

FREESTYLE TRAVELERS

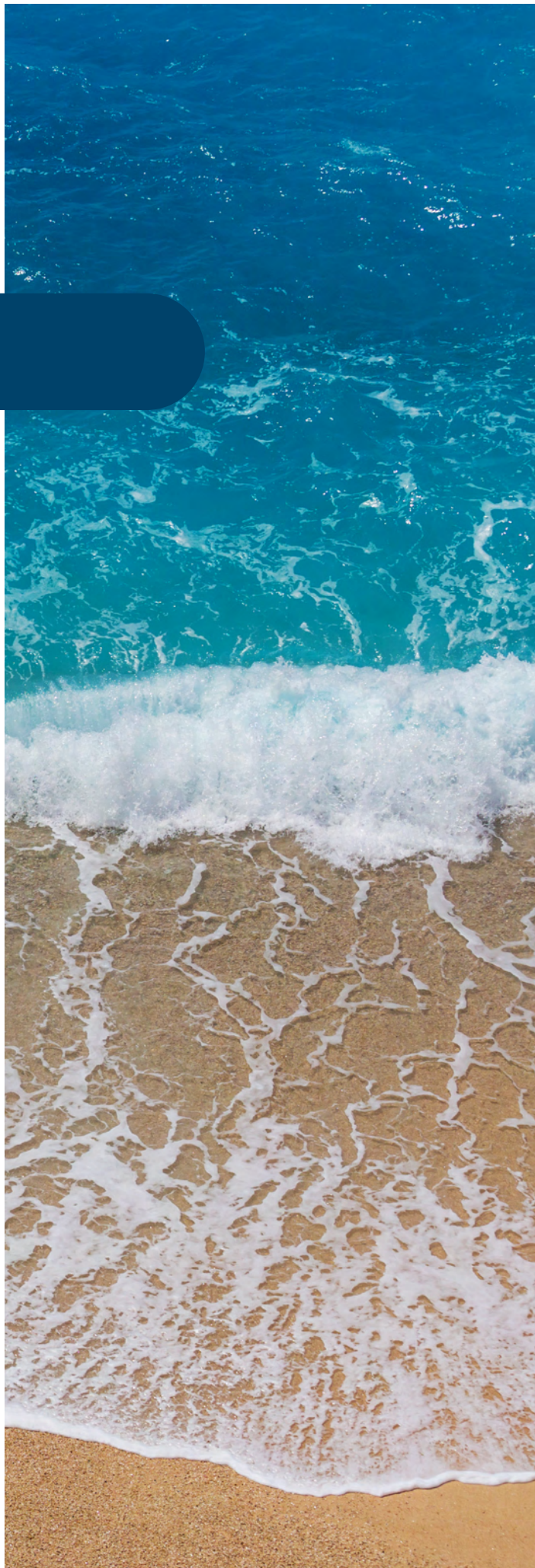
# Caribbean Port Guide





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## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Embark on a Caribbean adventure with our cruise port guide sampler that covers each top destination's main attractions and essential tourist information, perfect for quick reference.

Unearth the unique charm of every port with fun facts and cultural insights. This sample guide is an invaluable tool for both new and experienced cruisers exploring the Caribbean's most popular stops.

Looking for more Caribbean Port Guides? Check out the full Eastern, Western, Southern, and Private Island Guide Packs on our website, as well as a variety of helpful blog posts.

# EASTERN CARIBBEAN



Discover the Eastern Caribbean: a world of diverse cultures and stunning landscapes. This guide highlights key cruise ports, from Nassau's historic charm to Grand Turk's tranquil beaches.

Experience St. Maarten's cultural blend, Amber Cove's lush beauty, and San Juan's rich heritage. Uncover the hidden gems of St. Croix and Basseterre's colonial elegance. Embark on a journey through these captivating destinations, each offering unique adventures and unforgettable experiences.



**Sailing From:** Boston, New York, Baltimore, Port Canaveral, Miami, Tampa, New Orleans, Galveston, San Juan, & more.





# NASSAU

**Port City:** Nassau

**Port Country:** Bahamas

**Terminal Name:** Prince George Wharf

**Port Capacity:** 6 Ships

**Language:** English

**Currency:** Bahamian Dollar (BSD)

**\$USD Accepted:** Yes

**Timezone:** Eastern Standard Time (EST)

**Distance to Town Center:** The port is centrally located in Nassau with direct access to the town center.

Nassau is a bustling port, known for its blend of Bahamian culture, history, and modern amenities. It has undergone major upgrades, featuring new retail shops, food and beverage venues, and a 3,000-seat amphitheater. Taxis and car rentals are available for exploring nearby attractions.

