

HN Roatán Cruise Port Guide

Your Complete Guide to Honduras' Caribbean Paradise, Coral Reefs & Island Adventures

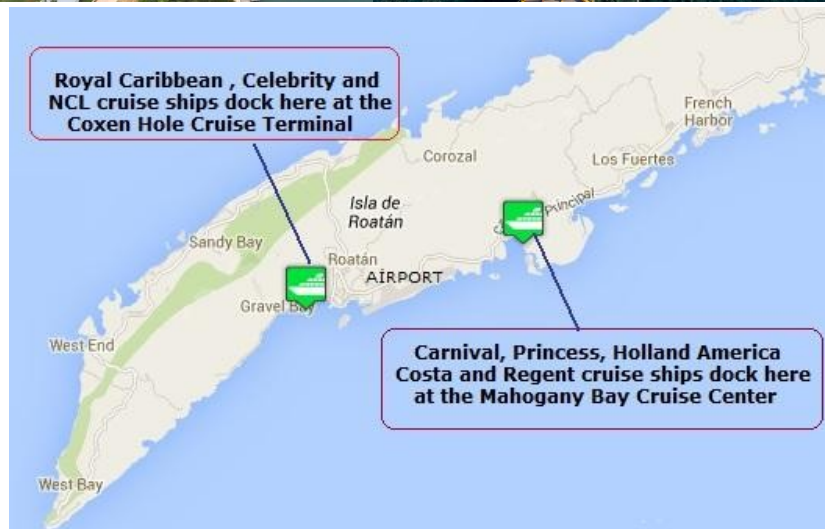


Roatán has quickly become one of the most popular ports in the Western Caribbean, and after just one visit, it's easy to understand why. This tropical island off the northern coast of Honduras is famous for its turquoise waters, lush hillsides, friendly locals, beautiful beaches, incredible wildlife, and some of the best snorkeling and diving in the Caribbean.

Roatán is also home to part of the **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef**, the **second-largest barrier reef system in the world**, making it a paradise for anyone who loves the ocean.

Whether you're relaxing at a beach club, ziplining through the rainforest, visiting a sloth sanctuary, or snorkeling among colorful coral reefs, Roatán offers unforgettable experiences for every type of traveler.

📍 Roatán's Two Cruise Ports



One of the first things to know about Roatán is that **there are two different cruise ports**, and where you dock depends on your cruise line.

🚢 Mahogany Bay Cruise Center



Home Port For:

- Carnival Cruise Line
- Princess Cruises
- Holland America Line
- Seabourn (select sailings)

Mahogany Bay is a privately developed cruise center featuring:

- Shopping village
- Restaurants
- Bars
- Beach access
- Chairlift ("Magic Flying Beach Chair")
- Water sports
- Excursion meeting areas

Mahogany Beach

One of the biggest advantages of this port is that you can enjoy a beautiful beach without leaving the cruise property.

You can:

- Walk approximately 10 minutes
- Or ride the chairlift (additional fee)

It's perfect if you're looking for a simple beach day.



Port of Roatán (Coxen Hole)



Home Port For:

- Royal Caribbean
- Celebrity Cruises
- Norwegian Cruise Line
- MSC Cruises
- Virgin Voyages (select sailings)

The Port of Roatán offers:

- Shopping
- Restaurants
- Local vendors
- Excursion departures
- Taxi stand

Unlike Mahogany Bay, there is no beach directly at the port, but taxis make it easy to reach the island's famous beaches.

★ Top Shore Excursions

🏖️ West Bay Beach



Often ranked among the best beaches in the Caribbean.

Features:

- Powder-soft white sand
 - Crystal-clear water
 - Excellent snorkeling
 - Beach clubs
 - Restaurants
-

Sloth & Monkey Sanctuary



One of Roatán's most popular family excursions.

Visitors can:

- Observe rescued sloths in a natural environment
- Learn about sloth conservation and rehabilitation
- See capuchin monkeys and tropical birds (interaction policies vary by sanctuary)
- Take memorable photos of the animals from designated viewing areas
- Support local wildlife conservation efforts

Please Note: At the time of this guide, visitors are **no longer permitted to hold sloths**. This policy helps protect the animals and reflects Roatán's ongoing commitment to responsible wildlife tourism. Experiences may vary slightly by sanctuary, but the focus is now on education, conservation, and respectful observation.

Snorkeling & Scuba Diving



Roatán is consistently ranked among the world's top diving destinations.

Expect:

- Coral reefs
- Sea turtles
- Eagle rays
- Colorful tropical fish
- Exceptional visibility

The island's reef begins just offshore in many locations.

Little French Key



A private island paradise offering:

- Beautiful beaches
- Kayaks
- Paddleboards
- Restaurants
- Animal sanctuary
- Relaxation

A wonderful all-day excursion.



