**FOX CHAPEL TOURS AND CRUISES (FCTC)**



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. **WILL I NEED A PASSPORT OR VISA FOR THE BAHAMAS CRUISE?**

U.S. citizens traveling to The Bahamas by sea on private watercraft or most commercial vessels must have a valid passport. Those traveling by sea on an officially-designated “closed-loop cruise”, meaning that the port of entry is the same port as the port of re-entry upon return to the U.S., may enter using a passport, passport card, or other [Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative](http://www.getyouhome.gov/html/eng_map.html) (WHTI) compliant document.

While one *could* sail on a closed loop cruise without a passport, anyone wishing to go ashore in another country (Bahamas) does need a passport as per the U S Department of State. http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/the-bahamas.html

“Royal Caribbean International strongly recommends that all guests travel with a valid passport during their cruise. This greatly assists guests who may need to fly out of the United States to meet their ship at the next available port should they miss their scheduled embarkation in a U.S. port; guests entering the U.S. at the end of their cruise; and guests needing to fly to the U.S. before their cruise ends, because of medical, family, personal or business emergencies, missing a ship's departure from a port of call, involuntary disembarkation from a ship due to misconduct, or other reasons.  
Guests who need to fly to the United States before their cruise ends will likely experience significant delays and complications related to booking airline tickets and entering the United States if they do not have a valid U.S. passport with them. For additional passport information visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov/)”

(Royal Caribbean International (RCI) website )

Passengers traveling on a U.S. Passport do not need a VISA for the cruise.

Please note: The Bahamas is one of many countries that require your passport be valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel. (U.S. Passport Help Guide http://www.uspassporthelpguide.com/six-months-validity-rule/ )

International travelers will have varying needs depending on the passport they are traveling on.

1. **SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?**

Travel insurance is far more than just trip cancellation insurance, it can offer assistance in all manner of travel incidents including personal and family medical emergencies. Fox Chapel Tours and Cruises will be offering this product through Travel Guard. The premium will vary and is based on a combination of the total trip cost and your age. See appendix for the Top Ten Reasons to purchase travel insurance.

1. **IS MY CRUISE PRICE “ALL INCLUSIVE”?**

A Royal Caribbean cruise includes:

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| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Ship accommodations |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Ocean transportation |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Most meals onboard |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Some beverages onboard |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Most entertainment onboard |

The following services are not included in the cruise price:

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| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Dining in Specialty Restaurants such as Portofino |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Dining in Johnny Rockets (Where applicable) |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Spa and Salon services |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Golf Simulator |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Gambling (Including Bingo) |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Art Auction |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Any purchases made in the gift shops onboard |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Shore excursions |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Photographs |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Video Arcade |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Medical Services |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Internet Access |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Transfers (Unless guest has purchased our air/sea package) |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Laundry and Dry Cleaning Services |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Ship to Shore Telephone calls |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Gratuities |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Alcoholic Beverages |
| http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Non-Alcoholic Beverages (excluding water, lemonade and iced tea) |

All prices are per-person, based on a double occupancy of the stateroom and are quoted in U.S. Dollars unless otherwise noted. The cruise fares quoted also do not include any applicable government taxes, fees, or surcharges that may be assessed by any governmental agencies. Such assessment is subject to change without notice at any time whether or not you have a confirmed booking under deposit or if you have made a final payment. (RCI website)

1. **WHEN DO I HAVE TO MAKE MY DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT?**

At time of booking a deposit of $200 per stateroom is required. Cabins are allocated on a first come first served basis and will be assigned at that time.

Final payment is due by December 1, 2015 but in order to process the entire group it is requested that full payments be made by November 16, 2015.

\*Royal Caribbean does offer a price match and if you find your sailing and room is advertised lower they will reduce your cost up until December 1, 2015. If you have already paid a higher amount, they will refund your overpayment.

If you are purchasing air tickets at the time of booking the airlines require full payment at that time.

1. **WHAT TYPE OF ROOM WILL I HAVE?**

Our reservations specify outside staterooms. Specific rooms cannot be assigned until the above mentioned deposit is received. At that time you may request a specific location based on availability. Conventional wisdom is that the most preferred staterooms are mid ship as they have less chance of movement and noise. Please consider booking early to have your preference accommodated.

1. **WHAT IF I AM TRAVELING ALONE?**

Cruise lines do have some single cabins and we can obtain pricing for you. Since it is usually a significant cost increase, FCTC will assist if any alumni wish to seek a cabin mate. If you wish this assistance, please contact us and supply some basic information. We can then put your name on a list to see if anyone else is requesting this and put you in touch. Of course, there is no guarantee of compatibility implied.

1. **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAHAMAS WEATHER, ETC.?**

On the FCTC website there is a tab “TRAVEL TOOLS” with information about weather, passports, health, and safety considerations. You may access this at any time for this or any future travel plans you may have. [www.foxchapeltoursandcruises.com](http://www.foxchapeltoursandcruises.com)

1. **I HAVE A ROAYL CARIBBEAN “CROWN AND ACHOR SOCIETY” NUMBER – CAN I USE THIS?**

Certainly, this is an excellent idea. For those who may not have this yet you will be enrolled by RCI when you have completed your first cruise.

1. **CAN I BOOK MY OWN AIRFARE USING FREQUENT FLYER MILES?**

Everyone is welcome to do this and just pay the cruise price. This would also apply to anyone flying from another city. You will then need transfers to the boat or hotel (there are commercial shuttles available at reasonable prices) for departure and return. If you will be flying in the day before you will also need a hotel room - that will be in the “air inclusive” price.

