Bridgetown, Barbados

A docked port with a walkable capital, a government taxi fare table and a calm, wreck-filled bay ten minutes from the ship.

Facts checked on 26 October 2026

I haven't sailed into Barbados yet, so I built this guide the way I'd want one built for me: from the port's own pages, the government's official taxi fare table, the bus company and the US State Department, with every price dated. Barbados is a big, busy island with a working cargo port, a pretty capital and one of the best town beaches in the Caribbean about ten minutes away. The trick is knowing which parts you can walk and which parts you can't.

THE QUICK TAKE

- Ships **dock** at Bridgetown's Deep Water Harbour. A free port shuttle runs between some berths and the cruise terminal.
- Bridgetown is about a **20-minute walk** from the port gate along a seaside path, or a short taxi ride.
- Taxi fares are set by law, in Barbados dollars. The official fare from the port to the city centre is **BDS$19** (about US$9.50).
- Carlisle Bay is the classic cruise-day beach: calm water, beach clubs, and shipwrecks you can snorkel over.
- **Camouflage clothing is illegal** for civilians. Leave it at home.
- Barbados doesn't change its clocks. Always go by **ship time**.

Barbados at a glance

Getting ashore	Ships dock at the Deep Water Harbour in Bridgetown. No tenders.
Ship to terminal	A free two-way port shuttle runs between the ship and the cruise terminal when your berth needs it
Ship to town	About a 20-minute walk from the port's main gate along Trevor's Way, a seaside footpath. Official taxi fare to the city centre: BDS$19 (1.6 km)
Currency	Barbados dollar (BDS$), fixed at 2 to 1 with the US dollar. US cash and credit cards are widely accepted. Change often comes back in Barbados dollars.
Language	English
Time zone	Atlantic Standard Time all year, no daylight saving. That's 1 hour ahead of Eastern in winter and the same as Eastern in summer. **Be back by ship time.**
Taxis	No meters. Fares are fixed by government regulation (in force since 7 January 2023). Agree the price, the currency and whether it's per person or per car before you get in.
Drive on	The left
Watch out for	Camouflage clothing is illegal for civilians

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From ship to shore
Barbados Port Inc.

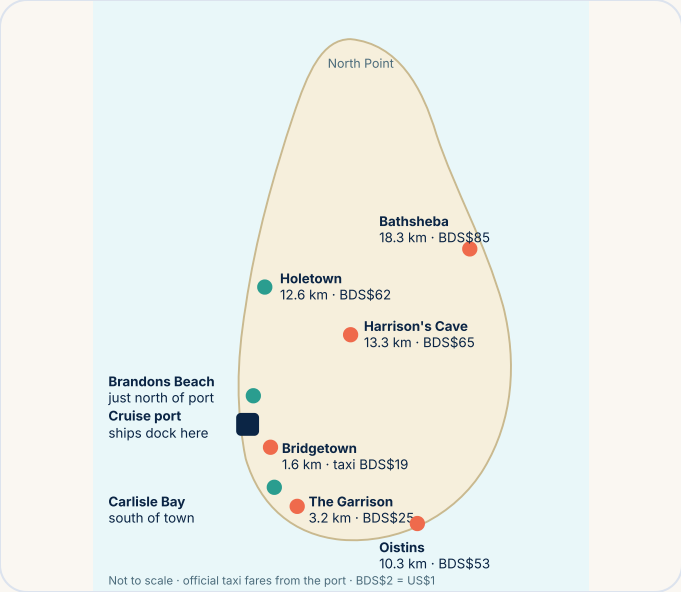
Official taxi fares (Gazette)
Government of Barbados

Barbados travel advisory
US State Department

Full guide online: photos, live prices and the latest updates at **aicruisegranny.com/port-barbados**

Booking codes are affiliate or travel-agent links: AI Cruise Granny may earn a commission at no extra cost to you. Prices, rules and availability are set by each company; check them before you book.

Map of the island



The port, the capital and the best town beach all sit together on the southwest corner; everything else is a proper drive.

From the ship to town

Barbados has one cruise port: the Deep Water Harbour in Bridgetown, run by Barbados Port Inc. It's a working cargo harbour too, so you won't step off the ship straight into a shopping street. Ships tie up along the long breakwater or at the numbered berths inside the harbour, and on a busy winter day several ships can be in at once. Your cruise line won't usually know your exact berth until close to the day.

