

Cruise Control

Excerpted and adapted from a shiur by Rav Yehoshua Sova

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https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/BER82_012_Vayechi_Smooth_Sailing_Cruises_in_Halacha.mp3

Zevulun will dwell on the coast of the seas; he will be at the harbor of the ships, and his boundary will be at Tzidon.

Bereishis 49:13

There are many halachic issues that arise when embarking on a cruise on the high seas, a few of which we will mention here. To properly deal with all the issues, one must be aware of them in advance and prepare accordingly.[1]

One issue is kashrus. Due to the large size of the kitchen staff on a cruise, a vigilant mashgiach is necessary to ensure that nonkosher food is not served. Additionally, he must verify that kosher and nonkosher *keilim* are not washed together, which may cause nonkosher *blios* (absorbed tastes) to migrate into the formerly kosher *keilim*. In addition, the mashgiach must prevent the *keilim* from being switched while in port.

One must be cognizant of the problem of *bishul* on Shabbos if the non-Jewish staff warms up TV dinners after Shabbos begins, since the food might not yet be fully defrosted and edible.

Another concern is *chalav* Yisrael. Even one who does not avoid *chalav stam* milk must be aware that on a cruise, milk is sometimes sourced from countries where the governmental oversight on milk production is not to American standards, so R' Moshe Feinstein's *heter* to drink regular milk may not apply.

Another issue is *tznius* (depending upon the weather and region), as some passengers may not be modestly attired.

[1] For a fuller discussion of the issues, see the article by Rabbi Zvi Goldberg of the Star-K, "Don't Miss the boat: Halachic Guidelines of Kosher Cruises, available at

<https://www.star-k.org/articles/kashrus-kurrents/5804/dont-miss-the-boat-halachic-guidelines-of-kosher-cruises-2/>.