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**To:** [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)  
**Date:** 10/15/2015 12:29:24 AM  
**Subject:** Terrific Offers from 10 Leading Travel Companies

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Dear Mr. Kester,

In addition to being the largest seller of oceangoing cruises, Vacations To Go is the world's leading seller of [river cruises](#). We also are among the top sellers of [escorted tours](#) and [tropical resort vacations](#). If you browse our sites, you'll find travel options for every interest and budget.

From [Caribbean cruises](#) on megaliners to river cruises along the [Rhine](#) and [Mississippi](#), and from escorted tours of [Italy](#) and [Ireland](#) to [safaris in Tanzania](#), we're here to help you see the world at the lowest possible price, in whatever style you choose.

Today, I want to highlight some of the best and most trusted companies in the travel industry -- with a particular focus on cruising -- along with special discounts and deals for Vacations To Go customers. These companies are leaders in their segments, offering cruises on amenity-filled contemporary ships, small-ship getaways to less-visited ports, luxury sailings, off-the-beaten-path expedition cruises, river voyages and more.

Some of the offers below include free shipboard credits, which are as good as cash on board and can be used to pay for almost anything not included in the upfront cost of the cruise, like spa treatments and shore excursions.

Just click any link for more information.

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**Royal Caribbean** is known for its innovative vessels and creative onboard amenities. The line is offering Vacations To Go customers newly reduced rates on a variety of upcoming sailings -- save up to 86%. Plus, book any remaining 2015 cruise and get an exclusive shipboard credit of up to \$425 per cabin. [See dates and prices](#).

The line will launch two brand-new blockbuster ships next year. The **Ovation of the Seas** hits the waves in April and promises plenty of thrills, like a simulated skydiving experience known as RipCord by iFly, roller skating and bumper cars at the SeaPlex, and the North Star, a glass-enclosed capsule at the end of a mechanical arm that lifts occupants more than 300 feet above the sea.

The **Harmony of the Seas** debuts in May. Passengers can take on the challenges of the FlowRider surf simulators, 43-foot-high rock-climbing walls and a zipline that's nine decks up in the air. Royal Caribbean introduces a new kids park called Splashaway Bay on this ship, as well as a trio of spiraling waterslides dubbed The Perfect Storm.

Both will feature Voom, Royal Caribbean's groundbreaking, ultra-fast Internet connectivity. It's the fastest Internet at sea, and passengers can stream movies and music, FaceTime, Skype, Tweet and keep up with their email, Facebook and Instagram accounts. It's offered on the Quantum- and Oasis-class ships and expected to be rolled out to the rest of the fleet by summer 2016.

[Click here](#) to read more about the Royal Caribbean fleet and view itineraries, dates and rates.

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**Uniworld Boutique River Cruises** is offering Vacations To Go customers these fantastic savings on 2016 sailings.

**Fly for free** from certain gateways on select departures of "Splendors of Italy." This itinerary has been expanded to include Milan, where guests spend two nights in a deluxe hotel and enjoy a guided tour with a visit to Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Last Supper."

**Save \$2,000 to \$3,000 per couple** (\$1,000 to \$1,500 per person) when you book economy airfare and select departures in Europe, or **save \$4,000 to \$5,000 per couple** (\$2,000 to \$2,500 per person) when you book business-class air with your cruise. **Book and pay in full by October 31.**

**Save \$600 to \$1,600 per couple** (\$300 to \$800 per person) on Europe trips. **Book and pay in full by October 31.**

[Click here](#) for all offers and departures from Uniworld.

The upfront fare of a Uniworld sailing in Europe includes gratuities aboard and ashore, airport transfers, all dining on the ship and unlimited wines, beer, spirits, cocktails, specialty coffees and teas, soft drinks and mineral water. Next year, butler service will be available to guests who book suite accommodations across the company's European fleet.

Shore excursions are included in your fare, too. Among options in Europe are "Go Active" guided hikes and biking tours, "Gentle Walking" excursions and "Do As the Locals Do" and "Village Day" outings, which provide authentic encounters and up-close looks at rural towns.

