Drink Package Break-Even Card

AI Cruise Granny™ · Season 5, Episode 1 · prices checked 8 October 2026

The formula: (price per day + service charge) ÷ one cocktail = drinks you need **every day, port days included**, to break even. Most lines make every adult in the cabin buy it, for the whole cruise.

Line	Package	Price per day	Service	Cocktail	Break-even
Carnival	CHEERS!	$69.95 pre-cruise / $74.95 onboard	20% added	$12–$14	**6 a day**
Royal Caribbean	Deluxe	About $55–$120, varies by sailing (trade)	18% added	$10–$14	**5–12 a day**
Princess	Plus Beverage Package	$64.99	18% or 20% (Princess pages differ)	$11–$12	**6–7 a day**
Holland America	Signature / Elite	$55.95 / $60.95 pre-cruise	20% applied	$11–$13	**About 6 a day**
Celebrity	Classic / Premium	Not published by Celebrity; trade: $54.99–$100 Classic, by ship	20% added	$14–$19	**5–9 a day**
MSC	Premium Extra	Not published by MSC; trade: about $85–$101	Included	About $14	**6–7 a day**
Norwegian	Free at Sea open bar	Pay the gratuity: $28.50 pre-cruise	That is the fee	$11–$14	**About 2 a day**
Viking	Silver Spirits	$27 (beer and wine free with lunch and dinner)	15% included	$11–$14	**About 2 a day**
Disney	No drink package	—	—	—	**—**
Virgin Voyages	No package (prepaid Bar Tab)	—	—	—	**—**
YOUR CRUISE		$ _____	____ %	$ _____	_____ **a day**

My rule: under six a day, every day? Skip it. The exceptions are Norwegian Free at Sea and Viking, where about two a day comes close.

5 cheaper ways: 1 Drink the free stuff (water, coffee, tea, iced tea, lemonade) · 2 Pay as you go for your treats · 3 Buy the no-alcohol package if you love the fancy drinks ($15–$42 a day) · 4 Bring your own (wine: 1 bottle per guest on Princess and Celebrity, none on MSC; soda: Celebrity embarkation day, Virgin 12 cans) · 5 Find the free drinks (below).

Where the free drinks are: art auctions (often a glass of sparkling wine) · members' parties · loyalty tiers (Royal Caribbean Diamond: 4 vouchers a day · Celebrity Elite: 5–7 pm cocktail hour · Carnival Gold: 1 drink on 5+ day cruises) · casino tiers (Royal Caribbean Club Royale Prime, 2,500 points; Celebrity Blue Chip Onyx) while you play.

Prices change by sailing, booking date and whether you buy before or after boarding. Drinks bought one at a time usually carry a service charge too, so your real break-even may be about one drink lower. "Trade" = cruise news sites (Royal Caribbean Blog, Cruise Mummy), because the line publishes no price. Not financial advice. Check with your own cruise line. Every source, linked: aicruisegranny.com/cruise-drink-package. Gambling problem? 1-800-MY-RESET (1-800-697-3738).

Check before you sail

The official rules behind this guide, one scan away.

Point your phone camera at a code. Your phone opens the official page. Every source is listed in the online guide.

Check the official source

Cruise lines change these rules. What the official page says on the day you sail is what counts. These are not paid links.

CHEERS! package
Carnival

Drink package rules
Royal Caribbean

Package gratuities
Royal Caribbean

Beverage packages
Princess

Full guide online: photos, live prices and the latest updates at **aicruisegranny.com/drink-package-worth-it**

Official sources only: no paid links on this page.

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