

Understanding the Port

Royal Beach Club Paradise Island is Royal Caribbean's newest idea, and the opposite of a private island: nothing here is included until you buy the day pass — and then nearly everything is. This guide answers the only question that matters: is it your kind of Nassau day?

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Port Area

Ships dock at Nassau Cruise Port — no tenders here. The club sits across the harbor on Paradise Island, reached by a dedicated ferry fleet boarding near the pier. Passes are sold only to Royal Caribbean and Celebrity guests.

Cash & Currency

US dollars work everywhere alongside the Bahamian dollar (1:1). The pass covers food and drinks inside the club — bring some cash for the Artisan Huts' Bahamian-made jewelry, art, and snacks.

Getting Around

With a pass, the club ferry does the work — a short included ride each way. Without one, downtown Nassau, the Straw Market, and free Junkanoo Beach are all walkable from the pier.

GOOD

Nassau Without the Club

Best for: Short stops, easy days, minimal logistics

- ✓ Junkanoo Beach — free, lively, and a short walk from the pier
- ✓ Bay Street & the Straw Market for shopping and souvenirs
- ✓ Downtown's pastel colonial streets and proud pirate past

Low effort, high reward.

BETTER

The Day Pass

Best for: Families, couples, and all-day beach comfort

- ✓ One price covers ferry, towels, loungers, Wi-Fi, and all-day dining
- ✓ Three heated pools across three vibe-based neighborhoods
- ✓ Family Beach's zero-entry pool is made for little ones

Passes sell out — book before you sail.

BEST

All-In at Party Cove

Best for: Groups, celebrations, swim-up-bar fans

- ✓ The open-bar pass — worth it if you'll use it steadily
- ✓ The Floating Flamingo, billed as the world's largest swim-up bar
- ✓ Cabanas make sense split among a full group

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

Top Experiences to Consider

GOOD

Junkanoo Beach & Downtown

No pass? Nassau still delivers: a free beach within walking distance, Bay Street shopping, and the Straw Market's cheerful chaos. Resort day passes and ship-run beach breaks fill the middle ground.

BETTER

The Club, Family-Style

The day pass makes the club all-inclusive: quick-service restaurants (the lobster BLT wrap earns its reputation), roaming drink service, heated pools, and calm, lifeguarded water at Family Beach. One honest note — there are no waterslides or watersports. This is a lounging club, and activity-hungry older kids may run out of things to do.

BEST

Chill Beach or Party Cove

Couples drift to Chill Beach for the quietest sand and an oceanfront pool; the party crowd wades into Party Cove, where a DJ plays and the two-story Floating Flamingo pours for 100-plus in-water seats. Same pass, opposite days — pick your lane on the ferry over.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

Book Early, Then Rebook

Pass prices move with demand, and passes sell out on multi-ship days. Book in Cruise Planner as soon as your sailing opens, then re-check before you cruise — if the price drops, cancel and rebook at the lower rate (cancellation is free up to 48 hours out).

Skip It When CocoCay's Included

On short Bahamas sailings that also call at Perfect Day at CocoCay, many travelers save the money — a private-island beach day is already in the fare. The club shines on longer sailings and celebration days.



Nassau Cruise Port from the air — the club ferry crosses this harbour to Paradise Island



Bay Street, downtown Nassau — the shopping and Junkanoo heart of town

Key Considerations

This is a pass-only stop: the club admits only Royal Caribbean and Celebrity guests, daily capacity is capped, and on popular sailings it genuinely sells out. Once inside, nearly everything is included — but shipboard drink packages do not carry over, so the real decision is the pass tier. The gap between non-alcoholic and open-bar works out to roughly three or four cocktails' worth; buy up only if you'll use it.

Crowds track the harbor. On multi-ship days expect ferry lines and a lounge hunt by mid-morning; on quiet days the club feels like a private resort. Kids three and under enter free, guests under 21 automatically get the non-alcoholic tier, and some guests report the return ferry drops at the far end of the cruise port — leave a comfortable buffer before all aboard.



Cabbage Beach — the same Paradise Island coastline the club calls home



The 1817 Paradise Island Lighthouse stands just off the club's western beach



Sail-in view: cruise ships lined up at Nassau's pier

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Port Orientation

FROM THE NASSAU PIER

● Nassau Cruise Port	ships dock — no tender here
By club ferry	
● Royal Beach Club	short ferry to Paradise Island
● Chill & Family Beaches	the calm side of the club
● Party Cove	DJ, swim-up bar, the loud side
Without the club	
● Junkanoo Beach	free sand, a short walk away
● Bay Street & Straw Market	shopping steps from the ship

DON'T FORGET

Passes and drink tiers are decided before you sail — ship beverage packages don't work at the club. Confirm your all aboard time before you leave the ship. Set a phone alarm. The ship will not wait for you.

Key Takeaway

The Royal Beach Club turns Nassau from a walk-around port into a resort day — for a price that deserves a clear-eyed look first.

If the price is right — and with free rebooking, you can often make it right — this is the easiest all-inclusive day in Nassau. If it isn't, the free beaches are honest substitutes.

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

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Did You Know?

Hog Island. Until 1962, Paradise Island was plain old Hog Island. A&P grocery heir Huntington Hartford bought it in 1959 and petitioned for the upgrade. Legend says the name came from settlers' free-roaming pigs — and fittingly, the Bahamas' famous swimming pigs live 80-plus miles away in the Exumas, not here.

Blown Off Course. The club opened December 23, 2025, and Radiance of the Seas delivered the first guests. Utopia of the Seas was supposed to share the honor — but high winds kept her from docking in Nassau, and she missed the party.

The Old Light. The tower off the club's western beach is the Paradise Island Lighthouse, built in 1817 and billed as the oldest surviving lighthouse in the West Indies.

A Bahamian Stake. The club is a first-of-its-kind partnership: Bahamians can own up to 49 percent of the venture, four of its 17 acres are Crown Land the government contributed, and 11 Bahamian artists created works for 25 spots on site — including a 22-foot Junkanoo-inspired mural.

Hearst's Jigsaw. Down the island stands a centuries-old French cloister William Randolph Hearst bought and crated in 1924. Hartford acquired the stones — unnumbered — and a sculptor spent two years puzzling them back together.