

Barefoot Cay Resort: Luxury Diving on a Roatan Private Island

Overview

Barefoot Cay Resort stands as Roatan's most exclusive and luxurious island retreat, offering a rare combination of privacy, premium accommodations, and world-class diving. Situated on its own private four-acre cay located 85 feet offshore on Roatan's quieter south shore, Barefoot Cay delivers an elevated Caribbean experience for travelers seeking romance, tranquility, and exceptional diving. With a stellar 9.2/10 rating on Expedia and 9.4/10 on Booking.com, this intimate resort caters to honeymooners, luxury-focused divers, and travelers willing to trade resort bustle for exclusive serenity.



Location & Island Experience

The Private Cay Advantage

Barefoot Cay occupies its own four-acre private island located between French Harbour and Brick Bay on Roatan's south shore—historically the quieter, less-touristy side of the island. The cay sits approximately 85 feet offshore, connected to the main island via a 24/7 pontoon ferry service. This strategic location provides multiple advantages: immediate access to some of Roatan's most spectacular dive sites (particularly the famous Mary's Place), reduced tourist congestion compared to

West Bay properties, and an authentic sense of island escape.



Getting There

The pontoon ferry runs continuously throughout the day and night, ensuring guests can access main island facilities at any hour. From the ferry dock on the main island, the Barefoot Divers dive shop is directly accessible, creating a seamless transition from accommodation to diving operations. The property's position on the quieter south shore means calmer diving conditions during peak season (though south side dives can experience rougher surface conditions during certain months).

Transportation Details:

- 24/7 pontoon ferry service (included with stay)
- Airport shuttle: \$65 per vehicle (accommodates up to 8 people, roundtrip)
- Ferry ride to main island: Approximately 5 minutes
- Water taxi service available for island transportation
- No rental car parking needed (island location)

Accommodations: Luxury Redefined

Barefoot Cay's rooms represent the highest tier of accommodations on Roatan, with each unit designed for maximum comfort and ocean immersion. All rooms feature premium finishes, modern amenities, and either oceanfront or ocean-view positioning.



Room Categories & Features

Common Features Across All Units:

- Premium bedding with high thread count linens
- Complimentary soft bathrobes
- Flat-screen television with Netflix access and cable TV
- Designer toiletries and luxury bath products
- Air conditioning and ceiling fan combination
- Full kitchen or kitchenette with microwave, blender, and full cookware
- Furnished balcony or patio with ocean views
- Safe deposit box
- Hardwood or parquet flooring

- Modern, upscale interior design

Studio Ocean View

- Compact but fully appointed
- Oceanfront positioning
- Rating: 10/10 (exceptional guest satisfaction)
- Ideal for: Solo travelers, couples without cooking needs
- Features: Full kitchenette, premium ocean views

1-Bedroom Villa, Oceanfront

- Rating: 10/10 (exceptional guest satisfaction)
- Spacious living area
- Separate bedroom with premium bedding
- Full kitchen
- Furnished oceanfront patio/balcony
- Ideal for: Couples, small families, extended stays
- Premium sunsets from private patio

2-Bedroom Villa, Oceanfront

- Two separate bedrooms, each with premium bedding
- Full kitchen with all amenities
- Expansive living and dining areas
- Multiple oceanfront balconies
- Ideal for: Family groups, friends traveling together
- Maximum privacy and space

2-Bedroom Suite, Ocean View

- Ocean-view (vs. oceanfront) positioning
- Two bedrooms
- Full kitchen

- Slightly more budget-friendly than full oceanfront 2BR
- Ideal for: Budget-conscious groups, families

Deluxe Villa with Private Plunge Pool



- Top-tier accommodation option
- Private plunge pool on patio
- Full oceanfront positioning
- Maximum privacy and luxury
- Ideal for: Honeymoons, special occasions, ultimate luxury seekers
- Rate: Premium pricing

Dining & Culinary Excellence

Barefoot Cay's dining venues represent the highest culinary standards on Roatan's south shore, with consistently praised establishments that elevate the resort experience beyond typical beach property fare.

