

Understanding the Lineup

Royal Caribbean is building private destinations on three continents at once, and they're all on different clocks. This guide tracks the four that matter in one place — one you can book today, one paused but very much alive, and two still taking shape. We'll update it as news rolls out.

THE LINEUP AT A GLANCE

Open Now

Royal Beach Club Santorini opened April 27, 2026 — a black-sand beach day for Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, and Silversea guests, sold inside the all-day Ultimate Santorini Day tour.

Paused

Labadee, Haiti — Royal Caribbean's original private destination. Visits are paused through at least June 2027 (as of July 2026); the lease and the plans remain.

On the Horizon

Royal Beach Club Lelepa (Vanuatu) is slated for late 2027 and already bookable. Perfect Day Mexico is being re-planned with Mexico's government — no date yet.

OPEN NOW

Royal Beach Club Santorini

Best for: Greek Isles sailings, 2026 and beyond

- ✓ Opened April 27, 2026 — billed as Royal's first beach club in Europe
- ✓ Black volcanic sand on Vlychada's "Moon Beach" — no pools, pure beach
- ✓ Sold inside the Ultimate Santorini Day tour: Oia + Fira + the club

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

PAUSED

Labadee, Haiti

Status: Paused through at least June 2027 (as of July 2026)

- ✓ Royal Caribbean's private peninsula since 1986 — 260 fenced acres
- ✓ Team members offered roles across the fleet during the pause
- ✓ Dragon's Breath zip line — billed as the world's longest over water

Paused — not canceled.

COMING

On the Horizon

Two more, two oceans: the South Pacific and Mexico

- ✓ Royal Beach Club Lelepa, Vanuatu — slated late 2027, on sale now
- ✓ Perfect Day Mexico — being re-planned with Mexico's government
- ✓ Also announced: Royal Beach Club Cozumel, targeted for early 2028

Watch this space.

Santorini: The One You Can Book Now

THE CLUB

A Greek Beach Day, Done For You

One pass covers the day: tender to Athinios, buses between stops, a Greek buffet (gyros, souvlaki, spanakopita), a Mastiha welcome cocktail, draft beer, house wine, coffee and soft drinks, loungers, towels, and Wi-Fi — all on Vlychada's dark volcanic sand beneath wind-carved white cliffs. Early visitors report a relaxed, uncrowded day with no lounge scramble.

THE TRADE-OFF

You Don't Give Up the Caldera

The club is currently offered only as part of the roughly eight-hour Ultimate Santorini Day: about 90 minutes in Oia, over an hour in Fira, and about three and a half hours at the beach — order varies by departure. That solves Santorini's hardest problem: no cable-car queue gamble, no tender-back scramble, and the ship's own tour carries the timing risk. One honest note: winding paths make it a poor fit for limited mobility.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

Book the Sale, Not the Rack Rate

The Santorini club is a premium, book-ahead day — and Royal's Cruise Planner sales regularly knock about 30 percent off. Book early, then re-check and rebook if the price drops. Note it's for Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, and Silversea guests only, booked through the cruise line — there's no walk-up for cruise passengers.

Doing Fira on Your Own Instead?

The classic caldera day still works: tender to the old port, ride the cable car up (or climb the nearly 600 zigzag steps), and build in a generous buffer — cable-car queues run 30-60 minutes on ship days and stretch longer at the afternoon rush back. Santorini now caps cruise arrivals at 8,000 guests a day, which helps.



Fira spills toward the caldera rim as cruise ships ride at anchor below — the classic Santorini arrival



Oia's blue-domed churches on Santorini's northern tip — one of the Ultimate Santorini Day's three stops

Labadee: Paused, Not Gone

Labadee is Royal Caribbean's original private destination — a 260-acre fenced peninsula on Haiti's north coast, leased since 1986. A day there means a ship-cooked BBQ ferried ashore to three cafes, loungers on Nellie's Beach and Columbus Cove, an artisan market, an alpine coaster, and the Dragon's Breath zip line — billed by Royal Caribbean as the world's longest over water: 2,600 feet at up to about 50 mph.

As of this writing (July 2026), visits are paused through at least June 2027 while Royal Caribbean, in its own words, continues "to evaluate conditions in Haiti and our ability to deliver the best vacations responsibly." The company says it has offered its Labadee team members roles across its fleet during the pause, and continues monthly food support and school funding in the neighboring village of Labadie. Itineraries substitute ports like Perfect Day at CocoCay, Nassau, and Cozumel, and prepaid Labadee excursions are automatically refunded. When it reopens, we'll tell you first.



Labadee's welcome sign and pier in operating days — an archive view from a 2018 call



Today's cruise pier at Costa Maya (Mahahual) — the port Royal Caribbean now owns



The shore of Lelepa island, Vanuatu, looking across Havannah Harbour (photographed 2006)

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On the Horizon

WHAT'S COMING, WHERE

Perfect Day Mexico — Costa Maya

- **The plan**
- **The pause**
- **Today**

a waterpark-scale Perfect Day at Costa Maya
Mexico declined the first site in 2026
no date; Costa Maya port operates as usual

Royal Beach Club Lelepa — Vanuatu

- **The plan**
- **The date**
- **Who goes**

a beach club included in your cruise fare
slated late 2027; sailings on sale now
South Pacific cruises from Sydney & Brisbane

DON'T FORGET

Santorini is a tender port and the beach club is excursion-only — book before you sail, and rebook if the price drops. Confirm your all aboard time before you leave the ship. Set a phone alarm. The ship will not wait for you.

Key Takeaway

One collection, four timelines: one you can book today, one worth waiting for, and two worth watching.

Santorini is bookable today. Labadee's return is worth waiting for. Lelepa is already on sale for 2027-28, and Mexico will be worth watching once a new site lands. We track all four so you don't have to.

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

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Did You Know?

Pompeii of the Aegean. Ten minutes from the Santorini club, Akrotiri is a Bronze Age town buried and preserved by the Thera eruption around 1600 BC — roughly 1,700 years before Pompeii. Walkways cross above three-story buildings with intact staircases.

Moon Beach. Vlychada's nickname comes from the wind-sculpted white pumice cliffs behind its dark sand — and steps away, a former tomato cannery is now a museum celebrating Santorini's famously sweet volcanic-soil tomatoes.

Labadee vs. Labadie. The name honors the Marquis de La Badie, a 1600s French settler. The neighboring fishing village still spells it "Labadie" — Royal Caribbean adopted "Labadee" to make the pronunciation easier for English speakers.

A Port Before a Town. Costa Maya is that rarity: the cruise terminal was purpose-built in 2001 beside Mahahual, then a tiny fishing village — the opposite of the usual port-grows-from-a-city story.

Chief Roi Mata's Domain. Lelepa sits within Vanuatu's first UNESCO World Heritage site, tied to a 1600s paramount chief remembered as a peacemaker — his burial island was protected for centuries by a customary tapu.