Roseau, Dominica

Waterfalls, hot springs and volcanic reefs, a short walk or a short drive from the ship.

Facts checked on 26 October 2026

I haven't sailed into Dominica yet, so this guide is built the way I'd want one built for me: from the government's own news service, the tourism authority, the national parks fee page, the US and UK travel pages and the cruise lines' own tour notes, with every price dated. Dominica isn't a beach-and-shopping port. It's waterfalls, hot springs and rainforest, and that changes how you should plan the day, especially if walking is hard.

THE QUICK TAKE

- Most ships dock right on the Roseau waterfront and you walk straight into town. Bigger ships and second ships use Woodbridge Bay, a cargo port north of town.
- The famous sights are in the national parks: a site pass is **US$5** for one site or **US$12** for a week.
- Trafalgar Falls is about **20 minutes** from the pier by van, then a rough walk with steps.
- Beaches here are dark volcanic sand, not white. Champagne Reef, with its bubbling volcanic vents, is the snorkel everyone wants.
- **Camouflage clothing is illegal**, children included. They drive on the left.
- Island time is Atlantic time. Be back by **ship time**.

Dominica at a glance

Getting ashore	Ships dock. Three cruise berths: the Roseau Cruise Ship Berth (downtown), Woodbridge Bay port (north of town) and the Cabrits berth up north near Portsmouth.
Ship to town	From the Roseau berth you walk straight into town. From Woodbridge Bay it's a long walk or a short taxi.
Currency	Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC$). US dollars are taken by buses, taxis and tour operators. Cards are accepted in many places, sometimes with a fee; carry cash.
Language	English. You'll also hear Kwéyòl, the local French-based Creole.
Time zone	Atlantic time (UTC−4), same as US Eastern in summer, one hour ahead in winter. Go by **ship time**.
Taxis	No meters, and no published fare sheet for cruise trips. Taxi plates start with H, HA or HB. Agree the price first.
Drive on	The left. A local permit is US$12.
Special	National park site pass needed for the big sights. Camouflage clothing is illegal.

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Check the official source

Rules, prices and hours change. Scan to open the official page and confirm before you go. These are not paid links.

Site pass fees
Discover Dominica Authority

Island transportation
Discover Dominica Authority

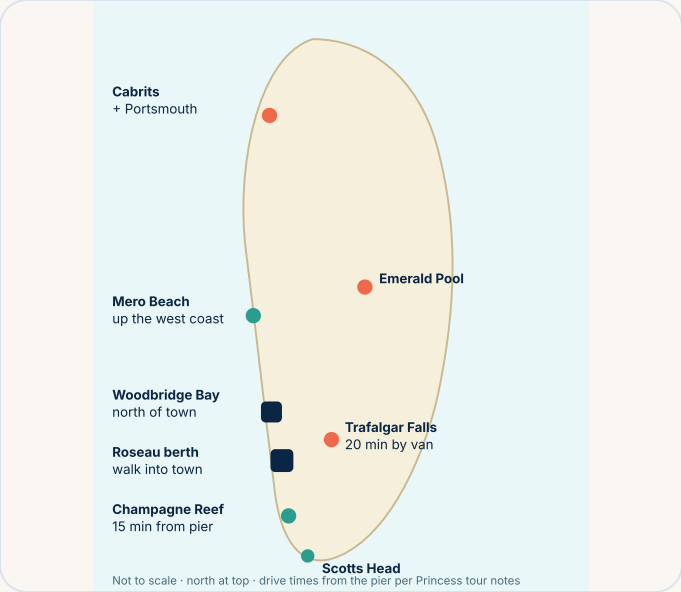
Country information
US State Department

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

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Map of the island



The cruise day sights cluster around Roseau: the falls inland, the snorkel spots south, the calm beach north.

Which pier you'll use

The tourism authority lists three cruise berths. Which one you get depends on your ship's size and how many ships are in, so check your cruise line's port page.

Roseau Cruise Ship Berth (downtown)

The main berth sits right on the Roseau waterfront, across from the Old Market and the tourism office. There's no big terminal building: you walk down a small pier and you're in town. The Old Market and the museum are about five minutes' walk, the cathedral a little further. Van drivers wait nearby hoping to fill up for island tours. The government said in August 2025 that it plans to widen the landing platform so it can take more gangways and bigger ships.

