

**From:** VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
**Date:** 7/14/2016 11:32:49 AM  
**Subject:** Money-Saving Deals From Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Princess, Windstar, Azamara & Fathom

---

Dear Mr. Kester,

This week, I'll give you a brief overview of the various onboard dining options offered by cruise lines, covering such topics as traditional dining, open seating and alternative restaurants.

But first, I'm pleased to present the following **terrific cruise offers for our customers from Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Princess, Windstar, Azamara and Fathom**. They include deep discounts and free shipboard credits, which are as good as cash on the ship and can be used toward onboard purchases not covered in the cruise fare, like shore excursions and spa treatments.

**Royal Caribbean** has slashed rates on nearly every sailing from now through the end of 2017 for Vacations To Go -- save up to 85% and enjoy exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$300 per cabin. **Book by July 17.** [See dates and prices.](#)

**Celebrity** is offering our customers huge discounts of up to 77%. Also enjoy exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,000 per cabin on nearly every remaining voyage that sails in Europe from now through September. Book an ocean-view cabin or higher on select departures and choose one of the following perks: 1) an additional shipboard credit of up to \$300 per cabin, 2) free gratuities, 3) a free Classic Beverage Package that includes alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages or 4) unlimited Internet. Book a suite and get all four perks. [See dates and prices.](#)

**Princess** is offering our customers savings of up to 68% and exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$235 per cabin on select cruises visiting Mexico from October to April. **Book by July 17.** [See dates and prices.](#)

**Windstar** has reduced rates exclusively for Vacations To Go, providing savings of up to 86%. Also enjoy a shipboard credit of \$200 per cabin on select departures. **Book by July 21.** Windstar's six small vessels offer a casually elegant atmosphere and superb personal service. All voyages feature one complimentary onshore private event, like a beach party in Tahiti or lunch at a family-owned farm in Greece. [See dates and prices.](#)

**Azamara** is offering our customers savings of up to 84%, as well as exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,000 per cabin on a variety of sailings. **Book by July 22.** [See dates and prices.](#)

**Fathom** is offering Vacations To Go customers big discounts -- save up to 85%. In addition, get exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$500 per cabin on a variety of sailings, including newly deployed voyages throughout 2017. This new cruise line from Carnival Corp. sails to Cuba from Miami, calling at Havana and two other ports. It also operates volunteerism cruises to the Dominican Republic, where passengers participate in a variety of outreach projects that help local communities. [See dates and prices.](#)

As always, these offers are for new bookings only and subject to availability. Restrictions may apply.

---

Once upon a time, cruise passengers had few choices when it came to their evening meal -- one could go at a certain time to a certain table in the ship's main dining room, head to the casual buffet restaurant or order room service. These options still exist on most ships today, but cruise lines now give passengers much more flexibility in when and where they dine. Alternative restaurants -- those available beyond the formal main dining room and the buffet restaurant -- can be found on virtually every large ship and many smaller ones, while open-seating options have been introduced on numerous vessels. Here's a quick look at today's shipboard dining scene.

In the "traditional" dining scenario, passengers are informed of their seating assignments for dinner upon boarding. Dining times and table size are based on requests made at the time of booking, but on most ships they are not guaranteed, no matter how far in advance the booking is made.

Guests are assigned to a specific table in either the early (around 6 or 6:30 p.m.) or the late (around 8 or 8:30 p.m.) seating. Passengers dine with the same tablemates and are served by the same wait staff each night of the cruise.

Many passengers prefer traditional dining because it gives them an opportunity to get to know a few of their fellow passengers and their wait staff, and it allows the wait staff to learn preferences and anticipate requests after a night or two, leading to more personalized service. On the other hand, assigned seating forces passengers to plan activities around their dinner time, which can be inconvenient on days when the ship is in port.

Cruise lines offering traditional assigned seating in the main dining room during dinner include [Carnival](#), [Celebrity](#), [Costa](#), [Croisières de France](#), [Cruise & Maritime Voyages](#), [Crystal](#), [Disney](#), [Holland America](#), [MSC](#), [P&O](#), [Princess](#), [Pullmantur](#) and [Royal Caribbean](#). (On Disney ships, guests rotate through three themed main dining rooms during their sailing, and their wait staff goes with them.)

