

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 9/1/2015 8:17:49 AM
Subject: New Cruise Discounts for Age 55+

Dear Mr. Kester,

This week, we've arranged some great deals for our customers who are 55 and older. Eight cruise lines are offering additional discounts on sailings in many regions. As always, these rates are for new bookings only and subject to availability. Only one person in the cabin must be 55 or older in order for all to qualify for the discount.

For deals on the Fun Ships of **Carnival**, [click here](#).

For discounts on the premium ships of **Celebrity**, [click here](#).

For deals on the innovative vessels of **Royal Caribbean**, [click here](#).

To immerse yourself in the Spanish culture of **Pullmantur**, [click here](#).

For sailings with **Croisières de France**, which caters to a French-speaking clientele, [click here](#).

For the culturally rich voyages of **Swan Hellenic**, [click here](#).

To visit exotic, unique destinations with **Voyages of Discovery**, [click here](#).

Or, for 55-plus discounts by region, click any of the following destinations:

[Africa](#)
[Alaska](#)
[Asia](#)
[Bahamas](#)
[Baltic](#)
[Black Sea](#)
[British Isles](#)
[Canada/New England](#)
[Canary Islands](#)
[Caribbean](#)
[Greek Islands](#)
[Hawaii](#)
[Mediterranean](#)
[Mexico/Central America](#)
[Northern Europe](#)
[Norway](#)
[Panama Canal](#)
[Repositioning](#)
[South America](#)
[Tahiti/French Polynesia](#)
[Trans-Atlantic](#)

All cruise lines appreciate the loyalty of customers who sail with them again and again, and many offer special discounts or shipboard credits to their past passengers on select sailings.

Below, I've identified **12 cruise lines offering additional discounts to Vacations To Go customers who also are their past passengers**. Click any line below (that you have already sailed) to see these special rates:

[Croisières de France](#)
[Crystal](#)
[Paul Gauguin Cruises](#)

Princess
Pullmantur
Silversea
Star Clippers
Swan Hellenic
Viking Cruises
Voyages of Discovery
Voyages to Antiquity
Windstar

We've negotiated the following **money-saving offers with Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Silversea, Azamara and Voyages of Discovery**. These promotions include shipboard credits, which are as good as cash on the ship and can be used for onboard purchases not covered in your cruise fare, such as shore excursions and spa treatments.

Royal Caribbean is offering our customers a special sale: Receive exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$500 per cabin on nearly every remaining 2015 departure. Also take advantage of discounts of up to 76%. [See dates and prices.](#)

Celebrity is offering Vacations To Go customers fantastic discounts of up to 75%. Plus, select one of the following perks when you book nearly any voyage departing from October 1 and beyond: 1) a shipboard credit of up to \$500 per cabin, 2) free gratuities, 3) a free Classic Beverage Package, which includes a variety of alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverages, or 4) unlimited Internet. Pay just \$15 extra per person, per day to choose two of the amenities above, or pay an additional \$45 per person, per day and receive all four amenities, plus an upgrade from a Classic to a Premium Beverage Package (which includes top-shelf alcoholic drinks). [See dates and prices.](#)

Silversea is offering our customers a rare opportunity to save on select last-minute voyages, reducing their best available rates by up to 50% exclusively for Vacations To Go. **Book by September 30.** [See dates and prices.](#)

Azamara is offering our customers savings of up to 83% on a variety of sailings. Plus, receive a shipboard credit of up to \$1,200 per cabin on certain last-minute departures. [See dates and prices.](#)

Voyages of Discovery is offering our customers a beverage credit of \$100 per stateroom. Also enjoy savings of up to 88% with this line, which specializes in cruises to off-the-beaten-path ports. [See dates and prices.](#)

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

I receive several hundred cruise-related questions every week from my readers, so this week I'd like to share a few recent inquiries and answers.

Q: I see that you advertise "last-minute cruise deals." What exactly do you mean by "last-minute"?

A: Our last-minute deals are for cruises leaving within 90 days, which is when many cruise lines slash the prices of unsold cabins. They're terrific bargains if you're flexible on ship and travel dates. By far, the most popular page on our site is our world-famous [90-Day Ticker](#). Here, you'll find all the very best last-minute markdowns, right up until the day of departure. Right now, you can find terrific deals **discounted by up to 80% or more**.

We've been publishing this list since 1984, when our company opened its doors and we first convinced cruise lines that they should take whatever they could get for an unsold cabin rather than let it sail empty. We are the best in the world at locating last-minute cruise deals and frequently sell them out before other travel agencies even hear about them.

Q: My wife and I love cruising and are thinking about trying a river cruise in Europe next year. Do you recommend them? Do you sell them?

A: Yes, and yes! River cruises are a great way to explore the historic cities and picturesque towns that developed along Europe's inland waterways.

In addition to being the largest seller of oceangoing cruises, Vacations To Go also is the world's leading seller of river cruises. We represent all the top river cruise operators. Visit [RiverCruise.com](https://www.RiverCruise.com) for sailings along the Rhine and Danube in Central Europe, the Douro in Portugal, the Rhone and Saone in France, the Po in Italy and a few other rivers on the continent.

You'll unpack once and settle into a comfortable, river-view stateroom on a modern, small ship -- most of the vessels sailing in Europe carry fewer than 200 passengers. You can expect personalized service and delicious meals in open-seating restaurants; menus often highlight regional cuisine. Guided shore excursions in port are included.

