



Packing for your Charter in the Florida Keys

Living on a sailboat for a week or longer takes some getting used to and preparation. Here are some thoughts that should be helpful for the first timer.

Always pack your gear in a soft duffel or soft sided suitcase. Storage is limited on a boat and the suitcase must be compressed. Large, hard sided suitcases are a real problem and may not fit in any storage area. Since you will be sailing in warm weather, pack light. If you intend to check your duffel on a plane, carry a smaller one aboard with your documents and passport (if needed), a pair of shorts, a shirt, underwear swim suit toilet kit, medications, and valuables. Many island airports are remote and luggage can be delayed or lost. After you start the cruise, it is a major inconvenience to get back to the airport.

If you wear eyeglasses, an extra pair could come in handy. When sailing, eyeglass straps are a must. Be sure to bring any prescription drugs you will need, as well as over-the-counter remedies for common travel problems. If you are taking any medications, check with your doctor to make sure you can be out in the sun. Tetracycline, for instance, can cause nausea just like sea sickness.

A good sun lotion is vital in any climate, with an SPF of at least 15. This is essential if you are fair skinned or haven't been exposed to sun much recently. Test the lotion beforehand to make sure you are not allergic to PABA usually contained in many lotions.

If you are susceptible to sea sickness, non-drowsy Dramamine is essential. There are other solutions, such as patches behind the ear that are also effective.

You will want to bring any soaps/lotions you commonly use in the shower. Our supply of soap on board is limited and basic.

Bring a beach towel for after swimming. Our cabin towels are too small for the beach.

The boat has a stereo system for you to enjoy your favorite music. It has a standard 3.5 mm plug.

The great pleasure of warm weather sailing involves swimming and snorkeling. We provide fins for you, but due to hygienic reasons, no masks or snorkels.

You should also bring a small backpack to carry items that you pick up during the day. If you are travelling to Cuba, this is a great way to store extra water and gifts you pick up. The pack is also useful to carry items ashore for a simple walkabout when on the Florida Keys.

There is an inverter on board for your 110v appliances. This would include cell phone, razor, iPad chargers. However, the inverter is too small to power a hair dryer or electric curler.

The clothes you bring should be tropical oriented. A couple of shorts and tee shirts, swimsuits and a long sleeved sun cover-ups should be packed. If possible, all of your clothes should be water wicking to keep you cooler and dry. Cotton clothes SHOULD BE Avoided.

Kia Ora

You may also want a rain jacket shell for those tropical showers. Keep in mind that the rainfall in the tropics is warm, just like the ocean around us. Some folks have been known to take a shower during a squall; the water just does not get any softer.

Shoes on board are not required. When you come onboard, please remove your shoes immediately to not bring board sand, rocks, and pebbles. Once these get onboard, they will scratch the finish.

I suggest that you also bring a 12/16 oz beverage container with a lid. This is useful for taking a beverage upfront to the trampoline or on-shore via the dinghy. Beverage containers without lids are guaranteed to have the contents mixed with sea water.