

Grand Cayman

The one Caribbean port you should plan around rather than plan for. Everyone comes ashore by tender.

Facts checked against official sources on 24 September 2026

Getting ashore	Tender, always. Up to four ships anchor at once and passengers are ferried to one of three terminals, all about five minutes away.
The terminals	South Terminal, North Terminal and Royal Watler Terminal, all run by the Port Authority
Currency	Cayman Islands dollar, with US dollars used interchangeably. The official rate is CI\$1 = US\$1.227.
Seven Mile Beach	Public, about a ten-minute drive from George Town

What tendering means for you

The Port Authority's own annual report explains the position plainly: the harbour has no berthing for larger vessels, so tendering is how everyone lands. There is an alternate cruise facility at Spotts, listed by the Port Authority, used when conditions require it.

Whether tenders run at all on the day is the captain's call. Celebrity publishes that "the captain and crew will assess the conditions in any tender port and decide whether tender operations are safe." No official body publishes the sea state or wind threshold for cruise tendering, so nobody can tell you in advance.

If mobility is a factor, read this twice. Norwegian publishes that guests "may need to utilise steps or a staircase to access the tender," and that they cannot assist guests whose scooter or wheelchair plus occupant exceeds a combined 100 lb, with devices needing to fold. Every line has a version of this rule. Grand Cayman is the port where it bites.

Getting to the beach

Seven Mile Public Beach is public land managed by the Public Lands Commission, with parking, a playground, volleyball courts, bookable cabanas, a vendor area and a restroom block.

The accessibility find here is genuinely good. The National Council for Persons with Disabilities publishes Mobi Mat locations across the islands, and Seven Mile Public Beach has a mat 6.5 feet wide and 100 feet long, with accessible parking, a crosswalk, ramps and railings, and accessible restrooms and showers. Other mats are at West Bay Cemetery Beach, Governor's House Beach, Coe Wood and East End.

Taxis and buses

There is a taxi stand at the ship dock in George Town. Fares are set nationally, per trip for up to four passengers, but the published chart only shows airport-origin rows, so use the government's own CI:GO app, which quotes the fare in both currencies before you ride.

The cheaper option: public buses run from about 6am, fares start at CI\$2.50, and they take both US and Cayman dollars. Routes connect George Town with Seven Mile Beach and West Bay.

Not published anywhere official: a dock-to-Seven-Mile taxi fare, terminal amenities at any of the three tender terminals, walking distance into George Town, wheelchair-accessible taxis, and beach wheelchair availability anywhere in Cayman.

Where these facts come from

- Visit Cayman Islands, travel by ship (<https://www.visitcaymanislands.com/en-us/planning/travel-by-ship>)
- Port Authority of the Cayman Islands, 2017 annual report (PDF) (<https://www.caymanport.com/wp-content/uploads/2017%20Annual%20Report.pdf>)
- Port Authority, port information (<https://www.caymanport.com/port-information/>)
- National Council for Persons with Disabilities, Mobi Mat locations (<https://disabilitycouncil.gov.ky/mobi-mat-locations>)
- Radio Cayman, Seven Mile Public Beach enhancement (<https://www.radiocayman.gov.ky/news/seven-mile-public-beach-enhancement-project>)
- Visit Cayman Islands, transportation (<https://www.visitcaymanislands.com/en-us/things-to-do/transportation>)
- CI:GO official fare app (<https://www.cigo.ky/>)
- Norwegian Cruise Line, tender ports and accessibility (<https://www.ncl.com/cruise-preparation/accessibility/tender-ports>)

Ports change their rules and their prices. Check the official pages above 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.](#)

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