

# The Smart Cruiser's Budgeting Guide

## Chapter 6: Shore Excursions

Exploring each destination is one of the highlights of cruising, but excursions can also become one of your largest vacation expenses. Planning ahead helps you choose experiences that fit both your interests and your budget.

Excursion Option	Budget Considerations
■ Cruise Line Excursions	Convenient, organized, and the ship will wait if the tour is delayed.
■ Independent Tours	Often less expensive and may offer smaller group experiences.
■ Explore on Your Own	Perfect for walkable ports, beaches, museums, or local shopping.
■ Free Activities	Many ports offer scenic walking areas, public beaches, and cultural attractions.
■ Multi-Port Planning	Choose one or two premium excursions and balance them with lower-cost days.

### Planning Your Excursion Budget

Decide before you sail how much you want to spend in each port. Research excursions early, compare prices, and reserve popular tours in advance to avoid disappointment.

### Making Every Dollar Count

Not every port requires an expensive excursion. Some destinations are perfect for simply strolling through town, relaxing on the beach, or enjoying local food and culture at your own pace.

**Aimee's Budget Tip:** I encourage clients to splurge on the experiences they'll remember for years and save money on ports where exploring independently is just as enjoyable.

**Coming Up:** Chapter 7 explains gratuities and tipping so you can include them in your overall cruise budget.