

Take A Cruise Or Stay In A Bahamas Resort?

Do Both!

Celebration / Our Lucaya

Story and Photos by Melissa Wolcott and Al Martino

Possible vacation quandries: 1. You want to visit the Bahamas, but don't like to fly. 2. You've never been on a cruise, but not sure you will like it, and don't want to commit to something you might not like for a whole week.

Solution to vacation quandries: Combination cruise/Bahama stay with Bahamas Celebration and Our Lucaya Beach & Golf Resort on Freeport, Grand Bahama Island.

The beauty of this trip is, you can create your own vacation package. The cruise on Bahamas Celebration is one night over from the port at West Palm Beach to Freeport. This should give you a sense of whether or not you think you would enjoy cruising. Once on the island, you can spend the day enjoying Freeport's activities and cruise back home that night, OR you can choose to stay on the island at the luxurious Our Lucaya for two, four, six, or however many nights you choose, and return via Bahamas Celebration back to West Palm Beach. Sounds ideal? It is.



We already knew we liked cruising and the Bahamas, so this clever concept sounded like a fun trip. We chose the one night over cruise, two nights at the resort, and the return one night cruise. Our four night getaway satisfied both pleasures for us.

The 1,500-passenger MS Bahamas Celebration is a smaller size cruise ship (originally a cruise ferry) that has been totally renovated and updated with a \$10 million makeover into an attractive ship with the same amenities you will find on her



larger counterparts, but scaled down, and less glitzy. A lot of people prefer this more intimate size to the new mega-ships. To our delight, we found our modern outside cabin to be the same size that we are used to on the



large cruise ships. (The Bahamas Celebration is not to be confused with Carnival's ship named Celebration, as it is not associated with Carnival.)

The ship offers four restaurants, a casino, nightclub, lounges, live shows and entertainment, dancing, a spa, pool, and jacuzzis. There's something going on at all times for those who are interested in a lot of ship activities. For kids, there are three

supervised and age-appropriate kids clubs with a variety of games and activities. There's also a kids' water park area with a 180-foot water slide. Wifi is available in the lobby for a price (not cheap, but that's true on all cruise ships.)

We found the food to be quite good, and at least comparable to the large cruise ship lines, and in some cases, surprisingly better.

One thing the ship doesn't have at this time is 110 AC current (they use European 220 DC) so your hairdryers and any electronic devices you bring with you will not work. If you care about this, you should bring a converter with you.

Upon arriving in Freeport, passengers can enjoy the excursions they signed up for on the ship, such as snorkeling, horseback riding, glass bottom boat rides or they can spend the day at Our Lucaya Beach and Golf Resort, before heading back to the ship by 4:30

PM.

The folks that chose to stay over on the island head over when the ship docks to check in to the resort. Hint: Everyone arrives at the same time, so you may want to plan to drop your suitcases with the bellman and enjoy the resort or tool around Freeport for a few hours to avoid the long line at check-in.

The five-star Our Lucaya Resort is actually two separate hotels on one large property. The Reef Village is a more casual style, and the luxurious Radisson is a bit more posh. We, being more laid back, stayed in the Reef Village, and had a lovely tropical-style room overlooking the pool and gorgeous blue waters of the Caribbean beyond.



Our Lucaya pretty much has everything you could possibly need for a resort vacation, with golf courses, tennis, a spa, casino, dining, shops to shopping, and all sorts of water sports along their 370-acre stretch of soft-sand beach.



This "combo" cruise/Bahama vacation, or any version of it, should satisfy anyone who, like us, enjoys both.

For more information about Bahamas Celebration, visit www.celebration-cruise-line.com, and more more information about Our Lucaya Resort, visit www.ourlucaya.com.

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