

The Smart Cruiser's Budgeting Guide

Chapter 5: Onboard Spending

While many cruise experiences are included in your fare, it's easy to spend extra once you're onboard. Planning ahead helps you decide which optional purchases are worth the cost and which you can skip without affecting your vacation.

| Expense | Budget Tip |
|---------------------|--|
| ■ Drink Packages | Compare the package price to how much you realistically expect to drink. |
| ■■ Specialty Dining | Reserve a meal or two if it fits your budget rather than dining every night. |
| ■ Internet | Choose the package that matches your needs or disconnect for a few days. |
| ■ Spa & Salon | Watch for embarkation-day or port-day specials. |
| ■ Photos & Shopping | Set a spending limit before your cruise begins. |

Plan Before You Sail

Many cruise lines offer discounts when drink packages, internet plans, or specialty dining are purchased before embarkation. Comparing prices ahead of time can save money and help you avoid impulse purchases onboard.

Stick to Your Budget

Decide how much you're comfortable spending before your cruise begins. Checking your onboard account throughout the voyage helps you stay on track and prevents surprises on the final morning.

Aimee's Budget Tip: Spend money on the experiences that matter most to you. Whether that's a specialty dinner, a spa treatment, or an unforgettable shore excursion, prioritizing your favorites makes your budget work harder.

Coming Up: Chapter 6 explores shore excursions and how to plan memorable port days without overspending.