

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 1/15/2015 7:38:47 AM
Subject: Terrific New Cruise Deals -- Save up to 82%!

Dear Mr. Kester,

Chicago has been plunged into a deep freeze -- 6 degrees Fahrenheit as I write this -- and wind chills of 25 below zero are expected. Residents of Minneapolis are shivering in temperatures of 2 degrees. Blowing snow created whiteouts that forced the shutdowns of highways in Iowa, Minnesota and New York. Communities around the Great Lakes are bracing for heavy lake-effect snow -- more than 2 feet in Watertown, NY, just east of Lake Ontario.

Meanwhile, passengers on the Norwegian Epic lounged under thatched palapas on the white-sand beaches of Cozumel, and guests on Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas snorkeled with sea turtles and colorful fish in Grand Cayman, where it's 82 degrees. Sun-seeking travelers on the Celebrity Summit enjoyed the blue skies and soft breezes of Dominica, where they swam in the blue-green Emerald Pool in Morne Trois Pitons National Park.

Need I say more? Find your own tropical escape right now at our world-famous **90-Day Ticker**, where cruises to the Caribbean and the Bahamas are reduced by more than 80%.

Alan Fox
Chairman & CEO

Next, I'm pleased to present these **terrific offers from Norwegian, Celebrity, Oceania, Crystal and Costa**. 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.

Norwegian is offering Vacations To Go customers newly reduced rates -- save up to 82%. Plus, book ocean-view, balcony or suite accommodations on most upcoming departures and select one of the following offers: shipboard credits of up to \$300 per cabin, the Ultimate Beverage Package (valued at \$54 per person per day) or the Ultimate Dining Package, which includes unlimited dining at most specialty restaurants. Book a Hawaii cruise and receive both the shipboard credits and the dining package. Or, book a European voyage and pick any two of the three amenities. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Celebrity is offering our customers fantastic savings of up to 69%. Plus, customers who book ocean-view cabins or higher categories on select sailings can choose from one of the following three amenities: 1) free drinks, including alcoholic beverages, 2) free gratuities or 3) a shipboard credit of up to \$500 per cabin. Certain European sailings qualify for two of the three offers. Book a Concierge Class balcony cabin or higher on any applicable itinerary and get all three amenities. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Oceania is offering Vacations To Go customers markdowns of up to 76% on sailings in Australia, Europe, the Caribbean and more. Plus, receive exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,300 per cabin on select departures. Free Internet and free prepaid gratuities also apply to select sailings. **Book by January 26.** [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Crystal is offering our customers rates reduced by up to 76%. In addition, receive exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,500 per cabin on select sailings when you **book by February 6**. Crystal fares include gratuities, fine wines, Champagne, premium spirits and nonalcoholic beverages. Past guests may see discounted rates on select sailings. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Costa is offering Vacations To Go customers great rates -- save up to 76% on a variety of cruises. Also receive exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$800 per cabin. **Book by January 31.** [Click here](#) for dates and

prices.

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

Is this your year to experience the incomparable natural beauty and majesty of Alaska and British Columbia? It's prime booking season for **Alaska cruises and cruise tours** now, and today I'll cover five key factors to keep in mind when planning a visit to America's last frontier: price, itinerary, weather, wildlife and passports.

But first, if you'd like to get started right away on your search for an Alaska vacation, 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](#)
[Crystal](#)
[Disney](#)
[Ponant](#)

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

[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](#)

Here's a detailed look at the five factors to consider when booking an Alaska cruise or cruise tour.

Price

Discounts are available right now on virtually every departure for the entire Alaska season, which runs from May to September. Shipboard credits and other free amenities also are available on many sailings. In general, you'll find the lowest rates on departures early and late in the season.

There are a few situations in which you should call us and lock in your rate as soon as you can, while there still are cabins that will accommodate your needs on nearly every ship. They are: if you want to sail on specific ship on a specific date, if you require a cabin 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.

However, if you are flexible about date and ship, I recommend waiting until about 90 days prior to departure

to book an Alaska cruise, as rates for many cabins are likely to be reduced at about that stage.

There's a chance that well-timed connecting flights could sell out if you wait, but I'd personally take that risk in order to wait for a terrific late-breaking deal to emerge.

As with all last-minute cruise deals, we will have them first on our site, and we will sell out many of the departures before most other travel agencies even hear about them.

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) You can book closer to departure because 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 opt to 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 cruise tours no later than the end of February 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 our balcony as the scenery melted away and the ship slowed to a crawl in dense fog in the Inside Passage, our 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.

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

- [Africa](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Antarctica](#)
- [Arctic](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [Asia Cruise Tours](#)
- [Australia/New Zealand](#)
- [Australia/New Zealand Cruise Tours](#)
- [Bahamas](#)
- [Baltic](#)
- [Bermuda](#)
- [British Isles](#)
- [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
South America Cruise Tours
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
Carnival
Celebrity
Costa Cruises
Croisières de France (CDF)
Cruise & Maritime Voyages
Crystal
Cunard
Disney
Fred. Olsen Cruise Line
Hebridean Island Cruises
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
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) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs Miami Feb 1, starting at \$369, save 79%, [FastDeal # 20826](#)
- 2) **Mexico/Central America**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Tampa Feb 28, starting at \$577, save 52%, [FastDeal # 16053](#)
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs San Juan Mar 21, starting at \$499, save 62%, [FastDeal # 36503](#)
- 4) **Panama Canal**, 10 nights on Holland America, departs Fort Lauderdale Feb 13, starting at \$799, save 58%, [FastDeal # 21961](#)
- 5) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Princess, departs Houston Feb 1, starting at \$399, save 43%, [FastDeal # 24693](#)
- 6) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on MSC Cruises, departs Barcelona Feb 13, starting at \$499, save 55%, [FastDeal # 23710](#)
- 7) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston Jan 25, starting at \$299, save 76%, [FastDeal # 38456](#)
- 8) **Australia/New Zealand**, 8 nights on Celebrity, departs Sydney Mar 14, starting at \$849, save 63%, [FastDeal # 23634](#)
- 9) **Hawaii**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Honolulu Jan 31, starting at \$1,299, save 68%, [FastDeal # 10526](#)
- 10) **Transatlantic**, 14 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs Miami Apr 1, starting at \$2,449, save 73%, [FastDeal # 20033](#)

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.

To send one sample copy of this newsletter to a friend, [click here](#).

Sincerely,

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