PORT DAY REAL TALK · ARUBA

The port that actually *plans for you.*

Oranjestad is flat, clean and among the most walkable port towns in the Caribbean. And Aruba is one of the few places where private accessible beach excursions genuinely exist — beach wheelchairs over soft sand, accessible bathrooms, the lot. You just have to book ahead.

The short answer

ASHORE	Docked
FREE BEACH	Town yes; best beaches need transport
HARDEST PART	One vehicle transfer each way

BOOK THIS WEEKS BEFORE YOU SAIL

Private accessible beach excursions here include **beach wheelchairs that handle soft sand** and accessible beach bathrooms — two things most Caribbean ports simply don't offer. They're limited, so arrange them well before the sailing rather than on the day.

The town, *and the beaches*

- **Oranjestad is a short flat walk** from the pier, with plenty of seating and some shade. A town day here works without any transport at all.
- **A free downtown tram** runs through the centre, which shortens the day further.
- **The famous beaches — Eagle, Palm — need a bus or taxi.** Eagle Beach is world-class and worth the trip, but it isn't a walk.
- **The public bus is reliable and cheap**, and a real alternative to taxi fares if steps onto the bus aren't an issue for you.

What the day *asks of you*

- **Flat ground** throughout the town, which is the main reason this port rates well.
- **One transfer** if you want a famous beach — bus or taxi, each with a step up.
- **Constant wind.** It keeps the temperature pleasant and plays havoc with umbrellas and hats.
- **A slightly higher budget.** Aruba is pricier than most ports, and the beaches are shared with resort guests.

Aruba is also drier than most of the Caribbean, which makes the heat noticeably easier to manage — worth knowing if humidity is what usually finishes you.

> **THE LOW-EFFORT VERSION OF THIS PORT**
>
> Oranjestad on foot with the free tram when you need it, a waterfront lunch, and back aboard. Or one taxi to Eagle Beach, one chair, and stay put until it's time to return.

Check with your cruise line

- **Ask whether the downtown tram is wheelchair accessible** and where it picks up from the pier.
- **Ask the shore excursion desk about accessible beach options**, and book early — equipment is limited.
- **Ask about step height** onto buses or tour vehicles if you plan to use them.
- **Confirm the walking distance** from your ship's berth to the terminal gate, which varies by berth.

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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