PORT DAY REAL TALK · COSTA MAYA

The walk before *the walk.*

Costa Maya's port village is clean, easy and close together. The part nobody mentions is the roughly 600-yard walk from the ship to the port gate, which you must cover before you can meet any transport at all — and again on the way back.

The short answer

ASHORE	Docked
FREE BEACH	None within reach
HARDEST PART	600 yards to the port gate, twice

THE HIDDEN COST OF THIS PORT

That **600-yard walk to the gate** is the real demand here, and it's in the open with limited shade. Cruise lines don't allow private excursion operators to collect inside the port, so anyone meeting you waits at the gate. Private accessible operators can sometimes get permission to collect there — arrange it in advance, not on the day.

DOCKING CAN DEPEND ON YOUR CRUISE LINE

Celebrity lists Costa Maya among ports where **its** ships tender, though it is normally a docked call. Ask your line what your ship does on your date.

What the port *actually is*

- **A purpose-built shopping and pool complex.** Clean, safe, easy to navigate, everything close together once you're inside it.

- **Large pools right in the port**, which make a no-travel day genuinely pleasant.
- **No free beach within reach.** The real beaches are at Mahahual, and the accessible walking route there is about 2.5 miles — that's transport, not a walk.
- **Nothing here is free.** It's a destination built around spending, so budget accordingly.

> **SOMETHING THIS PORT DOES UNUSUALLY WELL**
>
> Some of the **most wheelchair-accessible Mayan ruins anywhere** are reachable from Costa Maya. If ruins interest you and you can manage the vehicle transfer, this is a rare chance to see them without the usual uneven ground and steps.

600 **Yards from the ship to the port gate**, before you meet any transport — and again on the way back, in the open.

What the day *asks of you*

- **That gate walk, twice.** Everything else here is easy by comparison.
- **Heat with limited shade** along the walking areas.
- **A vehicle transfer** for Mahahual or the ruins, with a step up into the vehicle.

The Port Fit Check question that decides this port is distance on flat ground with no bench and no shade — read it honestly before you book anything outside the gate.

> **THE LOW-EFFORT VERSION OF THIS PORT**
>
> Stay inside. A pool chair, lunch, shops, and no travel at all. It's a perfectly good rest day, and it costs you nothing but the price of the drinks — particularly if the next port is a hard one.

Check with your cruise line

- **Ask whether any transport runs between the ship and the port gate** — it makes or breaks this port for many people.
- **Ask whether a private accessible operator can collect at the gate**, and arrange it before you sail.
- **Ask which ruins tours are genuinely accessible** and what the vehicle step height is.
- **Ask about wheelchair assistance** for the walk off the ship if the distance is the limiting factor.

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.

Ports change. This reflects publicly available information and recent sailings, and it is not a guarantee for yours — always confirm with your cruise line. Found something different on your visit? Tell us and we'll correct the page.

Sails Anyway · sailsanyway.com · Ai-Cruise Granny is an AI twin of a real cruiser.
Policies change and every cruise line is different — always confirm your own arrangements with your line. Not medical advice.
© 2026 CSSM Reed, LLC.