Long Beach, California Cruise Terminal Guide

Carnival terminal, parking, airports, hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping, and embarkation planning

Information reviewed August 1, 2026. Cruise schedules, terminals, parking prices, hotel packages, store hours, and transportation options can change. Verify current details before travel.

Cruise Port Overview

The Long Beach Cruise Terminal is inside the distinctive geodesic dome beside the Queen Mary. It is a separate cruise facility from the Los Angeles World Cruise Center in San Pedro. Long Beach offers a compact waterfront with hotels, dining, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and family attractions.

Terminal area	Queen Mary / Downtown Long Beach waterfront
Primary cruise line	Carnival Cruise Line
Closest airport	Long Beach Airport (LGB)
Other airports	Los Angeles International (LAX) and John Wayne Airport (SNA)
Important distinction	Long Beach Cruise Terminal and World Cruise Center are different ports about 7-10 miles apart by road.

Cruise Lines Sailing From This Port

Carnival Cruise Line

The primary and regular operator from Long Beach, with Mexico, Baja, Hawaii, and special itineraries.

Other vessels

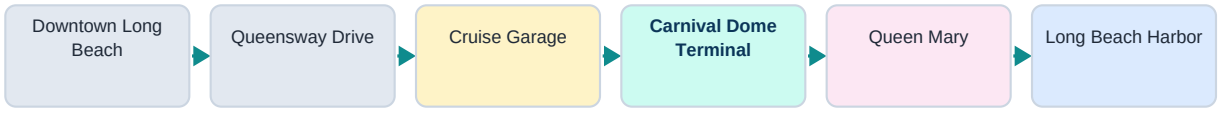
Most other Los Angeles-area cruise lines use the World Cruise Center in San Pedro.

Terminal verification

Check the address carefully because rideshare drivers and travelers sometimes confuse Long Beach with San Pedro.

Cruise Terminals and Orientation Map

Long Beach Cruise Terminal (not to scale)



The Carnival terminal is at the Queen Mary complex on the south side of the Long Beach waterfront. The adjacent garage has a height limit, and oversized vehicles need special planning. Use the cruise line's current address and check-in instructions.

Parking Options and Costs

Daily maximum	$23 per day as currently published by Visit Long Beach.
Short-term	First 30 minutes free; 31-59 minutes $4; one to two hours $8.
Garage clearance	Approximately 7 feet.
Oversized vehicles	Cannot use the standard garage. Contact the terminal or cruise line for current oversized arrangements.
Payment and timing	Follow posted instructions and retain the ticket. Rates are subject to change.
Alternative parking	Hotel parking packages may be economical for drive-in guests when transfer is included.

Airport Transportation

Long Beach - LGB

The closest and easiest airport for many travelers. Taxi, rideshare, or private transfer is straightforward.

Los Angeles - LAX

More flight choices but traffic can make the transfer much longer.

John Wayne - SNA

A useful alternative in Orange County; compare airfare and road travel time.

Public transit

Metro and local transit can work for light travelers, but transfers with cruise luggage are less convenient.

Fly one day early

Southern California traffic and flight disruptions make a pre-cruise night valuable.

Cruise-Friendly Hotels and Parking Packages

Hotel cruise-parking packages and shuttle schedules change frequently. Verify parking duration, transfer fees, vehicle access, and package restrictions directly with the hotel before booking.

Hotel Maya

Waterfront resort close to the Queen Mary and cruise terminal. Ask about cruise parking and shuttle packages.

Residence Inn Long Beach Downtown

Near the waterfront; verify current park-and-cruise rates and transportation.

The Queen Mary

Historic ship hotel next to the terminal area; package and parking terms vary.

The Cove Hotel Long Beach

Has marketed cruise-oriented packages that may include parking and terminal transportation; verify directly.

Hyatt Regency Long Beach

Downtown waterfront location near Shoreline Village; terminal transfer is separate unless packaged.

Hotel Current or airport-area hotels

May offer lower rates and parking options; include transfer cost in the comparison.

Best Restaurants Nearby

Parker's Lighthouse

Waterfront seafood and harbor views at Shoreline Village.

Gladstone's Long Beach

Casual seafood near the Aquarium and waterfront.

The Reef

Waterfront dining with skyline and harbor views.

Ammatoli

Popular Levantine restaurant in Downtown Long Beach.

Saint & Second

Belmont Shore restaurant known for contemporary American food.

