The Ultimate Grandymoons Guide 2025

Crafted by Grandy's Book Exclusive Travel Experts Using Trusted Sources, Data & Stories

Comprehensive Planning Guide | Budget Strategies | Activities & Tours

18%	47%	86%	$10-15/p.p
Average Cruise Discount	Average Savings Vs. Land Tours	Average Savings Vs. Land Tours	Average Daily Tipping Cost

What Are Grandymoons?

Grandy's Book Exclusive Travel

The Perfect Blend of Grandkids & Adventure

Why Grandy's?
- Expert Planning Saves Time & Money
- Curated Experiences Ensure Quality
- Trusted Partnerships Provide Exclusive Perks

Why Cruise Travel?
- Unpacking Only Once Maximizes Vacation Time
- Kids Clubs Provide Supervised Fun & Adventure
- Multi-Generational Bonding Opportunities

Perfect Grandymoon Destinations

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Alaska Cruises
- Glacier Bay National Park
- Wildlife Viewing (Whales, Bears, Eagles)
- Ketchikan & Juneau Ports
- Salmon Bake Experiences
- Dog Sled Adventures
- Best Time: May-September

Caribbean Cruises
- Perfect Weather Year-Round
- Beach Days & Water Sports
- Snorkeling & Reef Exploration
- Island Hopping Adventures
- Kids Club Programs
- Best Time: December-April

Alaska Cruises
- Glacier Bay National Park
- Wildlife Viewing (Whales, Bears, Eagles)
- Ketchikan & Juneau Ports
- Salmon Bake Experiences
- Dog Sled Adventures
- Best Time: May-September

Caribbean & Cuba
- Perfect Weather Year-Round
- Beach Days & Water Sports
- Snorkeling & Reef Exploration
- Island Hopping Adventures
- Kids Club Programs
- Best Time: December-April

Mexican Cruises
- Mayan Ruins & Cultural Tours
- Beach Days & Water Sports
- Snorkeling & Cenote Exploration
- Family-Friendly Resorts
- Kids Club Programs
- Best Time: November-April

Bahamas Cruises
- Perfect Weather Year-Round
- Beach Days & Water Sports
- Snorkeling & Reef Exploration
- Island Hopping Adventures
- Kids Club Programs
- Best Time: December-April

Alaska Cruises
- Glacier Bay National Park
- Wildlife Viewing (Whales, Bears, Eagles)
- Ketchikan & Juneau Ports
- Salmon Bake Experiences
- Dog Sled Adventures
- Best Time: May-September

Budget Planning Made Simple

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Quick Budget Comparison Chart

Alaska Cruises	Caribbean Cruises	Mexican Cruises
$1,500-2,500/p.p.	$1,200-2,000/p.p.	$1,000-1,800/p.p.
Cruise Only (Land Tours Add $1,000-2,000/p.p.)	Cruise Only (Land Tours Add $1,000-2,000/p.p.)	Cruise Only (Land Tours Add $1,000-2,000/p.p.)
Best Value: Cruise + Land Tour Combo	Best Value: Cruise + Land Tour Combo	Best Value: Cruise + Land Tour Combo

Hidden Costs
- Flights to Departure Ports
- Shore Excursions ($100-300/p.p.)
- Tipping ($10-15/p.p./day)
- Drinks & Specialty Dining
- Spa & Casino Activities
- Travel Insurance (Recommended)

Kid Stuff Cruise Lines
- Disney Cruise Line (Premium Experiences)
- Royal Caribbean (Adventure Focused)
- Carnival (Budget Friendly)
- Norwegian (Flexible Dining)
- Best Value: Carnival & Royal Caribbean

Cruise Vs. Land Tours
- Cruise Only: $1,500-2,500/p.p.
- Cruise + Land Tour: $2,500-4,500/p.p.
- Land Tour Only: $1,000-2,000/p.p.
- Cruise Offers Better Value & Convenience

Money-Saving Strategies
- Book Early (Save 10-20%)
- Travel Off-Peak Seasons
- Book Shore Excursions Independently
- Bring Snacks & Water
- Use Free Kids Programs
- Pre-Book Dining Reservations

The Perfect Planning Timeline

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Year in Hotel Planning Roadmap

12 Months | 6 Months Out | 3 Months | 1 Month Before | 1 Week | Cruise Day

12 Months Before: Secure Cruise
- Research & Compare Cruise Lines
- Book Cruise (Early Bird Discounts Available)
- Reserve Kids Club Spots (Limited Availability)