[Cunard](#) offers assigned seating and dining times to passengers booking certain accommodations.

[Hurtigruten](#) offers assigned seating from 6:30 to 7 p.m.; busier periods may have two seatings. Table reservations for Hurtigruten's assigned seating are made on board.

Most small-ship cruise lines, plus several large-ship ones, offer open seating in their main dining rooms. Ships with open seating operate their main dining rooms much like shoreside restaurants -- the dining room is open for dinner during set hours, and guests may dine when and with whom they please during those hours.

This dining style allows passengers to choose their tablemates (or dine alone) and vary their schedules as desired. On the other hand, some feel they do not receive the same personalized service since their wait staff changes each night. And, as with busy restaurants on shore, guests on larger ships who choose this option may have to wait to be seated, and service may be a bit slower during the most popular dining times.

Cruise lines that offer open seating in the main dining room include [American Cruise Lines](#), [Azamara](#), [Blount Small Ship Adventures](#), [Carnival](#), [Celebrity](#), [Crystal](#), [Fathom](#), [Hebridean Island Cruises](#), [Holland America](#), [Lindblad Expeditions](#), [Norwegian](#), [Oceania](#), [Paul Gauguin Cruises](#), [Ponant](#), [Princess](#), [Quark Expeditions](#), [Regent](#), [Royal Caribbean](#), [Seabourn](#), [SeaDream](#), [Silversea](#), [Star Clippers](#), [Swan Hellenic](#), [Viking Ocean Cruises](#), [Voyages of Discovery](#), [Voyages to Antiquity](#) and [Windstar](#).

Certain suites on [Cunard](#) ships allow passengers to dine when they wish, but they are assigned to a particular table throughout the course of the cruise.

Several cruise lines -- **Carnival**, **Celebrity**, **Crystal**, **Holland America**, **Princess** and **Royal Caribbean** -- are listed above as offering both traditional assigned seating and open seating. Several of these lines have at least two main dining rooms on **most** of their ships. At the time of booking, guests choose assigned (early or late) or open seating.

Note: The following ships offer assigned seating only -- Dawn Princess, Pacific Princess, Sea Princess and Sun Princess. Celebrity Xpedition offers only open seating.

Royal Caribbean introduced Dynamic Dining on its Quantum-class ships (Quantum of the Seas, Anthem of the Seas and Ovation of the Seas), where passengers choose from five complimentary, full-service restaurants. Guests can select either open seating in the venue of their choice each night, or sign up for traditional early or late seating and be rotated through a set lineup of main restaurants along with their wait staff.

The great majority of ships offer one or more "alternative" restaurants in addition to their main dining rooms, ranging from 24-hour buffets and poolside grills to celebrity chef venues and high-end gourmet restaurants.

These alternative restaurants typically have open seating regardless of the main dining room's guidelines, though many require reservations (which are made on board the ship). There may be a per-person surcharge for specialty restaurants, usually ranging from about \$10 to \$50.

For detailed information about the dining venues on any cruise line, click any link above or [click here](#). Our cruise counselors also will be happy to verify dining options available for any cruise.

---

Here are all the best cruise deals worldwide in the next 90 days, organized by region:

- [Africa](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Alaska Cruise & Alaska Tour](#)
- [Alaska Cruise & Canada Tour](#)
- [Arctic](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [Australia/New Zealand](#)
- [Bahamas](#)
- [Baltic](#)
- [Bermuda](#)
- [British Isles](#)
- [Canada/New England](#)
- [Canada/New England Cruise Tours](#)
- [Canary Islands](#)
- [Caribbean](#)
- [Cuba](#)
- [Europe Cruise Tours](#)
- [Galapagos](#)
- [Greek Islands](#)
- [Hawaii](#)
- [Mediterranean](#)
- [Mexico/Central America](#)
- [Middle East](#)
- [Northern Europe](#)
- [Norway](#)
- [Pacific Northwest](#)
- [Panama Canal](#)
- [Repositioning](#)
- [River Cruises](#)
- [South America](#)
- [Tahiti/French Polynesia](#)
- [Transatlantic](#)
- [World](#)