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The ships of **Celebrity Cruises** sport contemporary designs, Canyon Ranch SpaClubs and creative cuisine. The fleet ranges from the 98-passenger **Celebrity Xpedition**, which explores the wildlife-rich Galapagos Islands, to the five **Solstice-class ships** (Solstice, Equinox, Eclipse, Silhouette and Reflection) that accommodate more than 2,800 guests and cruise popular regions like the Caribbean and Alaska.

The Solstice ships are known for their unusual touches, like the Lawn Club -- an expanse of real grass on the top deck -- and glassblowing demonstrations at the Hot Glass Show.

Celebrity is offering our customers savings of up to 72%. Plus, select one of the following perks when you book nearly any voyage: 1) a shipboard credit of up to \$500 per cabin, 2) free gratuities, 3) a free Classic Beverage Package, which includes a variety of alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverages, or 4) unlimited Internet. Book applicable Europe and Alaska sailings and choose two free amenities. [See dates and prices.](#)

Spa lovers can book AquaClass cabins, available on all Celebrity ships except the Xpedition. They offer unlimited access to the spa's Persian Garden, a relaxing oasis of saunas, steam rooms, heated tiled loungers and scented showers. AquaClass guests also receive exclusive entry to the Blu specialty restaurant.

Next year, Celebrity will launch evening shore excursions in the Caribbean. Enjoy a night of jazz in Cozumel, wine tastings in Curacao or a sunset Champagne cruise in Barbados.

To see all Celebrity departures and discounts, [click here](#).

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The modern-day paddle wheelers of the **American Queen Steamboat Company** sail the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee rivers in the heartland and the Columbia and Snake rivers in the Pacific Northwest. The company is offering Vacations To Go customers fantastic savings -- both for sailings at the end of this year and an array of cruises in 2016.

**Companion cruises free** on last-minute *Columbia River* and *Old-Fashioned Holidays* departures.

**Save \$600 to \$800 per couple** (\$300 to \$400 per person) off 2016 river cruises.

Every cruise includes complimentary wine and beer at dinner and bottled water, soft drinks and specialty coffees throughout the voyage.



The 432-passenger **American Queen** is the world's largest riverboat sailing overnight on the Mississippi River and its tributaries. It's a remarkable sight on the water, sporting black fluted stacks and a giant red paddle wheel. Staterooms and public areas reflect Victorian elegance, with antiques, Tiffany glass and polished mahogany.

On the Columbia and Snake rivers, the 237-guest **American Empress** glides through a panorama of plunging waterfalls, soaring mountains and deep canyons. Along the way, passengers learn about explorers Lewis and Clark, sample vintages at the Sunshine Mills Winery in The Dalles and visit the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center near Stevenson. Included "hop-on, hop-off tours" allow you to discover each destination at your own pace.

[Click here](#) for all discounts and deals from American Queen Steamboat Company.

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Explore Alaska beyond its coastal attractions on a **Holland America Line** cruise tour next summer. These trips package a sailing through the Inside Passage and along the Gulf of Alaska with a multiday exploration of some of the state's most popular inland sights, like Denali National Park and Preserve.

The tour portion includes your hotel accommodations, transportation to the tour destinations via motor coach or domed railcar and some sightseeing. Cruise tours last nine to 19 nights and depart from Vancouver, Seattle, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Holland America is offering Vacations To Go customers huge markdowns on all 2016 Alaska cruises and cruise tours -- save up to 79% -- as well as shipboard credits of up to \$800 per cabin on select voyages. On some departures, you can receive a free beverage package that includes alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, a free dinner for two in the Pinnacle Grill specialty restaurant and reduced deposits. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. **Book by October 30.** [See dates and prices.](#)

The cruise line is developing the new Base Camp at the 60-acre McKinley Chalet Resort, at the entrance to Denali. It will feature a two-story restaurant that provides mountain views, an amphitheater for ranger talks, an artist-in-residence cabin, cozy fire pits and outdoor seating, and the Gold Nugget Saloon, which will host a dinner theater show. Base Camp is expected to be completed in time for the summer 2016 Alaska cruise tour season.

