








Accessible Cruising Guide

This guide helps travellers plan a comfortable, safe, and enjoyable cruise whether they have mobility needs, a service animal, autism, or hearing impairment.






1. Booking & Planning

-  Research cruise lines with strong accessibility programs and facilities.
 -  Notify the cruise line of your needs (mobility, hearing, autism, service animal) **before booking**.
 -  Ask about accessible cabins, assistive devices, and special services.
 -  Review port accessibility and excursion options; some destinations may have limited accessibility.
-




2. Documentation & Notifications

-  Provide medical information, prescriptions, and dietary requirements.
 -  Carry service animal vaccination and training records (if applicable).
 -  Submit requests for sign language interpreters, captioning, or autism support in advance.
 -  Keep copies of all documents (paper + digital).
-

3. Accessible Cabins & Onboard Facilities

-  Accessible staterooms: roll-in showers, grab bars, wider doors, lowered amenities.
 -  Priority boarding/disembarkation if available.
 -  Elevators, ramps, and pool lifts throughout the ship.
 -  Assistive devices: hearing loops, visual alerts, vibration alarms.
 -  Quiet or sensory-friendly areas for children or guests with autism.
-

4. Mobility & Equipment

-  Bring your own wheelchair, scooter, or walking aid; label with name and cabin.
 -  Pack spare batteries, chargers, and necessary tools.
 -  Request onboard storage or charging for mobility devices.
-

5. Service Animals

- ☒ Confirm cruise line allows service animals (emotional support animals usually not permitted).
 - ☒ Use designated relief areas and maintain hygiene.
 - ☒ Bring food, water, medication, and comfort items.
 - ☒ Check destination entry requirements and quarantine rules.
-

6. Autism Support

- ☒ Flexible dining times and seating for routine and comfort.
 - ☒ Kids' clubs with autism-friendly activities; request one-on-one support if needed.
 - ☒ Quiet zones and sensory-friendly programming.
 - ☒ Pack comfort items: headphones, fidget toys, tablets, snacks, visual schedule aids.
-

7. Hearing Impairment

- ☒ Use assistive listening devices, captioned TVs, and theatre headsets.
 - ☒ Accessible cabin with visual/vibration alerts for alarms, doors, and phones.
 - ☒ Bring extra hearing aid batteries, waterproof storage, and portable amplifiers.
 - ☒ Use notepad, phone, or speech-to-text apps for communication when needed.
 - ☒ Request written or digital copies of menus, daily schedules, and safety instructions.
-

8. Dining & Entertainment

- ☒ Request accessible seating in restaurants and theatres.
 - ☒ Inform staff of dietary requirements.
 - ☒ Use quiet spaces or sensory-friendly programming as needed.
 - ☒ Reserve front-row or well-lit seating for lip reading if hearing impaired.
-

9. Shore Excursions

- ☒ Confirm accessible excursions or private tours.
- ☒ Bring service animal documentation and supplies if required.
- ☒ Plan small-group or quiet excursions for children with autism.
- ☒ Carry essential documents and written instructions for communication needs.

10. During the Cruise

- ☒ Keep daily routines for comfort and consistency.
- ☒ Take sensory or rest breaks as needed.
- ☒ Communicate with staff about support needs—they are trained to assist.
- ☒ Celebrate achievements and enjoy a safe, inclusive holiday!

☒ **Tip:** Keep a dedicated accessibility backpack with essential items for mobility, hearing, autism, or service animal needs. Include documents, medication, snacks, and comfort items.
