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# Cruise Line Gratuities Comparison: 2026 Daily Rates & Inclusions

Planning a cruise? Compare daily cruise line gratuities for major ocean lines, check which brands include tipping in the fare, and see total costs.

Prepared by Terrance Bortell · August 19, 2026

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## Understanding Cruise Line Gratuities: Daily Rates, Inclusions & What to Expect

Budgeting for a vacation involves more than just selecting your cabin—understanding **cruise line gratuities** (daily hotel service charges) is essential for calculating your true vacation cost. Depending on your cruise line and stateroom tier, automatic service fees can add **\$100 to \$175+ per guest** to a standard seven-night itinerary.

This guide breaks down current daily tipping rates across major ocean cruise lines, highlights which brands include service charges in the base fare, and provides essential tips for planning your onboard budget.

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## Daily Cruise Gratuities Comparison Chart

Most mainstream ocean cruise lines automatically apply daily service charges to your onboard account to compensate stateroom attendants, dining room staff, and behind-the-scenes personnel. Below is the updated breakdown of daily rates:

| Cruise Line           | Standard / Balcony Cabins (Per Day)                          | Suites & Upgraded Categories (Per Day)                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Carnival Cruise Line  | \$17.00 per guest                                            | \$19.00 (Suites)                                      |
| Celebrity Cruises     | \$19.50 per guest                                            | \$20.50 (Concierge/AquaClass) / \$24.50 (The Retreat) |
| Disney Cruise Line    | \$16.00 per guest                                            | \$27.25 (Concierge)                                   |
| Holland America Line  | \$17.00 per guest                                            | \$19.00 (Suites)                                      |
| MSC Cruises           | Varies by region ( <i>Caribbean sailings start at \$17</i> ) | Varies by region & Yacht Club                         |
| Norwegian Cruise Line | \$20.00 per guest                                            | \$25.00 (The Haven & Suites)                          |
| Princess Cruises      | \$18.00 per guest                                            | \$19.00 (Mini-Suites/Cabanas) / \$20.00 (Suites)      |
| Royal Caribbean       | \$18.50 per guest                                            | \$21.00 (Suites)                                      |
| Viking                | \$17.00 ( <i>Discretionary</i> )                             | \$17.00 per guest                                     |
| Windstar Cruises      | \$16.00 ( <i>Hotel Service Fee</i> )                         | \$16.00 per guest                                     |

#### IMPORTANT

Gratuities rates and policies are set by individual cruise lines and may vary based on itinerary or destination.

## Cruise Lines Where Gratuities Are Included

If you prefer an all-inclusive experience where you don't have to worry about daily service add-ons, several premium and luxury cruise lines build gratuities directly into your ticket price:

- Azamara
- Atlas Ocean Voyages
- Celestyal
- Crystal Cruises

- **Emerald Cruises**
- **Explora Journeys**
- **Regent Seven Seas Cruises**
- **Scenic Luxury Cruises**
- **Silversea Cruises**
- **Seabourn** (*Gratuities are neither required nor expected*)

**ADVISOR TIP**

When comparing options, always look at the total vacation value rather than just the advertised base fare. A luxury line with a higher initial price tag often provides better overall value once you factor in pre-paid daily service charges, specialty dining, beverages, and Wi-Fi.

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## Summary of Key Takeaways

- **Automatic Billing:** Mainstream lines add daily service charges directly to your onboard folio to support housekeeping and dining teams.
- **Cost Impact:** For a couple on a seven-night cruise, standard gratuities will typically total between **\$224 and \$280+**, depending on the line.
- **All-Inclusive Options:** Luxury and boutique cruise brands frequently bundle gratuities into the upfront cost, removing the need for daily onboard billing.

# Cruise Line Gratuity FAQ

## Can I adjust or remove daily cruise gratuities?

On most mainstream lines, daily service charges are technically discretionary and can be adjusted at Guest Services if you experience service issues. However, cruise lines strongly advise against removing them, as they form a crucial part of the crew's compensation.

## Are daily gratuities required for children and infants?

Yes. On almost all ocean cruise lines, daily service charges apply equally to guests of all ages, including infants and young children, due to the work provided by stateroom and dining staff.

## Do I still need to tip for drinks and spa treatments?

Yes. Beverage purchases, specialty restaurant cover charges, and spa or salon services carry an independent **15% to 20% automatic service charge** added directly to the receipt at the time of purchase, regardless of whether your cruise line includes daily hotel tips.