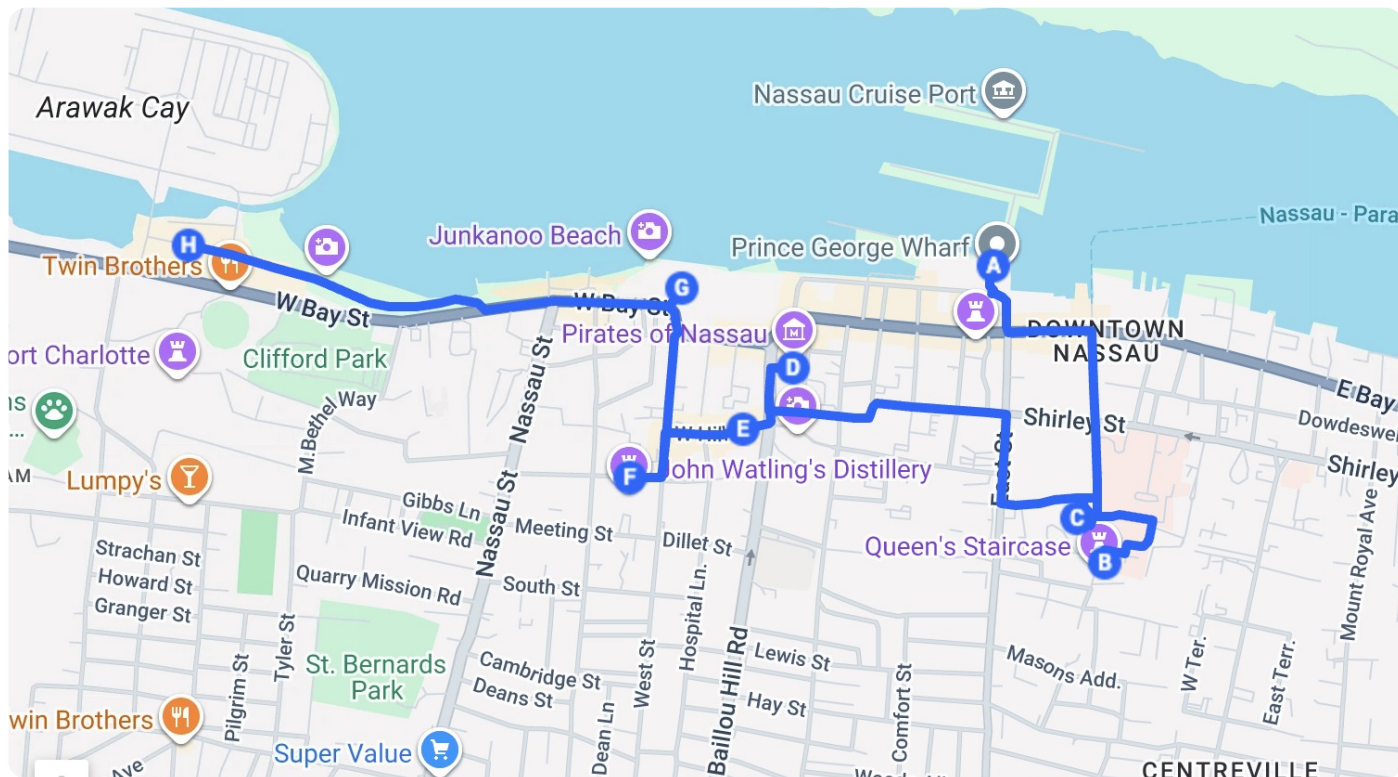




Nassau Walking Tour

A DIY port day on foot from the cruise terminal

Most cruisers write Nassau off and stay by the pool. Fair enough, but this loop gets you a staircase carved from limestone, pirate history, a free rum tour, a public beach and a plate of conch, with no excursion ticket required. Plan on a few miles of walking, some hills and very little shade, so wear real shoes.



A Cruise port | B Queen's Staircase | C Fort Fincastle | D Pirates of Nassau
E Umbrella Lane | F John Watling's Distillery | G Junkanoo Beach | H Arawak Cay Fish Fry

Route map built in Google My Maps. Scan the QR code below for the live version.

Sample Schedule

8:00 AM	Off the ship (A) and out the terminal. Budget up to 15 minutes for the pier walk.
8:45 AM	Stop 1: Queen's Staircase and Fort Fincastle (B, C)
10:00 AM	Stop 2: Pirates of Nassau Museum (D), opens at 9:00 AM
11:15 AM	Stop 3: Umbrella Lane on West Hill Street (E)
11:45 AM	Stop 4: John Watling's Distillery (F)
12:45 PM	Stop 5: Junkanoo Beach (G), skip it if you're short on time
1:45 PM	Stop 6: Lunch at the Arawak Cay Fish Fry (H)
2:45 PM	Taxi or walk back. Straw Market if you must. Be back on board early.



Scan for the live walking
map on your phone

Assumes you dock around 8:00 AM. Adjust everything to your own all aboard time.

