



“Can I really cruise to the Caribbean without a passport?”

YES, you can. Read details below to find out how.

Fortunately, Caribbean cruise travel has been made more convenient (and, more affordable) due to the U.S. Government’s policy of allowing citizens to return to the U.S. with only minimal documentation. Yes, there are some specific rules to know but, in general, you won’t need a valid U.S. passport to make most Caribbean cruise trips.



Here are the requirements:

1. Your cruise trip must be on a ship that begins and ends the voyage from the same U.S. port. This is called a “closed-loop” cruise. For example, if your cruise leaves from Miami, then the ship must return to Miami.
2. Your trip must NOT involve any commercial air travel before, during, or after your cruise.
3. You must have two (2) required pieces of identification:
 - a. **A birth certificate.** This can be an original or copy of a genuine, government-issued birth certificate, but other types (hospital certificate, family records, etc.) will not be accepted.
 - b. **A photo ID.** This must be a government-issued ID, such as a driver’s license or a state-issued identification card. (Note: Children under the age of 16 are not required to present a photo ID.)

SPECIAL NOTE: A few Caribbean countries REQUIRE all visitors to hold a valid passport from their home country. If your cruise itinerary includes one of these islands, you MUST have a U.S. passport. Check with your cruise consultant to see if this applies to your voyage.

RM CRUISES’ RECOMMENDATION:

Our strong recommendation is that ALL TRAVELERS have a valid **U.S. PASSPORT** whenever they are traveling ANYWHERE outside of the continental United States. Although some foreign travel (cruise travel to the Caribbean, for example) is approved with just the minimum documents (as stated above), we feel that any unforeseen circumstance could result in a requirement for a Passport. Therefore, we suggest that everyone travel with a Passport as a matter of personal safety and convenience. If you do not currently have a Passport, we would be happy to assist you in obtaining one for you or your family.

NOTE: The average turn-around time for obtaining a new Passport is approx. 10-12 weeks.