

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 1/8/2015 12:03:33 AM
Subject: 5 Terrific New Cruise Deals -- plus -- When to Book Your Cruise

Dear Mr. Kester,

Cruises of Northern Europe primarily take place from April through September, but they're most popular during the summer months when temperatures in that region are warmer.

If you're planning to cruise this fascinating destination during the peak season of June through August -- and especially if you want to take a cruise tour -- I recommend booking soon, and no later than the end of March, for the best stateroom selection and the best price on connecting airfare.

Here are some of my favorite memories of cruising through Northern Europe.

*Glimpsing Ireland for the first time as our ship approached Dunmore East, the tiny port town that serves Waterford. The country really is as green as they say.

*Stopping to check my map at a Dublin street corner, only to have locals approach to ask if they could help me find anything. Small kindnesses like that make a big impression on me when I travel.

*Hearing our tour guide sing "Loch Lomond" ("O you'll take the high road/And I'll take the low road") as we stood on the very banks of Loch Lomond in Scotland.

*Climbing a wall of ice on a glacier in Iceland with my son, using crampons and ice axes. I still remember the exhilaration of reaching the top.

[Click here](#) to see our Northern Europe departures, with all available discounts.

Alan Fox
Chairman and CEO

Vacations To Go has negotiated the following **money-saving deals with Royal Caribbean, Carnival, Princess, Seabourn 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, like boutique purchases and spa treatments.

Royal Caribbean is offering our customers fantastic savings of up to 70%, as well as exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$375 per cabin on nearly every voyage in 2015. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Carnival is offering our customers big discounts -- save up to 88% -- plus select sailings qualify for shipboard credits of up to \$50 per cabin, or free upgrades to the best available cabin (within cabin type). Past guests may see discounted rates on select sailings. **Book by January 11.** [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Princess is offering Vacations To Go customers markdowns of up to 88%. In addition, enjoy exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$285 per cabin, a free dinner for two in a specialty restaurant and a reduced deposit of just \$100 per person on a variety of upcoming cruises. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

Seabourn is offering my readers exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$750 per cabin and savings of up to 87% on voyages in Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Europe and more. The upfront price of a Seabourn vacation includes open bars throughout the ship, fine wines at lunch and dinner and gratuities. [Click here](#) for

dates and prices.

Paul Gauguin Cruises is offering Vacations To Go customers shipboard credits of up to \$600 per cabin. Your Paul Gauguin fare includes gratuities, select wines and spirits, bottled water and soft drinks. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

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

I regularly receive emails from customers asking when they should book to ensure they get the very best price for their cruise. The truth is, the best time to book can vary depending on your destination, the number of people in your party and a few other factors.

Generally, though, I recommend waiting until about 60 to 90 days before departure to book. Most ships will be marked down around this time, and these prices usually prove to be the lowest ever offered for that departure -- lower than early bird discounts, and lower than prices available within the last couple of weeks.

Most cruises departing between now and the end of March have been marked down to the lowest rate that will be available, so if you are planning to cruise during this period, it's time to shop and give us a call. For a list of the very best deals still available during this time frame, [click here](#).

If you're planning to cruise after the first quarter of the year, you may want to wait to see if deeper discounts develop before booking. There are, of course, a few notable exceptions. Here they are:

First, families hoping to travel during the peak June-August period and needing one stateroom that accommodates more than four people (often called a "family suite") or two staterooms with a private connecting door should book now. Such staterooms are few in number and will be filled far in advance of departure because of the soaring demand for cruises among families. You can use our **Find A Cruise Ship** tool to identify which ships offer such staterooms by [clicking here](#). (Keep in mind that two staterooms may cost less than a family suite.)

Staterooms that accommodate three or four passengers are more plentiful but still limited in number, and summer sailings for families needing these staterooms should be booked no later than the end of March. Virtually all cruise ships built in the past 20 years have at least a few cabins that will accommodate three or four travelers.

Next, families and other groups needing eight or more cabins should book now for all departures between now and the end of August, as arranging cabins close to one another can become more problematic as departure approaches. You can book any time in the next couple of months if you are sailing in the traditionally slow fall season. [Click here](#) for more information about group cruises.

Finally, those who must cruise on a specific ship on a specific departure date may want to book now. Being flexible on ship and date and watching our site regularly for price cuts (especially our world-famous [90-Day Ticker](#)) will net the lowest price, but any particular sailing could sell out early, without resorting to deep discounting. Don't wait too long holding out for an additional discount if only one sailing will suit you.

Here's a list of specialty cruises, discounts and resources we offer. Some are available only to certain types of travelers, and others are available to all Vacations To Go customers. Click the links below for more information:

[Age 55+ Rates](#)

[EMT Discounts](#)

[Firefighter Discounts](#)

[Grand Voyages](#)

[Hosted Singles Cruises](#)

[Interline Rates](#)

[Military Rates \(U.S. and Canadian\)](#)

Past Passenger Rates
Police Discounts
Teachers' Rates
Travelers with Special Needs

Discount programs like these can be issued or withdrawn at any time by the cruise line, and are not normally combinable with one another. Always tell your Vacations To Go cruise counselor if you qualify for a military or interline discount, are a past passenger of the line you are calling about, or if anyone in the cabin will be 55+, so that he or she can make sure to check for any additional discounts to which you may be entitled.

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 New Orleans Jan 18, starting at \$299, save 82%, **FastDeal # 17983**
- 2) **Mediterranean**, 11 nights on Norwegian, departs Rome Jan 24, starting at \$429, save 79%, **FastDeal # 28486**
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston Feb 1, starting at \$348, save 74%, **FastDeal # 38457**
- 4) **Mexico**, 7 nights on Holland America, departs San Diego Mar 21, starting at \$599, save 50%, **FastDeal # 20057**
- 5) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs San Juan Jan 31, starting at \$449, save 65%, **FastDeal # 32502**
- 6) **Bermuda**, 7 nights on MSC Cruises, departs Miami Apr 11, starting at \$569, save 58%, **FastDeal # 17926**
- 7) **South America**, 8 nights on Costa Cruises, departs Sao Paulo Mar 7, starting at \$799, save 59%, **FastDeal # 14249**
- 8) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on MSC Cruises, departs Miami Mar 7, starting at \$299, save 78%, **FastDeal # 12835**
- 9) **Australia/New Zealand**, 9 nights on Celebrity, departs Sydney Jan 18, starting at \$899, save 63%, **FastDeal # 22034**
- 10) **Hawaii**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Honolulu Jan 17, starting at \$1,099, save 73%, **FastDeal # 10473**

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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