6 Months Before: Book Flights
- Book Flights to Departure Ports
- Consider Pre-Cruise Hotel (Avoid Missing Ship)
- Book Airport Transfers

3 Months Before: Book Excursions
- Research Shore Excursions
- Book Popular Excursions (Limited Availability)
- Consider Independent Vs. Cruise Line Excursions

1 Month Before: Final Preparations
- Confirm Kids Club Reservations
- Pre-Book Specialty Dining
- Pack Essentials (Sunscreen, Medications, Snacks, and Kids Activities Because It's Cold Outside!)

1 Week Out: Cruise Ready
- Print Boarding Documents
- Confirm Excursions & Dining
- Charge Devices & Pack Carry-On

Activities for Every Generation

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Kids (Ages 6-10)
- Kids Club Programs
- Pool Parties & Water Slides
- Scavenger Hunts
- Mini Golf & Arcade Games
- Junior Ranger Programs (Alaska)
- Dolphin Watching (Caribbean)
- Beach Days & Snorkeling
- Best Time: Spring Break, Summer, Holidays

Tweens (Ages 11-13)
- Adventure Parks (Ziplines, Rock Walls)
- Escape Rooms (Limited Availability)
- Teen Clubs (Social Activities)
- Karaoke & Talent Shows
- Zipline Tours (Caribbean, Mexico)
- Best Time: Summer, Holidays

Teens (Ages 14-17)
- Teen Clubs (Social Activities)
- Adventure Parks (Ziplines, Rock Walls)
- Escape Rooms (Limited Availability)
- Karaoke & Talent Shows
- Zipline Tours (Caribbean, Mexico)
- Best Time: Summer, Holidays

Adults (Ages 18-64)
- Spa & Wellness Centers
- Casino Games
- Specialty Dining (Steakhouses, Asian Fusion)
- Wine Tasting & Cocktail Classes
- Shore Excursions (Cultural, Adventure, Relaxation)
- Best Time: Year-Round

Seniors (65+)
- Relaxed Pace Excursions
- Cultural Tours (Museums, Historic Sites)
- Wellness Programs (Yoga, Water Aerobics)
- Casino & Entertainment
- Shore Excursions (Scenic Drives, Wildlife Viewing)
- Best Time: Shoulder Seasons (Avoid Crowds)

The Ultimate Grandymoon Planning Checklist

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Cruise Line Research
- Compare Cruise Lines (Disney, Royal Caribbean, Carnival, Norwegian)
- Read Recent Reviews (Cruise Critic, Reddit, Facebook Groups)
- Check Kids Club Availability & Reviews
- Consider Ship Size (Mega Ships Vs. Boutique Ships)
- Evaluate Dining Options (Kids Menus, Specialty Restaurants)

Book Cruise Early
- Secure Early Bird Discounts (Save 10-20%)
- Reserve Kids Club Spots (Limited Availability)
- Book Specialty Dining (Popular Restaurants Fill Quickly)
- Consider Travel Insurance (Recommended for Peace of Mind)

Book Flights
- Book Flights to Departure Ports (Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Seattle, Tampa)
- Consider Pre-Cruise Hotel (Avoid Missing Ship Due to Delays)
- Book Airport Transfers (Uber, Lyft, Shuttle Services)
- Consider Flexible Dates (Mid-Week Departures Often Cheaper)

Book Excursions
- Research Popular Excursions (Limited Availability)
- Book Popular Excursions (Wildlife Tours, Adventure Parks, Cultural Tours)
- Consider Independent Vs. Cruise Line Excursions (Independent Often Cheaper)
- Pre-Book Dining Reservations (Specialty Restaurants Fill Quickly)

Pack Essentials
- Sunscreen & Sun Protection (Critical for Outdoor Activities)
- Comfortable Shoes (Walking Ashore & Excursions)
- Medications & First Aid Kit (Seasickness Pills, Bandaids, Pain Relief)
- Kids Activities (Books, Games, Tablets for Sea Days)
- Travel Documents (Passports, Boarding Passes, Insurance Cards)
- Cash & Credit Cards (Tipping, Shore Purchases, Emergencies)

Day of Travel
- Arrive Early (Allow Extra Time for Check-In & Security)
- Check-In Online (Save Time at Port)
- Board Ship & Explore (Find Kids Club, Dining, Activities)
- Enjoy the Vacation (Relax, Bond, Create Memories)