Woodbridge Bay port

A working cargo port north of Roseau, used when the downtown berth is full or for bigger ships. The government says it's currently the only port with two gangways and the only one that can take Princess's 4,000-plus-passenger ships. A UN logistics assessment puts it about **2 km** north of town. There's a sidewalk into Roseau, but it's a long, unshaded walk past cargo areas, so most people take a taxi. Tour operators often meet ships at the gate: confirm whether your pickup is here or downtown.

Cabrits (Portsmouth)

Up in the north, next to Cabrits National Park and Fort Shirley. It's mostly small ships that call here. If your ship calls at Portsmouth, Roseau is a long drive away, so plan around the north instead.

At the Dominica (Roseau) 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 Dominica yet, so I'm writing this one as your planner. If your ship gets the downtown Roseau berth, there's no big terminal or resort-style complex to stay in: you walk down a short pier and you're on the bayfront, with the visitor information office, the museum and the Old Market craft stalls a few minutes away. If you're sent to Woodbridge Bay, you're at a working cargo port north of town, and you'll want a taxi or a tour. Either way, Dominica rewards people who step out a little.

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: Roseau Cruise Ship Berth (Bayfront, downtown)

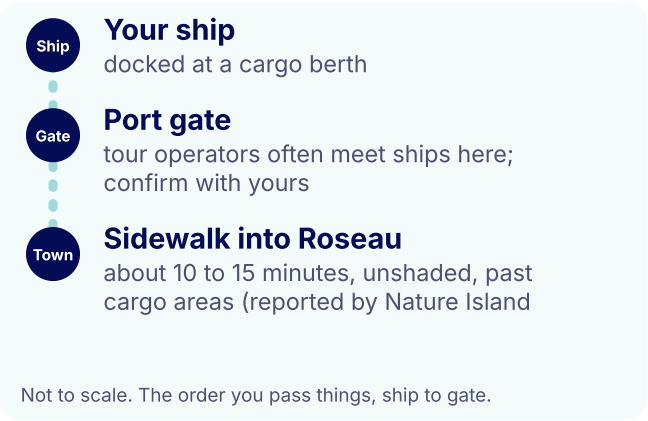
The main berth, a small T-shaped pier on Dame Mary Eugenia Charles Boulevard in central Roseau, run by the Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority (DASPA). No terminal building. The government said in August 2025 it plans to widen the landing platform for more gangways and bigger ships.



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

From the ship: Woodbridge Bay Port (Deep Water Harbour)

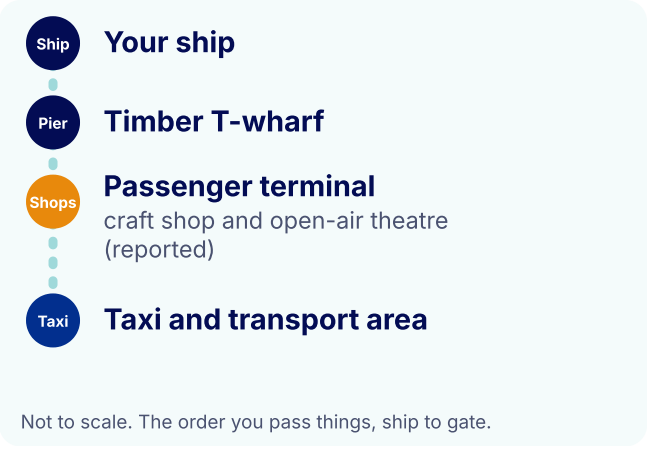
A cargo port north of Roseau used when the downtown berth is full or for the biggest ships. The government says it is the only port with two gangways and the only one Princess's 4,000-plus-passenger ships can use (August 2025). The UN Logistics Cluster says it has no cruise-specific facilities and puts it about 2 km north of town.



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

From the ship: Cabrits Cruise Ship Berth (Portsmouth, north)

Inside Cabrits National Park near Portsmouth, opened 1992, mostly used by small ships. Reported by Dom767: a T-shaped timber wharf with a 12,000 sq ft passenger terminal (office, craft shop, open-air theatre) and a taxi and ground-transport area. Roseau is a long drive away.



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

Free things to do inside the port

Bayfront stroll Free — Dame Mary Eugenia Charles Boulevard runs right past the Roseau berth, a flat waterfront walk with cafés and stalls.
Roseau berth, straight off the pier
Access: Sidewalks in Dominica are uneven where they exist (US State Department).

