

FREE PRINTABLE · 2027 EDITION

Caribbean Port Day Pack

One page for each of 9 top cruise ports: where the ship docks, whether you can walk to town, the three best things to do, and a planner to make sure you're back on time.

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BEFORE EVERY PORT DAY

Read this first

This pack gives you one page for each of the most-visited Caribbean and Mexican cruise ports. Each page covers where the ship docks, whether you can walk into town, the money, the three things most worth your time and a space to plan your day. Print the ports on your itinerary and keep them in your day bag.

> **The golden rule:** plan to be back at the pier at least an hour before all-aboard. If you are late, the ship can and will leave without you. The only exception is a tour booked through the cruise line, which the ship will wait for.

YOUR PORT DAY CHECKLIST

- [ ] Ship card and photo ID
- [ ] The port agent's phone number from your daily program
- [ ] All-aboard time, written down in ship's time
- [ ] A watch or phone set to ship's time
- [ ] Small US dollar bills for taxis and tips
- [ ] A credit card with no foreign transaction fees
- [ ] Reef-safe sunscreen and a hat
- [ ] A refillable water bottle
- [ ] Swimwear and a quick-dry towel
- [ ] Water shoes for rocky beaches
- [ ] A dry bag for your phone
- [ ] Any medication you need during the day

TENDER PORTS

At a tender port, small boats carry you from the ship to shore. Lines are longest just after arrival, and the last tender back usually leaves 30 minutes before all-aboard. Grand Cayman and Belize City are tender ports in this pack.

PORT 1 OF 9

Nassau

Bahamas

Pier port

Where ships dock	Prince George Wharf, right in downtown Nassau. No tenders.
Can you walk to town?	Yes. Bay Street and the Straw Market are outside the terminal.
Money	Bahamian dollar, equal to the US dollar. US dollars accepted everywhere.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **Junkanoo Beach**
   The closest beach, about a 10-minute walk west of the terminal.
2. **Queen's Staircase and Fort Fincastle**
   About a 13-minute walk, with harbor views from the top.
3. **Paradise Island and Atlantis**
   About 10 minutes by taxi or water taxi. The casino and marina are free to visit.

LOCAL TIP Agree taxi fares, and whether they are per person, before you get in.

MY PLAN FOR NASSAU

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 2 OF 9

Cozumel

Mexico

Pier port

Where ships dock	Three piers: International Pier and Puerta Maya south of town, and Punta Langosta downtown.
Can you walk to town?	From Punta Langosta, yes. From the southern piers, take a 10 to 15 minute taxi to San Miguel.
Money	Mexican peso. US dollars widely accepted.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **A beach club**
   Loungers, pools and calm water a short taxi ride from the piers.
2. **Snorkeling or diving the reefs**
   Some of the clearest water in the Caribbean, by boat.
3. **Chankanaab Park**
   Snorkeling, a lagoon and gardens, close to the southern piers.

LOCAL TIP The ferry to Playa del Carmen adds travel time each way. Leave a big buffer if you go to the mainland on your own.

MY PLAN FOR COZUMEL

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 3 OF 9

Costa Maya

Mexico

Pier port

Where ships dock	Costa Maya Cruise Port pier, near Mahahual. No tenders.
Can you walk to town?	Mahahual is about 2.3 miles away. Most people take a 5-minute taxi.
Money	Mexican peso. US dollars widely accepted.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **The port pool**
   A big saltwater pool with a swim-up bar inside the port.
2. **Mahahual beach clubs**
   A laid-back seafront with loungers, about 5 minutes away.
3. **Chacchoben Mayan ruins**
   About 45 to 60 minutes by road. Allow around two hours on site.

LOCAL TIP Check your change. Pesos and dollars both use the $ sign.

MY PLAN FOR COSTA MAYA

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 4 OF 9

Grand Cayman

Cayman Islands

Tender port

Where ships dock	Ships anchor off George Town and tender passengers to the waterfront.
Can you walk to town?	Yes. Shops and restaurants are right by the tender pier.
Money	Cayman Islands dollar, worth more than the US dollar. US dollars accepted, change may come in CI$.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **Stingray City**
   A sandbar where you stand in shallow water with stingrays, by boat.
2. **Seven Mile Beach**
   About 10 to 15 minutes by taxi from George Town.
3. **Starfish Point or Rum Point**
   Calm, shallow water on the north side of the island.