Boathouse on the Bay

Waterfront dining near Alamitos Bay, farther from the terminal but scenic.

Local Attractions

The Queen Mary
Historic ocean liner, exhibits, tours, and hotel next to the terminal.

Aquarium of the Pacific
Major family attraction on Rainbow Harbor.

Shoreline Village
Waterfront dining, shops, marina views, and activities.

Naples canals
Walk or take a gondola ride through a distinctive Long Beach neighborhood.

Museum of Latin American Art
Art museum with modern and contemporary Latin American collections.

Belmont Shore and beach paths
Shopping, dining, beaches, and cycling along the coast.

Shopping

The Pike Outlets
Outlet and entertainment complex near the waterfront.

Shoreline Village
Souvenirs, gifts, specialty shops, and restaurants.

Retro Row
Vintage, independent, and creative businesses along Fourth Street.

Belmont Shore Second Street
Boutiques, restaurants, and neighborhood shopping.

Grocery and Liquor Stores

Vons and Ralphs
Full grocery stores in the Long Beach area.

Whole Foods Market
Groceries, prepared foods, and travel snacks.

Target
Toiletries, luggage needs, snacks, and clothing basics.

BevMo and Total Wine & More
Beer, wine, and spirits; verify the closest store and hours.

California alcohol sales
Many grocery stores sell beer, wine, and spirits, but cruise-line carry-on limits still apply.

Weather by Season

Winter	Mild, commonly 50s to 60s, with most annual rainfall occurring in this season.
Spring	Comfortable 60s to low 70s, often with cool mornings and marine clouds.
Summer	Warm, dry, and sunny, generally 70s to low 80s near the coast.
Fall	Often warm and dry, with 70s to 80s and occasional Santa Ana wind events.

Embarkation Day Tips

Confirm Long Beach

Do not go to the World Cruise Center in San Pedro.

Use the Queen Mary area address

Follow Carnival and terminal signs once crossing the harbor bridges.

Check garage height

Oversized vans, roof boxes, and recreational vehicles need special arrangements.

Keep first-day items with you

Checked bags may not reach the cabin for several hours.

Allow traffic time

Freeway and bridge traffic can change quickly.

Enjoy the waterfront early

A day-early hotel allows time for the Queen Mary, aquarium, and restaurants.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which cruise line uses Long Beach?	Carnival is the primary operator.
How much is parking?	$23 per day as currently published, subject to change.
Is Long Beach the same as San Pedro?	No. The two cruise terminals are separate and use different addresses.
Which airport is closest?	LGB is closest; LAX usually offers more flights.
Can I walk from downtown hotels?	Some are close geographically, but bridges, luggage, and road layouts make a shuttle or rideshare easier.

Money-Saving Tips

Fly into LGB when practical

Shorter transfers may offset a slightly higher airfare.

Compare hotel parking packages

A package can beat separate terminal parking if it includes enough nights and transportation.

Use the waterfront attractions together

Aquarium, Shoreline Village, and The Pike are walkable from one another.

Buy supplies downtown

Avoid higher convenience prices at the terminal.

Do not book the wrong port transfer

Confirm Long Beach, not San Pedro, before paying.

Ask KalviTravel to compare airport and hotel combinations

The cheapest airfare is not always the cheapest total trip.

Why Book With KalviTravel

Personal comparison

Scott helps compare cruise lines, ships, cabins, itineraries, ports, and travel dates instead of focusing on only one advertised price.

Complete trip planning

Cruise fare, hotel, parking, airport transportation, transfers, and protection decisions can be considered as one vacation plan.

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Clear reminders

KalviTravel helps clients keep track of deposits, final payment dates, identification needs, and important preparation steps.

Support from a real advisor

You have a person to contact before and during your trip. Call Scott Kalvinek at (508) 769-3808 or visit KalviTravel.com.

Official and Planning Sources

Visit Long Beach cruise terminal information
https://www.visitlongbeach.com/plan-your-trip/cruise-terminal/

Carnival Long Beach terminal information
https://www.carnival.com/awaywego/cruising-fun/ports-of-call/long-beach

Visit Long Beach hotels near cruise terminal
https://www.visitlongbeach.com/blog/hotels-near-long-beach-cruise-terminal/

Visit Long Beach attractions
https://www.visitlongbeach.com/things-to-do/

Long Beach tourism
https://www.visitlongbeach.com/

My Cruise Port Notes