include validity beyond the end of the cruise.
- **Names must match.** Reservation names and travel documents should match; name changes can require supporting documentation.
- **Closed-loop exceptions are not universal.** Some U.S. citizens may be eligible to cruise on certain U.S. closed-loop itineraries with approved birth-certificate/ID combinations, but those rules are itinerary-specific and provide less flexibility if an emergency requires flying home.
- **Minors traveling without legal guardians need extra documentation.** Royal Caribbean may require a notarized guardian authorization form.
- **Visa / ETA requirements matter.** These depend on nationality and countries visited - not simply the cruise line.

NEVER PACK YOUR DOCUMENTS

Passports, birth certificates, visas, SetSail Passes, medications and any required minor-travel consent paperwork belong in your carry-on - not luggage you hand to a porter.

PACK FOR THE FIRST SIX HOURS FIRST

17. Royal Caribbean Packing Guide

Your checked luggage may not reach the stateroom immediately. Build an embarkation-day carry-on that lets your family function without it.

Carry-on essentials

☐ Passport / travel documents	☐ SetSail Pass backup
☐ Prescription medications	☐ Swimsuit + cover-up
☐ Sunscreen	☐ Phone + approved charger
☐ Eyeglasses / contacts	☐ Kids comfort items
☐ Basic toiletries	☐ Change of clothes
☐ Wallet / payment cards	☐ Travel insurance info

Pack in checked luggage

☐ Dinner outfits	☐ Casual clothes
☐ Workout clothes	☐ Closed-toe shoes
☐ Sandals / water shoes	☐ Light layer / sweater
☐ Hat	☐ Refillable bottle
☐ Magnetic hooks (if permitted)	☐ Small night light
☐ Laundry bag	☐ Excursion-specific gear

Do NOT pack

☐ Clothing iron	☐ Garment steamer
☐ Extension cords	☐ Power strips
☐ Multi-plug outlets	☐ Illegal drugs / marijuana
☐ Weapons	☐ Candles / open-flame items

PACKING POLICY NOTES

CURRENT BEVERAGE ALLOWANCE

On embarkation day, each guest of drinking age may bring one sealed 750 ml bottle of wine or champagne. Royal Caribbean also permits up to 12 standard cans, bottles or cartons (up to 17 oz each) of nonalcoholic beverages per stateroom as carry-on items. Re-check current policy before sailing.

POWER-STRIP WARNING

Royal Caribbean's current prohibited-items policy includes electrical extension cords, power strips and multi-plug outlets. Bring normal certified device/USB chargers instead, and verify any specialty equipment with Royal Caribbean before travel.

START ORGANIZED, THEN RELAX

18. Embarkation Day: Your First Six Hours

1. Arrive during your assigned terminal arrival window with documents in hand.
2. Board, connect to ship Wi-Fi/app services and verify key reservations.
3. Complete the required safety briefing steps and visit your assigned assembly station.
4. Eat lunch away from the most obvious crowd if you can. Not everyone needs to go straight to the Windjammer.
5. Visit Adventure Ocean to register children and learn hours/pickup rules.
6. Confirm dining, show and specialty reservations that matter to your family.
7. Walk one practical route: stateroom -> dining -> kids club -> main entertainment -> pool deck. You do not need a full ship tour.
8. When staterooms open, find SeaPass cards and inspect the room. Tell your attendant about urgent configuration needs.
9. Unpack enough to reduce clutter. Put empty suitcases under the bed if space allows.
10. Stop planning. Pick one fun thing and enjoy the first evening.

SEAPASS SPENDING

Royal Caribbean uses a cashless SeaPass onboard account. You can link a card or use a cash-backed account. Card issuers may show temporary authorization holds in addition to the final settled charge.

PACE BEATS FOMO

19. Sea-Day and Port-Day Strategy

Sea days on a large Royal Caribbean ship can feel like a theme park, resort and entertainment complex all happening at once. Port days can feel just as full. The best strategy is to protect the family's energy.

Sea day

- **Do one “hard” thing early.** Popular slides, FlowRider or active attractions can become busier later.
- **Schedule downtime on purpose.** A quiet hour in the cabin or shaded deck can save the evening.
- **Do not book every meal.** A scheduled breakfast, lunch, specialty dinner and two shows can make a vacation feel like an appointment book.
- **Use the ship while others eat.** Meal times can create windows for quieter attractions.