Visitors' Information Center Free — Tourism information office in the Old Post Office building on the bayfront; the Nature Island guide says it hands out a free map and cruise-day notes.
Across from the Roseau berth

Old Market (Old Market Plaza) Free — The old colonial trading square, a craft market since 1988, with stalls of handmade jewellery, T-shirts, spices and Kalinago crafts. Browsing is free.
Behind the Dominica Museum, about 5 minutes on foot · about 5 min walk from the ship

Peebles Park and the Neg Mawon Emancipation Monument Free — Small park and monument just off the berth (reported by Dom767).
Under a minute from the Roseau berth · about 1 min walk from the ship

Roseau Cathedral Free — The cathedral is free to enter.
About 8 minutes' walk (Nature Island guide) · about 8 min walk from the ship
Access: Uphill streets

Botanic Gardens Free — Forty acres of shady lawns and paths on the edge of town, with benches.
15 to 20 minutes on foot along King George V Street, or a short taxi
Access: Taxi recommended if walking is hard

Pools and beaches

No beach at the Roseau berth — There's no beach or pool at any of the cruise berths in Roseau. The nearest calm swimming beach with facilities is Mero Beach, about 20 minutes north by taxi; Champagne Reef's snorkel is about 15 minutes south.
Taxi needed
Access: Dark volcanic sand; water shoes help

Purple Turtle Beach (Cabrits) — Reported by Dom767 as a short walk from the Cabrits berth.
Near the Cabrits berth, Portsmouth

Food and drink

Bayfront cafés — Sit-down cafés along the bayfront; the Nature Island guide calls them pleasant but priced for cruise traffic.
Roseau bayfront

Old Market hot-food vendors — Small vendors with bakes and saltfish, callaloo soup, roti and fresh juices (reported by Nature Island guide).
Old Market, about 5 minutes · about 5 min walk from the ship

Roseau Market / New Market — The riverside produce market with tropical fruit and herbs, liveliest on Saturday mornings (Discover Dominica).
About 10 minutes on foot (Nature Island guide) · about 10 min walk from the ship

Shopping

Courtyard souvenir stalls — A small cluster of stalls right past the gangway; handy, though the Nature Island guide says the better souvenirs are a few minutes further at the Old Market.
Just past the Roseau gangway

Bayfront stalls and duty-free strip — Souvenir and food stalls plus a short duty-free strip at the start of the bayfront (reported by Nature Island guide). No chain stores in Roseau.
Within about 5 minutes of the berth · about 5 min walk from the ship

Cabrits terminal craft shop — Reported by Dom767 inside the Cabrits passenger terminal.
Cabrits berth

Worth paying for (and what it costs)

Dominica Museum — A small museum of the island's history in the Old Post Office building. Discover Dominica doesn't publish the fee or hours.
Directly across from the Roseau berth · about 5 min walk from the ship

National park site pass
US$5 per site, or US$12 weekly pass
— Needed for Trafalgar Falls, Emerald Pool, Cabrits and Fort Shirley and other sites. Not sold online: buy at the site or from the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks office in Roseau (fee page undated). Ship tours usually include it.
Site reception centres or Forestry office, Roseau

Restrooms, Wi-Fi, money and help

Visitor information Free — Visitors' Information Center in the Old Post Office building.
Across from the Roseau berth

Money — Eastern Caribbean dollar; buses, taxis and tour operators take US dollars. ATMs take US cards but are often out of order, so bring small US bills.
Roseau

Phone signal — The Nature Island guide reports good cell signal in Roseau. No free port Wi-Fi is published.
Roseau

Getting out of the port

Taxis and tour vans — Vans, unmetered, plates starting H, HA or HB. Taxis, minibuses and tour buses wait at the Roseau berth. The 2023 government rate sheet covers airport routes only, so there are no published cruise fares: agree the full price, waiting time and return first.
At the Roseau berth; at the gate at Woodbridge Bay
Access: No accessible taxis or buses (US State Department)

Minibuses

EC$1.50 to EC$10.25 per ride, by route

— Private minibuses with fixed route fares (Discover Dominica). They won't wait for you, and aren't recommended at night.
Roseau

Tour pickups — Bayfront pickups can be arranged ahead at Roseau; at Woodbridge Bay operators usually meet ships at the gate. Confirm which berth your ship uses.
Roseau bayfront or Woodbridge Bay gate

A whole day without leaving the port

If I were spending the day at the port here and didn't want a tour, I'd make it a gentle Roseau morning: off the pier, a stop at the visitor information office for a map, a browse of the Old Market craft stalls, a look in the little museum, and something cool to drink at a bayfront café. If my legs were up for it, or with a short taxi, I'd finish under the trees at the Botanic Gardens, which cost nothing. There's no beach or pool at the berth, so if you want to swim, hire a taxi to Mero Beach and agree the price first. At Woodbridge Bay there's nothing to do inside the port, so book something or take a taxi straight into town.