Island Highlights Tour

Visit:

- Coxen Hole
- French Harbour
- Scenic overlooks
- Local villages
- Chocolate factory
- Rum cake factory

Perfect for first-time visitors.



Zipline Adventure

Soar above the rainforest canopy while enjoying spectacular views of the island and Caribbean Sea.

Many excursions combine ziplining with wildlife encounters.



Best Beaches



West Bay Beach

Roatán's most famous beach.

Ideal for:

- Swimming
 - Snorkeling
 - Families
 - Beach clubs
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Mahogany Beach



Located directly at Mahogany Bay Cruise Center.

Great for:

- Convenience
 - Swimming
 - Families
 - Relaxing close to the ship
-



Tabyana Beach

Located on West Bay.

Excellent for:

- Snorkeling
 - Cruise excursions
 - Calm water
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Half Moon Bay

Located in West End.

Perfect for:

- Diving
 - Snorkeling
 - Local restaurants
 - Relaxed atmosphere
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Shopping

Popular souvenirs include:

- Honduran coffee
- Local chocolate
- Rum cake
- Handmade wooden carvings
- Jewelry
- Island spices
- Local artwork

Both cruise ports offer shopping, but local markets often provide more authentic finds.



What to Eat

Don't leave Roatán without trying:

- Baleadas
- Fresh grilled lobster (seasonal)
- Coconut shrimp
- Fried fish
- Conch soup
- Plantains
- Honduran coffee
- Tropical fruit smoothies

Popular restaurants include:

- The Beach House
 - Loretta's Island Cooking
 - Kristi's Overlook
 - Roatan Oasis
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Hidden Gems

If you've visited before, consider exploring:

- West End Village
- Carambola Botanical Gardens
- Blue Harbor Tropical Arboretum
- Jonesville
- Punta Gorda
- Oak Ridge

Weather Throughout the Year

Roatán enjoys warm tropical temperatures throughout the year.

Winter (December – February)

- Highs: **80–84°F (27–29°C)**
- Lower humidity
- Excellent beach weather

Spring (March – May)

- Highs: **82–87°F (28–31°C)**
- Warm and sunny

Summer (June – August)

- Highs: **87–91°F (31–33°C)**
- Hot and humid
- Afternoon showers possible

Fall (September – November)

- Highs: **84–89°F (29–32°C)**
- Warm ocean temperatures
- Slightly wetter weather

Trade winds provide welcome relief year-round.

Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from:

June 1 – November 30

Roatán lies farther west than many Caribbean islands and is **less frequently impacted by hurricanes** than destinations in the Eastern Caribbean. However, tropical storms and hurricanes can still affect the region, particularly during the peak months of **August through October**.

Cruise lines closely monitor weather conditions and may adjust itineraries if necessary.

Travel insurance is always recommended.



Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Licensed taxis
- Cruise excursions
- Private island tours

Approximate travel times:

- West Bay Beach – **20–30 minutes**
- Sloth Sanctuary – **20–30 minutes**
- West End – **25–30 minutes**
- Little French Key – **20 minutes**

Taxi fares are generally fixed by destination, and it's a good idea to confirm the price before your trip begins.



What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Swimsuit
 - ✓ Reef-safe sunscreen
 - ✓ Sunglasses
 - ✓ Hat
 - ✓ Water shoes
 - ✓ Snorkeling gear (optional)
 - ✓ Waterproof phone pouch
 - ✓ Small cash for local vendors and tips
 - ✓ Reusable water bottle
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Premium Travel Group Tip

The first thing to know is **which cruise port you're arriving at.**

- If you're docking at **Mahogany Bay**, you already have easy access to a beautiful beach right at the port.
- If you're arriving at the **Port of Roatán**, it's well worth taking a short taxi ride to **West Bay Beach**, one of the finest beaches in the entire Caribbean.

If this is your first visit, consider combining a **sloth sanctuary** with a **West Bay Beach** stop. You'll enjoy two of Roatán's most iconic experiences in one unforgettable day.



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Why Visit Roatán?

Roatán offers an incredible combination of world-class snorkeling, beautiful beaches, abundant wildlife, and laid-back island charm. Whether you're swimming above colorful coral reefs, relaxing on the white sands of West Bay Beach, meeting playful sloths, or simply soaking in the Caribbean sunshine, Roatán has a way of making every visitor feel like they've discovered a hidden paradise.



Joe's Logbook

Roatán is one of those islands that continues to grow in popularity, but it still manages to keep its relaxed Caribbean personality. Every time I visit, I'm reminded just how stunning the water is. Whether you're snorkeling over the reef, watching the fish from the beach, or simply enjoying the view from a waterfront restaurant, the shades of blue surrounding Roatán are absolutely unforgettable. It's one of those ports where it's hard not to start planning your next visit before you've even sailed away.