

## Roatan Tips from BoddenTours.com... from Victor Bodden to you

Hello **ROSEANN KRANE!**

It is almost time for your trip and I wanted to send out a little "tip sheet" with some information about your trip to Roatan that may make your Bodden Tours trip even better... The **RYNDAM** is scheduled to arrive at one of our ports on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH.**

You are confirmed on our **BEST OF ROATAN PRIVATE TOUR** for **2 guests**. If you have misplaced your tour pricing, please drop us an email...we'd be happy to forward your tour information to you.

Below, are some tips for our **Best of Roatan Private Tour** guests. However, there are several pointers that apply to our **Zip-n-Dip Group Excursion**, our **Fun-n-Sun Group Tour** guests, and those on our other tours, too! Each of our "Best of Roatan" private tours is unique so some items below may not apply to your visit to our beautiful island. Additionally, all items below may or may not apply to our land-based guests, and guests on any of our other tours. But, it is a good guideline to get you prepared for your island visit. We are looking forward to meeting you when your cruise ship comes to Roatan! Please let me know if you have any questions as you prepare to depart for your vacation.

1) Get off the ship as soon as possible...this will allow for more time touring our beautiful island. All ships will "dock" at one of our cruise ship dock so it is usually an easy disembarkation process.

If you are on our **Zip-n-Dip Group Excursion**, remember that others from your ship are traveling in the same vehicle with you, so the sooner you have all disembarked...the faster you can "Zip" and the longer you will be able to "Dip"! Zip-n-Dip Group Excursions leave the port ONE hour after your ship's originally scheduled arrival time and return TWO hours before your ship sails, after a nice long visit to Bananarama on West Bay Beach.

**++ Again...the Zip-n-Dip group leaves one hour after your ship's originally scheduled arrival time to our island!!! For example, if your ship is originally scheduled to dock at our island at 8AM, then your excursion will LEAVE the assembly area at 9AM! Don't be late, out of consideration to our other Zip-n-Dip guests, we will NOT wait for you.**

If you're on our **Fun-n-Sun Group Tour**, your tour vehicle will depart the assembly area ONE hour after your ship's originally scheduled arrival time, too! You are traveling with others from your ship, so be prompt, please. You will return to the ship at the end of your Highlights tour and after 2 hours at Bananarama on West Bay Beach.

**++ Again...the Fun-n-Sun group leaves one hour after your ship's originally scheduled arrival time to our island!!! For example, if your ship is originally scheduled to dock at our island at 9AM, then your excursion will LEAVE the assembly area at 10AM! Don't be late, out of consideration of our other Fun-n-Sun guests, we will NOT wait for you.++**

For those in one of our **Best of Roatan Private Tours**, feel free to take your time...we'll be waiting for you (even if your ship is a day late, we'll be there for you!!) Although you are welcome to start your tour when you like, we politely ask that you arrive at the meeting within 3 hours of your ship's arrival. Otherwise, your guide will be released for other tours/guests. If you're running late, borrow a phone from a local working in one of the shops on the dock and give me a call 504-9910-5217. This tour is 100% customizable...add/remove/change activities, but keep in mind we only have an outline of the individual activities that you have selected. Please let your guide know YOUR priorities...YOU are the boss!

2) Your Reservation "follows" your ship. If for ANY reason your cruise line switches dates (or times) for your arrival...we will be there for you! Your reservation is attached to your Ship's arrival...so if the ship shows up a day or two early (or late), we know to expect you -- no need to waste cell phone minutes, slow on-ship Internet time, etc. trying to contact us. No Stress, we will be here waiting for you!!

3) We have promised to be here for You...and we want YOU to be here for us, too!! If your plans change and you have decided NOT to go on one of our tours, please reply to this email us and let us know as soon as possible! If it is "last minute" decision and you are unable to email us, please ask a "local" on the dock to call me at **504-9910-5217**, so that your guide will be released for another family and not lose his work for this day. If docking at the Port of Roatan Cruise Terminal, just stop by our kiosk on the dock and let us know that you are unable to take your tour. Some of our previous customers have felt that since no deposit or prepayment was required, they just didn't have to show up! Remember, since you are a "Reserved Guest", our guides are "locked in" to wait for you until the ship departs...so if you no-show, they will not be able to make their pay for this day.

4) Meeting Instructions (once again!): When your ship docks, try to get off as soon as possible and enter the dock area. Roatan has two Cruise Ship Terminals -- Please check below for meeting locations for your ship:

**Port of Roatan Cruise Terminal (RCCL NAVIGATOR OF THE SEAS, COSTA LUMINOSA)**: As you exit your ship, look for the Bodden Tours kiosk (it will have a large VICTOR BODDEN sign and will be in position #1 on the dock.) One of our representatives will greet you at the kiosk, locate your name on our list (as it appears in BOLD above) and introduce you to your guide for the day.

