

Here's how you can make sure you have the correct ID for your next cruise

Today, the internet makes it easier than ever to make sure you have the correct ID to cruise to any destination. Here are some tips, so that you don't end up left on the dock as your cruise ship sails away.

- **Visit the Department of State:** This site is a fantastic resource for travelers. In fact, [The U.S. State Department dedicates an entire section to guidance for cruisers](#). If you're a U.S. citizen, you can find everything you need to know about the correct ID required to enter all the destinations on your itinerary, cruise tips, and more.
- **Check with the consulate of any country you'll be cruising through:** Whether online or in-person, you should visit the consulates of all of the countries on your cruise's itinerary. This is especially true if you have a unique citizen status. You can find most consulates on the internet and can email and ask for specifics about your situation. And if you do, make sure to keep a copy of that email!
- **Visit Global Visa Search (online):** [Global Visa Search is another great resource for all travelers](#) — not just cruisers. You enter your passport information, your intended destination, and the purpose of your visit, and it tells you if you'll need a visa. In fact, [NCL provides a link to the visa checker website](#) in its cruise contract — if only Motwani had seen it. :(
- **Bookmark the International Airport Travel Association's (IATA) traveler's tool:** [IATA provides a fabulous tool for travelers to determine their required documentation for entry](#) to foreign countries. The professional version of this tool is what many airlines use to decide if you have the correct ID to travel.

- **Read your cruise contract:** Motwani's contract contained many clues that the family might need additional documentation to board the cruise. If she had read it, that information could have prevented this terrible situation. It's critical that all cruisers carefully go through the pre-travel documentation — the cruise line sends it to you for a reason.
- **Double-check and cross-reference your information:** It's always a good idea not to rely on just one source for your information. So if you want to really make sure you never miss your cruise, flight or entire vacation, double- and even triple-check your data.