

Pre-Cruise Planning Checklist for Special Needs Families



Three to Four Months Before Cruise

- Research whether you need a visa or need a passport to travel
- Secure required travel documents
- Book flights for your entire party
- Make final payments on your cruise booking
- Book your pre-cruise hotel
- Book ground transportation to and from the port from the airport (if needed)

Two to Three Months Before Cruise

- Research on-board child care programs & register all children in your party
- Contact the cruise line to inform them you're traveling with someone with special needs
- Complete pre-cruise check-in
- Print all cruise documents and luggage tags
- Schedule doctor's appointment for pre-cruise check-up and medicine check
- Research and book on-shore excursions for your entire party
- Review a cruise packing checklist for ideas on what you need to

pack and what you may need to purchase

One to Two Months Before Cruise

- Check luggage you plan to travel with in case you need to purchase a new set
- Research or create "cruise or travel" social story for your child
- Purchase beverage or dining packages onboard the ship

Two to Four Weeks Before Cruise

- Fill out and print all cruise documents
- Fill all required prescriptions needed for the cruise
- Draft a packing list and take notes in case you need to do last minute shopping
- Make special arrangements for home and school while you're away

One Week Before Cruise

- Start packing for your cruise
- Leave travel plans and cruise schedule with a family member or close friend
- Contact your bank to inform them of your travel plans

Find more tips for planning a cruise at www.nickisrandommusings.com

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- Contact your cell phone company about special cruise offers to avoid high fees while traveling
- Consider getting wifi from the cruise line
- Pack and make sure all your medication remain in the original packaging
- Shop for last minute necessities include travel sized toiletries
- Stock up on reading materials, toys, and other activities for children
- Reminds teachers about your travel plans
- Stop shopping for groceries and use up most of what's in your refrigerator
- Print out all your cruise documents and store them in your carry-on bag
- Start adjusting your child's schedule if they have a difficult time dealing with change
- Confirm local travel arrangements for transfers from the airport to hotel or cruise port
- Book airport parking at your local airport
- Finish up work projects

- Purchase new storage cards for your camera

The Day Before You Cruise

- Charge all electronic devices and pack chargers
- Create and print "About" pages for your child to share with cruise staff and youth program supervisors
- Pack snacks for the plane ride and other travel time in carry on bags
- Organize and pack carry-on bags make sure all required travel documents are inside your bag
- Make a checklist for errands and morning of tasks
- Double check that you have all required medication in original packaging with additional doctor's prescription in case it's needed
- Check in for your flight
- Do a final house check, make sure all computers are turned off, televisions, and other small appliances
- Set your alarm and get a good night's sleep before your travel day