1. **Off the ship.** If your ship is at one of the far berths, the port runs a **free shuttle** between the ship and the cruise terminal, in both directions. The port says some shuttle units are wheelchair accessible.
2. **Through the cruise terminal.** This is a full shopping hall with more than 60 businesses, bars, free Wi-Fi, a visitor information centre (grab a free map) and a post office. Pre-booked tours meet in the Tour Departure Area.
3. **At the exit: taxis or the gate.** The Taxi Dispatch Centre is right as you leave the terminal. About **255** taxis are authorized to work the port; look for the coloured "Authorized Seaport Taxi" sticker.
4. **Walking to town.** From the port's main gate, follow Trevor's Way, a footpath along the water, past the Pelican Craft Centre and into Bridgetown. The port puts it at about **20 minutes**. Princess's own port page says 25 to 30, which is more realistic at an unhurried pace in the heat.

What's changing: In May 2026 the port opened a new Berth 6, and the Prime Minister asked for a new cruise finger pier to be fast-tracked. No opening date has been announced, so for now everything above still applies.

At the Barbados cruise port: what's there

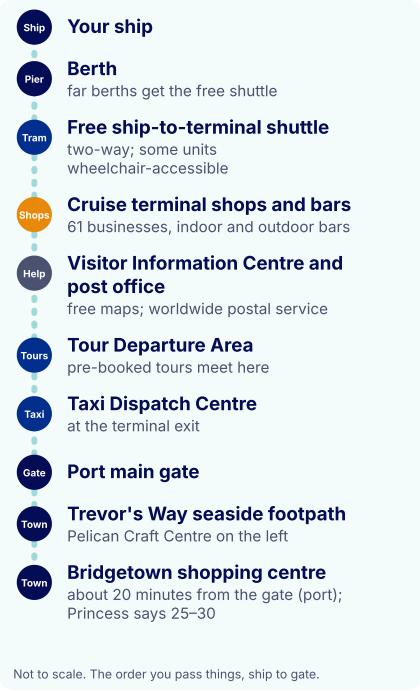
Port facts checked on 30 October 2026. Shops, prices and opening hours change, so check on the day.

I haven't sailed into Barbados yet, so this is the planner's version. Bridgetown's cruise terminal is a proper building, not just a gangway: the port counts 61 businesses inside, plus bars, free Wi-Fi, a visitor information centre and even a post office, and a free shuttle carries you from far berths to the door. It's a working cargo harbour, so there's no beach or pool at the port itself. But if you can manage about 20 minutes on foot, Brandons Beach, with a lifeguard and restrooms, is just up the coast.

Port map: this port doesn't publish a map of its own that we could find, so we drew the simple walk below from the port's and cruise lines' own descriptions.

From the ship: Bridgetown Cruise Terminal (Deep Water Harbour)

Barbados's only cruise port, run by Barbados Port Inc. inside the working Bridgetown harbour. Ships tie up along the breakwater or at numbered berths. A new Berth 6 was commissioned in May 2026 alongside container-yard expansion, and the Prime Minister has asked for a cruise finger pier to be fast-tracked; no date announced.



Our own simple drawing, not the port's map.

Free things to do inside the port

Free ship-to-terminal shuttle Free — Complimentary two-way shuttle between your ship and the terminal, run according to where the ship is berthed (Barbados Port Inc.).
From your berth
Access: The port says it has special wheelchair-accessible units.

Free Wi-Fi Free — Complimentary Wi-Fi for passengers and crew in the terminal; the splash page carries the terminal's online magazine, Docked.
Cruise terminal

Visitor Information Centre Free — Brochures, booklets, free maps and staff to answer questions.
Cruise terminal

Steel band or tuk band Free — Barbados Port Inc. says a steel band or tuk band plays when ships are in, with occasional guest performances by local artistes and school choirs.
Cruise terminal

Rum and food samplings Free (select days) — On select days the terminal offers food or rum samplings and mixology sessions with Barbadian rums.
Cruise terminal

Road tennis, hopscotch and draughts Free — Traditional games set up in the Tour Departure Area for people waiting on tours.
Tour Departure Area

Trevor's Way Free — Ocean-side footpath from the port's main gate into Bridgetown, passing the Pelican Craft Centre.
From the main gate · about 20 min walk from the ship

Pools and beaches

Brandons Beach (outside the port)

