

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 6/4/2015 1:43:10 AM
Subject: Four Fantastic New Cruise Deals plus 19 Great Small-Ship Experiences

Dear Mr. Kester,

I'd like to start this week's newsletter with **money-saving offers that we've negotiated with Royal Caribbean, Oceania, Silversea and Paul Gauguin Cruises**. 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.

Royal Caribbean is offering our customers discounts of up to 75% and exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$175 per cabin on nearly every remaining cruise and cruise tour in 2015. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Oceania is offering Vacations To Go customers huge discounts -- save up to 78% -- plus receive exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,050 per cabin on select sailings. Free Internet and free prepaid gratuities also apply to certain departures. And, on select itineraries in Africa, receive a free safari. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Silversea has slashed its best available rates by up to 50% exclusively for Vacations To Go customers -- it's the best offer we've seen from this line in several years. **Book by June 17**. Fares include onboard gratuities, complimentary beverages (including wine and spirits) and butler service. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Paul Gauguin Cruises is offering our customers fantastic discounts and newly reduced rates on a variety of sailings from now through 2016 -- save up to 77%. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

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

I often hear from readers who want to cruise aboard a small ship, one with fewer passengers (500 or under, for example). These vessels offer a more intimate onboard experience and more personalized service.

Because of their small size, they can drop anchor in small harbors and coves and call at seaside towns that larger ships can't access. They often offer unique, interesting itineraries. Several lines, particularly those that specialize in expedition cruising, include shore excursions in the fare.

The ships themselves are easy to navigate -- after a day or two on board, you likely won't have any problems remembering where the dining room is, or where to go to disembark the ship.

Speaking of disembarkation, it's much quicker on a small ship with fewer passengers to process, as is check-in and embarkation.

You'll get to know your fellow travelers and crew. On **Windstar** trips, for example, guests are welcome to visit the bridge, and on **SeaDream** sailings in the Mediterranean, there are opportunities to go ashore with the chef to shop the markets. On cruises with **Swan Hellenic** and **Voyages to Antiquity**, you can chat with expert lecturers -- diplomats, archaeologists, historians and others.

Small-ship cruising may not be for everyone, of course. Families with young children won't always find dedicated youth facilities, programs or counselors. Onboard recreation and entertainment can be limited -- no water parks, flashy Broadway-style productions or day-to-night organized activities.

But there likely will be low-key musical entertainment, a full spa or spa services of some sort, cozy lounges and inviting outdoor deck spaces for stretching out with a good book.

We represent 19 lines that operate ships with maximum passenger capacities of 500 guests or fewer. They include expedition ships, masted sailing ships, six-star luxury vessels and sleek yachts. I've listed all of them below -- click the links for itineraries, dates and rates.

American Cruise Lines has ships that carry 49 to 104 travelers on itineraries in Alaska, New England, the Pacific Northwest and other U.S. locales.

The 88-guest vessels of **Blount Small Ship Adventures** have shallow drafts that allow them to sail in less than 7 feet of water and retractable pilot houses that enable them to slip under low bridges. Each also has a bow ramp, so guests can disembark right onto the shore.

Celebrity has one small ship, the 98-guest **Celebrity Xpedition**, and it cruises the wildlife-rich Galapagos Islands year-round. I sailed aboard the Xpedition and thought it was a very comfortable and upscale ship, one of the best in the region.

Haimark Line accommodates 210 guests on the recently refurbished **MS Saint Laurent**, which ventures to the Caribbean, Panama Canal, South America and Canada/New England.

Hebridean Island Cruises operates a 50-passenger vessel that calls at off-the-beaten-path ports in the British Isles.

Hurtigruten sails the Norwegian coast and to Antarctica and the Arctic. Three ships have small passenger capacities: **Nordstjernen** (290 guests), **Fram** (318) and **Lofoten** (400).

The 10 ships of **Lindblad Expeditions** carry 28 to 148 travelers. Most embark on expedition-style cruises, but the sailing ship **Sea Cloud** -- built in 1931 by financier E.F. Hutton and his cereal heiress wife, Marjorie Merriweather Post -- offers leisurely cruises in the Caribbean and Mediterranean.

Paul Gauguin Cruises welcomes 332 guests aboard the **Paul Gauguin** for cruises of French Polynesia from Tahiti. Meanwhile, the smaller 88-passenger **Tere Moana** explores the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Central America.

