

## General Information -

Cruise Lines - There are a lot of differences in cruise lines. They differ in price, atmosphere, types of cruises offered, regions they cruise too and locations from which they cruise. I have personal contact with Carnival and Princess. I have been on Royal Caribbean as well, but only when one of the other two did not go where I wanted to go.

Carnival Cruises - 1-800-819-3902 Ext 82405 Bernadine [bchristian@carnival.com](mailto:bchristian@carnival.com)

Princess Cruises - 1-800-901-1172 Ext 41650 Kyle [kcathlina@princesscruises.com](mailto:kcathlina@princesscruises.com)

TXO Cruises - 214-709-0933 <https://www.txocruises.txoutlw.com/>

I have a link there to get the TXO-Cruisers Handbook Vol 1 & Vol 2.

I have info on there that shows cruises I am currently booked on. Don't feel like you have to go on the dates I have found that work for me. If you find a date that works for you then book it. I have a lot of info on the site and have a PDF of this document there as well as other info. I am not a travel agent. I can not book for you, but you may use my name and maybe get some consideration. I know most people have their own travel agents or like to book themselves, but I did get a \$30 OBC for calling Kyle and booking with him. Everyone's experience and preferences are different. Do what works for you and if I can help or give advice, give me a call.

Cruise lines have accounts for you to sign up so they can hold your info and you can track your cruises. They also use apps for you to get schedules for what is happening on board and requesting tables for dining in the evening.

Carnival calls theirs accounts "VIFP" and you need to download the Carnival HUB app before you board the cruise. Carnival has you fill out all your boarding documents online and print them. Then when you get to your cabin, your Sail & Sign card will be on your door. You use your Sail N Sign card for cabin key, charging drinks and anything else you purchase during the cruise while onboard the ship. You use it to sign off ship at ports and back on board. You can use the HUB to view and purchase excursions so you don't have to stand in line at the Excursion desk. Carnival will now also let you purchase excursions prior to boarding and use your OBC (On Board Credit) to pay for them.

Princess calls theirs "Captains Circle". Princess and offer "Ocean Ready" They virtually do all your registration and boarding info on their app. You sign into the app and put in all your personal info, load documents for boarding and order your Medallion so you have it prior to boarding. Your Medallion is your cabin key, your sailing charge device to pay for drinks and anything else you purchase onboard. Also when you are in ports you will see signs that say "Medallion Excepted Here" and you can use it to pay for things you buy in the port and they will then be charged to your onboard account. You can also use the Princess app to purchase excursions.

You want to always look at excursions a month or two before sailing so you can decide what you might like to do. Also, you will see how many tickets available for the excursion. Sometimes popular ones are sold out before the sailing date. Some people prefer to use independent excursion companies and feel they get a better deal, or they wait and just purchase one after getting off at the port. These are all viable options. I caution you though. If you book your excursion from the cruise line, then if for some reason, the excursion is late getting back to the ship, they will wait for you. If

you have booked from some other source, you could be waving goodbye to the ship when you get to the dock. Then it is up to you to find a way home.

Also, I have found that if weather or something happens and excursion is cancelled or does not go, the cruise line refunds and you have those funds available right away to book something else. What an independent company does in those circumstances can vary. Also I have had times that the 24 hours prior to an excursion, I decided not to go and the ship will just refund your ticket for that booking. So using the cruise line to book is a convenience you might not have with independent companies.