

BOOK #008

The Smart Traveler's Cruise Drink Package Guide

Chapter 1 — Understanding Drink Packages

Imagine opening your cruise planner and seeing several beverage package options, each promising convenience and savings. At first glance they may all look similar, but understanding how drink packages work is the first step toward deciding whether one is right for you.

What Is a Drink Package?

A cruise drink package allows you to prepay for beverages before or during your cruise. Instead of paying individually each time you order a drink, qualifying beverages are included under the package you purchase, subject to the cruise line's terms and conditions.

Types of Drink Packages

Most cruise lines offer several package options. These often include soda packages, non-alcoholic beverage packages, specialty coffee packages, and comprehensive packages that include alcoholic beverages along with many non-alcoholic drinks.

What's Usually Included?

Depending on the cruise line, packages may include fountain soda, specialty coffees, bottled water, fresh juices, mocktails, beer, wine, cocktails, and premium spirits up to a specified price limit. Always review the details because inclusions vary between cruise lines.

Know the Rules

Drink packages often have important conditions. Some cruise lines require all adults sharing a stateroom to purchase the same alcoholic package. Others limit the maximum value of each drink or exclude beverages sold in certain venues. Reading the fine print before purchasing can prevent surprises onboard.

Why Understanding Matters

Before you can decide whether a package is worth the cost, you first need to understand exactly what you're buying. Once you know what's included, you'll be ready to calculate whether it makes financial sense for your vacation.

Aimee's Insider Tip

Don't compare drink packages by price alone. Compare what's actually included. A slightly more expensive package may provide significantly more value depending on the cruise line and how you like to enjoy your vacation.