

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 3/24/2016 12:09:26 AM
Subject: Save on Europe & Caribbean Cruises plus Tips for Cruising With Kids

Dear Mr. Kester,

I'll start today with some **special offers we've negotiated with Princess, Norwegian, Oceania, Silversea, P&O and Cruise & Maritime Voyages**. These offers feature shipboard credits, which can be used toward the purchase of just about anything not included in the upfront cost of your cruise, from spa treatments to boutique purchases to shore excursions.

Princess is offering our customers discounts of up to 86%. Also enjoy exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$685 per cabin and a reduced deposit of just \$100 per person on a variety of voyages. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. [See dates and prices.](#)

Norwegian is offering Vacations To Go customers newly reduced rates, with huge discounts of up to 80% in Europe, the Caribbean and Mexico. [See dates and prices.](#)

Oceania is offering my readers fantastic new discounts in a variety of regions such as Europe, Caribbean and South America -- save up to 82%. As a bonus, get exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,925 per cabin on many upcoming departures. Guests also receive free unlimited Internet and a choice of either free drinks or up to five free shore excursions on select sailings. [See dates and prices.](#)

Silversea is offering our customers a rare opportunity to save on an array of sailings worldwide, reducing its best available rates by up to 50% exclusively for Vacations To Go. Your Silversea fare includes onboard gratuities, complimentary beverages (including wine and spirits) and butler service. **Book by March 31.** [See dates and prices.](#)

P&O Cruises, the most popular cruise line in Britain, is offering our customers savings of up to 51% and shipboard credits of up to \$750 per cabin on select sailings in the Caribbean and Europe. [See dates and prices.](#)

Cruise & Maritime Voyages has slashed fares by up to 77% for our customers. Plus get exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$3,000 per cabin on certain departures. **Book by April 20.** [See dates and prices.](#)

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

Next, I'd like to talk about cruises for families with toddlers and young school-age children. In April, I'll devote a newsletter to cruising with kids ages 7-12, and in May I'll provide some tips on cruising with teens.

Those without young children or grandchildren may wish to skip straight to the deals.

One of the great things about having kids is being able to see the world through their eyes, fresh and new. The view is never more interesting than when you are at sea.

For a young child, a cruise ship is an enormous floating playground, with unimaginable delights on every deck. Between the ages of 2 and 6, most kids' requirements are few: room to explore, someone to play with, a snack when they want one and a nap when they need one.

With his father in the business, my son was fortunate to be able to take his first cruise at age 3. We sailed on Princess in the fall, and there were very few kids on board, so he was quite popular with all the grandparents we met (particularly since they didn't have to keep up with him). I know he enjoyed himself because he raced a mile a minute between naps.

His mother and I also were fortunate in that we had both sets of our parents along, so we could play tag team with our bundle of energy and then escape for a bit of solitude as the next shift took over. That's basically why cruise lines have devoted so much time and money building kids' facilities and hiring youth counselors -- to ensure plenty of playtime for each young guest and time for parents to relax and pursue their own interests.

On that first cruise, my son's favorite time of the day was dinner, when our waiter made animals out of paper squares, the Japanese art of origami, and presented each with dramatic flair. His favorite question, 100 times a day -- "Is that man coming to dinner?"

We learned on that cruise that it is important to make the cabin feel familiar and cozy. Kids have anxieties just like most adults when they travel, and it's hard for them to express those fears or even recognize them for what they are, so it's up to the parent to make things comfortable. If a child has a sleeping companion -- a doll, stuffed animal, special blanket or pillow -- be sure to bring it, along with anything else that is easy to pack and might make the stateroom feel more like home.

I believe my son was 4 or 5 when he first showed an interest in shore excursions (as long as they involved the beach), but his primary focus was still the ship's pool, and the shuffleboard court. Shuffleboard seems almost prehistoric compared to all the latest amenities, but it's great for kids of this age.

We sailed one year to the Caribbean on Holland America, and at the end of that cruise, I asked my son what he had enjoyed the most. Was it the school of dolphins we'd watched swim alongside the ship, was it playing in the beautiful water of Magens Bay in St. Thomas, was it the onboard pool, where he spent much of his time during days at sea?

No, he told me his favorite thing was coming back to the cabin after dinner to see where our cabin stewardess had hidden his stuffed frog, Kippee.

