

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 7/9/2015 3:39:45 AM
Subject: How Cruise Ships Are Rated plus Save up to 83% on Last-Minute Deals

Dear Mr. Kester,

This week, we've arranged the following **money-saving offers from Celebrity, Royal Caribbean, Azamara and Pullmantur**. 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, such as shore excursions and spa treatments.

Celebrity is offering our customers rates reduced by up to 73%. Plus, take advantage of a last-minute offer of exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$450 per cabin on nearly every remaining voyage this year. In addition, book nearly any voyage departing from October 1 and beyond and choose one of the following four amenities; 1) a shipboard credit of up to \$700 per cabin, 2) free gratuities, 3) a free Classic Beverage Package, which includes a variety of alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, or 4) unlimited Internet. Pay just \$15 extra per person, per day to choose two of the amenities above, or pay \$45 extra 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). [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Royal Caribbean is offering Vacations To Go customers fantastic discounts -- save up to 84% -- plus enjoy exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$450 per cabin on all remaining 2015 cruises and cruise tours. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Azamara is offering our customers markdowns of up to 79% and free upgrades from inside cabins to balcony cabins on a variety of voyages departing from May 2016 and beyond. Book select sailings leaving between now and May and receive an exclusive shipboard credit of up to \$500. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Pullmantur, a cruise line that caters to Spanish-speaking travelers, is offering our customers rates as low as \$299 per person on peak summer Caribbean sailings from Mexico. Plus, on applicable sailings, Vacations To Go customers also will receive a free beverage package, which includes select alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages on board. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

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

Cruise ship ratings exist to help customers find the level of quality they want, and are willing to pay for, at sea. Our ratings range from 1 to 6 stars, with 6 stars representing exceptional quality in every way.

As a general rule, we do not represent or recommend any ship rated less than 3 stars, but occasionally an older ship with an established cruise line might drop below 3 stars before being sold or refurbished.

A 6-star cruise ship is not only the best of the best for seagoing vacations, but in my opinion, it also delivers the highest overall service and quality of any vacation on the planet.

Many elements are considered in rating a ship, including the service level (room steward, waiters, reception desk, etc.), food quality and presentation, the onboard facilities and amenities and the physical condition of the ship's accommodations and public areas.

Some inaccuracy is inherent in the process of assigning a single numerical rating to an entire ship. For example, a vessel might deliver 5-star food service and 4-star entertainment, and a star rating of 4.5 would not perfectly describe either aspect.

Many ships change in ratings over time. An aging ship may decline a half-star or more due to physical condition, and then be brought back to its original condition (and rating) by a major refurbishment. We list the dates of refurbishments on the ship profile pages on our site.

Personal preference also plays a big part in the perception of a ship's overall quality. After receiving tens of thousands of post-cruise surveys in the past year alone, I can say that even the most experienced cruisers do not agree on a ship's rating. One person may place the most importance on the dining experience, while another may be more focused on children's programs, including facilities and counselors.

Still, the imperfect rating system is the best method for comparing one ship to another in the selection process, and you can see all of our ship ratings by [clicking here](#). Our ratings are based on industry standards, the personal experience of our more than 600 cruise counselors and managers, and the surveys and feedback we receive from our customers.

Today, I've gathered all the best deals according to ship rating, for sailings in the next 90 days. Keep in mind that prices reflect the ship's quality, and whatever rating you select, you'll be getting the best vacation value for your money.

Click any link below to see for yourself.

Save up to 83% on the Best Deals in the next 90 days, by ship rating:

6-star ships (Exceptional)

5- and 5½-star ships (Excellent)

4- and 4½-star ships (Very Good)

3- and 3½-star ships (Good)

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 Sep 6, starting at \$459, save 74%, [FastDeal # 14621](#)

2) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Princess, departs Vancouver Jul 22, oceanview starting at \$499, save 66%, [FastDeal # 27390](#)

3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Miami Sep 5, starting at \$469, save 69%, [FastDeal # 23445](#)

4) **Canada/New England**, 9 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Bayonne Sep 24, starting at \$599, save 60%, [FastDeal # 22480](#)

5) **Bermuda**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Bayonne Aug 23, starting at \$819, save 59%, [FastDeal # 14366](#)

6) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Fort Lauderdale Aug 30, starting at \$532, [FastDeal # 26405](#) (Royal Caribbean does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)

7) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on MSC Cruises, departs Salerno Sep 25, starting at \$569, save 50%, [FastDeal # 13117](#)

8) **Hawaii**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Honolulu Jul 18, oceanview starting at \$999, save 77%, [FastDeal # 16490](#)

9) **Baltic**, 12 nights on Holland America, departs Copenhagen Aug 7, starting at \$1,149, save 71%, [FastDeal # 30593](#)

10) **Alaska**, 10 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs Vancouver Aug 23, oceanview starting at \$2,499, save 72%, [FastDeal # 26736](#)

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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