

Going on a Cruise, Take a Laptop?

Going on a cruise next week. Never done this before. Should I take a laptop? I really want to be able to take a few minutes each day to stay on top of emails, but I don't want to lug it around if I won't be able to get internet. I could take a tablet, which would be easier to carry, but doesn't have the same functionality.

The cruise line says the ship has internet, but others have told me not to count on it. It's Royal Caribbean line.

Any seasoned travelers in our group with words of advice?

Thanks.

On the last cruise I took -- on Princess -- there was a business center where you could pay for internet time to check email. Of course, it's not confidential. On the same cruise the WiFi was just marginal in the cabin...and it made the computer almost unusable.

Scott I. Barer, California

You are going on vacation. The electronics need a vacation from you too.

When you are bobbing around out there and feel the urge to check email, go to the bar and have a beer. You will either dump the urge fast, or gain lots of weight. :-)

Barry Kaufman

The internet connection on a cruise ship is usually abysmal and expensive. I am going on another cruise myself, and I will probably take a laptop (or at least an iPad) but I don't plan to use the ship's internet. Fortunately, this trip is around Japan, so I can keep in contact with my iPhone.

Ernest Schaal, Japan

SoloSez Popular Threads, April 2013

Take it. I always down load my pictures every day. In some very remote locations I found an internet connection. Arctic camp hunting caribou. Benin hunting Kob. Borneo visiting the Wallace line. I maybe did not have a connection every day but I got one every 2 days.

John Daly, Wyoming

Why not take the laptop in case you want to watch a DVD in your cabin?

Brian J. Hughes, Massachusetts

I just finished booking a cruise, on Royal Caribbean. We will be on Splendour of the Seas, which has been recently revamped...one of the improvements is that (at least theoretically)t there is Wi-Fi throughout the ship, and there is an iPad in every room (which suggests Wi-Fi ___33 connection might be decent). Not sure of the cost to connect.

Laurie Axinn Gienapp, Massachusetts

I would not take a laptop. There is usually plenty to do on the ship and if you have any ported to stop at. Internet is spotty and I remember when I was on a carnival cruise to Bahamas, the was an extra cost but i thought it was not worth it.

Jon Johnson

This is a fortuitous thread, since my fiancée and I are about to book a cruise for our honeymoon later this year. Out of curiosity, any of you ever been on the RC ship Independence of the Seas?

Paul Sullivan

SoloSez Popular Threads, April 2013

I always take a laptop/netbook when I go on a cruise, to keep tabs on my email.

I was on a cruise on Royal Caribbean just a few weeks ago. The ship I was on (Liberty of the Seas) had wifi throughout the ship, but you have to pay. There is a per minute charge (\$.60 if I recall correctly) and they have pay in advance options that drop the price a bit - like \$55 for 100 minutes. Other Royal Caribbean ships only had wifi available in certain spots, so you had to go to the library or a café to check email. On Liberty I could check email from the cabin. Be prepared - my experience is that the internet is slow on the ship, so you end up spending more time than you think. My most recent cruise was a five day cruise and my internet cost was about \$60.00, and I was using it only to check and respond to emails.

I brought a netbook, which fit in the safe in the cabin. A tablet probably would also fit in the safe. The safes in the cabins seem to be the same size that you would find in a hotel room.

Happy cruising!

Caroline

Caroline A. Edwards, Pennsylvania

I cruise quite often. I'm a solo practitioner and since I have been unable to convince my clients that they should pay me not to work on their cases, I have to work while on vacation. I bring my laptop.

My secretary scans everything that comes into the office and puts it into a file on dropbox (she used to email me the scans but with dropbox that became unnecessary). I purchase a 150 - 200 minute plan on the ship in order to get the best rate and then use it to check email, and dropbox (and facebook, lol). Then I can create emails back to my secretary telling her what, if anything, needs to be done. Clients also send me emails if they have any questions while I'm gone.

I check my emails when I'm sitting on my balcony in the morning with coffee, or while sitting on my balcony in the sun with a frozen concoction or lazing around the cabin with the balcony door open late at night before going to bed. (Balcony is key here - never get a cabin without a balcony!!!)

Anyway, this works for me, allows me to do some billing, to make sure nothing is going on that needs immediate attention, and gives me peace of mind that my firm hasn't blown up while I cruise the Caribbean.

Shelley L. Bishop, Missouri

SoloSez Popular Threads, April 2013

I appreciate all of the responses to my query about taking a laptop on a the cruise. There wasn't a clear consensus so I will definitely take the laptop. Or not. Not sure yet. I did learn that I should have upgraded to a room with a balcony. I like the suggestion about taking walkie talkies. I think I'll pickup a pair tomorrow.

Trip begins Sunday, so I'm starting to get excited, although watching "The Life of Pi" tonight probably wasn't a great idea. The scene where the ship sinks in a storm is playing now.

James Miner
