



## CRUISE MUSE

# CRUISE MONEYSAVING TIPS CHECKLIST

Trying to figure out how to save money on your cruise - from booking to onboard spending? Here are two booking tips and eight onboard spending tips to stretch your budget.

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### GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CRUISE

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- Just A Booking Tip - Book Early Or Late**  
You can often save money by booking **either far in advance** (a year or more) **or last minute**, especially during the off-season. If you're fine with an interior cabin, go for it - it can save you a significant amount.
- Another Booking Tip – Bid On An Upgrade**  
If you booked an interior room, you may get a chance to **bid on an upgrade** about a month before your cruise. Watch for an email invitation to bid. Most of the time, you'll score that beautiful balcony room at a fraction of the price!
- Drink Package**  
You can save quite a bit by **skipping the drink package**. Do the math before you buy - if you mostly drink coffee, tea, and just a couple of alcoholic beverages a day, paying as you go may be cheaper. (And don't forget to bring your **allowed bottle of wine!**)
- Excursions**  
Book **only one excursion** through the cruise line to play it safe, then arrange others independently or explore the port on your own. A **local resort day pass** is another affordable and relaxing option.
- Specialty Dining**  
Specialty dining charges can pile up quickly, especially with family. The **main dining room** offers great variety and quality, often with a rotating menu that never repeats.
- Impulse Buys**  
Avoid getting caught up in **onboard impulse purchases**, especially on sea days. There are tons of fun activities and events that don't cost extra - and you can usually find the same souvenirs for less on land.
- Pack Smart**  
Keep a **checklist in your suitcase** for your next trip so you don't forget essentials like toiletries or medications. Many items are more expensive (or unavailable) onboard, so packing wisely saves you stress, money, and time.
- Skip Wi-Fi**  
If you don't really need Wi-Fi, skip it! Check your phone in port when you have coverage, or stop by a local café for free internet. You might even enjoy a true digital detox.
- Professional Photos**  
Those professional photos can be tempting - but at \$20 each, they add up fast. Pick one favorite photo to purchase and take the rest yourself.
- Free Room Perks**  
Ask your **stateroom attendant** for complimentary soft bathrobes - many ships offer them, but you have to request them. And don't forget, **continental breakfast** is often free! Enjoy your morning coffee and pastries right in your room.