Silversides Restaurant

The resort's signature fine-dining venue has earned particular praise from guests for its quality and execution. Silversides serves globally-inspired cuisine incorporating fresh island ingredients, prepared to premium standards. The oceanfront setting provides stunning views, particularly at sunset. With deliberate emphasis on culinary excellence over casual beach bar atmosphere, Silversides attracts both resort guests and discriminating divers from nearby properties.

Dining Style: Fine dining with casual dress (no formal attire required)

Cuisine: Globally-inspired with Caribbean influences

Atmosphere: Oceanfront, upscale yet relaxed

Reservation: Recommended for dinner service

Pool Cabana

A more casual oceanfront option, the Pool Cabana provides open-air dining with direct pool and beach access. Ideal for breakfast, lunch, and casual dinners, this venue offers Caribbean and international selections in a relaxed setting.

Dining Style: Casual, open-air

Timing: Breakfast and lunch primary service

Atmosphere: Beachfront relaxation

Access: Direct from pool area

Room Service

Full room service is available for guests preferring privacy or convenience. Room service maintains the same culinary quality standards as the restaurants.

Important Pricing Note: Breakfast is NOT included in room rates. Continental or full breakfast service carries a surcharge of \$12-18 per person (to be discussed during booking). This is an important distinction from some all-inclusive competitors.

Beverage Service

- Pool Bar: Tropical cocktails and soft drinks
- Bar & Lounge: Full bar service
- Room minibar (with premium selections)
- Complimentary water and coffee service

The Diving Experience

Barefoot Divers Operation



One of Roatan's most respected dive operations, Barefoot Divers operates from a dedicated facility on the main island directly across the pontoon ferry route from the resort. This positioning creates unmatched convenience for resort guests—a simple ferry ride delivers divers to the shop, eliminating travel time and hassle.

Barefoot Divers Reputation:

Multiple guest reviews highlight the operation as "top notch," with experienced dive masters who know the south side's best sites intimately. The dive shop directly manages diver certifications, equipment, boat logistics, and site access. For resort guests, Liona (the dive shop manager) and the professional dive masters coordinate all diving logistics.

Key Advantage: The south side location provides direct access to less-crowded dive sites, particularly important for divers who experienced overcrowding at popular West Bay sites like Blue Channel or Lighthouse.

Mary's Place: The Iconic Nearby Site

Barefoot Cay's greatest diving asset is its proximity to Mary's Place Roatan, universally recognized as Roatan's most famous and iconic dive site. Located literally across from the resort, Mary's Place is frequently paired with a return to Barefoot Cay's pool and restaurants for post-dive relaxation.

Mary's Place Overview:

- **Depth:** Begins at 30 feet (10 meters), with the famous "elbow" formation
- **Advanced Feature:** Fissure drops to 120 feet (40 meters)
- **Character:** Dramatic vertical walls, intricate swim-throughs, vibrant coral formations
- **Marine Life:** Mangrove snappers, groupers, occasional larger pelagics, seahorses on the plateau
- **Certification Required:** Advanced Open Water or equivalent deep diving certification recommended
- **Best Conditions:** Primarily accessible during "Southside Days" when prevailing winds shift (roughly April-June offer best accessibility)

The Mary's Place Experience:

Beginning as an unassuming reef plateau at 30 feet, the dive site features a distinctive "elbow" formation where the reef juts outward. The corner of this plateau is dramatically separated from the main reef by a deep fissure—an ancient crevasse carved by volcanic activity and earthquakes, descending 120 feet into blue water. Swimming through the intricate swim-throughs feels like navigating an underwater garden lined with lush hanging vine algae, bushy black coral, and vibrant azure vase sponges.

