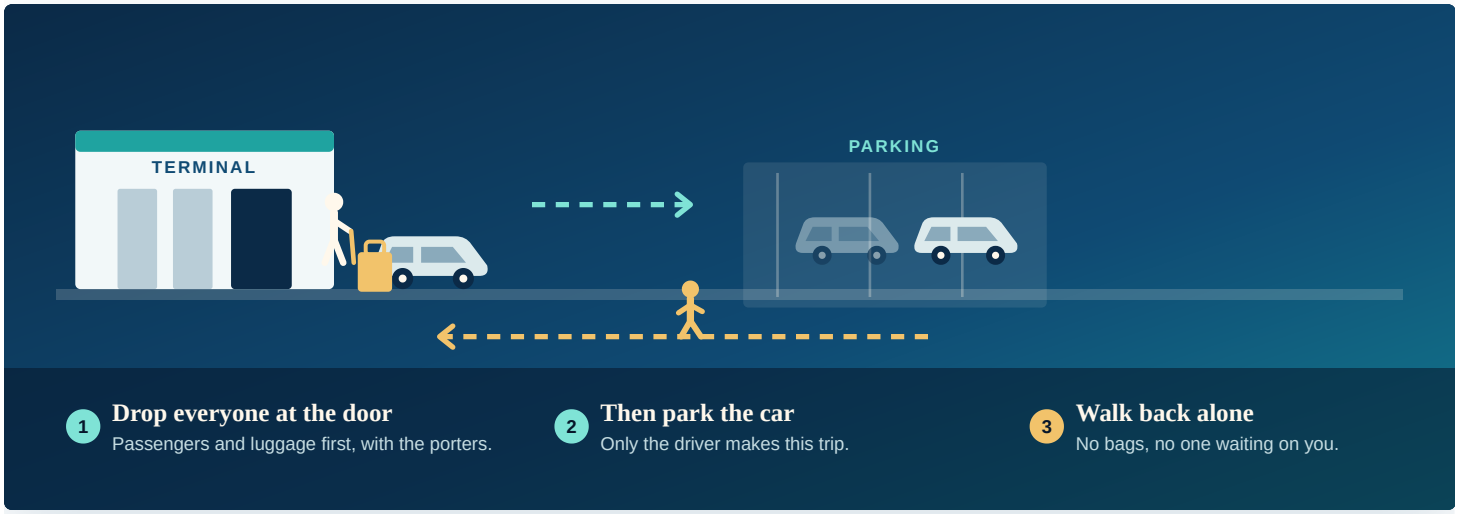
DEPARTURE DAY · MIAMI (PORTMIAMI)

# Garages beside the ship, *at a price that varies.*

PortMiami is the busiest cruise port in the world, and unusually civilised for a body with limits: the garages sit directly beside the terminals, so most people need no shuttle at all. What varies — sharply — is what you pay, and that depends entirely on which terminal your ship uses.

### THE BEST THING ABOUT THIS PORT

You park a few floors up and **walk across to the terminal**. No remote lot, no shuttle bus with your luggage on it, no transfer. For anyone whose hardest moment is getting in and out of vehicles, that's worth more than the money saved off-site.




***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.*

### TWO HOURS FREE, THEN THE REGULAR RATE

At PortMiami, a **disabled placard gets two hours free** and then pays the normal rate. Full waivers apply only to vehicles with **special disability equipment**, a **Florida DV plate**, or a **Florida Toll Exemption Permit**.

**Parking office: 305-960-5463.** Long-term rates run about $25–$35 a day depending on the garage.

**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.

## Parking, *and the honest state of the prices*

Rates here are terminal-specific and they move. Published figures we found ranged from roughly **$20 to $35 a day** depending on the garage, with the newest dedicated terminals at the top of that range and the older garages at the bottom. Oversized vehicles use a separate surface lot at a higher rate, charged by the space used.

- **You pay for every day the car is there**, including the day you return — a seven-night cruise is eight days of parking.
- **Check your terminal before you budget.** The difference between the cheapest and dearest garage is over a hundred dollars on a week's cruise.
- **Payment methods are restricted.** At least one source reports the port takes credit or cash but not debit — worth confirming before you arrive.
- **Vehicles over about 20 feet** go to the oversized surface lot, and a vehicle occupying two spaces pays twice.

**WHAT THE PORT ITSELF SAYS ABOUT DISABLED PARKING**

PortMiami states that **designated spaces for guests with disabled permits are available in every garage**, and that a complimentary shuttle runs between parking areas and terminals on cruise days. If the walk from the car is your limiting factor, those two facts decide your morning — ask at the booth on arrival.

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

Off-site lots publish rates from roughly $8 to $15 a day with a free shuttle, and they take reservations while the port does not. On a long cruise that's real money. The trade is a shuttle ride each way, with your luggage.

| WHERE | WHO RUNS IT | ROUGHLY | WHAT TO KNOW |
|---|---|---|---|
| **PortMiami garages** | Port-run | about $20–$35/day | Garages sit directly beside the terminals — park a few floors up and walk across. The rate depends on which terminal you sail from. Disabled permit spaces in every garage. |
| **Rightway Parking** | Private | from about $8/day | Compares several private lots in one place with a guaranteed space. |
| **ParkingAccess** | Private | from about $8/day | Books off-port lots with free shuttles to every terminal, and free cancellation. |
| **Park, sleep and cruise hotels** | Private | varies | A hotel night plus parking for the week and a terminal shuttle, often cheaper than booking the two separately. |

**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 decides more than the daily rate — and if the answer is no, the port's own garage beside the terminal is worth every extra dollar.

## Getting onto *the island*

- **The port sits on Dodge Island**, reached by the PortMiami Tunnel from I-395 or the MacArthur Causeway from South Beach.
- **Miami International (MIA)** is the main airport, and Fort Lauderdale (FLL) is a common alternative — cheaper flights sometimes land there, but I-95 at rush hour can add an hour.
- **Aim to arrive by mid-morning.** Port traffic peaks between about 9am and 11am, and in peak season the official garages can fill.
- **Cell phone waiting areas** exist for pick-ups, so whoever collects you doesn't have to circle the terminal.

> **ARRANGE WHEELCHAIR ASSISTANCE IN ADVANCE**
>
> Assistance from the parking area to the ship is arranged through your cruise line, not the port. Most lines want at least 48 hours' notice, and the accessibility form is best submitted 30 days out. The Accommodations Guide covers which form and by when.

## Coming home, *which is its own problem*

Disembarkation is early, after a week of doing more than usual. Put your name down for priority debarkation the evening before if you need wheelchair assistance, read the instructions that night, and don't book a flight that forces you to rush across town in Miami traffic.

## 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 and garage** your ship uses on your date — it sets your parking rate.
- **Ask how to request pier and wheelchair assistance**, and by when.
- **Ask whether there's an accessibility lane** at check-in and whether your companions can use it.
- **Ask how far the drop-off point is from check-in** at your terminal.

**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**

Miami's published rates vary more than any port we cover — different sources quote $20, $22, $25 and $35 a day for different garages and dates, and terminal fees move every

season. Treat every figure here as the right order of magnitude rather than a quote, and confirm the current rate for your garage with the port 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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