Cruise luggage limits, and the number in the contract nobody reads

Most lines do not publish a bag limit at all. What they do publish is exactly how little they owe you if the bag never turns up.

THE SHORT ANSWER

Most cruise lines publish no luggage limit at all: Royal Caribbean and Celebrity say only that guests may bring a reasonable amount. Norwegian publishes two bags per guest. What every line does publish is a liability cap if the bag is lost: $300 per guest on Royal Caribbean and Celebrity, $250 per bag on Princess and Carnival, and $100 per passenger on Norwegian.

Facts checked against official sources on 24 September 2026

People search for cruise luggage limits expecting an airline-style answer: two bags, fifty pounds, sixty-two linear inches. That is not what the cruise lines publish, and the gap between what they publish and what people assume is where the trouble lives.

Book it from your phone

Getting your bags there and home: the bookings Granny uses, one scan away.

Point your phone camera at a code. Your phone opens the booking page. No camera app? Type the web address printed under the code.

Airport to the ship

A pre-booked ride from the airport to the cruise terminal, booked before you fly.

WELCOME PICKUPS

aicruisegranny.com/go/transfer

Bag storage on the way home

Late flight after you get off the ship? Leave your bags for a few hours and see the town.

RADICAL STORAGE

aicruisegranny.com/go/luggage-storage

Travel insurance

Compare cruise travel insurance plans side by side before final payment.

SQUAREMOUTH

aicruisegranny.com/go/insurance

Check the official source

Rules, prices and hours change. Scan to open the official page and confirm before you go. These are not paid links.

- **Luggage policy** — Royal Caribbean
- **Prepare for your cruise** — Celebrity
- **Ticket contract** — Carnival
- **How many suitcases** — Norwegian
- **Passage contract** — Princess

Full guide online: photos, live prices and the latest updates at **aicruisegranny.com/cruise-luggage-limits**

Booking codes are affiliate or travel-agent links: AI Cruise Granny may earn a commission at no extra cost to you. Prices, rules and availability are set by each company; check them before you book.

AI Cruise Granny · aicruisegranny.com

How many bags you can actually bring

Royal Caribbean	**No number and no weight published.** "Each guest is permitted to carry a reasonable amount of personal property (including luggage) aboard the vessel; however... it is recommended that you limit the number of pieces."
Celebrity	**No limit published.** "There is no limit or restriction, however we recommend each guest carry a reasonable amount of personal property."
Norwegian	**Two bags per guest** — and Norwegian publishes the weight two different ways on its own site. One page says "a maximum of 23 kg"; another says "a 50-pound maximum each, same as airlines." Those are 23 kg and 50.7 lb, near enough the same, but neither page mentions the other.
Princess	Passage Contract: "You may take a reasonable amount of luggage on board containing only Your personal effects." **No number, no weight.**
Carnival	EU/UK ticket contract: "a reasonable amount of luggage." **Carnival's detailed luggage page is on help.carnival.com, which blocks automated reading**, so we could not verify Carnival's US bag or weight rules and we are not going to guess at them.

The practical read: **on most lines there is no hard limit**, because the constraint is your cabin, not a policy. A standard stateroom is small and there is a finite amount of space under the bed.

The number that actually matters, and it is in the contract

Every line caps what it will pay you if your luggage is lost or destroyed. The figures are in the ticket contract, and they are much smaller than people imagine.

Royal Caribbean	**$300 per guest.** Ticket Contract clause 4.c. You may declare a higher value in writing and pay a fee of 5% of the excess, capped at $5,000.
Celebrity	**$300 per guest.** Identical wording, clause 4.c, same $5,000 declared-value ceiling.
Princess	**$250 per bag**, maximum two bags on sailings of 14 days or less, three bags on 15 days or longer. Passage Contract §15.
Carnival	**$250 per bag**, same two/three bag cap. Ticket Contract clause 4(b).
Norwegian	**$100 per passenger.** Published on ncl.com/terms. The lowest of the five by a wide margin.

