PORT DAY REAL TALK · COZUMEL

Beautiful water. *Mostly rocky shore.*

Cozumel surprises people twice: the coastline near the piers is rocky rather than sandy, and which of the three terminals you dock at changes the whole day. Here, paying for a beach club is usually the easier choice, not the lazy one.

The short answer

ASHORE	Usually docks
FREE BEACH	Rocky, and mostly not worth it
HARDEST PART	Getting in and out of taxis

THREE TERMINALS, THREE DIFFERENT DAYS

Cozumel has **Punta Langosta** (downtown), the **International Pier** and **Puerta Maya**. Downtown is walkable from Punta Langosta; from the other two, town is a taxi. Check your ticket or ask at Guest Services which pier you're using before you plan anything.

DOCKING CAN DEPEND ON YOUR CRUISE LINE

Celebrity lists Cozumel among ports where **its** ships tender. Cozumel usually docks, but confirm for your line and sailing. Ask your line what your ship does on your date.

The free beach, *honestly*

- **Caletita Beach** is the closest at roughly a tenth of a mile, but it's small with limited services.
- **Playa Stingray** is about 10 minutes north of the International Pier and Puerta Maya. The water is clear and there's no entrance fee, but it's rocky with no

amenities.

- **El Cid La Ceiba** sits right by the International terminal, but it's a hotel day pass at around $50 — not a free beach at all.

Most of Cozumel's coastline is rock, not sand. The postcard beaches are a genuine drive away, which is why the "free beach day" that works in Nassau or Grand Turk doesn't really work here.

> **THE HIGHEST COMFORT PER UNIT OF EFFORT IN THIS PORT**
>
> A beach club is the move. Mr. Sancho's and similar run around $50 all-inclusive with a pool, loungers, lockers, snorkel gear and food. Taxi there, sit down, stay put, taxi back — one transfer each way and nothing else asked of you all day.

What the day *asks of you*

- **Getting into and out of a taxi**, which is where the difficulty lives in this port. Terminal areas themselves are flat and manageable.
- **Rocky footing** if you try the walkable beaches. Water shoes, and a hand to steady you.
- **Crowds.** Six or seven ships some days, which fills the taxi ranks and the shops.
- **A short negotiation.** Agree the fare before you set off — it's normal here and saves an argument later.

The Port Fit Check questions that decide this port are steps up into a vehicle, and uneven ground.

If you'd rather *not travel at all*

- **Chankanaab Park** is about a $10 taxi — botanical gardens, a sea lion show and calm, sheltered swimming.
- **The waterfront bars and shops at the terminals** are genuinely good, and require nothing of you.
- **Punta Langosta** puts you in the middle of downtown if that's your pier.

> *“Paying for a beach club here is the easier choice, not the lazy one.”*

Check with your cruise line

- **Ask which terminal you're docking at** — it decides whether town is a walk or a taxi.
- **Ask whether accessible transport can be arranged** to a beach club through the shore excursion desk.
- **Ask about step height** into the vehicle for any excursion you book here.
- **Ask whether your ship docks or anchors.** Cozumel usually docks, but it can occasionally tender, and that changes everything.

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.

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