To see all Holland America departures and discounts, [click here](#).

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"Destination Immersion" is the philosophy of **Azamara Club Cruises**, which offers longer stays and more overnights in ports. Choose from an array of tempting itineraries, such as a Mediterranean voyage to picturesque gems like Amalfi and Santorini, an exploration of Southeast Asia from Singapore or a Caribbean sailing to uncommon islands like St. Barts and Nevis.

Azamara will dry-dock its two 686-passenger ships for "complete makeovers" next year -- **Azamara Journey** in January and **Azamara Quest** in April. In addition to stem-to-stern upgrades, each of the boutique-style vessels will receive spa suites that boast rain showers with ocean views and outdoor Jacuzzi tubs.

Azamara is offering our customers huge discounts, with savings of up to 76%. As a bonus, get exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,200 per cabin on a variety of departures. Book by October 31. [See dates and prices.](#)

Guests receive one complimentary evening shore excursion on every sailing (except trans-Atlantic crossings and trips of less than seven nights). You might attend a concert at a palace in Seville or a night of music and fireworks at a historic Australian fort.

Your Azamara fare also includes spirits, wines and beers in the ship's bars, lounges and restaurants, as well as gratuities, bottled water, soft drinks, teas and specialty coffees.

[Click here](#) to view all departures and discounts from Azamara.

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**Hurtigruten**, a company known for its explorer cruises, will add a second ship to Antarctica next year. With a sense of fun, learning and adventure, the staff of the **MS Midnatsol** will introduce travelers of all generations to this southernmost wonderland of wildlife and ice.

While Hurtigruten's other Antarctica ship, the **MS Fram**, offers expeditions that are more activity-based and physically challenging, the Midnatsol's "Discovery Style Voyages" provide a more traditional experience -- but you won't miss any of the breathtaking highlights. Guests board landing craft for small-group excursions ashore, where they can photograph lounging leopard seals and observe Adelie penguins from a few feet away. If you wish, kayak through pristine waters or join a hike on glacial ice.

Back aboard the Midnatsol, a casual and comfortable vessel built to navigate polar seas, you can chat with the expedition team, review the day's highlights through films and photos in the Media Room and attend lectures on Antarctica's biology or history. There's even a science lab where passengers can take part in field experiments, perhaps viewing 3 million-year-old ice through a microscope. The Young Explorers Antarctica program entertains curious kids with activities rooted in science.

Hurtigruten is offering our customers **savings of \$1,000 per couple** (\$500 per person) off select trips aboard the Midnatsol, which carries up to 500 passengers when cruising Antarctica.

For all itineraries from Hurtigruten, including its famed Norwegian coastal voyages, [click here](#).

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French cruise line **Ponant** specializes in off-the-beaten-path itineraries aboard five vessels that carry just 60 to 264 passengers. The onboard atmosphere is relaxed and casually elegant. Guests receive a high level of personalized service and dine on French-inspired cuisine.

**Ponant Yacht Club** has reduced rates by up to \$1,000 per cabin on a variety of 2016 sailings. Plus, Vacations To Go customers get an exclusive shipboard credit of \$100 per cabin. **Book by October 31.** [See dates and prices.](#)

**Le Lyrial** is the newest Ponant ship. It will cruise in Antarctica through next February, one of the many intriguing destinations that can be explored with Ponant. **Le Soléal** spends the winter Down Under, introducing travelers to wonders like the tumbling waterfalls of Dusky Sound, New Zealand's longest fjord, and Macquarie Island, an Australian preserve inhabited mostly by penguins and seals.

Or join **Le Boréal** next summer for a cruise of Spitsbergen, a Norwegian island high above the Arctic Circle. Meanwhile, the 60-passenger masted sailing ship **Le Ponant** will spend next May through November in the Mediterranean, pulling into charming towns like Bonifacio on the French isle of Corsica and Lerici on the Italian Riviera.