**Mahogany Bay Cruise Center (HAL RYNDAM, CARNIVAL LIBERTY)**: As you exit your ship, customers on Local Independent Tours will be required by Carnival Corporation to exit their dock area through the gates and walk over the hill to the main road. Once outside the gates and over the hill, look for our representatives holding VICTOR BODDEN signs. One of our representatives will greet you, locate your name on our list (as it appears in BOLD above) and introduce you to your guide for the day. At the end of your tour day, we ARE able to drop you off to the entrance of the dock...so you will only have to do this long walk one-way, when you first arrive. You can view a photo of "the hill" behind the Red-roofed building here **Mahogany Bay Hill** or see the path you'll need to take from the Mahogany Bay ship docks to our location in this **Map to Bodden Tours**.

++ The Port Manager of the Mahogany Bay Cruise Center has negotiated with the on-site Taxi Association to provide transportation, if required, to the Independent Tours meeting area over the hill. The negotiated flat-rate for this taxi service is \$2 per person. Please see the Taxi Dispatcher (in the Green Mahogany Bay shirt) to arrange for your group to utilize this service -- tell them that you need the \$2 per person transport to Victor Bodden Tours on the other side of the hill. Or, if you'd rather, you can still walk over the hill (approximately 350 yards) to the designated area. ++

Be advised, many other independent tour companies, as well as the Carnival Corporation excursion department, want your tour-business, too! We pride ourselves on our tours, and are happy that you have selected Bodden Tours as your hosts during your Roatan port stop! Be prepared, as you may be approached by representatives of many of these other tour companies. Although we appreciate you supporting our Local Independent Tour Operators, we ask that you tell them your tour is already set, and head toward the Bodden Tours representatives at the locations outlined above.

\*\*NOTE: Recently, someone has been impersonating our Bodden Tours dispatcher on the Carnival dock property, before you leave for "the walk." This person/persons is NOT affiliated with our company so be very careful! Here are images of several of the "uniforms" worn by unsanctioned individuals, although they look "official"...BEWARE: [www.boddentours.com/images/falseguide.jpg](http://www.boddentours.com/images/falseguide.jpg) and [www.boddentours.com/images/falseguide2.jpg](http://www.boddentours.com/images/falseguide2.jpg) People wearing these shirts DO NOT represent my company, or the companies of any "true" independent tour guides! They have been known to say they work for Bodden

Tours, or will tell you that the monkeys or ziplines (or another aspect of your tour) has been cancelled. Again, these people DO NOT work for our company, or any other independent tour company -- they are "poachers", trying to steal your business and money. Once outside the fenced-in Mahogany Bay complex, you can be sure that you are speaking to a Bodden Tours representative by their uniform (Bodden Tours placard sign, Bodden Tours polo shirt, etc.)\*\*

One more thing for Mahogany Bay ships: Be sure to look over the meeting instructions shown for the Port of Roatan. Sometimes, due to winds or sea conditions, your ship's captain may elect to port at the Port of Roatan instead. Your reservation will follow your ship as pointed out above, so no-stress: we'll be there for you!

5) **U.S. Cash** is the only form of payment that Bodden Tours currently accepts. (Traveler's Checks are often rejected by our bank and *we do not accept credit cards*, so please be prepared to pay for your Bodden Tour in US Cash.) During your tour day, we will take you by the Bodden Tours office where you will pay for your private Best of Roatan tour in US \$ cash. The currency of Honduras is the Lempira-- the exchange rate is approximately 19 Lempiras to one U.S. dollar. You will find that U.S. dollars are accepted at all locations throughout Roatan. Additionally, there are ATM machines in West End, some West Bay resorts, French Harbour and Coxen Hole (however, on cruise days they often "run out" of currency--Ah, life on an island!) Credit cards will be accepted at many places, however there is often a fee for paying by credit card...be sure to ask in advance. Unfortunately, due to our banking institution's strict regulations, Traveler's Checks will not be accepted many places during your visit to Roatan. \*\* A special tip, most local businesses will only accept currency in "good" condition: no rips, tears, tape, etc! So choose only your "best" money for your island purchases!! Our banks are SO strict on what they will trade it for us!

6) Many of our private Best of Roatan guests choose to "add-on" a side trip to the Iguana Farm, Victor's Monkey Business, Offshore Snorkeling by Boat, the Mayan Jungle Canopy Zipline, etc. These optional add-on activities will need to be paid in US Cash when you arrive at these locations, as well (Traveller's Checks and Credit Cards are not accepted at these locations.) However, many restaurants and Souvenir shops will accept Credit Cards, so check with your Bodden Tours guide for details. Remember, you can always cash a traveller's check onboard your ship before departing for your day in Roatan!

7) While you are in Roatan on your Private Best of Roatan Tour, YOU are the boss! If you would like to see something special, or make changes during your tour day, just let your Bodden Tours guide know. We want to be sure that you get to see and do what you want to do and see...not what we want you to do/see! (If you are on the Zip-n-Dip Group Excursion or one of our other tours and would like to upgrade to our private, customizable Best of Roatan Tour, be sure to contact us and we'll make that change for you!) Again, YOU are the boss...so please let us what you DO and DO NOT want to do! We try to hit the basic highlights of our island...if certain stops and places don't interest you, we need to know this information as well!