Free beach; chair and umbrella prices not published — Calm, turquoise water about a 20-minute walk north of the terminal, with a lifeguard on duty, restrooms, a beachfront restaurant and rentable chairs and umbrellas (barbados.org). Not inside the port gate.
About 20 minutes' walk north of the terminal · about 20 min walk from the ship

Brighton Beach (outside the port) Free — Next to Brandons, calmer and quieter, a turtle nesting beach; no lifeguard or restrooms (barbados.org).
About 20 minutes' walk north · about 20 min walk from the ship

Food and drink

Terminal bars — Indoor and outdoor bars serving hot and cold drinks, including local beer.
Cruise terminal

Local dishes — Barbados Port Inc. says local dishes are served in the terminal. Outlets aren't named.
Cruise terminal

Convenience stores — Cruise Hive (updated April 2026) reports two convenience stores in the terminal.
Cruise terminal

Shopping

Cruise terminal shops — 61 businesses, many styled as chattel houses and bread carts: beachwear, T-shirts, jewellery, crystal, local leather, souvenirs, biker accessories, fragrance, cosmetics, condiments, sweets and liquor, including duty-free.
Cruise terminal

Barbadian rum — Award-winning local rums are sold in the terminal.
Cruise terminal

Pelican Craft Centre — Local crafts, rum and cigars on the walk into town (Cruise Critic, Cruise Hive).
On the left along Trevor's Way, outside the port gate

Worth paying for (and what it costs)

Scooter rental — Cruise Critic (updated July 2026) reports scooter rentals and wheelchair assistance in the terminal. Prices not published.
Cruise terminal

Car rental booths — Outside the terminal (Cruise Hive). Barbados drives on the left.
Outside the terminal

Restrooms, Wi-Fi, money and help

Post office — Worldwide postal service in the terminal; Cruise Hive mentions stamps, postcards and commemorative coins.
Cruise terminal

ATMs — Cruise Hive reports US-dollar ATMs in the terminal. The port itself doesn't mention ATMs.
Cruise terminal

Restrooms Free — In the terminal (Cruise Critic).
Cruise terminal

Seating Free — Limited seating near the taxi and shuttle stands (Cruise Critic).
Taxi and shuttle area

Customs, Immigration and Health — Government offices housed in the terminal.
Cruise terminal

Money — Barbados dollar, fixed at BDS$2 to US$1; US cash and cards widely accepted; change often comes back in BDS$.
Throughout

Multilingual signage — Wayfinding signs in several languages (Barbados Port Inc.).
Cruise terminal

Getting out of the port

Taxi Dispatch Centre

BDS$19 to the city centre (2023 fare table)

— At the terminal exit. About 255 taxis are authorised for the port, marked with a coloured 'Authorized Seaport Taxi' sticker. Official fare from the port to the city centre is BDS$19 (US$9.50, regulations in force since 7 January 2023); confirm per person or per car, and the currency.
Terminal exit
Access: Cruise Critic members report waits of up to half an hour on busy days.

Tour Departure Area — Where pre-booked tours meet their guides and buses.
Inside the terminal

Walk to Bridgetown Free — Out the main gate and along Trevor's Way, about 20 minutes per the port (Princess says 25–30).
From the main gate · about 20 min walk from the ship

Taxi to Carlisle Bay beaches

BDS$25 to the Garrison (2023 fare table)

— Brownes Beach on Carlisle Bay is about 2.1 miles (around 40 minutes on foot), so barbados.org suggests a taxi. Official fare to the Garrison area is BDS$25.
Taxi Dispatch Centre

A whole day without leaving the port

If I were spending the day at the port here, I'd ride the free shuttle to the terminal, pick up a free map at the Visitor Information Centre, and take my time through the shops while the steel band plays. If the rum sampling is on, all the better. I'd send a postcard from the terminal's post office (when did you last do that?), then sit with a local beer at one of the bars and use the free Wi-Fi. For a swim, Brandons Beach is about 20 minutes' walk north and has a lifeguard and restrooms. If that walk is too much, a taxi to a Carlisle Bay beach club is the easy upgrade.

At the port with a cane, walker or wheelchair

- Bridgetown is docked, never tendered. If your berth is far from the terminal, the free shuttle runs both ways, and the port says it has wheelchair-accessible units; ask for one as you leave the ship.
- Barbados Port Inc. says the port is accessible to passengers with disabilities. Cruise Hive reports ramps and elevators in the terminal; Cruise Critic reports wheelchair assistance and scooter rentals.
- Seating near the taxi and shuttle stands is limited, and taxi waits can reach half an hour on busy days (Cruise Critic members).