And then it gets narrower. Princess publishes that it has no liability at all, "under any circumstances," for cash, jewelry, electronics, cameras, **hearing aids, medications, wheelchairs, scooters**, liquor, tobacco or business documents. Carnival's contract carries the same exclusion. Read that list again if you travel with a mobility device or a hearing aid: **the line's published position is that it owes you nothing for it.**

This is the honest argument for travel insurance, and it is not the one people usually make. Not lost swimwear — a scooter, a CPAP machine, a hearing aid. See our travel insurance page.

What must not go in the checked bag

Every line publishes a version of this and they agree with each other, which is rare.

- **Royal Caribbean:** personally carry "boarding documentation such as passports, visas, citizenship documents and family legal documents plus all medications" in original labelled containers, plus a three-day medication supply.
- **Princess:** "Essential medicines, including medical equipment, travel documents, passports, valuables and breakables should be hand carried in your possession at all times."
- **Norwegian:** medications "in original containers within your hand luggage," and bring enough for the voyage **"plus 10 extra days."**
- **Celebrity:** "keep boarding-day essentials in carry-on luggage, including travel documents, medications, toiletries, swimsuit, and a change of clothes."

Locks: two lines, two answers. Royal Caribbean says bags may be locked "only with a TSA approved lock." Carnival says the opposite: "we recommend leaving all luggage unlocked before turning it over to porters." Follow whichever line you are sailing.

When your bag actually arrives

Not when you board. Royal Caribbean publishes it plainly: "Due to the high volume of luggage on embarkation day, luggage may arrive after the sailaway." Norwegian: "It may take a few hours after embarkation." Celebrity is the most optimistic, at "within a few hours of setting sail if tagged properly."

Which is why the day bag matters. Swimsuit, medication, documents, a change of shirt. The pools are open the moment you board and the ship is at its emptiest — that first afternoon is the best free thing on the whole cruise, and most people spend it sitting outside their cabin waiting for a suitcase.

Luggage tags are your job now

Every line has moved to self-printed tags.

Royal Caribbean	In your eDocs, specific to ship, date, stateroom and deck. Replacements from porters at the pier.
Celebrity	"We no longer mail bag tags." Print as many as you like; Celebrity suggests a holder or laminating. Porters can also make them up at the pier.
Carnival	Print at Online Check-in — and note the deadline: **"no later than midnight prior to sailing."**
Princess	"Print your luggage tags," per the OceanReady checklist.
Norwegian	Printed from e-docs, stateroom number clearly identified.

Getting off, and the accessibility trap in it

On the last night you either put your bags outside the door for the crew, or you carry everything off yourself. Royal Caribbean calls the second one Self-Assist Early Departure and publishes one line about it that matters enormously:

"Wheelchair assistance cannot be provided for the Self-Assist program."

So if you need a wheelchair to get off the ship, you cannot also take the early walk-off. You go with the regular, colour-coded departure and you wait for your group. Royal Caribbean

does publish separate waiting areas for guests with disabilities. Norwegian's equivalent is "Easy Walk-Off," available "in some ports."

If you are bringing a wheelchair or scooter

The published size limits are real and a device that does not fit does not sail.

Carnival	Standard cabin doorway 22 inches. Scooters over 21 inches need a fully accessible stateroom. Published plainly: **"Scooters that do not fit in the stateroom will not be allowed on board."** Wheelchair assistance has a **325 lb** guest weight limit; pool lifts 300 lb.
Princess	No wider than 22 inches for a standard or ambulatory accessible cabin, 31 inches for a fully accessible one. Airport transfer lifts cap device-plus-guest at **600 pounds**.
Norwegian	"the width must not exceed 26 inches to enter the stateroom door." Access Desk **at least 90 days** ahead for interpreters, 45 days for other needs.
Royal Caribbean	Assistive devices "should fit through a standard stateroom entry doorway which is at least 23 inches wide." **30 days'** notice for special equipment.

And universally: it is stored and charged **in your cabin**, never the corridor. That is a fire-escape rule, not fussiness.

MY VERDICT

Stop worrying about how many bags. Start worrying about the $100 to $300 in the contract, and about the fact that your scooter and your hearing aid are explicitly excluded from even that.

