

Half Moon Cay, Bahamas

A private island paradise operated by Holland America Line (owned by Carnival Corporation) — nearly 2 miles of blindingly white sand, impossibly calm turquoise water, and 98% pure Bahamian nature reserve. Almost no cruise day beats it.

Tender port (no pier)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

USD (cash for local vendors)

English

Private island

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — 15–20 min boat ride to island marina

Beach: ~2 miles of white-sand Crescent Beach; calm, shallow water

Best For: Beach days, horseback riding, snorkeling, families

Don't Miss: Walk past the crowd — quiet chairs 10 min down the beach

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 Rideshare ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Horseback Ride & Ocean Swim** — Half Moon Cay's signature experience: ride horses through the island's trails, then guide them into the turquoise ocean for a swim alongside you.
- Stingray Adventure** — Wade into Stingray Cove to feed, touch, and snorkel alongside southern stingrays in a calm, shallow setting.
- Eco-Lagoon Kayak Tour** — A guided kayak through the island's saltwater interior lagoon — mangroves, nesting seabirds, and remarkably clear water.
- Jet Ski Tour (Aqua Trax)** — Guided jet ski tour around the island's coastline — open ocean, clear water, and dramatic views of the ship at anchor.
- Beach Cabana or Villa Rental** — Private cabanas include AC, fridge, snorkel gear, and snacks.

BEST WALKS

- Crescent Beach Walk** ~2 miles one-way | Flat | 30–40 min full length — Walk the full length of the crescent beach from the Welcome Plaza toward the far quiet end.
- Island Interior Loop** ~1.5 miles | Easy | 20–30 min — Paved and dirt trails wind through the protected nature reserve toward the inner saltwater lagoon.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	High	Low	Rain
Mon			
Apr	82°	80°	5d
Jun	84°	81°	16d
Aug	84°	81°	19d
Sep	85°	81°	22d
Oct	84°	80°	23d

DAYLIGHT & 🌳 MONEY

Apr 6:43AM–7:27PM · Jun 6:16AM–7:55PM · Aug 6:39AM–7:38PM · Sep 6:51AM–7:08PM · Oct 7:03AM–6:37PM

🇺🇸 USD (cash for local vendors)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring USD cash. The local Bahamian straw market only accepts cash — no cruise card. Vendors sell crafts, jewelry, and hair braiding.
- Holland America beverage packages work on the island. Carnival's "Cheers!" package does NOT — Carnival guests pay individually by Sign & Sail card.
- Allow 1 hour before all-aboard. Tender lines build up at the end of the day. Miss the tender and you're swimming back.
- Walk past the first two beach entrances. The area near the pirate ship bar is packed. A 10-minute walk toward the far end of the beach finds open chairs and near-silence.
- Use reef-safe sunscreen. The white sand reflects UV intensely and the water is shallow — you'll burn fast. Reef-safe is required to protect the bay ecosystem.
- Pack water shoes if you plan to explore the rocks or interior lagoon trails — the edges near the coral can be sharp.

Half Moon Cay, Bahamas — Port Map

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



P Cruise port / terminal