

New Orleans, Louisiana

Two words always come to mind when you think about New Orleans: Mardi Gras. But it's so much more than that. Anyone interested in food, history or music - as well as romantics of all sorts - will enjoy a visit to New Orleans. During certain times of year, the weather can be extremely hot, just like the Cajun and Creole dishes this town is famous for. In January, the temperature is cooler. Since your cruise is departing from New Orleans, you may want to spend an extra day or two here, exploring this fascinating city.



The One Thing You Don't Want to Miss

You can't say you've been to New Orleans if you haven't been to the French Quarter. This charming area is the oldest part of the city and home to many of its most popular sights.

Other Fun Things to Do

- Explore lively Bourbon Street and experience New Orleans' Southern hospitality firsthand. Take in some of the best jazz music in the world, while enjoying the unique cuisine of New Orleans - crawdads, gumbo or jambalaya.
- Head to the Garden District and check out some of the beautiful homes and architecture.
- Join a famous after-dark Vampire Walking Tour for a fun and thrilling night out.

Get a Taste of Local Flavor

For breakfast - or pretty much anytime - head to Café du Monde for decadent beignets. These square donut-like treats are coated in powdered sugar and completely addictive.

Weather in January:

Average High: 60.8, Average Low: 41.8, Average Precipitation: 5.1 inches

Falmouth, Jamaica

Quaint Falmouth was an economic powerhouse and center for dramatic social change during the English Colonial Period. In today's Falmouth, visitors still enjoy 19th-century Georgian architecture as well as river bamboo raft rides, arts and crafts shopping, flavorful local fare and horse-and-buggy rides. Falmouth is the gateway to the best Jamaica has to offer. Just east of Falmouth is Ocho Rios, known for its spectacular Dunn's River Falls. Travel west to reach Montego Bay and the beautiful beaches of Negril. Thanks to its central location, Falmouth gives visitors the best tour experiences of the north coast of Jamaica.



Bringing History Back To Life

Situated on Jamaica's North coast about 18 miles east of Montego Bay, Falmouth is noted for being one of the Caribbean's best-preserved Georgian towns. Visitors to Falmouth will experience the revitalization of one of the first shipping ports in the Caribbean, with a rich heritage dating back more than 240 years. Falmouth flourished as a market center and port for decades when Jamaica was the world's leading sugar producer.

Most recent development includes a two-berth pier, retail establishments, restaurants and a transportation center. In the future, there will be onsite attractions and experiences, hotel and residential components along with additional retail and restaurant options.

The One Thing You Don't Want to Miss

Visit the spectacular Dunn's River Falls near Ocho Rios, where you can climb 600 feet up from the base of the falls or retreat to the beach where the rushing water exits into the ocean. At Dolphin Cove you can watch the dolphins at play or walk through the jungle to see friendly birds and iguanas.

Visit Good Hope Great House and tour one of the immaculately preserved homes on a former sugar plantation, which dates back to the 1770s and sits on over 2,000 acres. From dune buggy safaris and river tubing to a horse and buggy tour, you will find many activities to keep you entertained. Here you will discover the ruins of buildings that were once the jewel of the Caribbean on its estate grounds. Be sure to visit the local pottery house and enjoy an authentic Jamaican lunch.

Other Fun Things to Do

- Take in Falmouth's British Colonial architecture
- Visit the Good Hope Great House for rich history, culture and scenic beauty including the Pottery House and Trading House

- Board the 30-foot bamboo rafts that offer romantic and adventurous rides on the Martha Brae River. Sit back and relax as a raft captain guides you through an exceptional view of the island's tropical scenery
- Take a trip through time on a horse-and-buggy ride through town
- Enjoy a scenic drive through Jamaica's interior to Appleton Estate, where visitors learn how rum is made, sample wet sugar and have the chance to taste different-aged rums
- Travel east to Ocho Rios where you can climb the spectacular Dunn's River Falls, soar through the lush rainforest canopy on a zip line, wind down the mountainside on a Jamaican bobsled or swim with dolphins at Dolphin Cove
- Feel the warmth of sun and sand on your skin as you steal away on a beach getaway at the Breezes Grand Resort in Negril or Cornwall Beach in Montego Bay

Shopping for Bargains

The pulse of Falmouth radiates from the heart of Water Square where you'll discover the Albert George Shopping and Historical Center. Pick up local craftwork wares that showcase the history and culture of the area and make memorable souvenirs for visitors and those back home. Wednesday morning was made for the most dedicated shoppers, as dealers fill stall after stall with native produce and gifts you won't find anywhere else on your journey.

Get a Taste of Local Flavor

A trip to Falmouth, Jamaica wouldn't be complete without sampling one of the more than 300 different jerk recipes that are cooked locally. From shrimp and lobster to chicken and pork, the jerk recipe is the signature of the city's tasty fare. Complement this culinary adventure by sampling local refreshing fruits like the ackee, breadfruit and star apple, a sweet finish to your flavorful journey.

Local Currency

The Jamaican dollar (JMD) is the official unit of currency. U.S. dollars, traveler's checks and credit cards are widely accepted. You'll be able to pay with U.S. dollars at nearly every restaurant and shop in town, but be prepared to get change in Jamaican dollars if U.S. currency is not available.

Weather in January:

Average High: 84, Average Low: 72, Average Precipitation: 1.91 inches

Georgetown, Grand Cayman

Grand Cayman is one of a group of three magnificent tropical islands Christopher Columbus called "Las Tortugas" (the turtles) for the sea creatures he found in the ocean water. The designation did not endure, however, for on later maps the islands were labeled the Caimanau, the Carib Indian word for "crocodile." The name "Caimanas" refers inaccurately to the iguanas native to the islands, which were perhaps at one point mistaken for crocodiles. Among other attractions, visitors to the island will enjoy learning about the turtles, visiting the town of Hell, exploring Seven-Mile Beach and enjoying the undersea world.