- The walk into town along Trevor's Way is flat but about 20–30 minutes in the sun. The official taxi fare is BDS$19.
- No beach mats or beach wheelchairs are published for the nearby beaches.

More on cruising with mobility & health needs. Rules differ by cruise line, so check with yours.

Questions about the port

What is there to do at the Barbados cruise terminal?
Shop at 61 businesses, have a drink at the indoor and outdoor bars, listen to the steel band, use the free Wi-Fi and post a card from the terminal's own post office. On some days there are rum and food samplings.

Is there a beach near the Barbados cruise port?
Brandons Beach is about a 20-minute walk north of the terminal and has a lifeguard, restrooms and a beachfront restaurant. Carlisle Bay is further, about 2 miles, so take a taxi.

Is there free Wi-Fi at the Bridgetown cruise terminal?
Yes. Barbados Port Inc. offers free Wi-Fi for passengers and crew in the terminal.

Where the port facts come from: Barbados Port Inc.: From Ship to Shore (30 October 2026); Barbados Port Inc.: Shopping & Entertainment (30 October 2026); Cruise Critic: Barbados cruise port terminal information (updated 27 July 2026) (30 October 2026); Cruise Hive: Barbados cruise port (last modified 17 April 2026) (30 October 2026); Barbados.org: Beaches near the cruise port (30 October 2026); CBC Barbados: Port of Bridgetown commissions new Berth 6 (29 May 2026) (30 October 2026); CBC Barbados: New operational plan for cruisers tested (January 2023) (30 October 2026); Barbados Government Printery: Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 2023, taxi fares (26 October 2026)

How I'd spend the day

If walking is hard

Take the port shuttle to the terminal, then a taxi to Bridgetown's centre (BDS$19 by the official table). See the Parliament Buildings and National Heroes Square, sit for a cold drink by the Careenage, and take a taxi back. Or skip town and take a taxi straight to a Carlisle Bay beach club with chairs, a restroom and a restaurant, and stay put. **see Barbados Carlisle Bay beach club day pass on Viator**

Beach day

Carlisle Bay, just south of town. It's calm, it has lifeguards, and you can snorkel over shipwrecks from the beach or join a catamaran that stops for the turtles. Go early on a multi-ship day. **see Barbados catamaran turtle snorkel on Viator**

See the island

Book a half-day tour or a taxi tour that takes in Harrison's Cave in the middle of the island and the wild Atlantic coast at Bathsheba, then back down the west coast through Holetown. That's a lot of driving for one day, so pick a tour that guarantees you'll be back before the ship sails. **see Barbados island tour Harrison's Cave Bathsheba on Viator**

Getting around

Taxis

Barbados taxis don't use meters. The fares are set in the Road Traffic regulations, in Barbados dollars, and have been in force since **7 January 2023**. From Bridgetown Harbour, a few official fares (BDS$, with the US equivalent at 2 to 1):

City centre (1.6 km)	BDS$19 (US$9.50)
Garrison Savannah / Hilton (3.2 km)	BDS$25 (US$12.50)
Paradise Beach (4.3 km)	BDS$29 (US$14.50)
Oistins (10.3 km)	BDS$53 (US$26.50)
Holetown / Sandy Lane (12.6 km)	BDS$62 (US$31)
Harrison's Cave / Welchman Hall Gully (13.3 km)	BDS$65 (US$32.50)
Bathsheba (18.3 km)	BDS$85 (US$42.50)

The fare table doesn't say whether these prices are per car or per person, and the port itself tells passengers to

ask. So settle three things before you get in: the price, the currency, and per person or per car. If you're going somewhere and coming back, set a pick-up time.

Public buses

The government Transport Board charges **BDS$3.50** a ride. You must put the **exact fare** in the box, and no change is given. The Board's electric buses have manual wheelchair ramps; tell the driver you need it. There are also privately run "ZR" minibuses. They're cheap, but the State Department warns that they often drive erratically, so I'd pass.

Renting a car

You drive on the left. Since **15 October 2025** visitors no longer need a separate Barbados driving permit. Instead, a Car Rental Levy of **BDS$5 a day** (capped at BDS$35 a rental) is added to the bill. Bridgetown traffic is heavy at weekday rush hour, which matters on a port day.