Put your medication, your documents and your swimsuit in the bag you carry on. Insure the expensive things properly. Then pack whatever fits in your cabin, because nobody is weighing it.

Cruise luggage questions

How many bags can you take on a cruise?

Most lines publish no limit. Royal Caribbean and Celebrity both say only that guests may bring "a reasonable amount" and recommend limiting the number of pieces. Norwegian is

the exception and publishes two bags per guest. The real constraint is cabin storage space, not policy.

Is there a weight limit for cruise luggage?

Royal Caribbean, Celebrity and Princess publish no weight limit. Norwegian publishes one, stated as a maximum of 23 kg on one of its pages and a 50-pound maximum on another.

What happens if the cruise line loses my luggage?

Compensation is capped in the ticket contract. Royal Caribbean and Celebrity both limit liability to $300 per guest, Princess and Carnival to $250 per bag with a two or three bag maximum, and Norwegian to $100 per passenger. Princess and Carnival additionally exclude all liability for cash, jewelry, electronics, hearing aids, medications, wheelchairs and scooters.

When does luggage arrive in your cabin on a cruise?

Usually hours after boarding. Royal Caribbean publishes that luggage "may arrive after the sailaway," and Norwegian that it "may take a few hours after embarkation." Carry medication, documents and a swimsuit in a day bag.

Can I lock my suitcase on a cruise?

The lines differ. Royal Caribbean says bags may be locked "only with a TSA approved lock." Carnival recommends "leaving all luggage unlocked before turning it over to porters."

Can I carry my own bags off the ship on the last day?

Yes, most lines offer a self-assist or walk-off option. But Royal Caribbean publishes that "wheelchair assistance cannot be provided for the Self-Assist program," so guests who need a wheelchair must use the regular colour-coded departure instead.

Where these facts come from

- Royal Caribbean, onboard luggage policy (https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/onboard-luggage-policy)
- Royal Caribbean, packing and luggage tags (https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/topics/packing-luggage-tags)
- Royal Caribbean, self-assist vs regular departure (https://www.royalcaribbean.com/faq/questions/what-is-the-difference-between-self-assist-and-regular-departure)
- Royal Caribbean, Cruise Ticket Contract (https://www.royalcaribbean.com/guest-terms/us/united-states-english/)
- Royal Caribbean, guests with mobility disabilities (https://www.royalcaribbean.com/experience/accessible-cruising/mobility-disabilities)
- Celebrity Cruises, prepare for your cruise (https://www.celebritycruises.com/faqs/prepare)
- Celebrity Cruises, Cruise Ticket Contract (https://www.celebritycruises.com/guest-terms/united-states-english/)
- Princess Cruises, Passage Contract (https://www.princess.com/legal/passage-contract/pcl)
- Princess Cruises, accessibility guide (PDF) (https://www.princess.com/content/dam/princess/princess-cruises-brochures/princess-accessibility-guide-single-pages-080725.pdf)
- Carnival, reservation terms and ticket contract (https://www.carnival.com/popups/bookingengine/reservation-terms-and-conditions)
- Carnival, wheelchair users (https://www.carnival.com/about-carnival/special-needs/wheelchair-users)
- Norwegian Cruise Line, how many suitcases (https://www.ncl.com/ca/en/cruise-faq/how-many-suitcases)
- Norwegian Cruise Line, what do I bring (https://www.ncl.com/ca/en/cruise-faq/what-do-i-bring)
- Norwegian Cruise Line, terms (https://www.ncl.com/terms)
- Norwegian Cruise Line, mobility challenges (https://www.ncl.com/cruise-preparation/accessibility/mobility-challenges)

Ports change their rules and their prices. Check the official pages above before you sail.

About the "I" on this page. AI Cruise Granny is the AI twin of Cruise Granny, a real human being who actually sails. Every experience written here in the first person is hers. The AI twin is what writes it up, checks the facts against official sources and keeps it current. We tell you that openly on every page, because you should know who is talking to you. More about how this works.
