



Cruise Vacation vs. Resort Vacation

One of the biggest decisions travelers make is whether to cruise or stay at one destination.

Why Choose a Cruise?

Visit Multiple Islands

Instead of spending seven days on one island, you'll often visit 3–6 destinations in one vacation.

Unpack Once

Your hotel travels with you.

No changing hotels.

No additional flights.

No packing and unpacking every few days.

Endless Dining

Meals are included throughout your cruise, along with entertainment, activities, and accommodations.

Sample Different Islands

Many travelers use cruises to discover which islands they'd like to return to for a longer stay.

Why Choose an All-Inclusive Resort?

Resorts are ideal if your goal is complete relaxation.

You'll spend your entire vacation enjoying:

- One beach
- One resort
- Unlimited food & drinks
- Spa treatments
- Pools
- Water sports
- Nightlife

If you fall in love with one island, a resort stay allows you to experience more of the local culture at a slower pace.

Every Island is Different

Many first-time visitors assume every Caribbean island is the same.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Some islands feature lush rainforests and waterfalls.

Others have desert landscapes.

Some are famous for history and colonial architecture.

Others are all about beaches and snorkeling.

For example:

Island	Known For
Aruba	Dry climate & beaches
Curaçao	Colorful Dutch architecture
St. Lucia	The Pitons & rainforest
Roatan	Coral reefs & sloths
Grand Cayman	Stingray City
Cozumel	Reef snorkeling &

Island	Known For
	diving
Puerto Rico	History & Old San Juan
Tortola	Virgin Gorda & The Baths

Each island offers its own unique personality and experiences.

Understanding Hurricane Season

Many travelers are surprised to learn that Caribbean cruises operate year-round.

Hurricane Season

June 1 – November 30

Peak activity typically occurs:

- August
- September
- October

However, it's important to remember:

Cruise ships are incredibly flexible.

Unlike a resort, a cruise ship isn't tied to one location.

If a storm develops, cruise lines can often:

- Change ports
- Reverse itineraries
- Skip affected islands
- Sail around storms

Because of this flexibility, cruise cancellations due to hurricanes are relatively uncommon. More often, travelers experience itinerary changes rather than canceled vacations.

Southern Caribbean Advantage

Southern Caribbean islands such as:

- Aruba
- Curaçao
- Bonaire

sit farther south and are outside the primary hurricane belt, making them popular choices during hurricane season.

Caribbean Weather Throughout the Year

Season	Weather	Notes
December – April	Warm, sunny, lower humidity	Peak cruise season
May – June	Warm with fewer crowds	Great value
July – August	Hot, humid	Family travel season
September – October	Highest hurricane risk	Lower prices
November	Warm, improving weather	Start of busy season

Average daytime temperatures remain between **80–90°F (27–32°C)** throughout most of the Caribbean.

What to Pack

Essentials include:

- Passport (if required)
- Lightweight clothing
- Swimwear
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Water shoes
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Reusable water bottle
- Waterproof phone pouch
- Small backpack for excursions
- Portable battery charger



Choosing the Right Caribbean Vacation

Ask yourself:

- Do you want to visit multiple islands or stay in one place?
- Are you looking for beaches, history, adventure, or relaxation?
- Do you enjoy snorkeling, hiking, shopping, or cultural experiences?
- Is this your first Caribbean vacation?
- Are you traveling with children, as a couple, or with friends?

There is no "best" Caribbean vacation—only the one that's best for **you**.



Premium Travel Group Tip

One of the biggest advantages of working with a travel advisor is matching you with the itinerary that best fits your travel style.

Whether you're dreaming of snorkeling in crystal-clear waters, exploring historic colonial cities, hiking through lush rainforests, or simply relaxing on a white-sand beach, we can help you find the perfect cruise or resort vacation.

We'll help you choose the right destination—not just the cheapest vacation.



Continue Planning Your Caribbean Vacation

This guide is just the beginning. Be sure to explore our complete library of Caribbean Cruise Port Guides, where you'll find detailed information on popular destinations including:

- Puerto Plata
- Grand Turk
- St. Thomas
- Tortola
- Cozumel
- Grand Cayman
- Costa Maya
- Nassau
- And many more!