



What I Packed for a *Mediterranean Cruise*

AND ACTUALLY WORE

THE BEAUTIFUL NEXT CHAPTER

Mediterranean Cruise Packing Guide & Checklist

What I packed, what worked, and the simple capsule formula I would use again.

FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

A practical companion to the Mediterranean cruise blog post

Why This Capsule Worked

The goal was not more outfits - it was more combinations.

For my Mediterranean cruise, I packed a compact wardrobe in blue, white, tan and denim. The best part was not how small it looked on paper - it was that I actually wore every piece. The clothes moved easily from sightseeing to lunch, churches, the ship and dinner without needing separate wardrobes for each part of the day.

THE FORMULA

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 4 versatile bottoms | ☐ 2 scarves |
| ☐ 5-7 interchangeable tops | ☐ 3 pairs of shoes |
| ☐ 2 dresses | ☐ 1 swimsuit |
| ☐ 2 lightweight layers | ☐ 2 hats |

THE RULE I USE NOW

Instead of asking “What might I want to wear?” I ask: “How many different ways can I wear this?” If a piece only works for one imagined outfit, it has to work very hard to earn suitcase space.

What to Pack

A streamlined checklist based on the pieces that actually worked.

BOTTOMS

- ☐ Tan shorts
- ☐ Jeans
- ☐ Tan wide-leg linen pants
- ☐ Blue wide-leg pants

TOPS

- ☐ Sleeveless mock-neck top
- ☐ Blue top
- ☐ White top
- ☐ Blue T-shirt
- ☐ Tan T-shirt
- ☐ White button-down
- ☐ Chambray shirt

DRESSES & LAYERS

- ☐ Striped dress
- ☐ Floral maxi
- ☐ Lightweight lace over-jacket
- ☐ Tan scarf
- ☐ Blue scarf

SHOES & EXTRAS

- ☐ Adidas sneakers
- ☐ Walking sandals
- ☐ Espadrilles
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Large-brim hat
- ☐ Baseball cap

The Pieces That Earned Their Place

Think coverage, comfort and transition.

CHURCH-READY

Wide-leg pants, the maxi dress, button-downs, scarves and the lace layer gave me coverage without packing a separate church wardrobe.

WALKING DAYS

Comfortable shoes mattered more than variety. Cobblestones, stairs and long port days are not the place to test whether a shoe might become comfortable.

DAY-TO-DINNER

The most useful pieces were not overly casual or overly dressy. A simple layer, scarf or shoe change was usually enough to shift the outfit.

COLOR PALETTE

Blue, white, tan and denim did the heavy lifting. Because the palette was cohesive, almost every top worked with almost every bottom.

MY MUST-PACK NOTES

Mediterranean Cruise Packing Checklist

Print this page and check off your final suitcase.

CLOTHING

- ☐ 4 versatile bottoms
- ☐ 5-7 mix-and-match tops
- ☐ 2 dresses
- ☐ 1-2 lightweight layers
- ☐ 2 scarves
- ☐ 1 swimsuit
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Underwear / bras
- ☐ Socks

SHOES & EXTRAS

- ☐ Walking sneakers
- ☐ Walking sandals
- ☐ Espadrilles / dressier shoe
- ☐ Sun hat
- ☐ Baseball cap
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Church coverage option
- ☐ Day bag / crossbody
- ☐ Special occasion outfit (if needed)

FINAL CHECK

- ☐ Every piece works with more than one outfit
- ☐ I have a plan for churches / religious sites
- ☐ My shoes are already comfortable
- ☐ I can dress for dinner without a second wardrobe
- ☐ I left a little room for something I buy along the way