

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 11/8/2016 12:26:22 AM
Subject: Fantastic Cruise Markdowns from Carnival -- Save up to 81%!

Dear Mr. Kester,

Here are some **terrific deals that we've negotiated with Carnival, Princess, Norwegian, Silversea, MSC, Fathom and Pullmantur**. 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 shore excursions and spa treatments.

Carnival has slashed fares by up to 81% on a wide array of sailings for Vacations To Go customers. Plus, pay a 50% reduced deposit. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. **Book by November 14.** [See dates and prices.](#)

Princess is offering Vacations To Go customers savings of up to 81% and exclusive prepaid gratuities on last-minute departures to Mexico and Hawaii from now through February. Book select sailings from summer 2017 to spring 2018 and receive free gratuities, a shipboard credit of up to \$300 per cabin and a free upgrade within cabin type. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. **Book by November 16.** [See dates and prices.](#)

Norwegian is offering our customers big discounts -- save up to 90% -- as well as exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$300 per cabin on nearly every voyage in 2017. Book an ocean-view cabin or higher on select sailings and choose two of the following free amenities: a beverage package for two, a specialty dining package that includes up to four meals for two guests, 250 minutes of Internet or prepaid gratuities. [See dates and prices.](#)

Silversea is offering our customers savings of up to 50% and an exclusive shipboard credit of \$300 per cabin on all 2017 cruises. On select departures, choose either a two-category stateroom upgrade or an additional shipboard credit of \$1,500 per cabin. Your Silversea fare includes onboard gratuities, complimentary beverages (including wine and spirits) and butler service. [See dates and prices.](#)

MSC has reduced rates by 76% on a variety of sailings for Vacations To Go. Plus, kids age 11 and under sail free on select dates. [See dates and prices.](#)

Fathom is offering Vacations To Go fantastic markdowns -- save up to 93%. Also enjoy exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$300 per cabin on a variety of departures. Fathom, the newest and 10th brand of Carnival Corp., has pioneered a new concept in travel. Providing a small-ship experience on voyages from Miami, it takes guests to the heart of the Dominican Republic and Cuba, introducing them to local communities and residents in unique, memorable ways. [See dates and prices.](#)

Pullmantur, which caters to Spanish-speaking vacationers, is offering our customers discounts of up to 81%. Drinks now are included in the upfront rate. Kids age 16 and under cruise free on select sailings. [See dates and prices.](#)

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

I believe cruising is the easiest way to see the world, but there is one part of the cruise experience that can cause anxiety for otherwise carefree passengers -- tipping. Here's a look at how tipping is handled by each of the world's major cruise lines.

Most cruise lines automatically charge tips to shipboard accounts and divide the total among all dining room personnel, cabin stewards and others who are involved in serving passengers. In most cases, the amount

falls in the range of \$12 to \$14 per passenger, per day. The lines that automatically apply tips include **Carnival, Celebrity, Costa, Croisières de France, Cruise & Maritime Voyages, Cunard, Disney, Fathom, Holland America, MSC Cruises, Norwegian, Oceania, P&O, Princess, Pullmantur, Royal Caribbean** and **Windstar**.

If a passenger feels that the amount automatically charged to his or her account should be adjusted higher or lower based on the service received, some cruise lines will make that adjustment when the bill is settled at the end of the cruise. If you have a shipboard credit on your onboard account, it can be applied to automatic gratuities on most cruise ships. Vacations To Go also frequently negotiates offers for our customers that include free prepaid gratuities.

Some cruise lines follow a more traditional tipping procedure, where guests hand cash gratuities to the service staff on the last full day or evening of the cruise. For longer itineraries, tipping on a weekly basis may be the norm. The cruise lines that follow this tipping procedure are **Blount, Lindblad** (for most ships except the Delphin II and Sea Cloud, where tips are included in the fare), **Quark Expeditions, Star Clippers** and **Viking Cruises**. **Hurtigruten** follows this policy for expedition cruises aboard the Fram, but tipping is not a common practice aboard its other ships that sail Norwegian coastal voyages.

Tipping recommendations from these lines range from about \$8 to \$15 per passenger a day, depending on the company. In some cases, passengers hand the money to the ship's hotel manager or reception desk, to be distributed among the crew later.

Whether you're on a ship that automatically charges gratuities to your onboard account or one that follows the more traditional tipping method, it is customary to tip bartenders and wine stewards 15%; many cruise lines automatically add this gratuity to the bar or beverage bill. Gratuities for special services such as spa treatments usually are left to the discretion of the guest, but 15% is considered typical.

A few cruise lines specifically state that gratuities are included in the cruise fare and that tips are neither expected nor encouraged. **Azamara, Crystal, Hebridean, Paul Gauguin, Ponant, Regent, Seabourn, SeaDream, Silversea, Swan Hellenic, Voyages of Discovery** and **Voyages to Antiquity** fall into this category, as do the three **Celebrity** expedition ships that sail the Galapagos Islands. Even on these lines, some passengers still tip for outstanding service or special favors.

On many cruise lines, a significant percentage of the crews' compensation comes from gratuities, and most passengers welcome the opportunity to reward their hard-working cabin attendants and dining room wait staff. In my years of cruising, I've met many crew members who never failed to be eager, attentive and smiling as they worked long hours each day, and long months away from loved ones back home.

For more information about the specific tipping guidelines for any ship we offer, please [click here](#) and click on any ship name.

By knowing the cruise line's tipping policy prior to boarding, the only thing that you will have to worry about at the end of your cruise is returning to reality.

I have scanned all the sailings in the next 90 days, and listed below are all the deepest discounts according to type of cabin.

Inside Cabins

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **inside cabins** for at least 65% off.

Oceanview Cabins

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **oceanview cabins** for at least 65% off.

Balcony Cabins

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **balcony cabins** for at least 60% off.

Suites

[Click here](#) to see all sailings offering **suites** for at least 55% off.

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 Celebrity, departs Miami Dec 10, starting at \$399, save 71%, [FastDeal # 13901](#)
- 2) **Mexico**, 7 nights on Holland America, departs San Diego Nov 26, starting at \$399, save 62%, [FastDeal # 11845](#)
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs San Juan Jan 22, starting at \$449, save 62%, [FastDeal # 12909](#)
- 4) **Australia/New Zealand**, 7 nights on Princess, departs Sydney Dec 12, starting at \$449, save 61%, [FastDeal # 10919](#)
- 5) **Bahamas**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Baltimore Nov 21, starting at \$644, save 57%, [FastDeal # 33325](#)
- 6) **Asia**, 11 nights on Norwegian, departs Singapore Dec 11, starting at \$519, save 79%, [FastDeal # 18268](#)
- 7) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Venice Nov 19, starting at \$672, save 74%, [FastDeal # 20692](#)
- 8) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Silversea, departs Barbados Dec 15, suite starting at \$2,850, save 50%, [FastDeal # 18967](#)
- 9) **South America**, 12 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs Rio de Janeiro Dec 7, oceanview starting at \$2,899, save 79%, [FastDeal # 15674](#)
- 10) **Caribbean**, 14 nights on Crystal, departs New Orleans Nov 22, oceanview starting at \$4,925, save 62%, [FastDeal # 37261](#)

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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