

**From:** VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
**Date:** 1/24/2017 8:29:29 PM  
**Subject:** Free Upgrades & Reduced Deposits on Carnival's Newest Ship!

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Dear Mr. Kester,

Here's a fantastic offer for our customers who are fans of **Carnival**: Save up to 83% and also pay reduced deposits as follows: \$50 per person on two- to nine-night cruises, \$150 per person on Carnival Vista sailings and \$200 per person on Alaska sailings and voyages of 10 nights or more. **Book by January 31.** [See dates and prices.](#)

Carnival also has just released itineraries for its newest ship, the **Carnival Horizon**, which is scheduled to launch in early 2018. Our customers can pay reduced deposits of \$150 per cabin on Caribbean sailings or \$200 per cabin on European cruises. Plus, get a shipboard credit of \$50 per cabin. **Book by January 31.** [See dates and prices.](#)

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I'm pleased to present these **terrific offers from Holland America, Oceania, Crystal, Costa and Windstar**. They include 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 bar purchases and spa treatments.

**Holland America** is offering our customers huge discounts of up to 82%. Also receive shipboard credits of up to \$450 per cabin on all Alaska cruises and cruise tours this year and many other itineraries as well. On select departures, book a suite and also receive free prepaid gratuities for two. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. **Book by January 31.** [See dates and prices.](#)

**Oceania** has just slashed rates across its fleet -- save up to 85%. Plus, Vacations To Go customers get exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,000 per cabin. [See dates and prices.](#)

**Crystal** has reduced fares exclusively for our customers on select departures, providing discounts of up to \$800 per cabin. The luxury line also is offering exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$2,000 per cabin. Your upfront Crystal fare includes gratuities, fine wines, Champagne, premium spirits and nonalcoholic beverages. **Book by February 5.** [See dates and prices.](#)

**Costa** is offering our customers savings of up to 82% on a variety of cruises in 2017 and 2018. Certain voyages qualify for shipboard credits of up to \$400 per cabin. Plus, kids sail free on select sailings. **Book by January 30.** Costa offers Italian-style hospitality, cuisine and entertainment aboard its fleet of 11 liners, which sail itineraries in the Caribbean, Mediterranean and other destinations worldwide. [See dates and prices.](#)

**Windstar** is offering our customers exclusive deep discounts -- save up to 80% off cruises aboard its casually elegant ships. Plus, choose one of the following free amenities on select sailings: 1) a premium beverage package for two, which includes select alcoholic beverages on board, 2) unlimited Wi-Fi, 3) a shipboard credit of up to \$1,000 per cabin or 4) a complimentary one- or two-night hotel stay before or after the cruise. **Book by February 28.** Cruises aboard Windstar's casually elegant ships include a complimentary onshore private event, like a beach party in St. Lucia or lunch at a Sicilian winery. [See dates and prices.](#)

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

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Is this your year to experience the incomparable natural beauty and majesty of Alaska? Right now, it's prime booking season for **Alaska cruises and cruise tours**. If you want to explore this spectacular region on a

cruise, I recommend that you call us as soon as possible to get the itinerary, ship, cabin type and departure date you desire -- especially if you require a stateroom that accommodates three or more people or a passenger with special needs, or if you need two adjacent or adjoining cabins or more than four cabins on a single sailing.

I've organized our itineraries by cruise line and departure months below.

To see a list of Alaska cruises and cruise tours by cruise line, click any company name:

[Holland America](#)  
[Princess](#)  
[Norwegian](#)  
[Royal Caribbean](#)  
[Celebrity](#)  
[Carnival](#)  
[Regent](#)  
[Silversea](#)  
[Oceania](#)  
[Seabourn](#)  
[Crystal](#)  
[Disney](#)  
[Ponant](#)

For a full list of sailings and prices by departure date, click any month:

[April cruises in Alaska](#)

[May cruises in Alaska](#)

[May cruise tours in Alaska](#)

[June cruises in Alaska](#)

[June cruise tours in Alaska](#)

[July cruises in Alaska](#)

[July cruise tours in Alaska](#)

[August cruises in Alaska](#)

[August cruise tours in Alaska](#)

[September cruises in Alaska](#)

[September cruise tours in Alaska](#)

Next, I'll cover four key factors to keep in mind when planning a visit to America's last frontier: itinerary, weather, wildlife and passports.