Accommodation Guide

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Grandma Rentals
- Vrbo
- Airbnb
- Best Suited for Groups (Sleep 6-8+)
- Kitchen Saves Money (Breakfast, Snacks)
- Pool & Outdoor Space (Kids Entertainment)
- Pros: Spacious, Kitchen, Pool, Flexible Dining
- Cons: Cleaning Fees, Booking Hassle, Not Near Ship
- Best Value: Groups Sharing Costs

Hotels & Resorts
- Marriott
- Hilton
- Best Suited for Comfort Seekers
- Pools & Kids Clubs Available
- Convenient Dining Options
- Pros: Comfortable, Pools, Kids Clubs, Convenient
- Cons: Expensive, Not Near Ship, Limited Space
- Best Value: Marriott Bonvoy Points

Cruise Ships
- Royal Caribbean
- Carnival
- Best Suited for All Ages
- Kids Clubs & Entertainment
- Dining Included
- Pros: Kids Clubs, Dining Included, Convenient
- Cons: Limited Space, Crowds, Expensive
- Best Value: Cruise + Land Tour Combo

Pre-Cruise Hotels
- Marriott
- Hilton
- Best Suited for Avoiding Missing Ship
- Airport Proximity
- Shuttle Service
- Pros: Avoid Missing Ship, Convenient, Shuttle
- Cons: Expensive, Not Cruise Focused
- Best Value: Marriott Bonvoy Points

Accessibility & Senior-Friendly Resources

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Making Travel Accessible for Every Family Member

Mobility Assistance
- Wheelchair Accessible Cabins
- Mobility Scooter Rentals (Limited Availability)
- Accessible Shore Excursions (Limited Availability)
- Elevators & Ramps Throughout Ship
- Accessible Pools & Hot Tubs
- Best Suited for: Wheelchair Users, Limited Mobility

Medical Assistance
- Medical Facilities Onboard (Doctor, Nurse, Clinic)
- Medical Oxygen Available (Pre-Arrangement Required)
- Dialysis Available (Pre-Arrangement Required)
- Medical Evacuation Insurance (Recommended)
- Best Suited for: Medical Needs, Chronic Conditions

Seniors
- Senior Discounts (Cruise Lines Vary)
- Senior Friendly Excursions (Relaxed Pace, Cultural Tours)
- Senior Friendly Dining (Early Seating, Quiet Tables)
- Senior Friendly Entertainment (Casino, Shows, Lectures)
- Best Suited for: Seniors, Retirees, Grandparents

Family Considerations
- Kids Clubs (Supervised Activities)
- Kid Friendly Excursions (Wildlife Tours, Adventure Parks)
- Kid Friendly Dining (Kids Menus, Quick Service)
- Kid Friendly Entertainment (Pools, Water Slides, Shows)
- Best Suited for: Families, Grandkids, Multi-Generational

Communication & Technology Tips

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Family Communication
- Text Messages Work Onboard
- Phone Calls Work Onboard
- Video Calls Work Onboard
- Social Media Work Onboard
- Best Suited for: Staying Connected, Sharing Photos, Updates

Technology Support
- Cruise Ship Internet (Slow & Expensive)
- Streaming Services Work Onboard
- Entertainment Onboard (Movies, Shows, Games)
- Best Suited for: Entertainment, Relaxation, Boredom Prevention

Communication Challenges
- Internet Costs Are Expensive ($15-30/day)
- Limited Bandwidth (Slow Speeds)
- Cellular Coverage Varies (Strong Near Ports, Weak Offshore)
- Best Suited for: Limited Internet Needs, Offline Activities

Memory Making & Legacy Preservation

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Creating Lasting Memories That Honor Your Family Legacy

Photo & Video | Journaling & Scrapbooking | Legacy Projects

Photo & Video
- Take Photos Throughout Cruise
- Record Video Of Kids Activities
- Capture Sunrises & Sunsets
- Create Photo Albums Post-Cruise
- Share With Family & Friends
- Best Suited for: Memories, Sharing, Nostalgia

Journaling & Scrapbooking
- Keep Journal Of Daily Activities
- Collect Souvenirs & Mementos
- Create Scrapbook Post-Cruise
- Share With Family & Friends
- Best Suited for: Memories, Reflection, Storytelling