1. **CAN I PAY BY CHECK?**

No. Cruise lines require that credit cards be used for payment. We understand that in this internet era some people with excellent credit histories have been identity theft victims and may have a credit card issue. In this case, we suggest purchasing a prepaid card for this use.

1. **WHAT INFORMATION WILL I NEED TO SUPPLY?**

Basic information - Name, phone (home and cell), address, date of birth, e-mail, cabin mates name, and a copy of your passport (we will archive this for you in case of loss).

Specialty information – required dietary needs, physical limitations or equipment needs.

Loyalty numbers – RCI and airlines so that your accounts are properly credited.

1. **WHAT CLOTHING SHOULD I PACK?**

As per RCI website:

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http://www.royalcaribbean.com/s.gif

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| **On the first day...** For the first day of your cruise, pack a small carry-on bag with your travel documents, a change of clothes, bathing suit, workout clothes, and any medications you may need. That way you don't have to wait for your checked bags to arrive in your stateroom.  **Onboard attire...** Shorts, t-shirts, slacks, trousers, casual skirts, blouses and sundresses are all perfect during the day, whether indoors or out.  **Dinner attire...**  For a 4 night cruise there will be 3 casual nights and 1 formal night for the main dining room. Meals in the main dining room follow this schedule:  Suggested guidelines for these nights are:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Casual: Sport shirts and slacks for men, sundresses or pants for women | | http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Smart Casual: Jackets and ties for men, dresses or pantsuits for women | | http://www.royalcaribbean.com/content/con_bulletgray_ico.gif | Formal: Suits and ties or tuxedos for men, cocktail dresses for women |   Remember, shorts, T-shirts, and bathing suits are not considered appropriate attire in the dining rooms at dinner. **Casual dress dining is available nightly in the Windjammer Cafe. And be aware you'll also need smart casual attire for some of our specialty restaurants.**   1. **CAN A CRUISE ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL NEEDS?**   Cruise lines can accommodate a variety of needs, such as: an accessible stateroom, assisted hearing, etc. There is a required form that will need to be completed once you are booked. Please remember that there are limited numbers of such staterooms so please book and notify us as early as possible if you will need special accommodations.   1. **How will I get my sailing documents?**   Approximately 49 days prior to sailing Royal Caribbean will notify you via email that your sailing documents are ready for you to access via the internet. You may then view and print out the pages you wish. If you desire paper documents Royal Caribbean charges a $30.00 fee to send these to you. These documents will contain your specific arrival time to the dock, etc.  At that time, Royal Caribbean will suggest an assigned check in time to try to decrease waiting times in line. Please be aware that available check-in times for a 4:00PM departure are from 11:00AM to 2:30 PM.   1. **What transportation is available from airports to hotels or hotels to docks?**   Royal Caribbean offers a prepaid shuttle with fares from Miami airport to their dock, the one way fare is $18.00 and round trip is $36.00. From Fort Lauderdale to Miami dock is $30.00 one way and $60.00 round trip.  There are other commercial transports available such as Go airport shuttle  <http://goairportshuttle.com/airports_serviced#domestic>  *Current approximate* rates are $15.00 per trip   1. **Are gratuities automatically charged to my account?**   Royal Caribbean has instituted an automatic gratuity program that will automatically charge each guest $12.00 per day to your onboard SeaPass account. For suites the charge is $14.25. Please visit Royal Caribbean’s website for further details. |

For further information please contact Patti Conte at:

Fox Chapel Tours and Cruises

412-794-8363 or visit our website at [www.foxchapeltoursandcruises.com](http://www.foxchapeltoursandcruises.com)

Also, please visit Royal Caribbean’s websites: “Before You Board” and “What To Know Before You Go”

<http://www.royalcaribbean.com/beforeyouboard/home.do>

<http://www.royalcaribbean.com/beforeyouboard/travelGuidelines.do>

**APPENDIX**

Travel Guard’s Top Ten Reasons to purchase travel insurance (examples)

1. It's 10 p.m. and you and your immediate family arrive at the airport for a connecting flight, only to find that your flight has been cancelled. Who can assist you with finding new flights to get everyone home?
2. Your bag was lost with your insulin inside. You need help to locate your bag as soon as possible and have your emergency prescription filled. Who do you call?
3. Your first visit to Europe, and your passport and wallet are stolen. Where do you turn for assistance in obtaining emergency cash, and how will you get your passport replaced?
4. You're involved in an accident and adequate medical treatment is not available. Who will help coordinate a medical evacuation?
5. If your sister-in-law becomes seriously ill and you must cancel your trip, what happens to your non-refundable deposits or pre-payments?
6. You arrive in Jamaica and your luggage doesn't. If it's lost, who will help you find it? If it's delayed who will reimburse you for covered necessities? If it's stolen, who will reimburse you for its contents?
7. Your cruiseline, airline or tour operator goes bankrupt. Who will pay for your non-refundable expenses? Who is able to assist in getting you to your destination?
8. You're walking down a street in Rio and twist your ankle. Who is able to assist you in finding an English-speaking physician?
9. Three weeks before your scheduled arrival, a terrorist incident occurs in the city to which you are planning to visit. Who will reimburse you if you want to cancel your trip?
10. You are at a beach resort in North Carolina, and you are forced to evacuate due to a hurricane which has made your resort uninhabitable. Who can assist you in being evacuated? Who will reimburse you for your lost vacation investment?