**L'Austral** will embark on cruises of Asia in the fall, overnighing in such cities as Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Hanoi.

[Click here](#) to see all voyages and prices from Ponant.

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**Paul Gauguin Cruises** has won many fans to its romantic cruises of French Polynesia. Voyages take place year-round from Tahiti aboard the 332-guest **Paul Gauguin**, specifically designed to sail the blue-green lagoons of the region. Fares include wines, spirits, bottled water, soft drinks and hot beverages served throughout the vessel.

Paul Gauguin Cruises is offering Vacations To Go customers savings of up to 69% off Tahiti sailings and others. In addition, receive shipboard credits of up to \$1,400 per cabin. **Book by November 15.** [See dates](#)



and prices.

Guests can go kayaking or paddleboarding from the Paul Gauguin's water-sports platform, which also serves as the launching point for scuba adventures. The ship is the only luxury vessel in French Polynesia to have an onboard PADI certification program for beginners.

One day of the voyage is spent at the line's private islet, or "motu," for snorkeling, a barbecue and relaxing on the white-sand beach.

[Click here](#) to view all departures and savings from Paul Gauguin Cruises, including remaining sailings in the Caribbean, Costa Rica and Mediterranean on the 88-passenger Tere Moana, which leaves the line next spring.

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**Crystal Cruises** offers luxury vacations aboard two vessels, the 922-guest **Crystal Symphony** and the 1,080-guest **Crystal Serenity**. Travelers are treated to superb service, gourmet fare and well-appointed staterooms.

This December, the line will bring its signature six-star experience to an intimate, small-ship setting -- the 62-passenger yacht **Crystal Esprit**.

No matter which Crystal ship you choose, gratuities, fine wines, Champagne, premium spirits, nonalcoholic beverages and at least one hour of free Internet a day are included in the upfront rate.

Right now, Crystal is offering Vacations To Go customers huge discounts of up to 75%. Plus, receive shipboard credits starting at \$250 per cabin on eligible sailings. [See dates and prices.](#)

The Crystal Esprit will focus on warm-water sailings to remote ports. It will spend its inaugural season in the Seychelles islands, in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa, and then cruise the Mediterranean and Middle East.

Each Crystal Esprit sailing will include two complimentary excursions in most ports, one that's culturally inspired and one that's more adventurous. Explore the medieval capital of Slovenia or raft the Acheron River in Greece, for example.

The ship will be outfitted with a two-passenger submarine, 10-person Zodiacs and a 12-passenger yacht tender. A water-sports platform at the aft will provide water skis, kayaks, jet skis, snorkel equipment and more; bicycles will be available for exploring ashore.

[Click here](#) to see all Crystal voyages.

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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](#)
- [Regional Deals](#)
- [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.

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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 San Juan Jan 17, starting at \$409, save 77%, **FastDeal # 16028**
- 2) **Mexico**, 7 nights on Princess, departs Los Angeles Nov 14, oceanview starting at \$499, save 38%, **FastDeal # 31283**
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston Nov 29, starting at \$401, save 75%, **FastDeal # 30030**
- 4) **Bahamas**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs New York Nov 8, starting at \$599, save 50%, **FastDeal # 10605**
- 5) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Miami Nov 28, starting at \$499, save 64%, **FastDeal # 29940**
- 6) **South America**, 14 nights on Norwegian, departs Buenos Aires Dec 5, starting at \$709, save 76%, **FastDeal # 34285**
- 7) **Asia**, 10 nights on Azamara Club Cruises, departs Hong Kong Dec 2, starting at \$1,619, save 68%, **FastDeal # 21798**
- 8) **Tahiti/French Polynesia**, 7 nights on Windstar, departs Papeete Oct 30, oceanview starting at \$1,999, save 73%, **FastDeal # 29737**
- 9) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on Silversea, departs Athens Oct 26, suite starting at \$4,250, **FastDeal # 22029** (Silversea does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 10) **Caribbean**, 10 nights on Regent, departs Miami Nov 12, suite starting at \$4,399, save 65%, **FastDeal # 26505**

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.

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Sincerely,

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