- Wide range of shore excursions available, including water activities and cultural tours.
- Taxis and public transportation are readily available for island exploration.
- Over 60 retail shops in the port area for shopping.
- Visitors should be mindful of their time to ensure a timely return to the ship.

## Top 3 Attractions:

- Atlantis Paradise Island: A renowned resort offering water parks, aquariums, and beaches.
- Fort Fincastle and Queen's Staircase: Historic landmarks providing insight into Nassau's colonial past.
- The Straw Market: A vibrant local market for crafts, gifts, and souvenirs.



Nassau is known for its blend of colonial and Bahamian architecture, showcasing a rich history and cultural diversity.





## ST. THOMAS

**Port City:** Charlotte Amalie

**Port Country:** US Virgin Islands

**Terminal Names:** Havensight, Crown Bay

**Port Capacity:** 5 Ships

**Language:** English

**Currency:** US Dollar (USD)

**\$USD Accepted:** Yes

**Timezone:** Atlantic Standard Time (AST)

**Distance to Town Center:** Charlotte Amalie is about a 10 to 15-minute walk from Havensight; Crown Bay is a bit farther.

St. Thomas, known for its stunning beaches, vibrant culture, and duty-free shopping, is a slice of paradise. It offers a blend of natural beauty and historical sites, making it an attractive destination for many tourists.

- Taxis are readily available at the cruise port and operate on fixed rates per person.
- The island is generally safe, but standard precautions for tourists are advised.
- Havensight Mall is located near the cruise port and offers a variety of shopping options.
- A ferry service is available to the nearby island of St. John, known for its beautiful beaches and snorkeling spots.

### Top 3 Attractions:

- Magens Bay Beach: A world-renowned beach known for its stunning white sands and crystal-clear waters, ideal for swimming and relaxing.
- Coral World Ocean Park: A marine park offering interactive experiences with sea life and a range of aquatic adventures.
- Skyride to Paradise Point: A cable car ride offering breathtaking views of St. Thomas Harbor and the surrounding area.



St. Thomas is home to the second-oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere, featuring a unique sand floor.



# WESTERN CARIBBEAN



Venture into the Western Caribbean, a tapestry of natural beauty and cultural depth. Explore Cozumel's Mayan roots and pristine waters, Costa Maya's charming history, and Roatan's rich reefs. Discover Grand Cayman's stunning beaches, the vibrant rhythms of Montego Bay, Falmouth's historic charm, and the natural splendor of Ocho Rios. Each port offers a unique blend of adventure and cultural enrichment, making every stop an unforgettable part of your journey.



**Sailing From:** Port Canaveral, Miami, Tampa, Mobile, New Orleans, Galveston, & more.





# COSTA MAYA

**Port City:** Mahahual

**Port Country:** Mexico

**Terminal Name:** Costa Maya Terminal

**Port Capacity:** 4 Ships

**Language:** Spanish, English

**Currency:** Mexican Peso (MXN)

**\$USD Accepted:** Yes

**Timezone:** Eastern Standard Time (EST)

**Distance to Town Center:** The port is about 2.3 miles from Mahahual village.

Costa Maya, located near the village of Mahahual in Mexico, is a modern and purpose-built cruise port offering a variety of attractions. Known for its vibrant atmosphere, the port features a mix of traditional Mexican culture and modern tourist amenities, including a large saltwater pool, shopping areas, and various dining options.

- Transportation options include shuttle buses, taxis, and golf car rentals.
- The area is known for its Mayan cultural heritage and natural beauty.
- There are facilities and activities within the port area, including a water park and aviary.
- Most attractions and activities are designed to be accessible to visitors of all ages.

## Top 3 Attractions:

- Mahahual Beach & Village: A beautiful beach with white sands, ideal for swimming and snorkeling, alongside a charming village with restaurants and shops.
- Chacchoben Mayan Ruins: Ancient Mayan ruins located a short drive from the port, offering a glimpse into the rich history of the region.
- Lost Mayan Kingdom Waterpark: A theme park close to the port with water slides, zip lines, and a lazy river, perfect for family fun.



Visitors can have a rare experience to see the Papantla Flyers, a ritual dance performed by flying dancers.





