PRIDE TRAVELERS

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE

Carnival Cruise Line Prohibited Items: A Packing Reference for First-Timers

Carnival's bring-aboard rules in plain English: the one-bottle wine allowance, 12-can beverage limit, $500 vape penalty, the iron and steamer ban, and what happens at the embarkation scanner.

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IMPORTANT

Carnival's policies change. This guide reflects Carnival's published rules as of 2026 and links the source pages at the bottom. When in doubt, the guest-services line at 1-800-CARNIVAL is the final word.

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Pack the wrong item and Carnival's embarkation scanners will flag your bag, hold up your check-in, and either confiscate the item outright or hold it until the end of the cruise. The list isn't intuitive — wine is welcome, beer is not; curling irons are fine, clothes steamers are not. This guide is a quick reference, written from Carnival's own policy pages, so you know exactly what makes it on board and what doesn't.

At a Glance

Allowed

One 750-ml bottle of wine or champagne per adult, 12 sealed cans/cartons of non-alcoholic drinks, sealed pre-packaged food, CPAP machines (carry-on), most personal grooming appliances.

Prohibited

Hard liquor and beer, irons and clothing steamers, candles, hoverboards, drones (at private destinations), any cannabis or CBD product, surge-protected power strips.

Check first

Service animals (paperwork required), oxygen and other medical devices, drones for port use, vapes (never in cabins), homemade or special-diet food.

What You Can Bring

Wine and Champagne

Each guest 21 or older may bring one 750-ml bottle of sealed, unopened wine or champagne in their carry-on at embarkation. Boxed wine, additional bottles brought back at port stops, and fortified wines over 15% ABV (port, sherry, vermouth) are not permitted. Bottles consumed in your cabin carry no fee; opening it in a dining venue triggers a $15 corkage fee per bottle.

Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Up to 12 sealed cans or cartons of 12 ounces or less per person, in carry-on, at embarkation. The same 12-can limit applies when re-boarding at ports of call. Glass and plastic bottles — including bottled water — are not permitted at all. Carnival sells bottled water through Funshops if you want it pre-stocked in the cabin.

Food

Pre-packaged, unopened, commercially produced items only. Homemade food and items in opened packaging are not allowed. Carnival's policy pages do not address outside birthday cakes or special-diet items specifically; if either applies, contact Guest Access before sailing.

Medications and Medical Equipment

Prescription and over-the-counter medications travel with you in carry-on. CPAP machines must be hand-carried, never checked. Distilled water for the CPAP can be hand-carried, pre-purchased through Carnival, or ordered onboard from Room Service. Oxygen cylinders are permitted for certified medical needs but must be delivered to Guest Services rather than packed in luggage. Coordinate any medical equipment in advance with Carnival's Guest Access team at 1-800-438-6744 ext. 70025 or access@carnival.com.

Electronics and Personal Grooming

Phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cameras, and chargers are all fine. Hair dryers, flat irons, curling irons, and electric shavers are permitted — Carnival singles those out as exceptions to the broader heat-appliance ban. Power strips, multi-plug adapters, and extension cords are allowed only if they have no surge protection. Personal-grooming aerosol cans are allowed despite the general aerosol ban.

Mobility and Sports Gear

Wheelchairs and personal mobility scooters are welcome and must be stored and recharged inside the stateroom. Standard cabin doorways are 21 inches; if your scooter is wider, you'll need an accessible stateroom or a smaller rental. On Carnival Celebration, Festivale, Jubilee, and Mardi Gras, not every stateroom can accommodate scooters — confirm using the accessible deck plan before booking. Snorkel gear, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets, kites, skateboards, and roller skates are permitted as carry-on or checked, stored in your cabin, and used only at ports of call. Boogie boards must be 42 inches or shorter, and folding bikes must have 20-inch tires or smaller. None of these may be used at Carnival's private destinations.

Coolers

Personal-sized coolers up to 12" × 12" × 12" are allowed in carry-on. Anything larger must stay home.

What's Prohibited

IMPORTANT

Carnival reserves the right to scan all luggage and confiscate any item, with or without a stated reason. Items in this section will be removed from your bag — sometimes returned at debarkation, sometimes not.

Alcohol Beyond the One Bottle

Hard liquor, beer, and any wine or champagne over the one allowed bottle per adult are prohibited at embarkation and at all ports of call. Hidden alcohol — flasks, fake-bottom containers, alcohol disguised in mouthwash bottles — is confiscated at the scanner and a known cause of denied boarding.

Irons, Steamers, and Heat Appliances

Carnival's policy text bans irons, clothing steamers (handheld and full-size), immersion heaters, electric heating pads, heating blankets, water heaters, coffee machines, kettles, hot plates, toasters, and humidifiers. Self-service launderettes with irons and ironing boards exist on most ships; Excel-class vessels offer ironing rooms only, and Firenze, Luminosa, and Venezia have no self-service laundry at all.

Cannabis and CBD

All forms of cannabis — including marijuana for medical purposes from states where it is legal — and all cannabidiol (CBD) products, including hemp-derived CBD, are prohibited. Carnival ships and U.S. terminals are designated drug-free zones under federal law. Penalties range from confiscation to denial of boarding without refund and possible law-enforcement involvement.

Open Flame and Fire Hazards

Candles, incense, hookahs, and helium balloons are not allowed. Compressed gas tanks, propane, dive tanks, petrol, paint thinners, and methylated spirits are also banned.

Weapons and Restraint Devices

All firearms (including replicas), ammunition, spear guns, crossbows, knuckle dusters, batons, throwing stars, tasers and stun devices, air guns, paintball guns, fireworks, flares, tear gas, mace, and incapacitating substances. Knives, scissors, and open razors are also prohibited. Recreational dive knives are the one exception — they must be surrendered at embarkation and held by the Chief Security Officer for port use only.

