



Mainstream Cruise Line Comparison Guide

"From Bucket lists to boarding passes!"

1. Brand Philosophy & Price Spectrum (Cheapest to Most Expensive)

Carnival Cruise Line: High-energy, casual, fun-focused, and king of low lead-in ticket prices (Best for families, groups, first-timers).

Royal Caribbean International: Action-packed, high-tech mega-ships with incredible onboard thrills and activities.

Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL): "Freestyle Cruising" with no formal nights, highly flexible dining, and great solo/independent appeal.

Princess Cruises: Refined, sophisticated, and destination-focused with a traditional cruise ambiance for mature couples and empty nesters.

2. What's FREE vs. What Costs EXTRA

FREE Inclusions: Stateroom accommodations & housekeeping; Main Dining Room breakfast, lunch, and dinner; casual buffets; signature quick-service spots (e.g., Guy's Burger Joint, Sorrento's Pizza); Broadway-style shows, comedy clubs, and pools.

EXTRA Upcharges: Specialty dining (steakhouses, Teppanyaki); room service delivery fees; Wi-Fi packages; crew daily gratuities; shore excursions, spa treatments, and casino play.

3. Free Things to Drink Onboard (No Package Required)

Tap water, regular brewed coffee (café and decaf), hot tea bags, iced tea, lemonade, breakfast fruit juices, and milk (regular and chocolate).

Note: Sodas, bottled water, specialty espresso drinks, and smoothies always cost extra unless bundled or packaged.

4. Packing Essentials & Embarkation Beverage Allowances

Hand-Carry Documents: Passports/proof of citizenship, boarding passes, luggage tags, government ID, and vital medications/medical devices (CPAP supplies).

Essential Gear: Cruise-approved non-surge power strip, secure crossbody day pack, and formal/smart-casual evening wear.

Wine & Champagne: Adults (21+) may bring **1 bottle (750ml) per person** in carry-on luggage across all 4 lines.

Soda & Non-Alcoholic Drinks: Carnival, Royal Caribbean, and Princess allow up to **12 cans/cartons (12–17 oz or less) per person/stateroom** in carry-on. *NCL strictly prohibits bringing any personal beverages onboard.*

Practical note: Policies, pricing, and inclusions can change—verify details with Double B Travel before booking.