VET2GOGO

SEMPER FI SINCE 1989

Leave It Home

10 things that ride along and never earn their keep.

LEAVE IT
CRUISE 2026

RULE OF THUMB

If you wouldn't pack it for a hotel, don't pack it for a cruise.

Dead Weight

1 Beach towels

The ship has them. It also has a line to check them out and a line to turn them in.

OUR MOVE: Super-thin travel towels we keep for trips only. Dry fast, roll small, no line.

2 A shoe for every outfit

Shoes are the heaviest thing in the bag, and you'll only wear two pair.

OUR MOVE: Flip-flops and one everything-else shoe. Wear the heavy pair on travel day.

3 Hair dryer

There's one in the cabin. It won't win any awards. It works.

OUR MOVE: Use theirs. Towel-dry first and it goes faster.

4 Full snorkel set

Fins don't fold, and snorkel excursions hand you gear.

OUR MOVE: Picky about masks? Bring the mask. Leave the rest.

5 Battery desk fan

The cabin has air conditioning. The fan just rides along.

OUR MOVE: Need a hum to sleep? A free white-noise app.

Overrated

6 Bluetooth speaker

Cabin walls are thin. Your playlist becomes the neighbors' playlist.

OUR MOVE: Earbuds. Everybody stays friends.

7 Travel umbrella

The first gust on deck turns it inside out.

OUR MOVE: A dollar-store poncho. Folds to pocket size.

8 Itinerary binder

Tabs, sheet protectors, the works. It ends up a coaster.

OUR MOVE: The cruise app. Screenshot the boarding pass at home.

Confiscated at the Terminal

9 Clothes iron or steamer

Cruise lines call it a fire hazard. Security takes it at the terminal.

OUR MOVE: Hang clothes in the bathroom during a hot shower.

10 The garage extension cord

Regular cords and surge protectors get pulled at security.

OUR MOVE: The cruise-approved kind, no surge protector. It's #6 in our Cruise Kit.

He tests it. She films it. The mark falls where it falls.

PAIR IT WITH THE CRUISE KIT: 20 THINGS WE'D PACK AGAIN.

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Squared away reviews for the 50+ traveler — and the desk to book it.