Hoverboards and Wheeled Hazards

Hoverboards, air wheels, electric scooters, and Heely shoes are not permitted. Segways are restricted to port use, surrendered at embarkation, and forbidden at private destinations.

Audio and RF Equipment

Boom boxes, all speakers including Bluetooth and portable wireless models, satellite phones, satellite dishes, communication scanners, laser pointers, EPIRBs, and personal routers are not permitted.

Surge-Protected Power Strips

Standard power strips and extension cords are fine; the same products with surge protection are banned. Marine electrical systems handle surge differently than household current, and the surge component is what gets your bag pulled at the scanner.

Gray Area — Bring It But Check First

Service Animals

Only working service dogs trained to perform a disability-related task are permitted. Emotional-support animals are explicitly not allowed. U.S. sailings require the dog's vaccination record showing rabies vaccine and microchip number, the CDC Dog Import Form receipt, and — for itineraries that include Grand Turk — a Turks and Caicos import license. Submit vaccination records to access@carnival.com no later than one week before sailing, and hand-carry all paperwork rather than packing it.

Vapes and E-Cigarettes

Permitted on board, but treated identically to cigarettes for usage. Vapes are prohibited in all staterooms and on balconies — a violation triggers a $500 charge per incident on your Sail & Sign account, with possible disembarkation. Allowed only in designated outdoor smoking zones (varies by ship — check signage on board) and in the casino while seated and playing.

Drones

Allowed for port-use only. Surrender at embarkation to the Chief Security Officer, check out for port days, and return at the end of each day. Drones are prohibited at all Carnival private destinations.

Outside Snorkel Gear and Dive Equipment

Snorkel gear is permitted for port use but cannot be used in the ship's pools or — at private destinations — in any open water. Recreational dive knives must be held by Guest Services. Dive tanks are prohibited entirely; any cylinder rentals must come from a licensed operator at port.

What Happens at the Scanner

All luggage passes through security scanning at embarkation. When something prohibited is detected:

- Your bag is pulled aside for hand inspection, which delays luggage delivery to your stateroom.
- For most banned items (irons, steamers, alcohol overages, hoverboards), the item is confiscated and either disposed of or held in the security office and returned at debarkation. Carnival publishes no consistent rule on which gets which.
- For alcohol overages, the bottles are typically held and returned on the last day; for cannabis or CBD, the item is destroyed and the incident is logged.
- Smoking or vaping in cabins or on balconies is a $500 charge per violation, with possible removal from the ship at the next port at the guest's expense.

ADVISOR TIP

If you genuinely need an iron-equivalent, pack a wrinkle-release spray or hang clothes in the bathroom while you shower. Most ships also have a self-service laundry with an ironing board, and Carnival offers paid valet pressing for formal nights.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bring bottled water?

Not in plastic or glass bottles. The 12-can limit on non-alcoholic beverages includes water, but only in cans or cartons. Carnival sells bottled water in advance through Funshops if you want it waiting in your cabin.

Is a handheld garment steamer really banned?

Carnival's prohibited list says "steamers" without distinguishing handheld from full-size models. Travelers report that handhelds are confiscated at the scanner, so plan accordingly. Use the bathroom-shower trick or the self-service launderette.

Can I bring CBD if it's hemp-derived and federally legal?

No. Carnival explicitly prohibits all CBD products, including hemp-derived CBD, in addition to marijuana from any source. Ships and U.S. terminals are federal drug-free zones.

What about a power strip — I have a lot of devices.

A standard power strip or extension cord is fine. The same product with built-in surge protection is banned. Look for "no surge" on the box, or use a USB-only multi-port charger.

Can I bring a small cake or birthday decorations for a celebration?

Carnival's pages do not specifically address outside cakes. Helium balloons and candles are explicitly prohibited. Carnival's onboard celebrations team can provide cakes, balloons (non-helium), and stateroom decorations — usually a cleaner option than packing your own.

I take a CPAP — what do I need to do?

Pack the machine in your carry-on (it cannot be checked). Distilled water can be brought along, pre-purchased through Carnival, or ordered through Room Service onboard. No advance approval needed for the CPAP itself.

What if I need oxygen?

Oxygen is permitted with documentation, but you cannot pack it in luggage. Coordinate delivery in advance with Carnival's Guest Access team (1-800-438-6744 ext. 70025, access@carnival.com) so your equipment is at the port when you arrive.

Are kava, kratom, or other legal-but-restricted substances allowed?

Kava is explicitly listed as prohibited. Carnival does not address every gray-market substance individually, but anything used or marketed as a psychoactive is treated the same way as cannabis at the scanner.

Sources

All policies above are drawn from Carnival Cruise Line's published help pages. For the latest rules, including any updates after this guide was written:

- Carnival prohibited items policy — https://www.carnival.com/help?topicid=1202
- Carnival service dog policy — https://www.carnival.com/about-carnival/special-needs/service-dogs
- Carnival mobility scooter and wheelchair policy — https://www.carnival.com/about-carnival/special-needs/wheelchair-users
- Carnival smoking and vaping policy — https://help.carnival.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/3490
- Carnival drug-free zone notice — https://help.carnival.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/6123

Plan Your Carnival Cruise with Pride Travelers

Carnival's rules look fussy on paper but make sense once you've sailed once or twice. We help travelers pick the right cabin category, plan around port days, and avoid the embarkation-day mistakes that turn a vacation's first hour into a baggage-search delay.

Plan Your Carnival Cruise →

Whether you're sailing the Caribbean, Alaska, or one of Carnival's longer voyages, we'll get you on board with what you need and without what you don't.