

**From:** VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
**Date:** 4/15/2016 5:46:09 PM  
**Subject:** Royal Caribbean Tax-Free Sale on Caribbean, Bahamas & Med Cruises

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Dear Mr. Kester,

I'm sending one more newsletter this week so that you don't miss out on a terrific new deal from **Royal Caribbean**. The popular cruise line is offering Vacations To Go customers a "tax-free sale." Pay no government taxes or fees with your fare when you book select cabin categories on sailings in the Caribbean, Bahamas and Mediterranean from May 2016 to March 2017. Plus, enjoy huge discounts of up to 84% and exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$150 per cabin on select voyages. **Book by Monday, April 18. See dates and prices.**

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Here are **three more money-saving offers** we've negotiated with **Holland America, Crystal and Disney**. Like the Royal Caribbean deal above, they include free shipboard credits, which can be used toward onboard purchases not covered in the cruise fare, like shore excursions and boutique buys.

**Holland America** is offering our customers big discounts -- save up to 81%. In addition, enjoy exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$500 per cabin, free gratuities for two and a \$100 per cabin beverage credit on a variety of cruises and cruise tours. Book a suite and also get 200 minutes of free Internet. Past guests may see discounted rates on select sailings. **See dates and prices.**

**Crystal** is offering Vacations To Go customers exclusive discounts of up to \$1,000 per cabin -- a savings of up to 78% -- plus shipboard credits of up to \$700 per cabin on select sailings in 2016 and 2017. Your upfront Crystal fare includes gratuities, fine wines, Champagne, premium spirits and nonalcoholic beverages. **Book by May 8. See dates and prices.**

Vacations To Go is offering our customers exclusive discounts of up to \$500 per cabin and shipboard credits of up to \$100 per cabin on nearly every upcoming **Disney** sailing. **See dates and prices.**

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

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A few weeks ago, I wrote about cruises for families with toddlers and very young children. Today, I'd like to talk about cruising with kids ages 7-12, and in the near future I'll provide some tips about cruising with teens.

Those without young children or grandchildren may wish to skip straight to the deals.

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Children between the ages of 7 and 12 will find the right cruise ship full of opportunities for adventure and making friends -- all without ever leaving the vessel. Most (but not all) cruise lines want to attract families with kids, but the lines listed below are the best of the best.

Carnival  
Celebrity  
Disney  
Holland America  
MSC Cruises  
Norwegian  
Princess  
Royal Caribbean

Each of these lines offers a full slate of complimentary activities on board and youth counselors who are

good at getting everyone involved. Talent shows, themed nights, T-shirt painting, scavenger hunts, sports tournaments and video gaming are among the most popular activities offered. For specific information, click any cruise line name.

Some children may not wish to participate in the youth programs, preferring to stay near their parents. We always took our son to the kids' area at the beginning of each cruise, met the counselors and stayed awhile to play some games, to help him feel at home.

Nevertheless, until he turned 10 or 11, he was only an occasional participant in the planned children's programs, by his own choice, and we never insisted that he join. After that time, he spent more onboard time with new friends and in planned youth activities than he did with his parents.

In contrast, my 5-year-old niece couldn't wait to get to the kids' area on her Princess cruise one summer and fussed at her parents whenever they came to pick her up.

Whether or not you make use of the kids' programs, here are a few suggestions for cruising with kids between the ages of 7 and 12.

**#1 Find the ship's "fun places."** The sooner your child feels at home on a cruise ship, the better, so drop that carry-on in the stateroom when you board and start your fun-seeking tour right away.

**#2 Help your child find a friend.** Since most children are shy meeting new kids in an unfamiliar environment, it's often up to the parents to seek out the parents of other kids and make introductions. Then it's as simple as inviting the new friend to play video games, to break the ice. We did that several times for our son and found the other parents were as relieved as we were to have found a buddy for their child to play with.

**#3 Bring Walkie-Talkies.** At some time during this age range, you may want to experiment with Walkie-Talkies on board.

On a day at sea, when your child wants to play video games for four hours in a row, you may not feel compelled to stay and watch if you can check in frequently from elsewhere on the ship. Of course, the age at which a child can or should be allowed to roam varies, and it's up to parents to decide whether a child has earned a bit of unsupervised freedom and can enjoy it without infringing on the enjoyment of others.

**#4 Try to see it their way.** You never know what might strike a kid's fancy, but in this age range, it might be something as simple as beds that fold down from the walls, checking out videos and DVDs to watch in bed at night, or ordering from the adult menu at dinner.

On the flip side, you might be surprised at what would worry your child. One possibility is the lifeboat drill. Imagine being 7 years old, ready to head out at sea, and watching your parents put on life jackets and march to the lifeboats for instructions. Make sure your child knows it's just a thing that happens on all ships, and make the pre-drill preparation in the stateroom fun. I always pretended that I could not figure out how to get my life jacket on. (At least I claimed I was pretending.)

Cruises aren't just the most enjoyable vacations for families with kids, they also are a terrific learning experience. It's one thing to learn about the world in a geography class, and quite a better thing to step foot on the soil of a new country and experience firsthand what is different, and what is the same.