At the port with a cane, walker or wheelchair

- The Roseau berth is the easy one: docked, no tender, a short pier straight onto the bayfront. Dom767 reports the access walkway at about 289 ft by 11 ft.
- There is no terminal building at Roseau, so no published accessible restrooms, wheelchair rental or shaded rest area at the pier.
- Woodbridge Bay is a cargo port with no cruise facilities and a long, unshaded walk to town; plan on a taxi or a tour that meets the ship.
- The US State Department says access to buildings, sidewalks and transport in Dominica is extremely difficult; taxis and buses have no special accommodations.
- Neither the port authority nor the tourism authority publishes accessibility information for the berths. Ask your cruise line which berth you'll use.

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

Questions about the port

Is there anything to do at the Dominica cruise port?
At the Roseau berth you step straight onto the bayfront, with a visitor information office, the small Dominica Museum and the Old Market craft stalls within about five minutes. There's no beach, pool or resort-style complex at the port itself.

Can you walk to Roseau from the Woodbridge Bay cruise port?
You can, but it's a cargo port about 2 km north of town with an unshaded sidewalk past cargo areas. Most people take a taxi.

Do I need cash at the Dominica cruise port?
Bring small US bills. US dollars are widely taken, and ATMs in Roseau take US cards but are often out of order.

Where the port facts come from: Discover Dominica Authority: cruise guests (30 October 2026); Discover Dominica Authority: Historic Roseau (30 October 2026); Government of Dominica: Dominica plans major port upgrades to boost cruise (18 August 2025) (30 October 2026); Logistics Cluster (UN WFP): Dominica port assessment (30 October 2026); Dom767: Roseau Cruise Ship Berth (30 October 2026); Dom767: Cabrits Cruise Ship Berth (30 October 2026); Nature Island guide: cruise port Dominica (updated 25 April 2026) (30 October 2026); Beyond Ships: Dominica cruise port (30 October 2026); Wikipedia: Old Market of Roseau (30 October 2026); Seabourn: Cabrits, Dominica port page (30 October 2026); Discover Dominica Authority: park fee user program (from live page, 26 October 2026) (26 October 2026); Discover Dominica Authority: island transportation (from live page, 26 October 2026) (26 October 2026); US State Department: Dominica country information (from live page, 26 October 2026) (26 October 2026)

How I'd spend the day

If walking is hard

Stay in Roseau and keep it gentle: the Old Market's craft stalls, the small Dominica Museum, then a taxi to the

Botanic Gardens, which are free and shady. Or book a scenic drive tour that's labeled easy and stays in the vehicle. Skip anything labeled moderate or strenuous: here that means real rocks and steps.

Beach day

Mero Beach, up the west coast, is the calm, gradual-entry beach with beach bars and toilets, and it's free. It's dark volcanic sand that gets hot by midday, so bring water shoes. Or snorkel at Champagne Reef, about 15 minutes south of the pier, where warm bubbles rise from the seabed. **see Dominica Champagne Reef snorkel on Viator**

See the island

Take a tour into the Roseau Valley: Trafalgar Falls, then a soak in the hot springs at Wotten Waven. Most tours fit both into half a day. Make sure the price includes your site pass. **see Dominica Trafalgar Falls hot springs tour on Viator**

Getting around

Taxis

Taxis are vans, unmetered, with plates starting H, HA or HB. The government approved new taxi rates in March 2023, but only for airport routes, and the tourism authority doesn't publish cruise-day fares. Agree the full price, including waiting time and the ride back, before you go. Shared vans often wait to fill up.

Buses

Private minibuses run during the day with fares fixed by route, from **EC$1.50 to EC$10.25**, according to the tourism authority. They aren't recommended at night, and they won't wait for you, so leave plenty of margin before all-aboard.

Driving

Drive on the **left**. You need a local permit (**US$12**; drivers 25 to 65 with two years' experience). Roads are narrow, steep and winding, and the State Department rates their condition average to poor. Not a place to learn left-side driving on a port day.

