

BOOK #008

The Smart Traveler's Cruise Drink Package Guide

Chapter 10 — Making the Right Decision

Imagine boarding your cruise knowing you've made the right decision about your beverage package. Instead of wondering whether you spent too much or too little, you can simply relax and enjoy your vacation. Whether you purchased a package or decided to pay as you go, the best choice is the one that fits your travel style, budget, and itinerary.

Ask Yourself a Few Questions

How many beverages do you realistically enjoy each day? Will you spend most of your cruise onboard or exploring ports? Do you value the convenience of prepaid drinks, or would you rather pay only for what you order? Honest answers will usually point you toward the right decision.

Consider More Than Alcohol

Remember that beverage packages often include much more than cocktails. Specialty coffees, bottled water, premium teas, fresh juices, smoothies, and mocktails can add meaningful value throughout your vacation, depending on the cruise line and package selected.

Review the Total Cost

Include gratuities, promotions, and any pre-cruise discounts when comparing your options. Looking at the complete cost—not just the advertised price—will help you make a more accurate comparison.

Trust the Numbers

If you've calculated your break-even point and compared the available options, trust your research. There is no prize for buying the biggest package, only for choosing the option that works best for you.

Final Decision Checklist

- ✓ Estimated daily beverage cost
- ✓ Package price including gratuities
- ✓ Sea days vs. port days considered
- ✓ Package inclusions reviewed
- ✓ Promotions and discounts checked
- ✓ Confident in your decision

Aimee's Final Insider Tip

As your travel advisor, my goal is never to sell you the most expensive option—it's to help you get the best value for your vacation. Sometimes that means recommending a drink package, and sometimes it means skipping it altogether. The right choice is the one that lets you enjoy your cruise without worrying about the bill.