By the way, [RiverCruise.com](https://www.RiverCruise.com) also has departures in Asia (on the Yangtze, Mekong, Irrawaddy and Ganges), Africa (Nile and Chobe), South America (Amazon) and the U.S. (Mississippi and its tributaries, Columbia, Snake, Hudson and Erie Canal).

Q: My family of six would like to take a Caribbean cruise over the Christmas school break. We need multiple cabins that are close to each other, or maybe even connecting rooms. How far in advance should we book?

A: You should start planning this cruise now. Holiday cruises sell out quickly, especially if you're seeking adjoining cabins or family suites that accommodate more than four people, as these are in very high demand. I usually recommend that clients book these types of accommodations at least four to six months in advance in order to have the best odds of getting one. [Click here](#) for a complete list of ships with adjoining cabins, and [click here](#) to see a list of ships with family suites. (Keep in mind that two staterooms may cost less than a family suite.)

Staterooms that accommodate three or four passengers are more plentiful but still limited in number and will sell out quickly.

Q: As someone who enjoys traveling solo, I feel penalized by the single supplement imposed by cruise lines. If a cruise ship is not at full capacity and has empty cabins, why don't they let me travel solo and not pay the double-occupancy fare?

A: Except for 6-star ships, cruise ships generally sail full year-round because cruise lines drop the rate to whatever it takes to sell out. They prefer to fill those empty cabins with two people to maximize their onboard sales and gratuities.

However, lines sometimes slash the single supplement for a limited time, and we list every one of these opportunities on our site. [Click here](#) to see our **Singles Discounts ticker** now.

We've also added the fares for single travelers to many of our FastDeals, where available. When you click on a FastDeal, look for this line: "Click for additional rates: Singles Rates."

Some cruise lines are responding to the needs of single travelers and adding solo cabins to their vessels. New ships with single cabins include the [Norwegian Getaway](#), [Norwegian Breakaway](#) and the upcoming [Norwegian Escape](#) in the **Norwegian** fleet; [Quantum of the Seas](#), [Anthem of the Seas](#) and next April's [Ovation of the Seas](#) from **Royal Caribbean**; and the [Koningsdam](#) from **Holland America**, also scheduled to debut next spring.

Q: We hope to take a Caribbean cruise this winter, but my husband was recently diagnosed with a medical issue that puts our ability to travel in question. Is there insurance that would provide a refund for cancellation due to a pre-existing condition?

A: We offer travel insurance through a company called **CSA Travel Protection**. It covers our customers for cancellations, even when the cancellation is due to a pre-existing medical condition, as long as the insurance is purchased prior to or within 24 hours of your final trip payment and you are medically able to

travel at the time of purchase, confirmed with a letter from your doctor. For more information about the coverage provided by CSA, [click here](#).

Cruise lines impose penalties for cancelling or changing a reservation within 60 or 75 days of departure, up to and including loss of the entire cruise price. A few lines penalize cancellations or changes as much as 90 or 120 days in advance of departure. Cruise lines are very strict about their cancellation policies and do not make exceptions, even under extreme circumstances.

It also is possible for illness or injury to occur during a cruise, resulting in medical bills from the ship's infirmary and/or the early termination of the trip. Most traditional health insurance policies do not cover cruise passengers traveling abroad.

To protect from financial loss in the event of an emergency, Vacations To Go recommends the purchase of travel insurance with every cruise. There are generally two options -- insurance offered by CSA, our preferred independent insurance provider, or a plan offered by the cruise line. Prices vary depending on the details of your trip and the cruise line, as do coverage inclusions, limits and exclusions.

You can find summaries of CSA's insurance plan and the plans offered by cruise lines by [clicking here](#). Please note that only CSA provides insurance coverage to people living outside the U.S. and Canada.

When you are ready to book a cruise, our cruise counselors will explain the insurance options that are available for your trip and answer any questions you may have. If you choose to purchase travel insurance, you'll enjoy peace of mind knowing that your vacation investment is protected.

I have scanned all the sailings in the next 90 days, and listed below are all the deepest discounts according to type of cabin.

Inside Cabins

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **inside cabins** for at least 65% off.

Oceanview Cabins

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **oceanview cabins** for at least 65% off.

Balcony Cabins

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **balcony cabins** for at least 60% off.

Suites

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **suites** for at least 55% off.

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 Dec 6, starting at \$429, save 74%, [FastDeal # 16009](#)

2) **Mexico**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Los Angeles Nov 29, starting at \$499, save 74%, [FastDeal # 14264](#)

3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Holland America, departs Fort Lauderdale Nov 14, starting at \$449, save 53%, [FastDeal # 13837](#)

4) **Bahamas**, 3 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Fort Lauderdale Oct 21, starting at \$549, save 25%, [FastDeal # 26454](#)

- 5) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Miami Nov 14, starting at \$549, save 61%, [FastDeal # 22636](#)
- 6) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on Pullmantur, departs Barcelona Sep 26, starting at \$398, save 64%, [FastDeal # 26431](#)
- 7) **Canada/New England**, 10 nights on Princess, departs Bayonne Oct 11, starting at \$699, save 50%, [FastDeal # 18885](#)
- 8) **Transatlantic**, 13 nights on Holland America, departs Barcelona Nov 2, starting at \$899, save 47%, [FastDeal # 15038](#)
- 9) **Alaska**, 11 nights on Celebrity, departs Seattle Sep 11, starting at \$1,199, save 60%, [FastDeal # 16731](#)
- 10) **Tahiti/French Polynesia**, 7 nights on Windstar, departs Papeete Nov 27, oceanview starting at \$1,799, save 74%, [FastDeal # 29746](#)

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,

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

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