Pearl Seas Cruises launched the new 210-passenger **Pearl Mist** last year; all cabins have private balconies. It currently sails in Canada/New England, the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

French company **Ponant Yacht Cruises** operates four 264-guest ships and one 64-passenger ship, providing a casually elegant ambience and gourmet cuisine.

Quark Expeditions carries 78 to 199 adventurous travelers to Antarctica and the Arctic on its ships, which sport ice-strengthened hulls for navigating polar waters.

Six-star line **Regent** has one ship that accommodates 490 guests, the **Seven Seas Navigator**. It sails to a variety of destinations, including Alaska, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

Seabourn also provides luxury, six-star voyages on its all-suite, 450-passenger ships, which boast a yacht-like atmosphere and claim a high ratio of space per guest.

Highlights of cruising aboard the 112-guest yachts of **SeaDream** include the alfresco Balinese Beds, raised above the ship's railing for unobstructed views, and the Champagne and Caviar Splash, a beloved ritual on Caribbean cruises.

Seven of the eight ships of **Silversea** have small passenger capacities, ranging from 100 to 382. These luxury, six-star vessels sail worldwide -- in Alaska, Asia, the Arctic, the Galapagos, Europe and more.

Star Clippers has three masted sailing ships that accommodate 170 to 227 travelers. The company announced last week that it was building a fourth vessel, designed for 300 guests, for launch in 2017.

Swan Hellenic sails the 350-guest **Minerva** to unique destinations, calling its onboard style "British country elegance."

The [Aegean Odyssey](#) carries up to 378 culturally curious travelers on cruises for [Voyages to Antiquity](#). This line focuses on the history, art and traditions of destinations in Asia, Europe and more.

[Windstar](#) cruises has long been popular for its three sleek sailing ships (148 to 310 guests) and recently expanded to include three 212-passenger power yachts. All boast water-sports platforms at the stern for windsurfing, sailing and other activities. Offering a casually elegant experience, Windstar sails to alluring destinations like Tahiti and the Greek Isles. All voyages feature a complimentary onshore "Private Event" -- dine under the stars amid the splendid ruins of Ephesus or join a wine tasting with lunch in Sicily.

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

[Alaska](#)

[Alaska Cruise & Alaska Tour](#)

[Alaska Cruise & Canada Tour](#)

[Arctic](#)

[Asia](#)

[Australia/New Zealand](#)

[Bahamas](#)

[Baltic](#)

[Bermuda](#)

[Black Sea](#)

[British Isles](#)

[Canada/New England](#)

[Canary Islands](#)

[Caribbean](#)

[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](#)

[Fred. Olsen Cruise Line](#)

Haimark Line
Hebridean Island Cruises
Holland America
Hurtigruten
Lindblad Expeditions
MSC Cruises
Norwegian
Oceania Cruises
P&O Cruises
Paul Gauguin Cruises
Pearl Seas Cruises
Ponant Yacht Cruises
Princess
Pullmantur
Quark Expeditions
Regent
Royal Caribbean
Seabourn
SeaDream Yacht Club
Silversea
Star Clippers
Swan Hellenic
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) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Princess, departs Anchorage Jun 13, oceanview starting at \$349, save 76%, [FastDeal # 27157](#)
- 2) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs San Juan Sep 6, starting at \$439, save 75%, [FastDeal # 14621](#)
- 3) **Bermuda**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Bayonne Jun 28, starting at \$649, save 72%, [FastDeal # 18112](#)
- 4) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Miami Sep 12, starting at \$659, save 56%, [FastDeal # 23446](#)
- 5) **Canada/New England**, 14 nights on Holland America, departs Boston Jun 20, starting at \$999, save 67%, [FastDeal # 10922](#)
- 6) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on MSC Cruises, departs Rome Jul 11, starting at \$699, save 65%, [FastDeal # 29649](#)
- 7) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Fort Lauderdale Jun 21, starting at \$847, save 58%, [FastDeal # 26076](#)
- 8) **British Isles**, 12 nights on P&O Cruises, departs London Jul 6, starting at \$1,074, save 48%, [FastDeal # 33553](#)
- 9) **Alaska**, 10 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs Seattle Jun 15, starting at \$2,399, save 70%, [FastDeal # 18480](#)
- 10) **Baltic**, 7 nights on Seabourn, departs Copenhagen Jun 27, suite starting at \$2,999, save 77%, [FastDeal # 26771](#)

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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