

Swimming with the Pigs in the Bahamas Guide

One of the Caribbean's Most Famous and Fun-Filled Experiences



Few experiences are as uniquely Bahamian—or as instantly recognizable on social media—as **Swimming with the Pigs**. What began as a curious local legend has become one of the most sought-after excursions in the Caribbean, attracting visitors from around the world eager to meet the famous pigs that call the crystal-clear waters of the **Exuma Cays** home.

Whether you're visiting the Bahamas on a cruise, staying at a resort, or extending your vacation before or after your cruise, a trip to **Pig Beach** offers a memorable combination of turquoise water, white sand, and playful animal encounters unlike anywhere else on Earth.

What Is Pig Beach?



The famous swimming pigs live on **Big Major Cay**, an uninhabited island in the Exuma chain.

Instead of living on a farm, these pigs roam freely along the beach and often swim out to greet arriving boats, hoping for a snack or simply satisfying their curiosity.

Although no one knows exactly how the pigs first arrived, several stories have become part of local folklore, including:

- Sailors planning to return and cook them later
- Survivors of a shipwreck
- Farmers relocating them to the island
- Local caretakers introducing them years ago

Regardless of their origin, they've become one of the Bahamas' most beloved attractions.

Where Is Pig Beach?



Pig Beach is located in the **Exuma Cays**, about **80 miles (130 km)** southeast of Nassau.

Most visitors arrive by:

- High-speed excursion boats
- Catamarans
- Private charters
- Seaplanes
- Small aircraft to Staniel Cay followed by a short boat ride

Some cruise lines also offer organized shore excursions.



What to Expect



A typical visit includes:

- Scenic boat ride through the Exumas
- Time on Pig Beach
- Opportunities to swim alongside the pigs
- Plenty of photo opportunities
- Beautiful white-sand beaches
- Crystal-clear turquoise water

Many tours also combine Pig Beach with other Exuma highlights.



More Than Just the Pigs



Many excursions include stops at:

- 🐋 Compass Cay Nurse Sharks
- 🌈 Thunderball Grotto
- 🌴 Hidden sandbars

- 🦎 Iguana Island
- 🤿 Snorkeling reefs
- 🌴 Secluded beaches

A full-day tour often becomes one of the highlights of a Bahamas vacation.

🐷 Visiting Responsibly



The pigs are friendly, but they are still animals.

Follow these guidelines:

- Listen to your tour guide.
- Do not chase or corner the pigs.
- Only feed approved food provided by your guide.
- Avoid standing directly in front of large pigs.
- Never pull tails or ears.
- Supervise young children carefully.

Responsible tourism helps keep both visitors and the animals safe.



What to Bring



Recommended items include:

- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Waterproof phone case
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Water shoes
- Dry bag
- Camera or GoPro

Expect to get wet!



Best Time to Visit



Swimming with the pigs is available year-round.

The calmest conditions are typically found between:

November through April

Morning excursions often provide:

- Cooler temperatures
- Better lighting for photography
- Fewer crowds
- Calmer water



Photography Tips



Capture memorable photos by:

- Using a waterproof camera or GoPro.
- Taking wide-angle shots with the turquoise water.

- Photographing at water level.
- Letting the pigs come naturally toward you.
- Protecting your phone with a waterproof case.

Patience often leads to the best wildlife photos.

Premium Travel Group Tip

If your cruise doesn't include a Pig Beach excursion, don't worry. Many travelers choose to spend a few extra nights in Nassau or the Exumas before or after their cruise to enjoy this experience without feeling rushed. If visiting Pig Beach is high on your bucket list, consider building it into a longer Bahamas vacation.



Continue Exploring the Bahamas

Continue your Bahamas adventure with our related guides:

- Atlantis Paradise Island Guide
 - Blue Lagoon Island Guide
 - Junkanoo Festival Guide
 - Bahamian Food Experience Guide
 - Pirate History of the Bahamas Guide
 - Nassau Cruise Port Guide
 - Great Stirrup Cay Guide
 - Half Moon Cay Guide
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Fun Facts

- The swimming pigs live on **Big Major Cay**, which has **no permanent human residents**.
 - Adult pigs are surprisingly strong swimmers and often paddle out to greet arriving boats.
 - The clear waters surrounding Pig Beach are some of the most photographed in the Bahamas.
 - No one knows for certain how the pigs first arrived on the island, and several colorful legends continue to circulate.
 - Pig Beach has become one of the most recognizable travel destinations in the Caribbean, appearing in countless travel shows, magazines, and social media posts.
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Why You'll Love Swimming with the Pigs

Swimming with the pigs is one of those experiences that's impossible to explain until you've done it yourself. The combination of warm turquoise water, powder-soft sand, and friendly pigs swimming alongside visitors creates a fun and unforgettable adventure. Whether you're traveling as a couple, with friends, or as a family, it's a uniquely Bahamian experience that's sure to become one of the highlights of your trip.



Joe's Logbook

When people first hear about swimming with pigs, the reaction is almost always the same:

"Wait... pigs actually swim?"

The answer is yes—and seeing it in person is even more entertaining than the pictures suggest.

What I like most about this experience is that it captures the fun, laid-back spirit of the Bahamas. It's not about checking off another tourist attraction; it's about laughing, enjoying the beautiful scenery, and creating memories you'll be talking about long after you get home.

One piece of advice: don't spend the whole time looking through your camera. Take your photos, then put the phone away for a few minutes and simply enjoy the moment. Watching these surprisingly good swimmers paddle through some of the clearest water in the Caribbean is something you'll remember far longer than any picture.

Sometimes the most unforgettable travel experiences are also the most unexpected—and swimming with the pigs is definitely one of them. 🐷🌴🌊