What to see

Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison

The old town and the British military Garrison south of it have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since **2011**. The town still has its twisting street plan from the 1600s, and the Garrison is described by UNESCO as the most complete British garrison of its era in the Atlantic world. Town is about 1.6 km from the port; the Garrison is about 3.2 km (taxi BDS$25). Allow two hours for a gentle look at both.

Parliament Buildings and the Museum of Parliament

The Gothic-style Parliament Buildings, from the 1870s, face National Heroes Square in the centre of town. Inside, the National Heroes Gallery and Museum of Parliament tells the story of Barbados democracy. Open Monday and Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; **closed Tuesdays**. The tourism board doesn't publish the entry fee.

Barbados Museum and Historical Society

Housed in the old military prison at the Garrison. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sundays and bank holidays. The museum doesn't publish its admission prices online.

Harrison's Cave

A limestone cave in the centre of the island, toured by tram past streams, pools and waterfalls. It's 13.3 km from the port (taxi BDS$65 by the official table). Ticket prices weren't available from the cave's own site when I checked, so look them up before you go, or book it as a tour.

Beaches, ranked for a cruise day

1. **Carlisle Bay (Browne's Beach and Pebbles Beach)**, just south of Bridgetown. Calm, clear water, lifeguards, toilets, showers and changing rooms, and chair and umbrella rentals. The bay's marine park has **six shipwrecks** from 12 to 55 feet down, popular for snorkelling and turtle trips. Beach clubs such as The Boatyard rent loungers; nobody publishes a chair price, so ask first. A taxi is the easy way; Princess's own tour puts it at about 15 minutes from the ship.
2. **Brandons Beach**, the closest beach to the port, just to the north. Calm water, a lifeguard, restrooms and a beachfront restaurant. A good option if you don't want to go far.
3. **Paradise Beach**, a little further up the west coast (4.3 km, taxi BDS$29). Quieter than Carlisle Bay.
4. **West coast beaches near Holetown** (12.6 km, taxi BDS$62). Lovely, calm and upmarket, but you spend a lot of your day in a car.

> **East coast warning:** Bathsheba is beautiful to look at, but it faces the open Atlantic. Treat it as a view, not a swim.

Where to eat and what to try

- **Flying fish and cou-cou**, the national dish (cou-cou is a cornmeal and okra mash).
- **Bajan fish cakes**, **macaroni pie**, and **pudding and souse** if you're adventurous.
- **Rum punch**. Barbados takes its rum seriously.
- **Near the beach:** Cuz's Fish Shack at Pebbles Beach is a local favourite for a fish cutter (a fish sandwich). The Carlisle Bay beach clubs all serve food and drinks.
- **Oistins**, on the south coast (10.3 km, taxi BDS$53), is the famous fish fry, but it's at its best in the evening, which usually means after your ship has gone.

Money, language and local rules

- **Currency:** The Barbados dollar is fixed at **BDS$2 to US$1**. US dollars and cards are widely accepted, but always check which dollar a price is in. Your change will often come back in Barbados dollars.
- **ATMs** take US bank cards but may charge high fees.

- **Camouflage:** Wearing camouflage is illegal for anyone who isn't military, and customs can confiscate it. That includes kids' clothes and bags.
- **Drugs:** Marijuana is not a gray area here. Penalties are severe.
- **Emergency numbers:** Police 211, ambulance 511.
- **Ship time:** Barbados stays on Atlantic Standard Time all year. Your phone may change; your ship may not. Go by the ship's clock.

What the videos don't show you

- **It's a working cargo port.** Depending on your berth, the first part of your day is a shuttle ride past containers before you even see the terminal.
- **The terminal is a shopping mall.** You'll walk through a lot of duty-free on the way out and on the way back.
- **Taxi queues.** Cruise Critic members report waits of up to half an hour for a taxi on busy days. Book a tour or allow time.
- **Two currencies.** A price of "$20" could mean US$20 or BDS$20 (US$10). Ask every time.
- **Petty crime.** The State Department rates Barbados at Level 1, the lowest, but says pickpocketing and bag snatching are common in tourist areas. Leave the good jewellery on the ship.
- **Traffic.** Bridgetown jams up at weekday rush hours, and the island is bigger than it looks. Don't plan an east-coast trip on a short port day.

