Article published on July 5th 2012 | Cruises

While itâ€™s never possible to drive directly to the dock and convince the staff of a cruise liner to let you board even without booking, it is still possible to nab last-minute cruise deals. In fact, most people prefer going for last-minute deals because they are much cheaper than the cruise lineâ€™s usual rates. So what makes last-minute deals so special?

A last-minute cruise deal is a package for a cruise that is purchased at a date close to the shipâ€™s departure date which could be anywhere between several days to several months away, depending on the cruise lineâ€™s policies. Cruise lines have set cancellation dates; so if you book for a vacation package after these cancellation dates, the cruise lines would know how many passengers had cancelled and how much they could slash the price of their packages.

Strike whilst the ironâ€™s hot

The best time to nab a last-minute vacation deal is immediately after the deadline for cancellation, which is about 60 to 90 days before the actual cruise. It is best to call the cruise line first or work with a travel agent to determine just when such last-minute deals are up for grabs.

Use the Internet

Even if youâ€™re not working with a travel agent yet, you can use the internet to start looking for available cruises that leave from ports near you. You can visit the cruise lineâ€™s website directly to see if they have liners leaving the area anytime soon. There are also a lot of online travel services that can help you find vacation packages that meet your criteria.

Airfare

Take into account the fact that you might need to fly to the port of departure. Do the math to determine if the discounted price of the cruise is really worth it having factored in the airfare. If you live in places like Florida where there are many available ports, choosing cruise vacations isnâ€™t a problem. But what if you live far inland?

Fine Print

Lawyer stress that you should always read the fine print. Last minute cruises, no matter how discounted, are still big-ticket purchases, so make sure that you know everything thatâ€™s included in the package that youâ€™re paying for. Learn about what youâ€™re entitled to, what add-ons are involved, what your itinerary is, etc.

The best thing to do when youâ€™re thinking of travelling via cruise vacations is to enlist the help of a seasoned travel agent. A travel agent would know the ins and outs of dealing with cruise lines, and they help you find the best vacation package for your needs. For more information, you can visit traveltips.usatoday.com/last-minute-cruise-advice-15391.html.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/cruises-articles/tips-when-booking-last-minute-cruise-vacation-packages.htm - Article Side

Madison Sobotka - About Author:
For more details, search a Last minute cruises and a cruise vacations in Google for related information.

Article Keywords:
cruise vacations, last minute cruises

You can find more free articles on Article Side. Sign up today and share your knowledge to the community! It is completely FREE!