The vertical walls create a sensation of controlled freefall, as divers descend alongside sheer drops meeting sandy slopes beyond visual range. Along the walls, deepwater sea fans and the occasional channel clinging crab provide macro subjects. Return to the shallow plateau reveals small slender filefish camouflaged within soft coral, schools of Atlantic spadefish, and—with a knowledgeable guide—hidden seahorse locations.

Other Nearby Dive Sites

Beyond Mary's Place, the south side offers excellent alternatives:

- **Deep wall dives** with advanced technical challenges
- **Varied topography** featuring canyons and crevices
- **Less crowded conditions** than popular north shore sites
- **Pristine coral** on less-dived platforms
- **Occasional encounters** with larger pelagics and sharks

Diving Considerations

South Side Conditions:

- **Seasonal Limitation:** South side dives (including Mary's Place) experience rougher surface conditions most of the year
- **Peak Accessibility:** April-June when prevailing winds shift
- **Alternative:** North side dives accessible via ferry trip (additional logistics)
- **Water Temperature:** 79-82°F (26-28°C) year-round
- **Visibility:** 60-100+ feet, exceeding 100 feet April-June
- **Current:** Generally moderate, suitable for drift diving

Resort Amenities & Facilities

Water & Recreation

- **Outdoor Pool:** Oceanfront positioning, fresh water
- **Private Beach:** Direct beach access with loungers and towels
- **Snorkeling:** From the private beach with house reef potential
- **Kayaking:** Available for guest use
- **Marina:** Unique amenity for boating, water sports access
- **Ecotours:** Nature and wildlife excursions coordinated through concierge

Wellness & Relaxation

- **Full-Service Spa:** On-site massage and spa services
- **Library:** Quiet refuge for reading and relaxation
- **Hammocks:** Strategic placement throughout property for afternoon relaxation
- **Dock Area:** Sunset viewing and water access

Guest Services

- **Free WiFi:** Throughout all rooms and common areas
- **Concierge Services:** Tour bookings, dining reservations, special arrangements
- **Laundry Facilities:** Full laundry service with same-day or next-day service

- **Housekeeping:** Daily service, additional cleanings available
- **Room Service:** Full dining service to accommodations
- **Safety Deposit Boxes:** For valuables
- **Ferry Service:** 24/7 to main island
- **Gift Shop:** Resort merchandise and essential items

Family-Friendly Features

- Crib and rollaway beds available (contact property to confirm availability)
- Family rooms (interconnected suites)
- Shallow beach area for children
- Snorkeling accessible directly from property

Guest Reviews & Ratings



Overall Performance Metrics

Expedia Rating: 9.2/10 Very Good (111 reviews)

Booking.com Rating: 9.4/10 Excellent

Hotels.com Comments: "Everything about Barefoot Cay was impressive" (consistent praise)

Category Breakdown:

- Staff & Service: 9.6/10 (highest rated aspect)
- Cleanliness: 9.6/10
- Eco-Friendliness: 9.8/10
- Facilities: Strong scores across property condition

What Guests Praise

"Everything About Barefoot Cay Was Impressive"

Multiple guests note the comprehensive quality—from accommodations to dining to service. The property delivers consistently across all aspects.

Exceptional Staff

Overwhelmingly positive comments about staff friendliness, professionalism, and attentiveness. Guests specifically praise the team's ability to anticipate needs and provide personalized service. Staff is described as "awesome," "professional," and "going above and beyond."

Unique Island Location

Guests embrace the private island experience. The quiet, exclusive atmosphere differentiates from bustling West Bay alternatives. The peaceful setting and reduced tourist presence create genuine escape atmosphere.

Silversides Restaurant Quality

The dining experience receives particular distinction. Guests praise the culinary quality, fresh ingredients, and presentation—elevating meals beyond typical resort food.

Romantic Setting

Honeymoon and anniversary guests rave about the intimate, romantic atmosphere. The combination of private beaches, sunset views, and premium accommodations makes perfect romantic backdrop.