## OCHO RIOS

**Port City:** Ocho Rios

**Port Country:** Jamaica

**Terminal Names:** Turtle Bay, James Bond

**Port Capacity:** 2 Ships

**Language:** English

**Currency:** Jamaican Dollar (JMD)

**\$USD Accepted:** Yes

**Timezone:** Eastern Standard Time (EST)

**Distance to Town Center:** The port is right outside of the main town area and within easy walking distance.

Ocho Rios, a former fishing village, has developed into a bustling tourist destination with an array of shopping, dining, and beach options. It's surrounded by lush countryside and offers adventurous activities like climbing Dunn's River Falls.

- Taxis are readily available for transportation to nearby attractions.
- The area is tourist-friendly but visitors should be vigilant with personal belongings.
- Beaches and popular tourist attractions like Dunn's River Falls are close to the port.
- Ocho Rios Bay Beach and Mahogany Beach are popular nearby beach destinations.

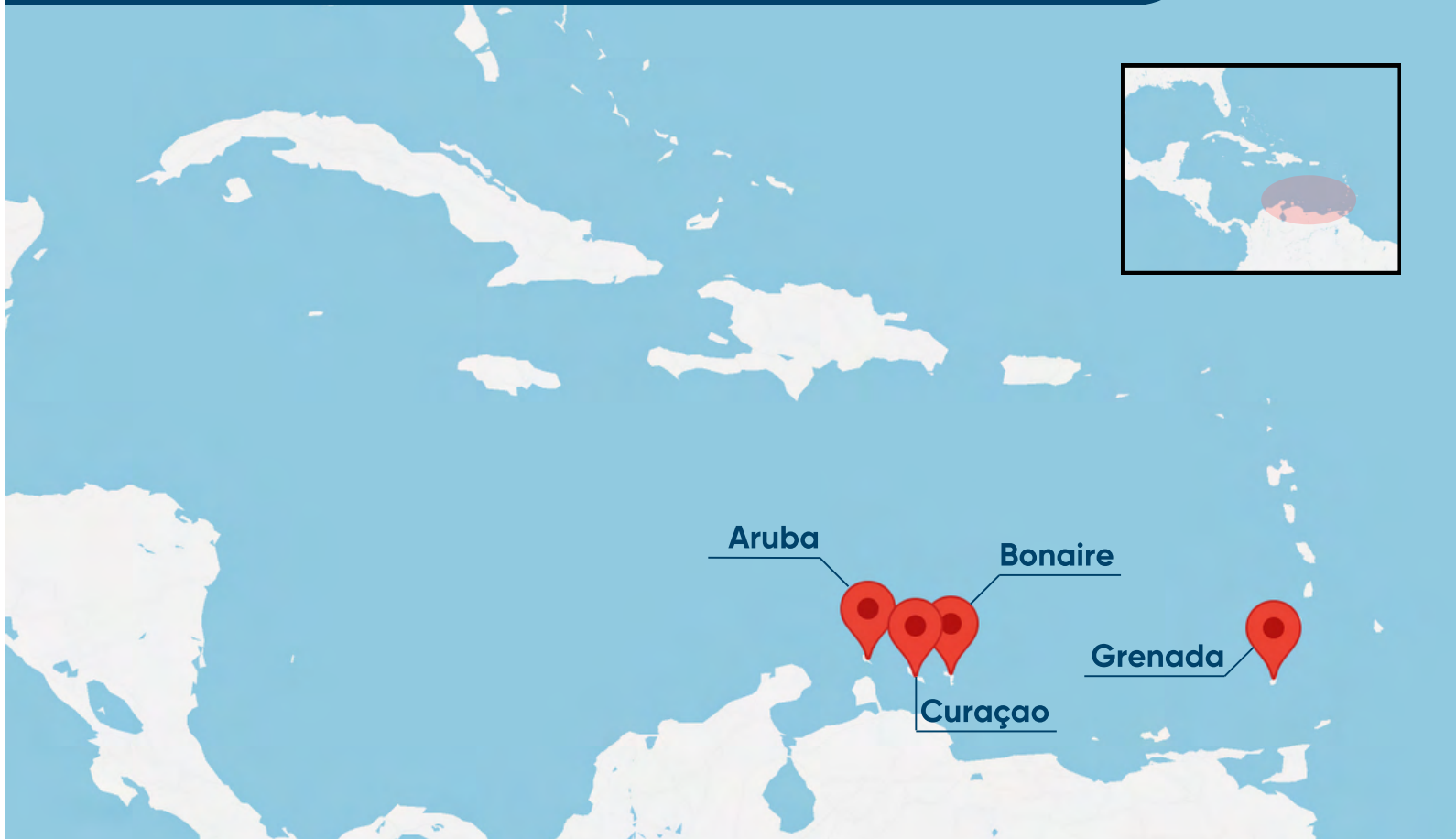
### Top 3 Attractions:

