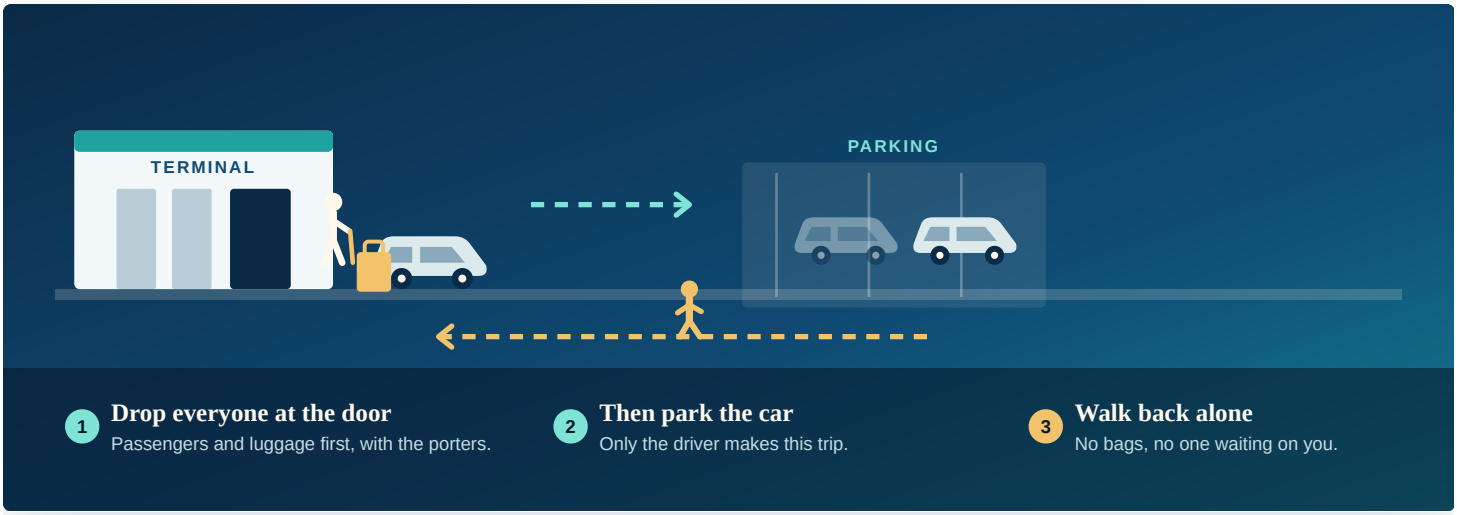
DEPARTURE DAY · FORT LAUDERDALE (PORT EVERGLADES)

The easiest airport in the country *to cruise from.*

Fort Lauderdale's airport sits under two miles from the cruise terminals, which removes the long transfer that makes other departure days hard. The port still asks you to allow 45 minutes to an hour — and on embarkation day, that hour is worth taking.

STILL FLY IN THE DAY BEFORE

Two miles is nothing, but a cancelled flight is a missed ship. Fort Lauderdale has plenty of hotels within ten minutes of the terminals, many with park-and-cruise packages that include your parking for the week. Arriving rested is worth more to a body with limits than the saving on one hotel night.



Parking at the port: *whoever needs the shortest walk should never ride to the garage. Drop them at the door first, with the luggage, then park. Private lots work differently — you park first and ride a shuttle in.*

WHO PARKS FREE AT PORT EVERGLADES — AND ONE USEFUL DIFFERENCE

Free parking applies to vehicles with a **Florida Toll Exemption Permit**, vehicles with **special disability equipment**, or **a disabled veteran plate from any state** — not only Florida, which is unusual and worth knowing if you're driving in.

A placard on its own pays the regular rate. **Parking office: 954-468-3680.** Rate $20 daily maximum.

WHAT A FLORIDA TOLL EXEMPTION PERMIT ACTUALLY IS

It's an **orange sticker from FDOT**, for drivers with a **severe and permanent upper-limb impairment** who hold a valid licence and drive a vehicle with accessibility modifications. Most placard holders won't qualify — which is why a placard alone doesn't get you free parking.

Which garage serves *your terminal*

- **Heron Garage** — about 1,800 spaces, serving Cruise Terminals 2 and 4. Follow the **orange signs with the flying heron**.
- **Palm Garage** — about 1,960 spaces, serving Cruise Terminals 19, 21, 25, 26 and 29. Follow the **green signs with the palm frond**.
- **Surface lots A, B and C** cover the rest. Terminal 18 has no garage of its own — it's served by Lot C alongside it and Lot B nearby.
- **Follow the colour, not the words.** On a busy morning it's far easier than reading every sign while driving.

Know your terminal number before you leave the hotel. It's on your cruise documents, and it decides which entrance you use.

