

BS RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay Cruise Destination Guide

Your Complete Guide to Carnival Corporation's Award-Winning Private Island Paradise



RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay is widely considered one of the most beautiful private cruise destinations in the Caribbean. Located on the island of **Little San Salvador** in The Bahamas, this award-winning destination has consistently been ranked among cruisers' favorite private islands thanks to its powder-soft white sand, crystal-clear turquoise water, and relaxed tropical atmosphere.

Owned by **Carnival Corporation**, RelaxAway at Half Moon Cay welcomes guests sailing with **Holland America Line**, **Carnival Cruise Line**, and select voyages from **Princess Cruises**.

Unlike some newer private destinations that focus on water parks and large attractions, Half Moon Cay remains true to its original vision—providing one of the finest beach experiences anywhere in the Caribbean.

If your perfect cruise day includes a beautiful beach, calm water, and plenty of opportunities to simply unwind, Half Moon Cay is hard to beat.

How Do Cruise Ships Arrive?



At the time of this guide, ships **anchor offshore**, and guests travel to the island via **tender boats**.

Once ashore you'll find:

- Welcome Center
- Information desk
- Beach access
- Shopping village
- Restaurants
- Excursion meeting areas
- Equipment rentals

Important: Because Half Moon Cay is a tender destination, rough seas can occasionally prevent guests from going ashore.

What's Changing? Carnival Corporation is developing a **new cruise pier** for Half Moon Cay. Once completed, guests will be able to walk directly ashore from their ship, making visits easier and allowing more ships to call at the destination.

Explore RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay



Half Moon Cay is all about enjoying one of the Caribbean's most spectacular natural beaches.

Throughout the destination you'll find:

- Over two miles of white-sand beach
- Crystal-clear water
- Beach bars
- Walking trails
- Shopping village
- Private villas and cabanas
- Water sports rentals

The island has remained beautifully undeveloped, allowing nature to take center stage.

★ Top Things to Do

🏖️ Relax on the Beach



The beach is unquestionably the star attraction.

Enjoy:

- Complimentary beach loungers
- Soft white sand
- Calm turquoise water
- Gentle waves
- Excellent swimming

Many cruise guests consider this the best beach of any private cruise destination.

🐎 Horseback Riding in the Ocean



One of the Caribbean's most iconic excursions.

Experience:

- Scenic horseback ride
- Beach trail

- Riding into the shallow Caribbean Sea
- Incredible photo opportunities

This excursion frequently sells out well before sailing.

Snorkeling



Explore the clear Bahamian waters and discover:

- Tropical fish
- Coral formations
- Calm conditions
- Excellent visibility

Snorkeling equipment is available to rent.

Water Sports

Popular activities include:

- Kayaking
 - Paddleboarding
 - Water bikes
 - Floating mats
 - Personal watercraft (availability varies)
-

Eco Lagoon Tour

Explore the island's interior by guided excursion while learning about:

- Native wildlife
- Coastal ecosystems
- Bahamian history
- Conservation efforts



Private Cabanas & Villas



Guests looking for additional comfort can reserve:

- Beach cabanas
- Two-story beach villas
- Premium beachfront seating

Amenities may include:

- Air conditioning (select villas)
- Private showers
- Comfortable furniture
- Food service
- Beachfront locations

Reservations are highly recommended.



Food & Drinks

Lunch is included with your cruise fare.

The island BBQ typically offers:

- BBQ chicken
- Hamburgers
- Hot dogs
- Fresh salads
- Tropical fruit
- Desserts

Several beach bars are conveniently located throughout the island.

Guests sailing with beverage packages should check current cruise line policies regarding drink package availability ashore.



Shopping

Browse local shops featuring:

- Bahamian souvenirs
- Jewelry
- Straw crafts
- Beachwear
- Island gifts
- Carnival and Holland America merchandise



Hidden Gems

Many guests stay close to the tender dock.

Walk farther along the beach to discover:

- More secluded areas
- Better shelling
- Peaceful waterfront views
- Fewer crowds

The farther you explore, the quieter the island becomes.



Weather Throughout the Year

Half Moon Cay enjoys beautiful Bahamian weather year-round.

Winter (December – February)

- Highs: 73–78°F (23–26°C)
- Comfortable temperatures
- Ideal beach weather

Spring (March – May)

- Highs: 77–84°F (25–29°C)
- Warm and sunny

Summer (June – August)

- Highs: 86–90°F (30–32°C)
- Hot with occasional afternoon showers

Fall (September – November)

- Highs: **82–87°F (28–31°C)**
- Warm ocean temperatures

Trade winds help keep conditions comfortable throughout the year.

Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season officially runs from:

June 1 – November 30

Peak activity generally occurs during:

- August
- September
- October

Because Half Moon Cay is currently a tender port, weather and sea conditions may occasionally affect access to the island.

Cruise lines monitor conditions closely and will adjust itineraries if necessary.

Travel insurance is always recommended.



Getting Around

Half Moon Cay is designed to be explored on foot.

Options include:

- Walking paths
- Beach trails
- Island tram (for select excursions and accessible transportation)

The island is relatively flat and easy to navigate.



What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Swimsuit
- ✓ Reef-safe sunscreen
- ✓ Sunglasses

- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Water shoes
- ✓ Waterproof phone pouch
- ✓ Snorkeling gear (optional)
- ✓ Beach bag
- ✓ Reusable water bottle

If you're planning to ride horses or participate in water sports, wear clothing suitable for those activities.

Premium Travel Group Tip

Half Moon Cay is one of those rare places where you don't need a busy schedule to have an unforgettable day. Instead of trying to do everything, spend time enjoying what makes this destination famous—its incredible beach.

If horseback riding through the ocean is on your bucket list, reserve it as early as possible. It's one of the island's most sought-after excursions and often sells out before your cruise even begins.

Continue Exploring Private Islands & Exclusive Cruise Destinations

Continue planning your cruise with our other guides:

Carnival Corporation

- RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay
- Princess Cays
- Celebration Key
- Mahogany Bay

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings

- Great Stirrup Cay
- Harvest Caye

MSC Cruises

- Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve

Royal Caribbean Group

- Perfect Day at CocoCay
 - Labadee
-

Why Visit RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay?

RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay has earned its reputation as one of the finest private cruise destinations in the world by staying true to a simple idea: nature is the attraction. With its powder-soft beaches, calm turquoise water, award-winning scenery, and laid-back atmosphere, it offers the kind of Caribbean beach day that many travelers imagine when they first book a cruise. Whether you're riding horses through the surf, snorkeling in crystal-clear water, or simply listening to the waves from a beach chair, Half Moon Cay is a destination you'll remember long after your cruise ends.

Joe's Logbook

Half Moon Cay is one of those destinations that doesn't need flashy attractions to impress you. The moment you step onto that incredible white-sand beach and see the shades of blue in the water, you'll understand why so many cruisers rank it among their favorite private destinations.

What I appreciate most is that the island encourages you to slow down. Find a beach chair, take a walk along the shoreline, or spend time floating in the warm, crystal-clear water. Sometimes the best cruise memories aren't made on the biggest water slides or at the busiest attractions—they're made in places exactly like Half Moon Cay, where the natural beauty speaks for itself.

One final tip: if you're visiting before the new pier opens, be patient with the tender process. Once you arrive, you'll quickly realize the destination is well worth the short boat ride.