- Dunn's River Falls: A famous waterfall attraction where visitors can climb the terraced falls.
- Dolphin Cove: Offers dolphin interactions and is located close to Dunn's River Falls.
- Mystic Mountain Adventure Park: Features activities like zip-lining and bobsledding, only a short distance from the port.



Ocho Rios is home to the famous Fern Gully, a three-mile vine-draped drive through a rainforest.

# SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN



Explore the Southern Caribbean's unique charm, where each island offers a distinct experience. Aruba dazzles with its vibrant culture and beaches, Bonaire is a paradise for nature enthusiasts, and Curacao captivates with colorful history. Grenada, the 'Spice Isle', enchants with its lush scenery and fragrant markets. This region is a mosaic of natural beauty and cultural richness, promising an unforgettable journey of discovery.



**Sailing From:** New York, Port Canaveral, Miami, Tampa, San Juan, Punta Cana & more.





# BONAIRE

**Port City:** Kralendijk

**Port Country:** Bonaire

**Terminal Name:** Harborside Mall

**Port Capacity:** 1 Ship

**Language:** Dutch, Papiamentu, English

**Currency:** US Dollar (USD)

**\$USD Accepted:** Yes

**Timezone:** Atlantic Standard Time (AST)

**Distance to Town Center:** The port is located in the heart of Kralendijk.

Bonaire's port, located in the heart of Kralendijk, is known for its clear waters and pristine reefs, making it a paradise for diving and snorkeling enthusiasts. The town of Kralendijk, with a population of about 3,000, is small but offers a variety of shopping and dining options.

- The island is famous for its diving and snorkeling sites, thanks to the Bonaire National Marine Park.
- Taxis and rental cars are available, but there is no public bus system.
- The Harborside Mall and Wilhelmina Plaza are popular shopping and dining areas.
- Key historical sites include Fort Oranje and the Willemstoren Lighthouse.

## Top 3 Attractions:

- Diving and Snorkeling: Explore the underwater marvels of Bonaire Marine Park, a protected area with abundant marine life.
- Washington-Slagbaai National Park: Offers hiking, wildlife viewing, and scenic landscapes.
- Salt Pans and Flamingo Sanctuary: Experience the unique salt pans and spot flamingos in their natural habitat.



Bonaire is one of the world's major exporters of salt, and the salt pans have become a notable tourist attraction.



# CURAÇAO

**Port City:** Willemstad

**Port Country:** Curaçao

**Terminal Names:** Cruise Pier Curaçao,  
Mathey Wharf

**Port Capacity:** 5 Ships

**Language:** Dutch, Papiamentu, English

**Currency:** Netherlands Antillean Guilder (ANG)

**\$USD Accepted:** Yes

**Timezone:** Atlantic Standard Time (AST)

**Distance to Town Center:** Cruise Pier  
Curacao is a bit farther from the landmarks of  
Willemstad, but within walking distance.

Curaçao is renowned for its Dutch colonial architecture and vibrant culture. Stroll down Willemstad's picturesque waterfront with colorful buildings and take in historical sites including sites like Fort Amsterdam and the Mikvé-Israel-Emanuel Synagogue.

- The port area includes shopping malls, restaurants, and cafes.
- Accessibility services like wheelchair and ECV rental are available at the Cruise Pier Curacao terminal.
- Both terminals provide easy access to major landmarks in Willemstad.
- Rental cars are an option for those who prefer to explore Curacao at their own pace.

### Top 3 Attractions:

- Queen Emma Bridge: A vibrant area featuring iconic pastel-colored buildings and the floating pontoon bridge connecting Punda and Otrobanda.
- Fort Amsterdam and Fort Church: Historical landmarks showcasing Curacao's rich history.
- Curacao Beaches: Beautiful beaches like Mambo Beach and Blue Bay Beach Resort, offer opportunities for relaxation and water sports.



The Mikvé-Israel-Emanuel Synagogue is the oldest continually used synagogue in the Western Hemisphere.



