

Before You Sail: “Set-the-Magic” Checklist

What	When	Why it Matters	How-To
Online check-in & port arrival time	30 days out in the DCL app (Castaway Club Silver+ 33–120 days)	Early port arrival lets you board before lunch and knock out must-dos while the ship is empty	Be ready to choose the earliest PAT your party can comfortably make
Port Adventures & ticketed meet-and-greets	75 days (first-time cruisers) / 90–123 days (Castaway Club)	Blue-Lagoon Dolphin Swim, Princess Gathering, Frozen Meet-and-Greet → all sell out fast	Book at 12:01 a.m. ET the day your window opens
Dining rotation requests / special needs	Call DCL or note in online check-in	Ensures you get Animator’s Palate and Rapunzel’s Royal Table on nights with the most kid-friendly shows	Ask for “ARL” rotation if you want Rapunzel’s dinner show on Pirate Night
Character autograph item	Pack a blank photo mat or pillowcase + markers	Guest Services will route it through every character and return it, gift-wrapped, on the last night	Drop it off on embarkation day (limit one item per stateroom)

Top Insider Tips & Hidden Gems

- **Free Mickey bars & warm cookies** – room-service delivers them 24/7; combine for “DIY Mickey cookie sandwich.”
- **Aquadunk with zero wait** – ride after 5 p.m. on embarkation day when most guests are at the sail-away party.
- **Secret Deck 7 Aft verandah** – quiet spot for sunrise coffee or Pirate-Night fireworks starboard view.
- **Character hack** – check the Navigator app 15 min before listed times; characters usually appear early and will linger if lines are short.
- **Oceaneer Club Open House windows** – adults can tour (and take photos) *only* during posted Open House hours on Day 1 & sea day.

- **Laundry on Deck 2 mid-ship** – use the app to see machine availability and get a ping when your load finishes.

Day-by-Day Itinerary (Disney Magic • 22–27 Aug 2025)

(Port timings from the May 30 '25 navigators—your cruise is scheduled the same way)

disneycruiselineblog.com

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Fri 22 – Port Canaveral Embarkation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive terminal 10:30 a.m. • Cabanas buffet or quieter sit-down lunch at Rapunzel's Royal Table (no reservation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory drill 3 p.m. • Sail-Away Party 4:15 p.m. (Deck 9 midship) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotational dinner “Let the Magic Begin” • Welcome show & trivia in D-Lounge • Early-bed for kids = empty pools for adults
Sat 23 – Day at Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character breakfast (booked in advance) • Pools & AquaDunk early (<10 a.m.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-ship Detective scavenger hunt† • Animation class in Promenade Lounge • Father-grandkids shuffleboard on Deck 4 promenade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Dress-Up Night – family photos • Mainstage: <i>Twice Charmed</i> (reserve seats 20 min early) <p>disneycruiselineblog.com</p>
Sun 24 – Lookout Cay (8:30 – 4:45)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First off the ship → tram to Family Beach for shady umbrellas closest to water • Book a Family Cabana early- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junkanoo-inspired street festival & Goombay Cultural Center demos people.com/mousehacking.com • “Rush Out, Gush Out” splash pad while Grandpa relaxes in nearby hammocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pirate Night Dinner Menu & Deck Party (fireworks 10:15 p.m.; best view Deck 10 starboard) • Kids’ Pirate crafts at Oceaneer Club

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
	<p>window if desired (sells out)</p> <p>Blue Lagoon Dolphin Swim (9:30 a.m.) – 20-min ferry, small groups, life-vests provided; book Port Adventure “N25” in the app for seamless transport tripadvisor.com</p> <p>• Early breakfast on ship then off by 8 a.m.</p>	<p>• Return by 1 p.m. → Straw Market stroll or stay onboard (short lines at AquaDunk & kids’ clubs)</p>	<p>• Mainstage: <i>Tangled: The Musical</i> disneycruise.disney.go.com</p> <p>• Family karaoke in D-Lounge</p>
Mon 25 – Nassau (8:00 – 5:30)			
Tue 26 – Castaway Cay (7:30 – 3:30)	<p>• Castaway Cay 5 K (sign-up at Guest Services Day 4)</p> <p>• Family Beach loungers nearest Scuttle’s Cove kids’ club</p>	<p>• Snorkel Lagoon (stay left for sunken Mickey), float & tube rentals, bike loop with Grandpa</p> <p>• Cookie’s BBQ lunch 11:30–2:00 (shorter lines 1 p.m.)</p>	<p>• Back onboard → pack & settle tips</p> <p>• Mainstage: <i>Disney Dreams – An Enchanted Classic</i> disneycruiselineblog.com</p>
Wed 27 – Port	<p>• Coded breakfast 7:15 a.m. (or quick</p>	<p>• Express walk-off ~7:30 a.m. if you’re driving home; otherwise standard disembark by 9 a.m.</p>	

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Canaveral Disembark	pastries in Cabanas)		
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†Mid-ship Detective Agency is on Dream/Fantasy, but Magic runs a similar “**Mickey’s Selfie Scavenger Hunt**”—check Navigator for listing.

Port-Day Deep Dives

Lookout Cay at Lighthouse Point

- 84% of the land is preserved; pathways are crushed-sand, so strollers roll easily people.com
- Best snorkeling visibility is near the rocky outcrop by the cabanas—bring your own mask to skip rental line.
- Cultural must-see: 12:30 p.m. Junkanoo drums & dance parade that loops the market huts (kids invited to join).

Castaway Cay

- No breakfast ashore—eat on the ship first undercovertourist.com
- Mail postcards from the tiny post office (left of tram stop); Bahamian stamps are a fun souvenir.
- Free childcare at Scuttle’s Cove lets Grandpa enjoy a bike ride with you (rental \$11/hr).
- Cabanas release wait-list often clears at Guest Services on Day 2—ask early.

Dolphin Swim Decision

- **Nassau’s Blue Lagoon Island** is the safest, highest-rated encounter used by Disney for decades; water depth is controlled, trainers are certified, and transport is handled by Disney-chartered ferry. Castaway Cay has *no* dolphin facility. tripadvisor.com
- What to expect: 15-min safety briefing, 30 min in-water (deep-water swim + belly-ride), digital photos sold à-la-carte. Min height 48" for swim; kids under 12 need a paying adult in the water.

Crowd-Dodging Playbook

1. **Rope-drop every port** – be in the atrium 15 min before the posted all-clear; first trams = empty beaches.
2. **Early show / late dinner trick** – If you're on second seating, see the **5:30 p.m.** show; lines at Eye-Scream & pool slides vanish during first dinner.
3. **Navigator App “♥” filter** – favoriting activities drops push alerts 15 min before start so you can pivot in real time.
4. **Pirate-Night fireworks** – stake Deck 10 starboard, mid-ship rail **15 min** before; view is unobstructed above lifeboats.
5. **Room-service breakfast** on Castaway morning lets you beat buffet traffic and still disembark early (fill out door card the night before).

Quick Booking Notes

- **Palo brunch** for adults? Reserve Day 2 sea day 12:00 p.m.; Grandpa can take the kids to the buffet & AquaDunk.
- Strollers & snorkel gear rent out—pre-reserve in the app under “Port Adventures › On-Island Rentals.”
- If you miss a reservation window, keep checking—the app refreshes inventory up to 3 hours before an activity.

Have an amazing voyage and watch the kids' faces light up as the Magic lives up to its name! If anything shifts in the daily Navigator once onboard, treat this plan as a flexible framework and adjust on the fly—you'll still capture every headline moment and plenty of blissful, memory-making downtime. Happy sailing!