With a cane, walker or wheelchair

Barbados is a docked port, so there's no tender to worry about. The port says it's accessible to passengers with disabilities and that its free ship-to-terminal shuttle includes **wheelchair-accessible units**. Ask for one when you leave the ship.

Beyond the terminal, it gets harder. The State Department says accessibility on the island is limited: pavements are often uneven, ramps are few, and crossings are poorly marked. Ordinary taxis and buses generally have no special equipment, although the Transport Board says all of its **electric buses have manual ramps**.

The 20-minute walk into town is flat but long in the heat. I'd take the official taxi (BDS$19) instead. If you're thinking of the cruise line's beach tour, check the fine print: Princess's Carlisle Bay tour states that its coaches can't carry **scooters, wheelchairs or walkers**. Neither the port nor the tourism board publishes beach mats or beach wheelchairs.

For more on piers, tenders and planning, see Mobility & Health Needs, and always check with your cruise line about your berth and the shuttle.

The biggest mistake

Hopping in a taxi without agreeing the price first. Barbados has an official fare table, but it's in Barbados dollars, it doesn't say per person or per car, and a quoted "$25" can mean twice what you think. Look up the official fare (it's in the table above), agree on it, the currency and the return pick-up before you get in, and the rest of the day takes care of itself.

Barbados FAQs

Do cruise ships dock or tender in Barbados?

They dock at the Deep Water Harbour in Bridgetown. A free port shuttle runs between some berths and the cruise terminal.

Can you walk from the Barbados cruise port to Bridgetown?

Yes. From the port's main gate, the Trevor's Way footpath runs along the water into town. The port says about 20 minutes; allow longer in the heat. The official taxi fare is BDS$19 (about US$9.50).

How far is Carlisle Bay from the Barbados cruise port?

It's just south of Bridgetown, about 15 minutes by road from the ship. Most people take a taxi; the official fare to the nearby Garrison and Hilton area is BDS$25.

Do they take US dollars in Barbados?

Yes, widely. The Barbados dollar is fixed at 2 to 1 with the US dollar, so always ask which dollar a price is in, and expect change in Barbados dollars.

Is Barbados safe for cruise passengers?

The US State Department rates Barbados at Level 1, its lowest level. It warns that petty theft is common in tourist areas, so keep valuables out of sight and don't walk alone on beaches at night.

Can I wear camouflage in Barbados?

No. Camouflage clothing is illegal for anyone who isn't military, and customs officials can confiscate it. Leave camo prints at home, including children's clothes and bags.

Where these facts come from

- Barbados Port Inc.: From Ship to Shore (https://barbadosport.com/from-ship-to-shore/) (checked 26 October 2026; page last modified 26 September 2022)
- Barbados Government Printery: Official Gazette, Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 2023, taxi fares (https://governmentprintery.gov.bb/?p=2593) (checked 26 October 2026; fares effective 7 January 2023)
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- Barbados Transport Board: FAQ (https://www.transportboard.com/contact-us/faq/) (checked 26 October 2026; updated 27 February 2026)
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- Princess Cruises: Carlisle Bay Beach & Swim excursion (https://www.princess.com/shore-excursions/barbados/carlisle-bay-beach-swim) (checked 26 October 2026)
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1376/) (checked 26 October 2026)
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- Barbados.org: Beaches near the cruise port (https://barbados.org/beaches-near-cruise-port.htm) (checked 26 October 2026)
- timeanddate.com: Time zone in Barbados (https://timeanddate.com/time/zone/barbados) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Barbados Today: PM wants port projects fast-tracked (https://barbadostoday.bb/2026/05/29/pm-wants-port-projects-fast-tracked-amid-development-push/) (checked 26 October 2026; published 29 May 2026)
- Cruise Critic: Barbados cruise port terminal information (https://www.cruisecritic.com/articles/barbados-cruise-port-terminal-information) (checked 26 October 2026; updated 27 July 2026; used for member reports only)

Facts checked on 26 October 2026. Ports change their rules and prices, so check before you sail.

About the "I" on this page. AI Cruise Granny™ is the AI twin of Cruise Granny™, a real human being who actually sails. Every experience written here in the first person is hers. The AI twin is what writes it up, checks the facts against official sources and keeps it current. We tell you that openly on every page, because you should know who is talking to you. More about how this works.