

Understanding the Port

Bimini is two islands in one day: a polished beach-club pool scene on one end, and Alice Town — Hemingway's old haunt of conch shacks and golf carts — on the other. Fifty-ish miles from Florida, and somehow still the old Bahamas.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Port Area

All ships dock at the Resorts World pier — no tenders. Virgin sailors: the Beach Club at the island's north tip is included and exclusively yours on Virgin days. Other lines call occasionally; their beach access is via a ship excursion, not walk-up.

Cash & Currency

At the Beach Club, everything charges to your Virgin Band like on the ship. Beyond it, Bimini runs on US cash — accepted 1:1 with Bahamian dollars, and the conch shacks, carts, and museums are largely cash-only.

Getting Around

A free tram loops pier ↔ Beach Club (~15 minutes) with a casino stop. For Alice Town and Radio Beach, rent a golf cart or hail a cart taxi — and remember, drive on the left.

GOOD

The Beach Club Day

Best for: Short stops, easy days, pool people

- ✓ Entry, Bahamian lunch, pools, and loungers: included in every Virgin fare
- ✓ Two lagoon pools and the famous afternoon float party
- ✓ Wi-Fi, towels, and the tram from the pier: free

Low effort, high reward.

BETTER

Alice Town by Golf Cart

Best for: Explorers, food lovers, culture seekers

- ✓ Rent a cart and loop the island — small, slow, left-side driving
- ✓ Conch salad made in front of you at Joe's or Stuart's
- ✓ The Dolphin House — a mosaic marvel 30 years in the making

Bring cash — the real Bimini runs on it.

BEST

The Sapona & the Rays

Best for: Snorkelers, story collectors, first timers

- ✓ Snorkel a concrete shipwreck standing in 15 feet of clear water
- ✓ Wade with habituated stingrays at Honeymoon Harbour
- ✓ Bookable through your ship or trusted local operators

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

Top Experiences to Consider

GOOD

The Beach Club, Done Right

Take an early tram for pool-edge loungers, eat the included lunch before the windows close mid-afternoon, dance the float party, then decompress in a perimeter hammock. The quiet is at the far end of the beach, away from the DJ.

BETTER

The Golf-Cart Circuit

Two to three hours covers the real Bimini: Alice Town's welcome arch, Radio Beach, the Dolphin House — poet Ashley Saunders' three-story mosaic of shells, bottles, and tiles — and a conch salad chopped to order at the waterside.

BEST

The SS Sapona

The most consistently five-star excursion in Bimini: a Prohibition-era concrete ship aground in shallow, gin-clear water. Boarding the wreck takes a rope ladder and some nerve — snorkeling around it takes none. Most tours add sharks or stingrays.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

The Early Tram

The Beach Club absorbs most of the ship, and pool-edge seats are gone by mid-morning. Ride the first tram, drop towels, then go find breakfast — your loungers will wait.

Stuart's Conch Stand

In Bailey Town, on the water: conch pulled, chopped, and citrus-dressed in front of you. Travelers keep calling it the best conch salad in the Bahamas — and the line moves fast. Cash, of course.



The beach at Alice Town, Bimini



Alice Town's welcome arch on the King's Highway

Key Considerations

Know which cruise you're on. Virgin sailings are adults-only (18+), and on Virgin days the Beach Club belongs to Virgin sailors alone; the included lunch runs limited windows (roughly late morning to mid-afternoon), bar lines stretch at party peak, and quiet lives at the far end of the beach. Sailing another line? The same beach operates as Resorts World's — access is via your ship's excursion, not a walk-up pass.

The split-day math is tight but doable: club first, then a golf-cart run to Alice Town — or the reverse — but pick a lead act and give it the hours. The bonfire-and-late-night version of the Beach Club happens only on select late-stay sailings, so check your itinerary. And as everywhere in the Bahamas, an exposed pier means weather can cancel the call — treat the day as a gift, not a guarantee.



Scarlet Lady at Virgin's Miami terminal — Bimini-bound



The SS Saponara, aground since 1926



The Bimini islands from space

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Port Orientation

FROM THE PIER

● Fisherman's Village	First tram stop; golf-cart rentals
By free tram	
● The Beach Club	~15 min; Virgin sailors, included
● Resorts World Casino	Afternoon into late night
By golf cart or cart taxi	
● Alice Town & Bimini Museum	Conch shacks, Hemingway lore
● Radio Beach & Dolphin House	Free sand; mosaic marvel
By boat & excursion	
● SS Saponara Wreck	Snorkel a concrete ship
● Honeymoon Harbour	Stingray wade, Gun Cay

DON'T FORGET

Confirm your all aboard time before you leave the ship.
Set a phone alarm. The ship will not wait for you.

Key Takeaway

Bimini gives you a choice no other short hop does: a resort pool party, or the Bahamas as Hemingway found it — often both before all aboard.

Pool party or Papa's island — pick your Bimini, or budget the hours and take both.

ETA will help you choose the right experience based on your travel style.

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Did You Know?

Papa's Island. Ernest Hemingway summered here in 1935–37, battling giant tuna by day and working on To Have and Have Not between trips. Legend says his shark-mauled trophies in these waters helped plant the seed for The Old Man and the Sea.

The Mountaintop in the Mangroves. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Bimini twice to write — working on his Nobel Prize speech in 1964 as local guide Ansil Saunders poled him through the mangroves, and, it's said, polishing his final "Mountaintop" speech here days before Memphis. Two busts honor him on the island.

The Road to Atlantis. In 1940, psychic Edgar Cayce predicted Atlantis would resurface near Bimini in '68 or '69. In September 1968, divers found the "Bimini Road" — a half-mile line of huge flat stones in 18 feet of water. Geologists say natural beachrock; snorkelers say who cares, it's marvelous.

The Concrete Ship. The hulk off South Bimini is the SS Saponara: a WWI emergency-fleet concrete steamer turned Prohibition liquor warehouse, run aground by a 1926 hurricane, then used for target practice by WWII warplanes. Snorkelers explore her bomb-holed hull today.

The Fountain of Youth. A 1535 chronicle claimed Ponce de León's famous 1513 quest was aimed at Bimini's fabled healing waters — he found Florida instead. A limestone well on South Bimini still proudly carries the name.