### **Itinerary**

There are two types of itineraries for Alaska cruises: Inside Passage cruises that sail round trip from Vancouver, Seattle or San Francisco; and Gulf of Alaska cruises that sail one way between Vancouver and Seward or Whittier (gateways to Anchorage and the interior city of Fairbanks). The Gulf of Alaska cruises include several days in the Inside Passage.

The round-trip cruises offer two advantages: 1) There are many flights daily into, and out of, Vancouver, Seattle and San Francisco, and 2) They require less expensive airfare because no long flight to (or from) Anchorage or Fairbanks is involved.

Air into (and out of) Anchorage and Fairbanks is quite limited and flights fill early with cruise and cruise tour passengers, which makes it more risky to wait for a last-minute deal on a one-way Gulf of Alaska cruise.

The biggest advantage of one-way cruises is that they allow the opportunity to explore the interior of Alaska on a pre- or post-cruise land tour. Between one-third and one-half of all Alaska cruisers extend their cruise



with a tour of inland Alaska (out of Anchorage or Fairbanks) or British Columbia or the Canadian Rockies (out of Vancouver).

If you are leaning toward one of these cruise tours, keep in mind that tour buses, railcars and lodges in Alaska are very limited in supply and can sell out early. I recommend booking soon to ensure availability.

### **Weather**

Alaska weather is delightfully unpredictable, but in general, you'll find the warmest temperatures in July and August, when average highs are in the low to mid-60s. Precipitation can rise a bit in late August and early September, but I personally would not avoid that time for that reason.

One of my fondest Alaska memories is of sipping coffee on the cabin balcony as the scenery melted away and the ship slowed to a crawl in dense fog in the Inside Passage, its foghorn echoing off the mountains on either side, warning fishermen of our approach. On another day, we hiked a trail to an alpine lake for a canoe ride to the face of a glacier, in a driving rain. Invigorating does not begin to describe it. Weather is part of the experience in Alaska.

[Click here](#) for a list of Alaska ports, and then click a port name to see the weather details for that location.

### **Wildlife**

Wildlife is one of the big attractions of Alaska, and different species are active at various times during the cruising season. Humpback and killer whales are seen throughout the summer in large sounds and straits along the coast as they migrate between their winter homes in the south and their summer homes in the north. Brown and black bears can be spotted in grassy tidal flats starting in May and near salmon streams and berry patches in July and August. Moose and caribou begin calving in May, so look for cow moose and their young near thickets along roadsides and rivers in May and June.

Bald eagles are plentiful and can be viewed at the water's edge through the summer, particularly near salmon-spawning streams. Tufted puffins and other seabirds begin nesting colonies on coastal islands in May. Shorebird-watching is popular in August and September as various species begin their migrations south for the winter.

Harbor seals are visible throughout the season and can be seen with their pups on and around the icebergs of Tracy Arm and Glacier Bay during the month of June. Sea lions start to become visible in September.

Fishermen will be happy to know that at least one variety of salmon -- the prized king salmon -- runs from May through August. Late May through June is the best time for saltwater king salmon fishing, and July through August is best for freshwater king salmon fishing. Sockeye (red) salmon fill freshwater streams and rivers on their spawning run from late June through July.

Saltwater fishing for chum and pink salmon is best in July and August, and freshwater fishing for these species is at its peak in August. Coho (silver) salmon can be found in saltwater areas from late July through early September and are abundant in freshwater areas during September and October. Halibut is most plentiful in saltwater areas from late June through August.