# PRIVATE ISLANDS

Embark on a tropical journey with our guide to cruise line private islands and exclusive areas. Explore luxurious amenities and secluded beaches, all in one easy-to-use reference.

Discover the allure of private islands and exclusive cruise areas, perfect for both novice and seasoned travelers. This concise guide highlights exciting activities and cultural gems in the Caribbean's most intimate spots.

Visit our website for in-depth guides, expert advice, and more to plan your ultimate cruise adventure.

[FreestyleTravelers.com](https://www.freestyletravelers.com)





# CASTAWAY CAY

## DISNEY CRUISE LINE

**Port Country:** Bahamas

**Port Type:** Pier

**Port Capacity:** 1 Ship

**Can Cruise Drink Packages Be Used?** Yes

**Is There an Island Tram?** Yes

**Timezone:** Eastern Time Zone (ET)

Castaway Cay, formerly known as Gorda Cay, is Disney Cruise Line's private island in the Bahamas. What makes it unique compared to other private cruise line islands is that it was the first to allow cruise ships to dock directly at the island, rather than tendering. Only 55 acres of the 1,000-acre island are developed, preserving much of its natural beauty. It's known for its family-friendly environment, themed activities, and Disney character appearances.

- **Beaches and Areas:** Features family-friendly beaches like Castaway Family Beach and the adult-only Serenity Bay, alongside Scuttle's Cove for children.
- **Food and Drink Options:** Various dining options are available, including barbecue stations, and Disney Cruise Line's drink packages are accepted.
- **Upgraded Cost Areas:** Cabanas are available for rent, offering a more exclusive beach experience, with prices starting from \$549 for a Family Beach Cabana.
- **Unique Features:** Character meet and greets, a 22-acre Snorkeling Lagoon, Pelican Plunge water slides, and historical landmarks like an airstrip used in movie productions.

### Top 3 Attractions:

- **Snorkeling Lagoon:** A large underwater exploration area with Disney character statues and hidden treasures.
- **Pelican Plunge:** Water slides on a floating platform, offering fun for the whole family.
- **Serenity Bay:** An adults-only beach providing a tranquil escape from the bustling family areas.





# HALF MOON CAY

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE

**Port Country:** Bahamas

**Port Type:** Tender

**Port Capacity:** 1 Ship

**Can Cruise Drink Packages Be Used?** No

**Is There an Island Tram:** Yes

**Timezone:** Eastern Time Zone (ET)

Half Moon Cay, originally known as Little San Salvador Island, is a 2,400-acre island, but only about 50 acres have been developed into an exclusive beach resort, leaving the rest as a wildlife habitat. Half Moon Cay is frequented not only by Carnival but Holland America Line. Rated as one of the best private islands, Half Moon Cay has even earned the title "Best Private Island" 20 years in a row by Porthole Cruise Magazine.

- **Beaches and Areas:** The island boasts Half Moon Beach, a 2.5-mile-long stretch of soft, sandy beachfront, considered one of the best private island beaches.
- **Food and Drink Options:** Includes a complimentary barbecue lunch offering burgers, hot dogs, salads, and fresh fruit.
- **Upgraded Cost Areas:** Cabana rentals are available, offering shade and privacy on the beach.
- **Unique Features:** Captain Morgan's Pirate Ship, nature trails, birdwatching opportunities with over 45 different species, and an iconic "I Wish I Could Stay Here Forever" sign for photo opportunities.

## Top 3 Attractions:

- **Relaxing on Half Moon Beach:** Enjoy the pristine white sand and turquoise waters of this extensive beach.
- **Nature Trails:** Explore the island's natural beauty through various trails leading to key areas like Bonefish Lagoon and Stingray Cove.
- **Water Sports and Activities:** Engage in activities like kayaking, snorkeling, horseback riding by land and sea, and a tropical kayak adventure through Bone Fish Lagoon.

# FREESTYLE TRAVELERS



Jonathan and Nicole founded Freestyle Travelers in 2017 with the goal of sharing their love of travel and providing helpful tips to fellow travelers. With an audience of over 1.7 million+ visitors each year, their blog has become a leading cruise resource for up-to-date information on all things cruising. In addition to their blog, Freestyle Travelers also offers professional video tours and a travel shop.

Jonathan and Nicole have a wealth of firsthand experience, having sailed on 22 cruises, visited 83 ports of call, and spent 121 days at sea in the past five years. They have also lived in some of the most sought-after travel destinations around the world. Through their blog, they aim to inspire and assist others in planning their dream freestyle vacations.

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