Diving Access & Quality

Divers highlight Mary's Place proximity and Barefoot Divers professionalism. The less-crowded south side diving compared to West Bay operations is specifically valued by experienced divers.

Guest Rating Distribution (Sample)

Based on review analysis:

- 9-10/10 ratings: Approximately 70-80% of reviews (excellent/very good)
- 7-8/10 ratings: Approximately 15-20% (good, minor considerations)
- Below 7/10: Approximately 5% or less (rare, typically location-related or specific preference issues)

Honest Considerations

Island Isolation:

The private island location, while relaxing, means limited walkable options. All dining and activities center on the resort property or require ferry access to the main island. Guests seeking nightlife, shopping, or village exploration need to plan accordingly.

Breakfast Surcharge:

Unlike some all-inclusive competitors, breakfast carries a \$12-18 per person surcharge—a notable distinction for budget-conscious travelers or those staying extended periods.

South Side Diving Seasonality:

South side dives, including the famous Mary's Place, experience rough surface conditions much of the year. Guests might need to venture to north side sites during certain months, requiring additional logistics.

Higher Price Point:

Barefoot Cay's luxury positioning means premium rates. Budget-conscious travelers might find better value in West Bay properties like Bananarama.

Limited Entertainment:

No casino, nightclub, or extensive on-site entertainment. The resort intentionally markets as a peaceful retreat rather than activity-intensive destination.

Practical Information for Booking & Visit

Check-In & Check-Out

- **Check-In:** 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- **Check-Out:** 11:00 AM
- **Minimum Check-In Age:** 21 years (higher than typical resort minimum)

- **Late Check-Out:** Available for additional fee (request at booking or upon arrival)
- **Early Check-In:** Subject to availability (contact property 48 hours in advance)

Important Policies

Pets: Not allowed at property

Cancellation: 48-hour free cancellation period after booking confirmation

Payment:

- Credit cards accepted (major cards)
- Cash accepted (Honduran Lempiras or US Dollars)
- Cashless transactions available

Children & Families:

- Children welcome at all ages
- Cribs available (confirm at booking)
- Rollaway beds available (confirm availability)
- Family rooms with interconnected suites available

Special Requests:

- Accommodated based on availability
- Contact property directly for wedding packages, special occasion arrangements, or specific needs
- Concierge coordinates custom experiences

Fees & Charges (Not Included)

Meals:

- Breakfast: \$12-18 per person (not included in room rate)
- Lunch/Dinner: À la carte pricing
- Room service: Available at restaurant menu prices plus delivery

Transportation:

- Airport shuttle: \$65 per vehicle (max 8 people, roundtrip)
- Pontoon ferry to main island: Included with stay (24/7 service)

- Late night ferry surcharge: Verify current pricing
- Water taxi: Available for main island transport

Activities & Services:

- Spa services: À la carte pricing
- Diving: Barefoot Divers pricing (not included)
- Diving equipment rental: Additional cost if needed
- Kayak rental: May carry small fee (verify with property)
- Ecotours: À la carte pricing

Other:

- Late checkout: Fee applies
- Laundry service: Available (cost varies by item)
- Baby sitting: Available with advance notice

Safety & Security

- 24-hour security presence on island
- Safe deposit boxes in all rooms
- Fire safety equipment throughout
- First aid kit on property
- Security office for guest assistance

Seasonal Considerations & Best Times

Peak Season: December-March

Conditions: Excellent weather, calm seas, good to exceptional visibility

Divability: Good, with north side sites reliably accessible

Crowds: Higher tourist presence, increased booking competition

Booking: 3-4 months advance recommended

Shoulder Season: April-June

Conditions: Peak diving season, water temperature rises, exceptional visibility (100+ feet)

Divability: Best for Mary's Place and south side sites when northerly winds shift