One night it peeked out from under his pillow, another night it looked down from a lamp shade. One evening, Kippee had slipped into a bathrobe. Each night the hiding place was more clever than the night before, and my son tore through the cabin in near hysterics until he found his sleeping companion and squealed with delight. The thoughtful acts of our cabin stewardess, so far from her own family, meant so much to mine.

It's funny what is important to a child at that age, and what they remember. But to this day, my fondest memory of that cruise is a green frog, too.

[Click here](#) to create a list of all family cruises that meet your needs. Or, for more information about programs and facilities aboard the cruise lines that really cater to kids, just click the cruise line name below.

[Carnival](#)
[Celebrity](#)
[Disney](#)
[Holland America](#)
[MSC Cruises](#)
[Norwegian](#)
[Princess](#)
[Royal Caribbean](#)

Here are the best cruise deals in the next 90 days, organized by port of departure.

Click below for best cruise deals departing US and Canada ports:

[Anchorage, AK \(All ports serving...\)](#)
[Baltimore, MD](#)
[Bayonne, NJ](#)
[Boston, MA](#)
[Charleston, SC](#)

Fort Lauderdale, FL
Galveston, TX
Honolulu, Oahu, HI
Houston (Bayport), TX
Jacksonville, FL
Los Angeles (Long Beach), CA
Los Angeles (San Pedro), CA
Miami, FL
Montreal, QC, Canada
New Orleans, LA
New York City, NY (All ports serving...)
Port Canaveral, FL
Portland, ME
Providence, RI
San Diego, CA
San Francisco, CA
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Seattle, WA
Tampa, FL
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Click below for best cruise deals departing major ports worldwide:

Amsterdam, Holland
Aruba
Athens (Piraeus), Greece
Barbados
Barcelona, Spain
Beijing (Tianjin), China
Bergen, Norway
Berlin (Warnemunde), Germany
Brisbane, Australia
Cape Town, South Africa
Caracas (La Guaira), Venezuela
Cartagena, Colombia
Colon, Panama
Copenhagen, Denmark
Curacao
Darwin, Australia
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Dublin, Ireland
Dubrovnik, Croatia
Durban, South Africa
Genoa, Italy
Hamburg, Germany
Hong Kong
Istanbul, Turkey
Kiel, Germany
Kirkenes, Norway
Kobe, Japan
Lima (Callao), Peru
Lisbon, Portugal
London, England (All ports serving...)
Malaga, Spain
Marseille, France
Monte Carlo, Monaco
Naples (Capri), Italy
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England
Nice, France
Oslo, Norway

Palma de Mallorca, Spain
Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands
Paris (Calais), France
Perth (Fremantle), Australia
Portsmouth, England
Reykjavik, Iceland
Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy
Rotterdam, Holland
Sao Paulo (Santos), Brazil
Savona, Italy
Shanghai, China
Singapore
Stockholm, Sweden
Sydney, Australia
Tokyo (Yokohama), Japan
Trieste, Italy
Tromso, Norway
Valletta, Malta
Venice, Italy

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 Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston Apr 24, starting at \$399, save 80%, **FastDeal # 32333**
- 2) **Bermuda**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Bayonne May 1, starting at \$499, **FastDeal # 10106** (Celebrity does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Miami Apr 2, starting at \$449, save 63%, **FastDeal # 28974**
- 4) **Mexico**, 10 nights on Princess, departs Los Angeles Apr 8, starting at \$559, save 50%, **FastDeal # 34094**
- 5) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs Miami Apr 24, starting at \$479, save 73%, **FastDeal # 29350**
- 6) **Transatlantic**, 13 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Fort Lauderdale May 8, starting at \$549, **FastDeal # 17077** (Royal Caribbean does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 7) **Mediterranean**, 10 nights on Azamara Club Cruises, departs Athens Jun 23, starting at \$1,499, save 84%, **FastDeal # 33463**
- 8) **Northern Europe**, 7 nights on Crystal, departs London Jun 5, oceanview starting at \$1,695, save 75%, **FastDeal # 24136**
- 9) **Tahiti/French Polynesia**, 7 nights on Windstar, departs Papeete Apr 8, oceanview starting at \$1,899, save 72%, **FastDeal # 13981**
- 10) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs Seattle Jun 9, oceanview starting at \$1,999, save 68%, **FastDeal # 17068**

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 and I will respond the same day.

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

Sincerely,

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