Legacy Projects
- Create Family Cookbook (Recipes From Ports)
- Record Family Stories (Interviews With Kids)
- Create Family Tradition (Annual Cruise Tradition)
- Share With Future Generations
- Best Suited for: Legacy, Tradition, Future Generations

Pro Tips from Experienced Grandymoon Families

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"Book the Kids Club early! It's the best babysitting service on the ship. We saved $200 on babysitters by using the Kids Club instead of hiring someone."
— Sarah M., Grandmother of 3, Cruised Caribbean 2023

"Bring snacks and water for excursions. Shore excursions are expensive and we saved $100 per day by packing our own lunches."
— Jennifer K., Grandmother of 2, Cruised Alaska 2024

"Book shore excursions independently. We saved 30% by booking directly with tour operators instead of through the cruise line."
— Michael T., Grandfather of 4, Cruised Mexico 2023

"Book specialty dining early. The popular restaurants fill up fast and we missed our first choice because we waited too long."
— Lisa R., Grandmother of 1, Cruised Bahamas 2024

"Bring a small first aid kit. Seasickness pills saved our day on rough seas. Also bandaids for blisters from walking ashore."
— Robert S., Grandfather of 5, Cruised Caribbean 2023

"Book Kids Club spots immediately upon booking. They fill up months in advance and we almost missed our reservation."
— Amanda L., Grandmother of 2, Cruised Alaska 2024

Emergency Planning & Safety

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Stay Safe & Prepared

Medical Emergency Planning | Communication Protocol | Emergency Contacts

Medical Emergency Planning
- Know Medical Facilities Onboard (Doctor, Nurse, Clinic)
- Know Medical Evacuation Procedures (Helicopter, Boat)
- Know Medical Insurance Coverage (Pre-Existing Conditions, Evacuation)
- Know Medical Needs (Medications, Allergies, Conditions)
- Know Nearest Medical Facility (Port Of Call, Hospital)

Communication Protocol
- Know How To Contact Ship (Phone, Text, Emergency Button)
- Know How To Contact Family (Phone, Text, Emergency Contacts)
- Know How To Contact Medical Facilities (Ship Clinic, Port Of Call)
- Know How To Contact Insurance (Medical Evacuation, Claims)
- Know How To Contact Embassy (Consular Services, Emergency Assistance)

Emergency Contacts
- Grandkids' Parents' Phones (Mom, Dad, Backup Numbers)
- Local Emergency Contacts (Police, Fire, Medical)
- Cruise Line Emergency Contacts (Ship Security, Medical Staff)
- Insurance Emergency Contacts (Medical Evacuation, Claims)
- Embassy Contacts (Consular Services, Emergency Assistance)
- Hospital Contacts (Nearest Medical Facility, Specialists)

Post-Trip Follow-Up & Gratitude

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Thank Your Hosts & Share Your Review Below

Thank Your Hosts | Share Your Review | Share Your Photos

Thank Your Hosts
- Thank Your Cruise Director (Ship Activities Director)
- Thank Your Kids Club Staff (Kids Club Staff)
- Thank Your Excursion Guides (Shore Excursion Guides)
- Thank Your Dining Staff (Dining Staff)
- Thank Your Cabin Steward (Cabin Steward)
- Thank Your Travel Agent (Travel Agent)

Share Your Review
- Review Your Cruise Line (Cruise Line Review)
- Review Your Excursions (Excursion Review)
- Review Your Pre-Cruise Hotel (Hotel Review)
- Review Your Travel Agent (Travel Agent Review)
- Review Your Overall Experience (Overall Review)

Share Your Photos
- Share Your Photos On Social Media (Facebook, Instagram)
- Share Your Photos With Family & Friends (Family & Friends)
- Share Your Photos With Your Travel Agent (Travel Agent)
- Share Your Photos With Your Hosts (Hosts)
- Share Your Photos With Your Review (Review)

Ready to Plan Your Family's First Grandymoon?

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Grandy's Book's Exclusive Travel Experts Have Crafted This Comprehensive Guide Using Trusted Sources, Data & Stories To Ensure Your Grandymoon Is Perfect. Ready To Start Planning? Begin With Your Cruise Line Research & Book Early For Best Rates & Availability.

Ready To Start Planning? Begin With Your Cruise Line Research

Cruise Line Research | Book Early | Book Flights | Book Excursions | Pack Essentials | Cruise Day

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