

SentryNet Cruise News

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What documents did you need for the cruise and how do you get them?

Charlotte Said:

I printed a DS-11 (Application for a U.S. Passport) from the internet. You can also get it from your local Post Office. I decided I wanted the Passport Card instead of the Passport Book because it was cheaper and more convenient.

The passport card facilitates entry and expedites document processing at U.S. land and sea ports. **The card may not be used for air travel.** I got my passport photos done at a local pharmacy. I then took my completed application, my photos, my Social Security Card, Certified Birth Certificate, Driver's License, and payment to the Post Office. Be sure to check to see when and if your post office does this. They verified my documents and then sent the original application and my original Certified Birth Certificate in for processing. I made a copy of everything just in case. It took about three weeks to get my Passport Card in the mail. My Birth Certificate was sent back separately.

The whole process took about 4 weeks because I had all my documents and was under \$100. It was pretty much pain free and I was able to breeze through customs!

Peggy Said:

My process was a bit more complicated than Charlotte's because I did not have a certified birth certificate. When I took my hospital certificate to the post office with my documentation it was rejected. So, I had to contact the Georgia Department of Records, pay a fee and wait. Charlotte received her passport card and I was still waiting. The cruise day arrived and I was still waiting.

You can travel on a closed cruise with a Government issued ID and a birth certificate. However, if something happens and you get detained in Mexico, you will not have such an easy time returning home. I chanced it and went with my Drivers License and copy of my hospital issued birth certificate. Luckily Charlotte and I behaved ourselves and I was able to re-board in Mexico and re-enter the US with no trouble.

My Certified Birth Certificate arrived a week after our return, which was three months after I requested it. I received my Passport book in about three weeks. Take it from me and my experience—locate your documents now. Renew your passport now if it is due to expire next year. The rules are stricter and you don't want to be worried about paperwork on the day of the cruise.

Next Month
Charlotte and Peggy
will share with you
what to expect on-
board.