The Stops

1 Queen's Staircase and Fort Fincastle

WHERE

Elizabeth Avenue, uphill from downtown

FROM THE PORT

About 15 to 20 minutes on foot

COST

Staircase is free; the fort charges a few dollars

TIME

45 to 60 minutes



Photo credit: queensstaircase.com

Go here first, while it's cooler and before the tour buses arrive. The narrow limestone passage was carved by enslaved laborers in 1793 and 1794. Locals call it the 66 Steps, but only 65 are visible because the bottom one got buried under pavement. Expect people at the top and bottom offering unsolicited tours for tips, and a polite no works fine. The steps get slippery when wet. At the top, Fort Fincastle is tiny, but the harbor view lets you spot your ship. The old water tower next door has long been closed to visitors.

2 The Pirates of Nassau Museum

WHERE

King and George Streets, downtown

FROM THE STAIRCASE

About 15 minutes back down toward Bay Street

COST

Around \$14 adults, \$7 kids (at last check)

HOURS

9 AM to 5 PM weekdays, 9 AM to 3 PM weekends

TIME

30 to 60 minutes



Photo credit: Pirates of Nassau Museum

A little hokey, but air conditioned and short. Nassau really was a pirate haven in the early 1700s, until Governor Woodes Rogers arrived in 1718 and ended the party. Wax figures, dioramas and a replica ship tell the story. Short on time? Skip it. Christ Church Cathedral across the street is a free photo stop instead.

3 Umbrella Lane on West Hill Street

WHERE

West Hill Street, next to the Graycliff Hotel, near Government House

TIME

15 to 20 minutes



A short stretch of street with colorful umbrellas overhead. It's a quick photo stop, and watch for passing cars. Graycliff next door is the oldest hotel in Nassau, and there are shops and cafes nearby if you need a cold drink. Government House is worth a look from outside. Tip for the map app: search Graycliff, not the lane.

4 John Watling's Distillery

WHERE

Buena Vista Estate, 17 Delancy Street

FROM THE PORT

About a mile, or a short cab ride

COST

Free tour and tasting (tip your guide)

HOURS

10 AM to 6 PM daily

TIME

30 to 60 minutes

Something that's actually free and actually good. The estate dates to 1789 and the rum is named for a 17th century buccaneer. The tour runs about 10 to 15 minutes and comes with a complimentary piña colada tasting. Afterward, grab a proper cocktail at the Red Turtle Tavern on the property.



Photo credit: John Watling's Distillery

5 Junkanoo Beach

WHERE

West along the waterfront, past the British Colonial Hilton

FROM THE PORT

About 10 to 15 minutes

COST

Free; chair and umbrella sets run about \$10 to \$15

TIME

As long as you've got

The closest public beach to the ship, with soft sand, Bahamas blue water and beach bars. It's busy on port days, so shop around before renting chairs, politely decline the hustlers and keep an eye on your stuff. Bathrooms may close around 5 PM.



Photo credit: bahamas.com

6 Arawak Cay (The Fish Fry)

WHERE

West Bay Street, just past Junkanoo Beach

FROM THE PORT

25 to 30 minutes on foot, or a short cab ride

TIME

About an hour for lunch

The Fish Fry sits past Junkanoo Beach, not before it. Expect conch salad made to order, conch fritters, cracked conch, fried snapper and cold local beer. Most places are going by lunchtime, and many take cash, so bring small bills.



Photo credit: bahamas.com

Before You Go

- **Know your all aboard time** and be back at the gangway well before it. The pier is long, so count 10 to 15 minutes at each end.
- **Go early.** Nassau can host several big ships at once, and popular stops fill up fast after about 10:00 AM.
- **Carry small bills.** Beach chairs, tips and street vendors prefer cash.
- **Stay on the main tourist streets.** Bay Street, Elizabeth Avenue up to the staircase and fort, and West Hill Street are the well traveled routes. The staircase sits just south of Shirley Street, but don't wander into the side streets of the neighborhoods beyond it on your own. Use live navigation rather than guessing.
- **Wear real shoes, bring water and sunscreen.** There are hills, stairs and little shade.
- **Expect to be approached** by taxi drivers, tour sellers and self appointed guides. A polite no thank you and steady walking does the trick.
- **Taxis:** agree on the fare before you get in.

The Verdict

Is Nassau the best port in the Caribbean? No. But this route proves it isn't the wasteland people assume, and it costs almost nothing beyond shoe leather, a few tips and whatever you order at lunch. Give it one morning on foot. Worst case, you're back on the ship by mid afternoon with photos, a rum buzz and a better story than the people who stayed by the pool.

Pocket checklist

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Ship ID and all aboard time | ☐ Small bills for tips and chairs |
| ☐ Water and sunscreen | ☐ Swimsuit and towel if you want the beach |
| ☐ Comfortable walking shoes | ☐ Phone charged, map saved offline |



Take the live map with you

Scan the code to open the interactive walking route on your phone, then save it offline in Google Maps before you leave the ship. Cell service in port can be spotty and roaming charges add up fast.