Here are all the best cruise deals worldwide in the next 90 days, organized by cruise line:

- [American Cruise Lines](#)
- [Azamara Club Cruises](#)
- [Blount Small Ship Adventures](#)
- [Carnival](#)
- [Celebrity](#)
- [Costa Cruises](#)
- [Croisières de France \(CDF\)](#)
- [Cruise & Maritime Voyages](#)
- [Crystal](#)
- [Cunard](#)
- [Disney](#)
- [Fathom](#)
- [Hebridean Island Cruises](#)

Holland America  
Hurtigruten  
Lindblad Expeditions  
MSC Cruises  
Norwegian  
Oceania Cruises  
P&O Cruises  
Paul Gauguin Cruises  
Ponant Yacht Cruises  
Princess  
Pullmantur  
Quark Expeditions  
Regent  
Royal Caribbean  
Seabourn  
SeaDream Yacht Club  
Silversea  
Star Clippers  
Swan Hellenic  
Viking Cruises  
Voyages of Discovery  
Voyages to Antiquity  
Windstar

---

Here are today's **Top 10 Cruises**, brand-new specials from the world's best cruise lines. **Click the FastDeal # for details.**

- 1) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs San Juan Oct 16, starting at \$419, save 67%, [FastDeal # 23123](#)
- 2) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Holland America, departs Anchorage Aug 7, starting at \$489, save 81%, [FastDeal # 25220](#)
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston Sep 25, starting at \$480, save 81%, [FastDeal # 24441](#)
- 4) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Princess, departs Anchorage Aug 10, oceanview starting at \$599, save 73%, [FastDeal # 19280](#)
- 5) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Miami Sep 10, starting at \$599, save 65%, [FastDeal # 13100](#)
- 6) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on Pullmantur, departs Barcelona Sep 10, starting at \$580, save 59%, [FastDeal # 22765](#)
- 7) **Norway**, 7 nights on Costa Cruises, departs Copenhagen Aug 27, starting at \$899, save 62%, [FastDeal # 35227](#)
- 8) **Greek Islands**, 13 nights on Celebrity, departs Athens Sep 7, starting at \$1,049, save 77%, [FastDeal # 16786](#)
- 9) **Canada/New England**, 10 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs New York Oct 18, starting at \$3,184, save 68%, [FastDeal # 21850](#)
- 10) **Caribbean**, 10 nights on Regent, departs Miami Mar 29, suite starting at \$4,799, save 64%, [FastDeal # 24763](#)

For the best last-minute cruise specials in the next 90 days, please visit our world-famous [90-Day Ticker](#). To search for discounts of up to 82% on cruises departing more than 90 days from now, [click here](#).

To save up to 40% with escorted and independent tours, [click here](#).

For river cruises up to 50% off, [click here](#).

For discounts of up to 50% at hotels and all-inclusive resorts, [click here](#).

For the lowest rates on Africa safaris from budget to luxury in quality, [click here](#).

Once you've found a FASTDEAL, call us toll free at 800-338-4962 (US and Canada) and a cruise counselor will attend to your needs. International customers, please email or call us at +1-713-974-2121.

Please email me your comments, suggestions and questions at [alanfox@vacationstogo.com](mailto:alanfox@vacationstogo.com) and I will respond the same day.

If you enjoy our newsletter, please forward this email to family and friends.

Sincerely,

Alan Fox  
Chairman & CEO  
Vacations To Go  
5851 San Felipe Street, Suite 500  
Houston, TX 77057

You are subscribed as [kester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:kester@aging.sc.gov). To update your email address or to temporarily suspend, reduce the frequency of, or permanently cancel, these emails, [click here](#). To ensure delivery of our newsletter, please add [vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com](mailto:vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com) to your approved senders list. [Here's how!](#)