

BOOK #008

The Smart Traveler's Cruise Drink Package Guide

Chapter 8 — Beverage Package Mistakes

Imagine meeting another cruiser on the final day of your voyage who says, "I wish I hadn't bought the drink package." In many cases, it wasn't because the package was bad—it was because it wasn't the right choice for their travel style. Avoiding a few common mistakes can help you get the best value from your vacation budget.

Buying Without Doing the Math

One of the biggest mistakes travelers make is purchasing a package simply because it sounds like a good deal. Before buying, estimate what you'll realistically drink each day and compare that with the package cost.

Ignoring Gratuities & Fees

Many beverage packages include mandatory gratuities or service charges. These additional costs can significantly increase the total price and should always be included in your calculations.

Overestimating Consumption

Vacation is a time to relax, but many guests overestimate how many beverages they'll actually enjoy—especially on port days. Be honest about your habits instead of trying to justify the purchase.

Missing Pre-Cruise Sales

Cruise lines frequently discount drink packages before sailing. Purchasing during a promotion can save money compared to waiting until you're onboard.

Forgetting to Review the Details

Not every package includes the same beverages, venues, or price limits. Take a few minutes to read the package description so you know exactly what you're purchasing.

Aimee's Insider Tip

The smartest purchase isn't always the biggest package—it's the one that matches the way you actually travel. A little research before your cruise can save money and help you enjoy your vacation without buyer's remorse.