



FREE GUIDE

The Insider's Cruise Deal Guide

The 9 cruise discounts most travelers never ask for, who qualifies for each, and exactly how to ask.

THE LOWEST

RATE



THE MOST

PERKS

YOUR ADVENTURE. YOUR MEMORIES. YOUR WAY.

yourwayvacay.com

Cruise lines publish one price and quietly offer several others.

The fare you see first on a cruise line's website is the starting point. Depending on who you are, when you sail, and how you book, the same cabin can come with a lower fare, extra spending money, or perks for your whole group. Most of these offers never appear unless someone asks for them. This guide covers the nine we check for every client.

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From the Your Way Vacay team

Our favorites: Princess and Oceania for fantastic food and first-class service, Celestyal for an authentic Greece experience, and Viking for river cruises.

The biggest first-timer mistake: packing too much. Cabins and closets are smaller than hotel rooms, so pack light.

One thing to know up front. These offers change often, vary by cruise line and sailing, and don't always combine with each other. The best deal is usually the right *combination*, which is why it pays to have someone compare them for you.

01 DISCOUNT ONE Military & veteran rates

Many major cruise lines offer reduced fares to people who have served. They are usually not shown in standard search results, so they're easy to miss.

WHO MAY QUALIFY

- Active-duty service members
- Veterans and retirees
- Reserve and National Guard members
- Spouses, and sometimes other guests in the same cabin

WHAT TO HAVE READY

- Military ID, or proof of service such as a DD-214 or VA card
- The name of the qualifying guest for the reservation
- Expect the line to verify it at booking or at check-in

Your Way Vacay Tip

Military rates aren't always the lowest fare on a given sailing. A seasonal sale can beat them. We price both and book whichever is lower.

HOW TO ASK

"I'm a veteran. Can you price this sailing with the military rate and compare it to the best public fare?"

02

DISCOUNT TWO

Age 55+ fares

Several lines offer special pricing for guests 55 and older. On many of them, only one person in the cabin needs to meet the age requirement.

WHO MAY QUALIFY

- Guests aged 55 or older at the time of sailing
- Often the whole cabin, as long as one guest qualifies

GOOD TO KNOW

- Senior fares are offered on select sailings, not all of them
- They appear and disappear with each sales period
- Proof of age is checked at the pier

Your Way Vacay Tip

Traveling with grown children or friends? Putting the 55+ traveler in the right cabin can unlock the rate for everyone in it.

HOW TO ASK

"One of us is over 55. Is there a senior fare on this sailing, and which cabin should they be in?"

03

DISCOUNT THREE

Teachers & first responders

Some cruise lines run programs that thank educators, police officers, firefighters and EMTs. Like most special fares, they come and go and differ from line to line.

WHO MAY QUALIFY

- Teachers and other school staff
- Police officers
- Firefighters
- EMTs and paramedics

WHAT TO HAVE READY

- Proof of current employment, such as a badge or a recent pay stub
- Details for retirees, since some programs include them and others don't

Your Way Vacay Tip

Teachers usually travel in the same few school-break weeks as everyone else, which are the most expensive weeks to sail. Booking those weeks early, combined with an educator rate where one is offered, makes a real difference.

HOW TO ASK

"I'm a teacher. Which lines have educator rates on summer sailings right now?"

04 DISCOUNT FOUR Past-guest loyalty pricing

If you have sailed with a line before, you are already in its loyalty program, even if you never signed up. Your tier can bring member-only fares, onboard perks and priority boarding.

CRUISE LINE	LOYALTY PROGRAM
Carnival	VIFP Club
Royal Caribbean	Crown & Anchor Society
Norwegian	Latitudes Rewards
Celebrity	Captain's Club
Princess	Captain's Circle
Holland America	Mariner Society
Disney	Castaway Club

Your Way Vacay Tip

Some lines share status with their sister brands. Always give us your past-guest numbers, even for a line you haven't sailed yet.

HOW TO ASK

"Here's my loyalty number. Are there any member fares or perks on this sailing?"

05

DISCOUNT FIVE

State-resident specials

When a ship has cabins to fill, lines sometimes offer lower fares to people who live within driving distance of the port. These rates are tied to your home address.

