Princess Cays, Eleuthera
Bahamas Port Guide

Welcome to
PRINCESS
CAYS
Princess Cays is a private beach area near the southern tip of Eleuthera Island

Eleuthera is renowned for its magnificent beaches and breathtaking views of the sea. Princess Cays is gorgeous. It is absolutely spotless and maintained to the same level of cleanliness and service on Princess ships. The same wait staff that serve us on our ship are on the island, mixing and serving delightful cold drinks and an excellent buffet lunch.

Princess Cays is a wonderful place to:
- Stroll along the beach, relax with a drink, enjoy lunch in the shade of the dining area,
- Swim, snorkel, sun bathe, (you can rent a beach clam-shell shade, sea boards, floats, etc.),
- Take small children to an enclosed play area, "Pelican's Perch & Kiddy Pool",
- Children and adults can climb “Crow's Nest Lookout Tower”,
- Visit shopping stalls selling a variety of local items,
- Take a tour on a glass-bottom boat,
- Rent a bungalow for privacy on the beach or in the Sanctuary at the north end of the beach, etc.

CAVEAT
Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan

NOTE: I would like to thank Don and Ronni Lee for their help on this port guide.
Princess Cays is 3500 feet long.  (Microsoft Bing map below)
Map Showing Buildings, the Tender Dock, and the Security Gate to Princess Cays

The beach next to the harbor
Bungalows along the beach

Entrance to Sanctuary Bungalows

Pelican's Perch & Kiddy Pool
Entrance to one of the snorkeling areas

Tender at the dock
Rent a clam-shell shaded chair

Or, Buy a Hat
Exploring the Area Outside of Princess Cays

• **Three areas within walking distance** are 1) the Craft Centre (just outside the gate), 2) the local cemetery 1.4 miles to the north, and 3) two grave stones and ruins of a house 1.4 miles to the south.

• **Lighthouse Point & Beach** is at the southern tip of Eleuthera. It's one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. It's 3.2 miles south of Princess Cays, but difficult to reach because the roads are rocky and in poor condition. Lighthouse Point can be reached on foot by accomplished hikers.

Craft Center

Next to the harbor, you will find a map of Princess Cays, the first aid station, a set of lockers for storage, and restrooms. The Craft Centre is behind the building with the storage lockers and restrooms.

The Craft Centre is just outside the gate for Princess Cays. Show your cruise card and a govt issued photo I.D.
The Craft Centre features a variety of colorful products, sea shells, baskets, handbags, art, music CD's, etc. There were musicians playing.
Walking Route from Princess Cays North to the Cemetery (comments by Don and Ronni Lee)

As the satellite map at left shows, the cemetery is easily reached by walking north/northwest along flat land; no hills to climb. The walking route is shown by dashed yellow lines.

It's a good idea to apply bug spray and wear shoes suitable for walking over rocks and rough terrain.

From the tender boat dock (Point A on the map), it's a 1.4 mile (7500 foot) walk to the cemetery at Point B.

Walk north through the main portion of Princess Cays to the gated entrance to the Sanctuary. Bear right (east) for ~ 20 feet, then head northwest on the hard surface path behind the sanctuary.

At the end of the hard surface path, it's best to head west toward the beach to continue walking northwest along the beach. The tide may require that you walk through the brush/trees next to the beach in some areas.

There's a point where the beach turns to the northeast and the ship will be out of view. Shortly after that point, you'll see a path to the east about 5 feet higher than the beach. Get onto that path and continue north for a few hundred feet to the cemetery.

The cemetery is surrounded by a low rock wall. An opening in the wall has two posts which presumably had a sign. There are several cement burial vaults (including at least one with the typed name and birth/death information about the decedent), and quite a few of what appear to be headstones. See photos.

Don and Ronni Lee

GPS Coordinates

A) Tender Dock at Princess Cays  
GPS = N 24°38'12.2", W 76°10'29"

B) Cemetery ~ 1.4 miles north of the Tender Dock  
GPS = N 24°39'15.7", W 76°11'00.2"
Cement Burial Vaults

Grave Marker
Walking Route from Princess Cays South to Two Graves

There are two grave stones south of Princess Cays near the beach. This does not appear to be a cemetary, just a burial site for two women near the remains of a small cement foundation that may have been a house.

