

Shore Excursions

Not all cruise lines include shore excursions in their pricing. This can be a double edged sword as it allows you to chose exactly how you want to spend your day, but it can also bulk up holiday bills and lead to inappropriate tour selection. Below are some tips to help you navigate shore tours.

- The first thing you need to do is work out a budget of exactly how much you are prepared to spend overall on day tours.
- Next look at the ports you will be visiting and work out if the ship will call close enough to the local attractions for you to explore them solo, or if they are further afield, whether you will need to join a tour.
- Have an internet search of the port which you are calling into to find out what are its highlights, or stand out activities? Can you do these solo, or do you need a tour?
- Finally an important factor to consider is mobility. If you are travelling with children or are less mobile, make sure you check what fitness level is required for each tour, as selecting an "active" tour if you are unable to undertake strenuous activity can ruin your port experience.

Just a word of caution: If you decide to do your own exploration from a port rather than through the cruiseline, then it is your own responsibility to be back onboard the ship by the required time. If you arrive back at the port later than the set sail time, the cruise ship will leave without you and it will be your responsibility to get to the next port of call to join the cruise. In the unlikely event of a delay with an excursion booked through the cruiseline, the cruise ship will wait for the tour to return before setting sail.