The One Thing You Don't Want to Miss

Experience a once-in-a-lifetime adventure: snorkeling with stingrays at Stingray City Sandbar. These relatively tame creatures will swim right into your arms as they glide around you. They have velvety soft skin and love to have their bellies rubbed. Despite their frightening name, they are very gentle and won't hurt you as long as you stay away from their tails.

Other Fun Things to Do

- Take a tour through the charming city of George Town, the capital of the Cayman Islands. Stop at the town of Hell, whose name was inspired by its unusual rock formations. Visit the Turtle Farm, an interactive sea-turtle nursery where green and hawksbill turtles are bred and raised.
- Explore a seemingly endless stretch of magnificent coastline at Grand Cayman's world-famous Seven-Mile Beach.
- Sail the beautiful waters of the North Sounds, stopping by Stingray City, aboard a 60-foot racing catamaran.
- Surround yourself with exotic marine life and huge coral formations as you explore the underwater world in a submarine.
- Experience a bird's-eye perspective of Grand Cayman on an exciting helicopter tour.
- Swim with stingrays, dolphins and turtles and complete this adventure tour at Tiki Beach on Seven Mile Beach.

Sporting Adventures

- Paddle along Grand Cayman's world-renowned Seven-Mile Beach on a kayaking adventure.
- Explore a historic shipwreck while snorkeling the beautiful Cayman waters.
- Explore the island and get a great workout at the same time, cycling through the island's quaint villages.

Shopping for Bargains

Grand Cayman is humorously referred to as "Brand Cayman" by those savvy shoppers who know the island's reputation for fabulous duty-free prices on designer merchandise. Great bargains abound on jewelry and watches from Caribbean Hook, Chopard, Honora, House of Tanzanite, John Atencio, John Hardy, Kabana, Roberto Coin, Starnight, Alfex, Cartier, Concord, Faconnable, Gucci, Maurice Lacroix, Michele, Movado, Wenger and more. Fine china, crystal, perfumes, leather, rum cakes, and liquor are available at bargain prices. Local crafts and treasure coins found in retail shops in George Town are also great buys.

Local Currency

The official currency of the Cayman Islands is the Cayman Islands dollar (KYD). U.S. dollars, credit cards, and traveler's checks are widely accepted.

Weather in January

Average High: 83, Average Low: 73, Average Precipitation: 2.17

Cozumel, Mexico

The Conquistadors first saw Mexico from the shores of Cozumel while searching for gold. Today, visitors to the island continue to seek out gold and silver jewelry in the shops of San Miguel while having a great time in its many local bars and restaurants. Plus, the waters around Cozumel's sheltered coral reefs make this one of the best snorkeling areas in the world.



The One Thing You Don't Want to Miss

Don't miss the opportunity to explore the ruins of the ancient Mayan city of Tulum, majestically perched above the turquoise Caribbean. The site was occupied as far back as 600 A.D. However, it was most densely populated around 1200 A.D. You will be struck by the pyramid-shaped El Castillo, which dominates the city from atop a forty-foot cliff. The nearby Temple of the Descending God provides equally excellent insight into the architecture of the Mayan people, who gained considerable achievements in the arts and sciences, only to decline and vanish for no apparent reason.

Other Fun Things to Do

- Explore the underwater world of Chankanaab on a deep-sea adventure aboard the Atlantis Submarine.
- Discover what makes a dolphin so magical as you play and interact with these amazing creatures in Chankanaab National Marine Park.
- Sit back, relax, and bury your toes in the white sand of Playa Mia Beach in Cozumel. This destination offers all the food, drinks and activities you can imagine, including relaxing massages on the beach.
- Take a Jeep®-safari adventure through the tropical landscape of Cozumel's east side. Ride through sand dunes and trails for an unforgettable experience.
- Learn to prepare a Mexican feast and enjoy your culinary skills with Mexican wines and a festive atmosphere.
- Escape to the secluded beauty of your own private beach paradise, Passion Island.

Sporting Adventures

- Experience snow-white bunkers and breathtaking views as you play a memorable round of golf on the championship course at the Cozumel Country Club.
- Snorkel in the clear sapphire-colored water around Cozumel's coral reefs. It's a snorkeler's dream, and one of the world's premier snorkeling destinations. Equipment, instruction and guidance begin at Sand Dollar Beach. From there, you'll be able to enjoy everything your eyes behold for as long as you like, with transportation ready and waiting to take you back to your ship.

- Take in the views of the north side of the island while skimming through the water in your two-person speed boat.

Shopping for Bargains

Regarded as the "St. Thomas of the Western Caribbean," Cozumel has become one of the world's best duty-free shopping ports. Cozumel offers unbelievable prices on diamonds, colored gemstones, jewelry, watches, gold, sterling silver, and even Oriental rugs as well as Mexican housewares and handicrafts. You can find designer jewelry pieces and watches from C2K, Caribbean Hook, Honora, House of Tanzanite, John Hardy, Kabana, La Nouvelle Bague, Starnight, White Diamonds, Cartier, Concord, Maurice Lacroix, Michele, Movado and more.

Local Currency

Mexico's currency is the peso (MXN). The \$ sign is used to refer to pesos, so don't be shocked at the price tags. Any prices in U.S. dollars are listed as US\$ or USD. Many hotels, restaurants and shops also accept major credit cards, which usually offer you a good exchange rate.

Weather in January:

Average High: 85, Average Low: 63, Average Precipitation: .7 inches