Crowds: Moderate, post-Easter/Easter holiday period

Booking: 2-3 months advance recommended

Summer: July-August

Conditions: Warm water (82°F), afternoon rain showers typical, good visibility

Divability: Good, though humidity increases

Crowds: Lower than peak season

Booking: 6-8 weeks advance

Fall/Rainy Season: September-November

Conditions: Rainy season begins, afternoon showers common, visibility 50-80 feet

Divability: Still good, but variable conditions

Crowds: Lowest season, best rates available

Booking: 4-6 weeks advance possible

Roatan Diving Overview

Year-Round Diving: Roatan offers diving opportunities throughout the year, being part of the world's second-largest barrier reef system (Mesoamerican Reef).

Water Temperature: Consistent 79-82°F (26-28°C) year-round—light wetsuit or rash guard recommended

Marine Life:

- Eagle rays, spotted eagle rays, southern stingrays
- Reef sharks, nurse sharks, occasional hammerheads
- Sea turtles (green and hawksbill)
- Spotted dolphin (occasional)
- Moray eels, garden eels
- Seahorses, nudibranchs
- Groupers, snappers, jacks
- Parrotfish, wrasses, mixed reef species

Dive Site Diversity: 340+ moorings throughout Roatan Marine Park, including walls, plateaus, canyons, wrecks, and caves

Why Choose Barefoot Cay?

Ideal If You Seek:

Luxury Accommodation: Premium rooms with modern amenities, premium linens, and oceanfront positioning

Exclusive Experience: Private island setting with reduced tourist presence and intimate atmosphere

Romantic Getaway: Perfect backdrop for honeymoons, anniversaries, and special occasions with sunset views, private beaches, and attentive service

Quality Diving: Proximity to Mary's Place and less-crowded south side sites via Barefoot Divers operation

All-In-One Destination: Complete resort experience (dining, diving, relaxation) without leaving property

Exceptional Service: Staff consistently rated at 9.6/10 for professionalism and attentiveness

Culinary Excellence: Upscale dining beyond typical beach resort fare

Less Ideal If You Prefer:

Budget Accommodation: Premium pricing makes this higher-cost option

Complete Beach Town Experience: Limited walkable options; ferry required for main island access

Nightlife & Entertainment: Quiet resort setting with limited evening activities

All-Inclusive Dining: Breakfast carries separate charge; meals are à la carte

Extreme Diving Focus: Not marketed as dive-centric as some specialist operations (though diving is excellent)

Contact & Booking Information

Barefoot Cay Resort maintains an active presence across major booking platforms:

- Expedia (9.2/10 rating, 111 reviews)
- Booking.com (9.4/10 rating)
- Hotels.com
- Official website at barefootcay.com

Direct Contact: Available through official website for custom arrangements, weddings, group bookings, and special requests

Booking Timeline Recommendation:

- Peak Season (Dec-Mar): Book 3-4 months in advance
- Shoulder Season (Apr-June): Book 2-3 months in advance
- Low Season: 4-6 weeks in advance acceptable

Final Assessment

Barefoot Cay Resort delivers a comprehensive luxury island experience that seamlessly integrates world-class diving access with premium accommodations, fine dining, and exceptional service. For travelers prioritizing quality over quantity—who prefer intimate exclusivity to sprawling resort bustle—Barefoot Cay represents Roatan's finest accommodation option. The combination of private island positioning, Mary's Place proximity, Barefoot Divers professionalism, and Silversides culinary excellence create a resort experience that justifies its premium positioning.

This property appeals primarily to discerning travelers, honeymooners, and divers willing to invest in luxury accommodations paired with exceptional diving. For this target market, Barefoot Cay consistently delivers exceptional value despite premium pricing, earning its 9.2/10 rating through comprehensive excellence across all resort aspects.

Whether pursuing a romantic escape or an elevated diving vacation, Barefoot Cay provides unmatched combination of luxury, diving quality, and Caribbean exclusivity.