The names on the stones are:
- Mirtle Gibson Born 1928 Died 1946
- Olga McPhee Born 1919 Died 1947

The photo at left is from posts on Cruise Critic several years ago. I have not been to this site. Recent posts on the blogs state that one of the grave stones is missing. Speculation is that it was buried by a hurricane.

Whether or not the grave stones and remains of the building are still there, the rationale to visit this area is to see a remote, peaceful, and beautiful site along the beach away from the crowds.
Walking distance is 1.4 miles (7500 feet) south from the Tender Dock at Princess Cays.

Note: A section of the beach is covered with rocks, wear appropriate shoes. Also, you will be walking past a lagoon and near dense vegetation beside the beach. Take precautions against insects by wearing bug spray.

The round trip walk takes about an hour.
From the tender dock, cross the wood bridge to the beach on the south side of the harbor. Walk along the beach the entire route. After you cross the rocks along the beach, you will see a clearing in the trees near the beach. Look for the grave stones and remains of the house foundation.

GPS Coordinates:
Tender Dock at Princess Cays  GPS = N 24°38′12.2″, W 76°10′29″
Two Graves near the beach  GPS = N 24°37′23.1″, W 76°09′48.6″

For more guides, see www.TomsPortGuides.com
Lighthouse Point at the southern tip of Eleuthera  
see [http://www.eleuthera.com/lighthousepointphotos.html](http://www.eleuthera.com/lighthousepointphotos.html)

Visitors who take the long, rocky road to the Lighthouse Point are rewarded with an awesome, pristine, completely undeveloped paradise. It's a rare place where most of the natural and historic features have converged. Topography, ecology, avian habitat, beaches, and reefs are remarkable. It's human history is still to be uncovered from ruins at the site and neighboring communities. The lighthouse and spectacular panoramic views from the point are a destination for many of the island's residents and visitors.

**Limestone cliffs along the beach**

The cave may have been used for Lucayan Ceremonies  
The Lighthouse has remains of a lantern on a post
Route from the Tender Dock at Princess Cays to Lighthouse Point

NOTE: Hikers recommend you wear appropriate shoes, bug spray, and carry your lunch and water. There are no facilities at Lighthouse Point. The road is not suitable for cars. If you can rent a vehicle, you'll need a vehicle with high clearance for off-road use such as a truck, ATV, Jeep, Land Rover, etc.

For gorgeous photos of the site and photos of the ruts in the road, see
http://www.naturalbornhikers.com/trails/lighthousebeacheleuthera.html

GPS Coordinates
Tender Dock at Princess Cays
Point A on the map
Point B on the map
Point C on the map, pass Bannerman Town
Lighthouse, Point D on the map

Princess Cays
Tender Dock

Princess Cays
Tender Dock to
Lighthouse Point
3.2 Miles

GPS = N 24°38′12.2″, W 76°10′29″

GPS = N 24°38′17″, W 76°10′16.6″

GPS = N 24°37′55.7″, W 76°09′56.8″

GPS = N 24°38′14.1″, W 76°09′37.2″

GPS = N 24°36′55.1″, W 76°08′45.7″
Using Google Earth.exe To Create Personalized Maps

Google Earth is a FREE map program. It's separate from, and in some respects more useful than, the map program that is part of Google Chrome internet browser. Download the program from Google at [http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html](http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html).

One advantage of Google Earth.exe maps is that you can plot distance for a specific path in miles, feet, meters, etc.

The **map below** shows the first section of the walking route from Princess Cays to Lighthouse Point. **To create this map:**

**EITHER** copy and paste `N 24°38′12.2″, W 76°10′29″` from this port guide into Google Earth.exe search box and press the enter key,

**OR** type `n 24 38 12.2, w 76 10 29.0` into Google Earth.exe search box and press the enter key.

Then open the “ruler icon” on the top bar of the map, click on “Path”, and set the “Length” to desired unit. Click along the path you wish to travel.

**The map below** appears. Note that I clicked at several points (as shown by red dots) to follow the curvature of the road.

Magnify the map to see more detail e.g., the number of paths crossing the road, buildings, intersections, etc. Save the map using “PrintScreen”.

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[Image: First Part of Walk from Tender Dock to Lighthouse Point]
See this blog for details on the hike. It takes about 60 minutes each way = 2 hours walking time
http://www.pescadoamarillo.blogspot.com/search/label/Lighthouse%20Beach

This is the full walking route map from the tender dock at Princess Cays to Lighthouse Point.
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

If there is any question about use of my guides, contact me at TomsPortGuides@Gmail.com

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