



Important Guidelines and Reminders for Boarding

We ask that you and your guests, sailing and non-sailing, arrive to the cruise terminal at 10:30 am. **Please note you will NOT board the ship at this time. Arriving late may result in loss of priority boarding.**

Sailing and non sailing guests **must** arrive to the Pier dressed for the wedding. Only the bride and groom can get dressed onboard the ship. Brides must come showered, with hair and make up done.

Once inside the terminal, you will meet with your Officiant and Wedding Coordinator. From this point on, they will assist you and your guests with the check-in process. (If you have not sailed before, the check-in process is similar to the one at the airport.) While waiting to board the ship, your guests will be given instructions by the Officiant or Coordinator regarding what time they need to be at the ceremony location and where it is located on the ship. It is important they pay attention so that they are not later confused as to where they need to be and what time they need to be there. If they have trouble finding it, staff members onboard the ship will be more than happy to direct them. Maps are also available at the Pursers/ Information Desk onboard the ship.

We understand that some couples wish to adhere to the tradition of not seeing each other before their wedding. Unfortunately, due to time & space constraints in the cruise terminal, security procedures, and the check-in processes that are common to cruise ship weddings, this tradition is very difficult and sometimes impossible to carry out. Although discouraged, requests to not see each other MUST be made by or before the time of final confirmation and can not be guaranteed.

You and your guests will be able to board the ship *once the ship has been cleared by U.S. Customs*. You will all receive priority boarding (before all other passengers). **The time for boarding is anywhere between 11:30a -12:30p.** There is not a designated time as we are at the mercy of US Customs and Immigration.

Once the ship is cleared, you and your guests will be escorted aboard the ship and you (bride and groom) will be escorted straight to your cabin so you can finish getting ready. **Again, if you have sailing guests, they must arrive dressed for the wedding as their cabins will NOT be ready.**

We ask that everyone (groom and all guests) *except for the bride* be at the ceremony location 20-30 minutes prior to the ceremony time to ensure the ceremony is not delayed. It is the guest's responsibility to be on time for the ceremony. Delays on the part of the guests will result in limited ceremony and reception time.

Rehearsals are conducted with the Groom and the bridal party 15 minutes prior to the wedding. Once the rehearsal is over, the coordinator will go pick up the bride in her cabin and personally escort her down to the ceremony location so she may make her entrance.

Reminders

- **Anything needed for the ceremony or reception** (dress, veil, make up, tuxedo, shoes, black socks, rings, favors, silk flowers, marriage license, etc...) **must be packed separately from the rest of your luggage.** Bride and Groom may each bring a carry-on and garment bag. All other luggage for the cruise ***must*** be checked in with the porters and ***will not*** arrive to your cabin until ***after*** the reception (regardless of what the porters at the port tell you).
- Any favors brought on-board are to be carried on by a designated member(s) of the wedding group. ***It is NOT the Officiant or Coordinator's responsibility to carry on these items.*** Please understand they have additional responsibilities to attend to in order to ensure your wedding is picture-perfect.
- Non-sailing guests ***must*** bring a form of picture ID, such as a drivers license, passport, birth certificate or school ID (for children) in order to board the ship. Anyone who does not have ID *will be denied boarding*.
- We strongly suggest all sailing guests have their "Fun Pass" completed prior to the day of the wedding in order to expedite the check-in process.
- If you're obtaining your own marriage license, please ensure to hand-carry it with you and present it to your wedding Officiant upon arrival.
- Due to U.S. Customs regulations, guests are asked NOT to bring wedding gifts onboard the ship.
- If you have a guest who needs a wheelchair or even if you **think** they **might** need one, **please tell them to bring their own, as they are NOT available at the terminal.**

Gratuities: This is a commonly asked question and there is a simple answer . . . Tipping is always appropriate for those who are Officiating and Coordinating on the day of your wedding. Whenever great service is received, it is always a nice gesture to tip those who have assisted you. The amount of the gratuity is at your discretion. Suggested amounts range from \$20-\$100 and are equally distributed amongst the wedding team. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of The Wedding Experience, it has been our absolute pleasure in assisting you on your special day and we offer you our sincere congratulations!

Have a wonderful cruise and honeymoon!

Sincerely,

The Wedding Experience