

Cat Island, Bahamas

One of the least-visited Out Islands, Cat Island trades cruise-ship bustle for pink sand beaches, a hand-built hilltop monastery, and the birthplace of Rake 'n' Scrape music.

Tender port — no cruise pier

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

BSD / USD accepted everywhere

English

Uncrowded beaches

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor offshore; tenders land at New Bight government pier

Best For: Hikers, beach lovers, divers, and anyone craving an authentic, crowd-free Bahamas

Walk to center: New Bight village is steps from the pier; shops and the Fish Fry strip are within a short walk

Don't Miss: Mount Alvernia (The Hermitage) — highest point in the Bahamas at 206 ft, with a medieval monastery

Getting around: Taxi Negotiated · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Climb Mount Alvernia & The Hermitage** — At 206 ft, Mount Alvernia is the highest point in the Bahamas.
- Greenwood Beach** — Eight miles of pink-tinged sand facing the Atlantic Ocean on the island's east coast.
- Diving & Snorkeling the Blue Holes** — Cat Island sits on the edge of the deep Exuma Sound.
- Plantation Ruins & Columbus Point** — Cat Island's interior holds the ruins of 18th-century cotton plantations, slave huts, and Arawak caves near Columbus Point.
- Griffin Bat Cave** — Thousands of bats roost in this limestone cave near New Bight.

BEST WALKS

- Pier to Mount Alvernia** 2.5 miles one-way | Moderate | ~2 hrs return — Walk or taxi south from New Bight pier to the base of Mount Alvernia (Como Hill), then hike the short but steep stone path to The Hermitage at the summit.
- New Bight Village Stroll** 0.5 miles | Easy | 30 min — From the pier, wander through New Bight's quiet lanes to the Fish Fry strip, the small craft market, and New Bight Beach.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		80°	74°	13d
Jun		84°	79°	18d
Aug		86°	81°	18d
Sep		85°	80°	21d
Oct		83°	78°	21d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:40AM–7:23PM · Jun 6:13AM–7:51PM · Aug 6:37AM–7:35PM · Sep 6:48AM–7:05PM · Oct 6:59AM–6:34PM

BSD / USD accepted everywhere

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender early. Cat Island gets only occasional cruise calls; tender queues can be long in both directions. Get ashore on the first tender and return well before the last call.
- Sort your taxi at the pier. A handful of local drivers meet tenders. Negotiate a rate and agree on a pickup time before heading inland — this is not a place with Ubers.
- USD works everywhere. The Bahamian dollar is pegged 1:1 to USD. Cash is king on Cat Island — card machines are rare outside the resorts.
- Atlantic side vs. leeward side. The east coast (Greenwood Beach) has Atlantic surf and waves; the west (Fernandez Bay) is calm and great for snorkeling. Pick based on your mood.
- Pack everything you need. There is no pharmacy or well-stocked shop near the pier. Bring sunscreen, bug spray, water, and any medication from the ship.
- Respect the quiet. Cat Island's main draw is its lack of development. Leave beaches as you found them and tip local guides and drivers — tourism here is very small-scale.

Cat Island, Bahamas — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1** **Mount Alvernia Hermitage** A tiny hand-built stone monastery atop the Bahamas' highest point (206 ft), built by Father Jerome with carved Stations of the Cross along the climb.

- 2** **Deveaux Mansion Ruins** Crumbling ruins of an 18th-century plantation great house, a remnant of Cat Island's cotton-era past.

P Cruise port / terminal