What to see

Trafalgar Falls

Twin waterfalls in Morne Trois Pitons National Park, a World Heritage Site. Princess puts the drive at about **20 minutes** from the pier and lists the falls walk as about 800 metres with around 80 steps on rough, uneven paths. Site pass required (US$5). Allow 2 to 3 hours with the drive.

Emerald Pool

One of the best-known stops in Morne Trois Pitons National Park, further inland than Trafalgar Falls. Site pass required, with a reception centre at the site. It's a tour stop rather than a quick taxi hop.

Wotten Waven hot springs

Sulphur springs in the Roseau Valley, about 10 minutes from Trafalgar Falls. Most falls tours stop here.

Roseau: Old Market, museum, cathedral

The Old Market, a couple of blocks from the waterfront, is now craft and souvenir stalls. The Dominica Museum nearby charges a small fee. The cathedral is free to enter.

Botanic Gardens

Forty acres of green space on the edge of Roseau, the largest in the city, with shade and paths. Free.

Cabrits National Park and Fort Shirley

In the north near Portsmouth. On the site pass list. Best if your ship calls at the Cabrits.

Site pass: US$5 per site, or US$12 for a week covering all of them (Trafalgar Falls, Emerald Pool, Boiling Lake, Cabrits and Fort Shirley, Indian River, Soufrière Sulphur Springs and more). You can't buy it online: get it at the site reception centres or from the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks office in Roseau. The fee page isn't dated. Ship tours usually include it.

Beaches, ranked for a cruise day

1. **Mero Beach**, up the west coast. Silver-grey volcanic sand, calm, warm water with a gradual entry, beach bars, small restaurants and toilets. Free access. One of the few beaches on the island with amenities. Popular with locals on Sundays.
2. **Champagne Reef**, south-west coast, about **15 minutes** from the pier. Black sand and rock beach where volcanic vents send warm bubbles up through the water. A snorkel, not a lounging beach. You enter from the shore; water shoes help. Reef-safe sunscreen is required in the marine reserve.
3. **Scotts Head**, at the southern tip, in the same Soufrière–Scotts Head Marine Reserve. On a narrow peninsula below the village, with a small beach. Currents are usually mild but stronger near the points, so deeper spots are best with a guide or boat.

No white sand, few lifeguards. The UK government notes currents can be stronger than

they look and not every beach has lifeguards or flags. Chair prices aren't published officially.

Where to eat

- **Try:** callaloo soup, saltfish and bakes, fresh fish, local juices, and Kubuli, the local beer.
- **In Roseau:** small local restaurants and bakeries a few minutes from the bayfront berth. No big chains.
- **On tour:** Princess's falls tour stops for refreshments at Chez Ophelia in the Roseau Valley.

Money, language and local rules

- **Money.** The Eastern Caribbean dollar. Buses and taxis take EC$ or US$. Cards often work but may carry a fee; ATMs take US cards but are often out of order. Bring small US bills.
- **Camouflage is illegal** for anyone, including children. That includes camo hats, shorts and backpacks.
- **Drugs and ammunition.** Penalties are severe, and even ammunition needs government consent.
- **Reef-safe sunscreen** is required by law inside the Soufrière–Scotts Head Marine Reserve.
- **Site passes** for the national park sites, as above.
- **Language.** English, plus Kwéyòl.
- **Time.** Your phone may switch; the ship's clock is the one that counts.

What the videos don't show you

- **The walks are real.** Those waterfall videos skip the rough, stepped trail. Princess rates its falls-and-snorkel tour strenuous.
- **Woodbridge Bay.** If your ship goes there, you're at a cargo port with a long, hot walk to town.
- **Rain.** It's a rainforest. Trails get slippery, and the State Department warns of landslides after heavy rain.
- **Roads.** Narrow, steep, switchbacked. Every drive takes longer than the map says, and that matters for all-aboard.
- **No white sand.** Beaches are dark and get hot underfoot.
- **Help is far away.** The State Department says the tourism industry is not well regulated and first responders may not reach remote areas quickly. Choose established operators.
- **Safety in town.** The State Department rates Dominica Level 1, "exercise normal precautions" (May 2026), and calls it generally safe. Use marked taxis and keep valuables out of sight.

