

Grace's Cruises – Insider Travel Tip

Luxury Cruises May Cost Less Than You Think

Many travelers assume that ultra-luxury cruise lines like Seabourn, Silversea, or Regent Seven Seas are significantly more expensive than premium cruise lines — but that's not always the case.

Here's why:

It's Not Apples to Apples

When comparing pricing, it's important to look at what's actually included. On premium cruise lines, a balcony or mini-suite often comes with additional costs for:

- Beverage packages
- Wi-Fi
- Gratuities
- Specialty dining
- Shore excursions

What Ultra-Luxury Includes

With ultra-luxury cruise lines, many of these items are already included in the fare:

- Fine wines, premium spirits, and champagne
- Specialty dining (often all restaurants)
- Wi-Fi
- Gratuities
- Spacious suite accommodations

On some cruise lines, like Regent Seven Seas, even shore excursions are included.

Suite-Level Experience, Standard

On ultra-luxury cruise lines, entry-level accommodations are suites — not interior or oceanview cabins, and most of these suites have a private balcony.

You're starting at a higher level of comfort, service, and space from the beginning.

Fewer Guests, More Personalized Service

Smaller ships mean:

- Higher staff-to-guest ratios
- More personalized service
- A quieter, more refined onboard atmosphere

For many travelers, this completely changes the cruise experience.

Let's look at a real example

Celebrity Eclipse

September 7, 2026 – 11 days
(Barcelona to Athens)

Sunset Sky Suite (300 sq ft)

\$6701.00 US per person

Includes:

- Onboard credit \$200 US per cabin
- Premium beverage package
- Premium Wi-Fi
- Prepaid gratuities
- Private dining venue (Luminae)

Not Included:

- Specialty dining
- Shore excursions
- Laundry

Regent Seven Seas Mariner

September 7, 2026 – 11 days
(11 days – Amsterdam to Barcelona)

Veranda Suite (300 sq ft)

\$5885.00 US per person

Includes:

- Premium beverages (fine wines, spirits, champagne)
- Unlimited Wi-Fi
- Prepaid gratuities
- Unlimited shore excursions
- Gourmet dining including all specialty restaurants
- Valet laundry
- And more

💡 **What This Means**

When you compare the total cost — including beverages, Wi-Fi, gratuities, excursions, and dining — the difference becomes much clearer.

In this example, the ultra-luxury option not only includes significantly more, but is actually priced lower than the premium cruise once everything is considered. This is where the real value of ultra-luxury cruising becomes evident.

🚢 **Final Thoughts From Grace**

If you've been booking balcony or suite categories with packages included, it may be the perfect time to explore ultra-luxury cruising. I'd be happy to compare options side-by-side and show you what's available — you might be pleasantly surprised.

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