Port day

- **Match excursion intensity to the next day.** A 10-hour tour before an early morning port can wear out the whole group.
- **Return early sometimes.** The ship can be wonderfully quiet while many guests remain ashore.
- **Keep one low-pressure port.** Not every destination needs a bucket-list excursion.

FAMILY RULE

The vacation should leave you with stories, not a scorecard. Missing one show or skipping one port activity is not wasting the cruise.

PLAN NEEDS BEFORE THEY BECOME PROBLEMS

20. Accessibility, Medical Needs and Travel Protection

Royal Caribbean offers accessible staterooms and accessibility services, but some services require advance notice. Shore accessibility can also vary dramatically by port, gangway conditions and excursion.

- **Reserve accessible staterooms early.** Inventory is limited and Royal Caribbean requires guests reserving accessible rooms to acknowledge the need through its special-needs process.
- **Discuss mobility beyond the cabin.** Elevators, tender ports, gangways, long pier walks and excursion vehicles can matter more than the room itself.
- **Carry medications in original/appropriate packaging.** Bring enough for delays and keep critical medication in your carry-on.
- **Understand onboard medical care.** Royal Caribbean ships have medical facilities with licensed physicians and nurses, but services are limited compared with a full land-based hospital and can involve charges.
- **Travel protection matters.** Review cancellation, interruption, medical and evacuation coverage - especially for international itineraries, older travelers and expensive excursions.

MEDICAL PLANNING

Cruise ships can stabilize many emergencies, but serious cases may require shoreside treatment or evacuation. This is one reason a passport and appropriate travel protection can be valuable even when a particular itinerary allows other documentation.

FINISH THE TRIP AS WELL AS YOU STARTED IT

21. Disembarkation Without the Last-Day Scramble

- **Review your SeaPass statement before the final morning.** Resolve unexpected charges while Guest Services is available.
- **Decide between luggage assistance and self-assist.** Self-assist can be faster but requires carrying all your luggage off the ship.
- **Keep documents, medication and valuables with you.** Never put tomorrow morning's essentials in bags collected the night before.
- **Do not book a razor-thin flight connection.** Ship clearance, customs, traffic and airport security can all vary.
- **Use the app for departure details where available.** Royal Caribbean can provide departure time, luggage and transportation instructions digitally.

ONE MORE NIGHT?

For international cruises or cities you actually want to experience, a post-cruise night can turn a stressful race to the airport into part of the vacation.

A SHORT LIST WORTH SAVING

22. The 12 Mistakes We Want You to Avoid

1. Choosing the ship because it is newest instead of because it fits your family.
2. Choosing the itinerary because the fare is cheap without pricing flights, hotels and excursions.
3. Flying to the cruise port the morning of departure.
4. Booking a stateroom without checking what is directly above and below it.
5. Assuming every ship has the same attractions because the Royal Caribbean brand is the same.
6. Buying beverage/dining packages without doing the math or checking the family schedule.
7. Waiting until onboard to think about high-demand dining, shows and excursions.
8. Packing travel documents or medication in checked luggage.
9. Bringing banned power strips, extension cords, irons or steamers.
10. Trying to do everything on the ship.
11. Ignoring the return-to-ship risk on independent shore days.
12. Planning the vacation around social media instead of your actual family.

BRING YOUR PRIORITIES INTO FOCUS

23. 7220 Travel Cruise Planning Worksheet

Planning question	Your answer
Preferred travel dates	_____
Number of travelers	_____
Adults / ages	_____
Children / ages	_____
Departure airport / drive city	_____
Trip length target	_____
Total trip budget target	_____
Destination preference	_____
Ship class preference	_____
Stateroom preference	_____

Top 3 onboard experiences

#	Experience
1	
2	
3	

Top 3 dining experiences

#	Restaurant / dining experience
1	
2	
3	

PLANNING WORKSHEET - CONTINUED

Rank what matters most (1 = highest)

Priority	Rank
Ship activities	
Ports / itinerary	
Food	
Entertainment	
Kids / teen programming	
Quiet / adult spaces	
Stateroom quality	
Lowest total cost	
Easy flights / drive-to port	
Private-destination day	

Anything that would make this vacation a disappointment?