With a cane, walker or wheelchair

The downtown berth is the friendliest part: a short pier straight into town, docked, no tender. After that, Dominica is one of the harder ports for limited mobility. The US State Department says access to buildings, sidewalks and transport is **extremely difficult**, sidewalks are uneven where they exist, crossings are poorly marked, and buses and taxis have no special accommodations.

The big sights involve rough trails and steps (around 80 at Trafalgar Falls, per Princess), and the beaches are dark sand, sometimes rocky. Neither the port nor the tourism authority publishes accessibility information. A driving tour that stays mostly in the van, or a short stroll along the bayfront, is the realistic plan. Ask the tour desk about the vehicle step height and how far you'd walk at each stop.

See Mobility & Health Needs for how piers and tenders work, and check with your cruise line which berth your ship will use.

The biggest mistake

Booking the famous waterfall tour without reading the activity level. Dominica's best sights are reached by rough, wet, stepped trails over winding mountain roads, and a "half-day" can run long. If walking is hard, pick a scenic drive or a beach and enjoy the island from the van. If you're fit for it, go early and make sure your site pass is included.

Dominica FAQs

Is Dominica a tender port?

No, ships dock. Most use the Roseau berth downtown; bigger ships or second ships use Woodbridge Bay, north of town. A few small ships call at the Cabrits in the north.

Can you walk to town from the Dominica cruise port?

Yes, from the Roseau berth, which is right on the waterfront. From Woodbridge Bay, about 2 km north, it's a long unshaded walk, so most people take a taxi.

How far is Trafalgar Falls from the cruise port?

About 20 minutes by van, according to Princess, then a walk of about 800 metres with roughly 80 steps on rough paths. A US$5 site pass is required.

Do they take US dollars in Dominica?

Yes, buses, taxis and tour operators take US dollars, though the local money is the Eastern Caribbean dollar. Carry small bills; ATMs are often out of order.

Is it illegal to wear camouflage in Dominica?

Yes. The UK government says it is illegal for anyone, including children, to wear camouflage clothing in Dominica.

Is Dominica safe for cruise passengers?

The US State Department rates Dominica Level 1, exercise normal precautions (May 2026), and calls it generally safe. The bigger risks are slippery trails, landslides after rain and winding roads.

Where these facts come from

- Discover Dominica Authority: cruise guests (https://discoverdominica.com/en/cruise-guests) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Discover Dominica Authority: park fee user program (site passes) (https://discoverdominica.com/user-fee-program) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Discover Dominica Authority: island transportation (https://discoverdominica.com/island-transportation) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Discover Dominica Authority: beaches (https://discoverdominica.com/lists/29/beaches) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Discover Dominica Authority: Champagne Reef (https://discoverdominica.com/places/76/champagne-reef) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Discover Dominica Authority: Botanic Gardens (https://discoverdominica.com/en/places/254/botanical-gardens) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Government of Dominica: port upgrades to boost cruise (https://news.gov.dm/news/news-items/dominica-plans-major-port-upgrades-to-boost-cruise) (18 August 2025; checked 26 October 2026)
- Government of Dominica: new bus fares and taxi rates (https://news.gov.dm/news/news-items/cabinet-approves-the-implementation-of-new-bus-fares-and-taxi-rates-2) (effective 15 March 2023; checked 26 October 2026)
- Logistics Cluster (UN WFP): Dominica port assessment (https://dlca.logcluster.org/print-preview-current-section/4953) (checked 26 October 2026)
- US State Department: Dominica country information and advisory (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Dominica.html) (Level 1, issued 20 May 2026; checked 26 October 2026)
- UK Foreign Office: Dominica safety and security (https://gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/dominica/safety-and-security) (updated 10 December 2025; checked 26 October 2026)
- Princess Cruises: Trafalgar Falls and Champagne Reef Snorkel (https://au-www.princess.com/ports-excursions/dominica-excursions/trafalgar-falls-and-champagne-reef-snorkel) (checked 26 October 2026)
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- Nature Island guide: Mero Beach (https://www.nature-island.com/places-to-go/mero-beach/) (updated 25 April 2026; checked 26 October 2026)
- Nature Island guide: Roseau (https://www.nature-island.com/places-to-go/roseau/) (updated 25 April 2026; checked 26 October 2026)
- Nature Island guide: snorkelling (https://www.nature-island.com/things-to-do/snorkelling/) (updated 25 April 2026; checked 26 October 2026)
- Beyond Ships: Dominica cruise port (https://www.beyondships3.com/dominica-cruise-port.html) (checked 26 October 2026)

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.