Parents can influence what is learned by selecting the itinerary and shore excursions. Snorkeling the crystal-clear, blue water of the Caribbean brings your child face to face with an amazing undersea world. Hiking, sea kayaking or fishing in Alaska immerses your child in nature that is awe-inspiring and pristine. Port calls in the Mediterranean, the British Isles or Northern Europe may seem like an endless procession of old museums, churches and castles to a 10-year-old, but that visit will bring the history books to life when he or she returns to class.

Over the years, many parents have written to me to share their favorite stories about cruising with kids. I heard from one mom who brought a magnetic dart game for her two little boys to play in the cabin, only to find that since the walls were metal, the darts stuck to just about everything in the room. The boys are grown now, and the mother is a grandmother, but the memory still brings a smile to their faces.

To start your search for your family's next vacation by creating a list of all family cruises that meet your needs, [click here](#).

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Here are the best cruise deals in the next 90 days, organized by port of departure.

**Click below for best cruise deals departing US and Canada ports:**

[Anchorage, AK \(All ports serving...\)](#)  
[Baltimore, MD](#)  
[Bayonne, NJ](#)  
[Boston, MA](#)  
[Charleston, SC](#)  
[Fort Lauderdale, FL](#)  
[Galveston, TX](#)  
[Honolulu, Oahu, HI](#)  
[Jacksonville, FL](#)  
[Los Angeles \(Long Beach\), CA](#)  
[Los Angeles \(San Pedro\), CA](#)  
[Miami, FL](#)  
[Montreal, QC, Canada](#)  
[New Orleans, LA](#)  
[New York City, NY \(All ports serving...\)](#)  
[Port Canaveral, FL](#)  
[Portland, ME](#)  
[Providence, RI](#)  
[San Diego, CA](#)  
[San Francisco, CA](#)  
[San Juan, Puerto Rico](#)  
[Seattle, WA](#)  
[Tampa, FL](#)  
[Vancouver, BC, Canada](#)

**Click below for best cruise deals departing major ports worldwide:**

[Amsterdam, Holland](#)  
[Aruba](#)  
[Athens \(Piraeus\), Greece](#)  
[Barbados](#)  
[Barcelona, Spain](#)  
[Beijing \(Tianjin\), China](#)  
[Bergen, Norway](#)  
[Berlin \(Warnemunde\), Germany](#)  
[Caracas \(La Guaira\), Venezuela](#)  
[Cartagena, Colombia](#)  
[Colon, Panama](#)  
[Copenhagen, Denmark](#)  
[Curacao](#)  
[Dubai, United Arab Emirates](#)  
[Dublin, Ireland](#)  
[Dubrovnik, Croatia](#)  
[Genoa, Italy](#)  
[Hamburg, Germany](#)  
[Helsinki, Finland](#)  
[Hong Kong](#)  
[Istanbul, Turkey](#)  
[Kiel, Germany](#)  
[Kirkenes, Norway](#)



Kobe, Japan  
Lima (Callao), Peru  
Lisbon, Portugal  
London, England (All ports serving...)  
Malaga, Spain  
Marseille, France  
Monte Carlo, Monaco  
Naples (Capri), Italy  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England  
Nice, France  
Oslo, Norway  
Palma de Mallorca, Spain  
Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands  
Paris (Calais), France  
Perth (Fremantle), Australia  
Portsmouth, England  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy  
Rotterdam, Holland  
Savona, Italy  
Shanghai, China  
Singapore  
Stockholm, Sweden  
Sydney, Australia  
Tokyo (Yokohama), Japan  
Trieste, Italy  
Tromso, Norway  
Valencia, Spain  
Valletta, Malta  
Venice, Italy

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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) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs Miami May 7, starting at \$499, save 72%, **FastDeal # 13066**
- 2) **Transatlantic**, 13 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Fort Lauderdale May 1, starting at \$489, **FastDeal # 17045** (Royal Caribbean does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Miami May 7, starting at \$519, save 70%, **FastDeal # 10470**
- 4) **Bermuda**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Bayonne May 8, starting at \$499, **FastDeal # 10107** (Celebrity does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 5) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on Princess, departs Rome May 14, starting at \$549, save 59%, **FastDeal # 13092**
- 6) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston May 15, starting at \$704, save 75%, **FastDeal # 17189**
- 7) **Greek Islands**, 9 nights on Windstar, departs Athens Jun 16, suite starting at \$2,499, save 65%, **FastDeal # 17274**
- 8) **Northern Europe**, 10 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs London Jun 14, starting at \$2,499, save 75%, **FastDeal # 11610**
- 9) **Tahiti/French Polynesia**, 7 nights on Paul Gauguin Cruises, departs Papeete May 7, oceanview starting

at \$3,845, save 64%, [FastDeal # 21081](#)

10) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Ponant Yacht Cruises, departs Vancouver Jun 18, oceanview starting at \$3,950, save 17%, [FastDeal # 13819](#)

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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