THE WEEK BEFORE YOU SAIL

24. Final Pre-Cruise Checklist

☐ App check-in completed	☐ Terminal arrival time selected
☐ Passports / required IDs verified	☐ Names match reservation
☐ Visas / ETAs verified if needed	☐ Minor consent forms ready if needed
☐ Flights reconfirmed	☐ Pre-cruise hotel reconfirmed
☐ Port transportation confirmed	☐ Travel protection documents saved
☐ Dining reservations reviewed	☐ Show reservations reviewed
☐ Excursions reviewed	☐ CocoCay plans reviewed
☐ Beverage/internet packages reviewed	☐ Gratuities plan confirmed
☐ Adventure Ocean plan discussed	☐ Medications packed in carry-on
☐ Prohibited items removed	☐ Wine/nonalcoholic carry-on policy rechecked
☐ Luggage tags printed/ready	☐ Phone airplane-mode plan understood
☐ Emergency contacts saved	☐ 7220 Travel contact saved

PLANNING SHOULD REDUCE UNCERTAINTY

25. How 7220 Travel Helps

Online booking engines can show you inventory. Our job is to help you decide which inventory makes sense for your family - and then keep the moving parts organized.

- **Ship + itinerary fit.** We narrow the fleet based on the experiences your family actually values.
- **Stateroom strategy.** We look beyond category names to location, sleeping arrangement, adjacency and multigenerational needs.
- **Pre-cruise organization.** We help keep flights, hotel, transfers, documents and planning milestones from becoming separate problems.
- **Experience planning.** We help you think through dining, packages, CocoCay, shore excursions and pacing.
- **Support.** Travel is an investment in time, memories and people. When plans change, having an advisor who knows the trip matters.

READY TO NARROW THE OPTIONS?

Send 7220 Travel your completed worksheet. We can use it to compare the right Royal Caribbean ships and sailings instead of asking you to sort through hundreds of departures on your own.

WEB

7220travel.com

CALL / TEXT

307-314-2517

EMAIL

dave.engel@7220travel.com

REFERENCE EDITION: SEPTEMBER 2026

Sources and Policy Notes

Royal Caribbean policies, ship features, pricing and product inclusions change. The guide separates planning advice from dated policy callouts. Always verify your exact sailing in My Royal Cruise / the Royal Caribbean app and your final travel documents before departure.

1. Royal Caribbean - What is included in a cruise fare

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/cruise-vacation-price>

2. Royal Caribbean - App check-in timing

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/when-can-i-check-in-with-the-app>

3. Royal Caribbean - Service gratuities

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/onboard-service-gratuity-expense>

4. Royal Caribbean - Show reservations

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/how-do-i-pre-reserve-show-tickets>

5. Royal Caribbean - Prohibited items

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/prohibited-items-onboard-policy>

6. Royal Caribbean - Food and beverage carry-on policy

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/food-drink-onboard-policy>

7. Royal Caribbean - Deluxe Beverage Package

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/what-is-the-deluxe-beverage-package>

8. Royal Caribbean - Beverage package products / 2026 Freestyle change

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/int/en/faq/questions/beverage-drink-package-products>

9. Royal Caribbean - My Time Dining

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/what-is-my-time-dining>

10. Royal Caribbean - Room service

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/in-room-food-service>

11. Royal Caribbean - Adventure Ocean children/teen activities

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/children-teen-activities>

12. Royal Caribbean - Perfect Day CocoCay pricing/inclusions

<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/how-much-does-perfect-day-at-cococay-cost>

REFERENCE EDITION: SEPTEMBER 2026

Sources and Policy Notes - continued

13. Royal Caribbean - Shore excursion return protection<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/will-the-ship-wait-for-guests-on-a-shore-excursion>**14. Royal Caribbean - Travel documents**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/plan-a-cruise/travel-documents>**15. Royal Caribbean - SeaPass onboard account**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/seapass-onboard-spending-account>**16. Royal Caribbean - VOOM internet**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/onboard-internet-wifi-device-policy>**17. Royal Caribbean - Accessibility**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/topics/accessibility-disability-needs>**18. Royal Caribbean - Medical services**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/medical-services-onboard-regulations>**19. Royal Caribbean - Icon Class**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/cruise-ships/icon-class>**20. Royal Caribbean - Oasis Class**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/cruise-ships/oasis-class>**21. Royal Caribbean - Quantum / Quantum Ultra Class**<https://www.royalcaribbean.com/cruise-ships/quantum-class>**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER**

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YOUR VACATION SHOULD FIT YOUR FAMILY

Ready to Plan Your Royal Caribbean Cruise?

Plan unforgettable family adventures.

We help families and groups eliminate the guesswork - from choosing the right ship to organizing the details that make the trip feel seamless.

NEXT STEP

Complete the planning worksheet in this guide and send it to Dave at 7220 Travel. We will use your priorities to narrow the choices and build the right Royal Caribbean vacation around your family.

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