1. Getting there
Be sure to map out your route to the boats using the vessel(s) current location provided on our website. If you aren’t familiar with the marina or dock we are visiting, you may wish to call them before your visit to get directions and parking information. It is common for docks and marinas to appear strangely on your cell phone’s driving direction app. We are unable to wait for late parties.

2. Boarding
Our ship’s Steward will be at the top of the dock 30 minutes prior to sailing time to provide you with your boarding pass. Choice of vessel is on a first-come, first-served basis, unless you are a Historical Seaport member who receives priority boarding. A good rule of thumb is that if you have a preference of vessel, please arrive early. Also, as you’ll see in #3, use the restroom before boarding.

3. Go before you go
While we do have restrooms aboard, they are simple marine pump-out toilets. Think of it like an RV or portapotty, while you CAN use them, you’ll be happier using the regular restrooms ashore before your sail. Additionally, toilet paper cannot be flushed aboard, and must be disposed of in a waste basket. If you go ashore before your sail, you can avoid that altogether!

4. Hydrate
It is very helpful to hydrate in the 48 hours prior to your sailing adventure. Hydration will help you get your sea legs and enjoy your time aboard to the fullest.

5. Layer up
Even if you check the weather forecast on the day of your sail, conditions on the water can often be quite different from those ashore. The most typical difference is that it is almost always colder on the water. On the other hand, sunlight reflecting off of all that water can cause it to be very bright, and sometimes hot during the summer. To make sure you’re fully prepared, dress in many layers,
and dress warmer than you think you should. This way you will be able to adjust to any temperature. If anyone in your party is elderly or plans to stay seated for most of the trip, it is a great idea to bring a blanket for extra warmth.

6. Bring snacks and water
Be sure to bring water and a few snacks so you won’t find yourself thinking of your grumbling tummy instead of taking in the sights and sounds of the high seas. We usually don’t have concessions aboard, so it’s important to bring anything you might need. Granola bars and similar snack are great because they’re nonperishable, and give you a quick energy boost. Whichever type of snack you decide to bring, please dispose of any trash or leftovers ashore.

7. Prepare for the sun
Be sure to wear or bring sunscreen and sunglasses. This way your skin and eyes will stay comfortable and protected even on the brightest sunny days. This goes for all seasons, even the winter sun can be surprisingly strong reflecting off the water.

8. Even the Captain can’t control the weather
Please understand that due to the changeability of weather, we sail rain or shine, and prepare accordingly. Very occasionally, when wind and tide are too strong, our Captains will determine that conditions are not safe to go to sea. In that case we will automatically offer ticket exchange or refund, and hope that you will come sailing in the future when the weather is more cooperative.

9. Seasickness
Seasickness is something to be avoided, but nothing to be embarrassed about. If you know that you tend to get seasick, we recommend you prepare by using your preferred seasickness treatment according to the directions on the package. If you are trying a seasickness medication for the first time or have any questions, please consult your doctor.

10. Keep a keen eye
Marine life is everywhere! Keep a keen eye and you might see seabirds, seals, sea lions, dolphins, or even whales. It all depends on the area in which you are sailing and the time of year, no two sails are the same. Remember to ask the crew and they can tell you more about what you see at sea.