



Pro-Tips: Cruises

Top no-fluff pro-tips you may benefit from.

Money

- Get \$100/stateroom as On-Board Credit for 7 night sailings if you own 100 shares of Royal Caribbean stock (NYSE: RCL). As of 2025 this would be about 0.3% ROI. If you cruise a lot, or can buy the stock cheap, or are interested in investing in the industry anyway, this can add up!

Travel Timing

- Pre-departure hotel. Consider flying into port area the night before departure and staying at a hotel to mitigate most travel delay impacts.
- Post-cruise hotel. Staying an extra day in the area after your cruise, rather than flying home immediately, can offer several benefits. You might find cost savings on flights, as post-cruise flights are often crowded and more expensive than early morning departures. These potential flight savings can often offset the cost of a hotel stay, especially if combined with any hotel loyalty or potential early check-in.

Traveling

- **Book reliable flights.** Especially for the pre-cruise leg, prioritize airlines you trust.
- **Book using credit cards with solid protection.** The Chase Sapphire Reserve in particular stands out as a strong option to put travel on due to the trip delay/interruption/cancellation coverage in particular. Other top options include Amex Platinum and Venture X.
- Delta gives **2x free checked bags up to 70 lbs per passenger** for everyone on the same booking if at least one person holds Silver Medallion status and a Delta SkyMiles AmEx card (Domestic, primarily).
 - Consider a family of 4 with 2 checked bags each. Roundtrip, this would cost ~\$640 in checked bag fees. The family could instead have one person buy both SkyMiles Amex Platinum (~\$350/year) *and* Reserve (~\$650/year) to immediately have Silver Medallion status from the MQD Headstart and get the bag perks. If the family travels 2+ times/year, this could be cheaper and less stressful (70 lb vs 50 lb limit, no longer trying to minimize checked bags every travel). See [Delta's official policy](#).

Have any other ideas, suggestions, or criticisms? Let us know!