

Understanding the Port

Grand Cayman is polished, safe, and easy — and it is a tender port. Ships anchor off George Town and small boats shuttle you ashore, which costs time in both directions. Build that into your plan, then enjoy one of the Caribbean's best beaches and its most famous animal encounter.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Port Area

No pier: ships anchor and tender into downtown George Town. Shops, restaurants, and the waterfront start right at the landing.

Cash & Currency

The Cayman dollar (CIS) is worth more than the US dollar. USD accepted everywhere; expect change in CIS. Prices here run high.

Getting Around

Taxis with regulated rates and cheap shared minibuses run to Seven Mile Beach, about 10–15 min. Stingray City is reachable only by boat tour.

GOOD

George Town & Shore Snorkel

Best for: Short stops, easy days, minimal logistics

- ✓ Waterfront shops and duty-free steps away
- ✓ Eden Rock snorkeling near the tender landing
- ✓ Back at the tender whenever you want

Low effort, high reward.

BETTER

Seven Mile Beach Day

Best for: Couples, families, beach lovers

- ✓ Long, calm, postcard-perfect white sand
- ✓ Public Beach access with chairs and food nearby
- ✓ A short, fixed-rate taxi from the tender landing

Arrange your return taxi before you settle in.

BEST

Stingray City Sandbar

Best for: First timers, families, bucket-listers

- ✓ Waist-deep water with wild stingrays gliding by
- ✓ A reef snorkel stop on most tours
- ✓ The signature Grand Cayman experience

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

Top Experiences to Consider

GOOD

George Town & Eden Rock

Browse the waterfront, then snorkel Eden Rock and Devil's Grotto right off the shore near the tender landing. The best free snorkeling at the port, no tour required. Ladder entry over rocky shore, so best for confident swimmers.

BETTER

Seven Mile Beach

Calm, clear, and beautifully kept. Head for Public Beach or a beach bar with chair rentals and settle in. It is an easy do-it-yourself day by taxi.

BEST

Stingray City Sandbar

Boats run to a shallow sandbar where wild southern stingrays glide around your legs. Book through the ship or a well-reviewed operator, and pair it with a snorkel stop.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

Stingray City

The experience people remember for the rest of their lives. If you do one paid excursion in the Western Caribbean, this is the one.

Seven Mile Beach

Consistently rated among the best beaches in the Caribbean. Easy to reach, easy to love, and easy to do on your own schedule.



Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman



At anchor off George Town, Grand Cayman

Key Considerations

Tendering costs time both ways, and lines run longest right after arrival and before all aboard. In rough seas ships sometimes skip Grand Cayman entirely; it is one of the Caribbean ports most often missed for weather, so book excursions with free cancellation.

Watch the currency: prices may be in Cayman dollars, worth about 20–25% more than US dollars. A C\$40 lunch bill is about US\$50. Confirm which dollar you are seeing before you pay.



Stingray City Sandbar, Grand Cayman



Green sea turtles, Cayman Turtle Centre



Hell, Grand Cayman

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Port Orientation

FROM THE TENDER LANDING (GEORGE TOWN)

● George Town waterfront	At the landing
● Eden Rock snorkel	Short walk south
~ 10–15 min by taxi	
● Seven Mile Beach	Public Beach access
~ 20–25 min by taxi	
● Turtle Centre & Hell	West Bay district
~ 30–45 min by boat	
● Stingray City Sandbar	Excursion boats only

DON'T FORGET

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

Key Takeaway

Grand Cayman is the easy luxury stop: one world-class beach, one unforgettable sandbar, and a walkable capital.

Respect the tender clock, watch which dollar you are paying in, and this port practically runs itself.

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

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Did You Know?

No Taxes, Lots of Banks. The Cayman Islands levy no income tax, corporate tax, or annual property tax — and the islands host more registered companies than residents.

Seven-ish Mile Beach. Despite the name, Seven Mile Beach is actually closer to six miles long. Nobody minds.

Why the Stingrays Gather. Fishermen cleaning their catch in the calm North Sound taught the stingrays to gather, and organized tours have run since the late 1980s.

Named for Crocodiles. Columbus called these islands Las Tortugas for their sea turtles. The name Cayman comes from a Carib word for crocodile.

Send a Postcard from Hell. The village of Hell, said to be named for its jagged black limestone field, will happily postmark your mail from Hell.