

The Smart Cruiser's Budgeting Guide

Chapter 11: Common Budgeting Mistakes

Even experienced travelers can overlook expenses when planning a cruise. Recognizing these common budgeting mistakes before you book can help you avoid surprises and enjoy a more relaxing vacation.

Common Mistake	How to Avoid It
■ Focusing Only on Cruise Fare	Budget for airfare, hotels, gratuities, excursions, and other expenses.
✈ ■ Booking Flights Too Late	Book early and compare multiple airports when possible.
■ Skipping Travel Insurance	Protect your investment with appropriate travel coverage.
■ Underestimating Onboard Spending	Plan ahead for drinks, dining, shopping, and Wi-Fi.
■ Waiting Until the Last Minute	Reserve popular options early and spread out payments.

A Little Planning Goes a Long Way

Creating a complete budget before you book allows you to make informed decisions instead of reacting to unexpected costs later. Taking the time to plan ahead often results in a more enjoyable and less stressful vacation.

Aimee's Budget Tip: The biggest budgeting mistake isn't spending money—it's being surprised by where it goes. A realistic plan lets you enjoy your cruise with confidence.

Coming Up: Chapter 12 answers some of the most frequently asked questions about cruise budgeting.