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Wondering what I'm talking about, since all your food, room and entertainment are included in the cost of the cruise? If you've cruised before you know exactly what I'm talking about while everything on the ship is included in the price you paid

Every itinerary visits different ports and you may have a few hours to up to a day at a destination.

Best thing is you'll have the opportunity to explore these places and there are an infinite variety of ideas and experiences just waiting for you.

In fact, for many people, it's the shore excursions that add that extra pizzazz and spice to their cruise and give them those special lifetime memories.

But this is also one of the ways the cruise lines make huge profits - by selling you over-priced and over-crowded shore excursions.

Now it's possible to have three times as much fun on shore excursions while only investing half the money.

As an in-demand enrichment lecturer for several cruise lines, I've had the opportunity to travel extensively to exotic places like Alaska, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

One of the things I noticed, and one of the things I constantly hear complaints about, is the high cost cruise lines charge for mediocre (at best) shore excursions.

They warn you that, if you don't use their services, you'll get left behind should you return late or experience a mishap while you're on your excursion.

They tell you that if you fail to arrive back to the ship on time YOU are responsible to get to the next port of call if you fail to arrive back on the ship on time.

Like I said, they use fear tactics to control you or should I say blackmail you into doing business with them.

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not...

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