WHERE THEY SHOW UP

- Often in states with major cruise ports, such as Florida, Texas and California
- Sometimes extended to neighboring states or Canadian provinces
- Usually on sailings from nearby ports

WHAT TO HAVE READY

- A driver's license or ID showing your current address
- Your home ZIP code, since that's how the line checks eligibility

Your Way Vacay Tip

Live a few hours from a port? Driving and skipping the flight, combined with a resident rate, can cut the total trip cost more than any sale.

HOW TO ASK

"We're in Indiana. Are there resident or regional rates on any sailings within driving distance?"

06

DISCOUNT SIX

Price-drop rechecks

Cruise fares move up and down after you book. On many lines and fare types, a lower fare that appears before your final payment date can be applied to your existing booking.

HOW IT WORKS

- Your booking has a final payment date, often months before sailing
- If the fare drops before then, your booking can sometimes be repriced
- Rules depend on the line and the fare type you booked

WATCH OUT FOR

- A lower fare that drops perks you already have
- Non-refundable deposit fares with stricter rules
- Missing the final payment deadline

Your Way Vacay Tip

A rate drop is different from a promotion. When a cruise line lowers the fare on your sailing, we may be able to reprice your booking at the lower rate. That's why we keep watching your fare after you book.

HOW TO ASK

"If the price drops before final payment, will you rebook me at the lower fare?"

07

DISCOUNT SEVEN

Onboard credit offers

Onboard credit is money added to your shipboard account. You can spend it on drinks, specialty dining, excursions, the spa or gratuities. It is one of the most common extras, and one of the most overlooked.

WHERE IT COMES FROM

- Cruise line promotions on select sailings
- Loyalty tiers and past-guest offers
- Booking extras offered through travel agencies
- Group bookings

GOOD TO KNOW

- Credit is usually per cabin, not per person
- Check whether it can be used to prepay gratuities

Your Way Vacay Tip

When two fares look the same, compare the total value. A slightly higher fare that includes credit can cost you less over the whole trip.

HOW TO ASK

"What onboard credit or extras come with this booking?"

08

DISCOUNT EIGHT

Shoulder-season sailings

The same itinerary on the same ship can cost far less a few weeks earlier or later. Shoulder seasons sit just outside the busiest travel weeks.

REGION	TYPICAL VALUE WINDOWS	TRADE-OFF
Caribbean	Late August to early December, excluding Thanksgiving week	Hurricane season. Lines reroute when needed.
Alaska	May and September	Cooler weather and shorter days in September
Europe	April, May and October	Mild weather and some cooler days
Bahamas short cruises	Midweek departures	You may need a weekday off

Your Way Vacay Tip

If your dates are flexible by even one week, tell us. Shifting a sailing by a week is often the single biggest saving available.

HOW TO ASK

"Our dates are flexible within this month. Which week has the best price for this itinerary?"

09

DISCOUNT NINE

Group & family perks

Family reunions, destination weddings and trips with friends can qualify for group pricing. On many lines, a group needs roughly eight cabins, and larger groups can earn extra amenities.

WHAT GROUPS CAN GET

- Group fares that are held for you while people decide
- Amenity points for perks such as onboard credit or drink packages
- On many lines, a free or reduced berth for larger groups
- One person to coordinate payments and cabins

PLAN FOR

- Booking 9 to 18 months ahead for the best cabin choice
- A deposit deadline for every cabin in the group
- Guests who drop out, since group space can usually be released

Your Way Vacay Tip

Groups are where an agent saves the most stress. We hold the space, track every family's deposit, and spread the perks across the group.

HOW TO ASK

"We have about 10 cabins for a family reunion. Can you set this up as a group and tell us what perks we'd earn?"

YOUR CHECKLIST

Tick what applies, then send it our way.

Each box you tick is a discount worth checking. Bring this list to a quote request and we'll check every one.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Someone in our group has served in the military | ☐ Someone traveling is 55 or older |
| ☐ Someone is a teacher, police officer, firefighter or EMT | ☐ We've sailed with a cruise line before |
| ☐ We live within driving distance of a cruise port | ☐ We'd like our fare watched for price drops |
| ☐ We'd rather have onboard credit than a small price cut | ☐ Our dates are flexible by a week or more |
| ☐ We're traveling with 8 or more cabins | ☐ We haven't booked yet and want options compared |

NO BOOKING FEES. EVER.

Get a free quote with every discount applied.

There are no booking fees, and our Low Price Guarantee covers your booking. Request a quote at yourwayvacay.com or call one of us directly.

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