THE PORT PUBLISHES THIS AND MOST PEOPLE NEVER SEE IT

Port Everglades states it has **ample disabled parking with unimpeded access to crosswalks and elevators**, and it keeps a dedicated page of disabled parking details. If the walk from the car is your limiting factor, read that page before you choose a garage — and ask at the booth when you arrive.

Parking at the port, *and what it really costs*

- **$20 a day for a standard vehicle**, $25 for oversized, charged for the day you arrive and the day you collect the car.
- **No reservations and no pre-payment.** You take a ticket on entry and pay at a machine before you collect the car — there are no cashiers at the exits.
- **Garages are at or within easy walking distance of the terminals**, so most people need no shuttle at all. That's the reason to pay the port's rate.
- **Oversized vehicles over 24 feet** need the port's parking management team in advance, not a decision made at the gate.

Where to park: *port-run and private, together*

The port takes no reservations. Private lots do, and booking ahead gets the better rate and a guaranteed space. The trade is a shuttle ride each way — which for some bodies is the whole question.

WHERE	WHO RUNS IT	ROUGHLY	WHAT TO KNOW
Port Everglades garages & lots	Port-run	$20/day ($25 oversized)	Heron and Palm garages sit at or beside the terminals, so most people need no shuttle. No reservations or pre-payment; take a ticket and pay before you collect the car.
Rightway Parking	Private	from about $7/day	Compares several private lots and park-and-cruise hotels in one place, with a guaranteed space.
On Air Parking	Private	from about $5/day	A lot in Dania roughly 4 miles out, with a free shuttle and free cancellation. Cheapest published rate we found.

WHERE	WHO RUNS IT	ROUGHLY	WHAT TO KNOW
Park-and-cruise hotels	Private	varies	A hotel night plus parking for the week, often with a terminal shuttle. Price the room and the parking together before deciding.

ASK ONE QUESTION BEFORE YOU BOOK ANY OF THEM

"Is the shuttle wheelchair accessible, and does it have a lift?" Only some are. If a high step into a van is a problem for you, that question matters more than the daily rate — and the lot at 11am on sailing morning is the wrong place to find out.

Getting there *from the airport*

- **Fort Lauderdale (FLL)** is under two miles away — a short ride, but allow 45 minutes to an hour for the whole transfer process as the port advises.
- **Miami (MIA)** is about 27 miles south. Cheaper flights sometimes land there, but I-95 at rush hour can add an hour.
- **Palm Beach (PBI)** is about 50 miles north.
- **The port doesn't run its own airport shuttle**, so it's a cruise line transfer, a private transfer or a rideshare — book an accessible vehicle in advance if you need one.

Coming home, *which is its own problem*

Disembarkation happens early, after a week of doing more than usual. Priority debarkation goes to guests needing wheelchair assistance, so put your name down the evening before and read the instructions that night rather than in the morning. Pay for your parking at the machine before you walk to the car, not after.

Questions to ask *before you drive*

1. Do you waive parking for my vehicle or plate, and what documents do I bring?
2. Where are the accessible spaces, and how close are they to the terminal or the elevator?
3. Can I drop my passenger and bags at the terminal first?
4. For off-site lots: does the shuttle have a wheelchair lift, and can it take my scooter?
5. What's the height limit if I drive a lifted van?

WHEELCHAIR HELP AT THE TERMINAL — ASK AHEAD

Royal Caribbean: crew push wheelchairs on and off the ship at embarkation and disembarkation. Request it on the Guest Special Needs Form **at least 30 days** before you sail.

Celebrity: tick "wheelchair assistance at the pier" on the special needs form, at least 30 days ahead.

Princess: has an **Accessibility Lane** at check-in, and assigns crew when you request wheelchair help.

Every line's form and deadline →

Check with your cruise line

- **Ask which terminal** your ship uses on your date, and which garage or lot serves it.
- **Ask how to request pier and wheelchair assistance**, and by when — 30 days is the usual deadline.
- **Ask whether there's an accessibility lane** at check-in and whether your companions can use it with you.
- **Ask about the distance from the drop-off point to check-in** at your terminal. It varies more than you'd expect between terminals.

RULES AND RATES CHANGE — CALL BEFORE YOU DRIVE

This is a starting point, not legal advice. Parking rates, free-parking rules and terminal assignments change without notice. **Call the port's parking office before you set off**, and check with your own cruise line.

PRICES CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Every rate here is a guide, not a quote. Parking prices, shuttle hours and terminal assignments change without notice, and private lots price by season and sailing length — one local lot has been reported jumping from about $10 to $15 a day over the holidays. Confirm current rates directly with the port or the lot before you travel.

Where this comes from

- Firsthand observation on recent sailings, with the date noted above.
- How we check things — our method, and what "last checked" means.

Last checked 22 September 2026.

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