LOCAL TIP Tender lines are longest first thing. Rough seas can occasionally cancel a tender call.

MY PLAN FOR GRAND CAYMAN

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 5 OF 9

Roatán

Honduras

Pier port

Where ships dock	Two ports: Mahogany Bay and Town Center at Coxen Hole.
Can you walk to town?	The ports are self-contained. West Bay Beach needs a taxi of around 30 minutes.
Money	Honduran lempira. US dollars widely accepted.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **West Bay Beach**
   Soft sand and snorkeling right off the beach.
2. **Snorkeling the reef**
   Part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, by boat or from shore.
3. **Wildlife parks**
   Sloths, monkeys and macaws at small parks across the island.

LOCAL TIP Roads are slow and winding. Agree taxi fares for the round trip and allow extra time to get back.

MY PLAN FOR ROATÁN

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 6 OF 9

St. Thomas

US Virgin Islands

Pier port

Where ships dock	Havensight and Crown Bay, both a short ride from Charlotte Amalie.
Can you walk to town?	Charlotte Amalie is about 1.5 miles from Havensight. Open-air taxi vans run into town.
Money	US dollar.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **Magens Bay**
   One of the most famous beaches in the Caribbean, about 20 minutes away.
2. **The Skyride to Paradise Point**
   A cable car near the Havensight dock with views over the harbor.
3. **A day on St. John**
   Take the ferry to Trunk Bay and Virgin Islands National Park.

LOCAL TIP Traffic drives on the left. If you take the ferry to St. John, check the return times before you go.

MY PLAN FOR ST. THOMAS

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 7 OF 9

St. Maarten

Sint Maarten / Saint-Martin

Pier port

Where ships dock	The cruise terminal in Philipsburg, on the Dutch side of the island.
Can you walk to town?	Front Street is about a 15 to 20 minute walk, or take a water taxi.
Money	US dollars widely accepted. The French side uses the euro.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **Great Bay and Front Street**
   Beach bars and duty-free shopping in Philipsburg.
2. **Maho Beach**
   Planes fly low overhead as they land, about 25 minutes by taxi.
3. **Orient Bay and Marigot**
   Beaches and cafés on the French side.

LOCAL TIP Traffic between the two sides can be heavy in the afternoon. Leave plenty of time to get back.

MY PLAN FOR ST. MAARTEN

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 8 OF 9

Grand Turk

Turks and Caicos

Pier port

Where ships dock	Grand Turk Cruise Center, with a beach right beside the pier.
Can you walk to town?	The beach and pool are steps from the ship. Cockburn Town is a short taxi ride.
Money	US dollar.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **The beach by the pier**
   Clear water and loungers a few minutes from the ship.
2. **Snorkeling or diving the wall**
   The reef drops off steeply close to shore.
3. **Cockburn Town**
   Colonial buildings, a lighthouse and quiet beaches.

LOCAL TIP It's a small island, and the shade by the pier fills up fast. Bring sun protection.

MY PLAN FOR GRAND TURK

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

PORT 9 OF 9

Belize City

Belize

Tender port

Where ships dock	Ships anchor offshore and tender passengers to the Fort Street Tourism Village.
Can you walk to town?	The Tourism Village is at the tender pier. Most sights need a tour.
Money	Belize dollar, fixed at two to one with the US dollar. US dollars widely accepted.

TOP THREE THINGS TO DO

1. **Cave tubing and zip-lining**
   Float through limestone caves on a jungle river, about an hour away.
2. **Altun Ha Mayan ruins**
   Temples and plazas about an hour from the city.
3. **Snorkeling the barrier reef**
   Calm, clear water around the cayes, by boat.

LOCAL TIP The tender ride can be long. Choose a tour that returns well before the last tender.

MY PLAN FOR BELIZE CITY

Date	Arrive	All aboard
Plan		
Back at the pier by		

MORE FREE PLANNING HELP

Before you book your next cruise

We check Caribbean and Bahamas cruise fares by hand every week and publish the ones that are genuinely reduced. You will find this week's list at **luxury-cruising.com/cruise-deals-usa**.

You can also read our full port guides, with excursion tables and FAQs, at **luxury-cruising.com/cruise-ports**. We add new ports every week.

> Facts in this pack were correct when we checked in November 2026. Piers, fares and opening times can change, so check your cruise line's daily program for the latest details.