### **Passports**

Passports are required for all travelers who enter or re-enter the U.S. by air from any other country, which means that U.S. citizens and residents who fly back to the U.S. from Vancouver or any other Canadian city after an Alaska cruise or cruise tour are required to have a valid passport.

Passports also are required for anyone who enters or re-enters the U.S. by land or by sea. There are a few exceptions to the passport requirement pertaining to land and sea border crossings.

First, U.S. citizens on cruises that begin and end in the same U.S. port and travel to destinations in Canada (and select other countries) are able to re-enter the U.S. with proof of citizenship other than a passport, such as a birth certificate and government-issued photo ID. Passports are required for cruises that begin in one U.S. port and end in another.

So, U.S. citizens on cruises that sail round trip from Seattle or San Francisco are not required to have a passport. U.S. citizens who drive to Vancouver for a round-trip Alaska cruise or who cruise one way

between Vancouver and an Alaskan port (such as Whittier or Seward) do need a passport.

Next, children under the age of 16 who are citizens of the U.S. or Canada are exempt from the passport requirement for land and sea border crossings. In lieu of a passport, children are able to use a birth certificate as proof of citizenship for entry into the U.S. by land or by sea. Children entering or re-entering the U.S. by air still are required to have a valid passport.

Finally, a lower-cost alternative to the passport, called a passport card, is acceptable for entries into the U.S. by land or sea. Compared to passports, which cost \$135 for first-time applicants (\$105 for children), passport cards cost just \$55 (\$40 for children). The passport card is not acceptable for air travel.

Even in cases where a passport is not required, Vacations To Go and all cruise lines recommend that passengers have them anyway. This is because, while highly unlikely, an emergency could arise in which a U.S. citizen needed to disembark early and fly home from Canada, and a passport would be required for that flight.

Passports are required for citizens of all other countries for any Alaska cruise or cruise tour.

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

- [Africa](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Alaska Cruise & Canada Tour](#)
- [Antarctica](#)
- [Arctic](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [Australia/New Zealand](#)
- [Bahamas](#)
- [Baltic](#)
- [Bermuda](#)
- [British Isles](#)
- [Canada/New England](#)
- [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:

- [Azamara Club Cruises](#)
- [Carnival](#)
- [Celebrity](#)



Costa Cruises  
Cruise & Maritime Voyages  
Crystal  
Cunard  
Disney  
Fathom  
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  
Viking Cruises  
Windstar

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

- 1) **South America**, 10 nights on Norwegian, departs Rio de Janeiro Mar 31, starting at \$399, save 88%, **FastDeal # 22484**
- 2) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs New Orleans Apr 23, starting at \$464, save 72%, **FastDeal # 23281**
- 3) **Bahamas**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Bayonne Mar 26, starting at \$606, save 69%, **FastDeal # 32876**
- 4) **Caribbean**, 10 nights on Celebrity, departs Fort Lauderdale Apr 14, starting at \$879, save 71%, **FastDeal # 12882**
- 5) **Mediterranean**, 10 nights on Azamara Club Cruises, departs Rome Apr 25, starting at \$1,999, save 71%, **FastDeal # 13655**
- 6) **Bermuda**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs New York Apr 23, starting at \$579, save 78%, **FastDeal # 16503**
- 7) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston Feb 26, starting at \$425, save 74%, **FastDeal # 31855**
- 8) **Mexico**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs Los Angeles Apr 22, starting at \$609, save 66%, **FastDeal # 17785**
- 9) **Central America**, 7 nights on Windstar, departs Puerto Caldera Feb 11, suite starting at \$1,179, save 80%, **FastDeal # 25447** (Windstar will not allow this rate to be shown on the Internet -- please call us at the number below for information or reservations.)
- 10) **Tahiti/French Polynesia**, 7 nights on Paul Gauguin Cruises, departs Papeete Feb 18, oceanview

starting at \$3,845, save 50%, [FastDeal # 12111](#)

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,

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