8) If you are on our Zip-n-Dip Group Excursion, or have opted to add-on a zipline on your private Best of Roatan tour, be sure to wear sandals or tennis shoes. Something that straps onto your feet, please! It's not easy to locate lost flip-flops once they've slipped off of your feet... Also, shorts and t-shirts are ideal for ziplining, you can always change into your swimwear before heading to the beach (or, even wear your swimsuits under your zipline wear, if you like!)

9) Hungry? There are numerous restaurants on Roatan offering a variety of menu selections, in several price ranges. Of course, we can take you for some great baleadas or pastelitos (wonderful local snacks), lobster or coconut shrimp. Just ask your Bodden Tours guide for suggestions and recommendations! Be sure to mention the price range, type of food, etc. because we want you to be happy with your guide's recommendation.

10) Need sodas or some snacks for the ship? There are numerous pulperias that sell local goods and a

couple larger grocery stores that offer grocery items like Honduran Vanilla in plastic bottles, sodas and chips, even brands from the USA, etc. if you would like your guide to stop by for a quick shop-stop. A local Honduran favorite is "Tropical Soda"...try the Banana flavor, or the Uvas (grape) or Strawberry flavor. It is so good and refreshing on a warm Roatan day!

11) Weather on Roatan... Roatan offers a favorable tropical climate all year round, where the temperature generally ranges between 77°F and 84°F (25°C and 29°C). While Roatan's median temperature is 80°F (26.7°C), its waters are equally warm. The average water temperature varies from approximately 78°F (25.5°C) in winter to 84°F (29°C) in summer. Don't be upset if it looks like rain when your ship docks...The tropical rain on Roatan often begins and ends abruptly. The island's indigenous exotic trees and plants are kept healthy by ample annual rainfall. It is part of our liquid sunshine -- and rain showers usually only last a few minutes.

12) No habla Espanol? No Problemo! The national language of Honduras is Spanish, however since the Bay Islands were once British colonies, most people on Roatan speak or understand English. Your Bodden Tours guide WILL speak English very well, and will gladly help you when shopping for local goods! Be sure to ask for the places to get the best bargains on Roatan...and make sure that your guide brings you to the small gift store at the Mayan Zipline/Monkey Business location. We have great hats, authentic handmade wood items, necklaces, crafts, souvenir shirts, and more. All at great prices!

13) We love questions, so be sure to ask your guide anything...we enjoy sharing all we can about our island with you. The first question that we usually get, "Are your tour vehicles Air Conditioned?" Rest assured...the answer to this question is always "YES!"

14) Don't forget your camera, sunscreen and Off! Although the sun and mosquitos aren't always bad here, it's better to be safe than sorry! You can buy insect repellent here on the island...we have many "local" salves and potions that claim to ward off the bugs. But, the best way to keep the bugs from biting, is come back to Roatan again -- they never will bite an old friend!

15) Helping out in Roatan. Some guests like to help with supplies to be used by the schools, orphanages or medical facilities on Roatan, or with extra clothing or toys for people that live here. We will be pleased to distribute such donations brought to Roatan by guests...or take your group by a local school or orphanage. When guests ask what is needed, the best answer is usually whatever you use in the States (and something that doesn't take up much room in your cruise luggage!) Band-aids, pencils, markers, etc. will go a long way and be very much appreciated, if you are so inclined. If you are making a donation of items that won't fit into a standard backpack, you will need to claim it with your ship's guest services desk 2 days before arrival. You will need to provide an itemized list of items and donation address at that time. A site that lists some of these great "alternative" places to visit?

#### **Family Travel Network!**

16) When your tour day is complete, don't forget to double check the vehicle for cameras, purses, hats, gift shop purchases, etc. If you think you've left something behind, please call me on my cell phone so that we can try to locate your lost item(s): **011-504-9910-5217** If you have had a problem of any kind while on your tour, have your guide (or one of my representatives at the dock) contact me immediately by cell. ***It's much easier for me to solve any problem or answer any questions while you are still on the island!***

17) Most importantly, we want you to have a GREAT time on Roatan. If you are not comfortable or can't hear your tour guide...please let them know. Some guests don't care about the history or culture, but if you do...let your guide know! Also, let us know if we are doing a good job...but, don't be afraid to let us know if there is something more we can do to make sure that your day is extra special! The Bay Islands and Roatan are safe for visitors, however normal precautions should be taken. Your guide will happily lock your items in the vehicle's trunk at various stops, and watch your belongings as you relax, swim or snorkel at the beach. Please ask your guide to keep an eye on things...it helps us to remain extra vigilant!

18) One more reminder: If for some reason you are unable to keep your reservation for your tour, please let us know as soon as possible, so that your assigned guide isn't left waiting for your group! Email us ahead of time if your plans have changed, or stop by and let our Bodden Tours representative know when you arrive in Roatan. You can even give me a call on my cell at: **011-504-9910-5217** (drop the 011, if calling from the port!)

19) Hopefully, I will get to meet each of you! To help accomplish this, you will be swinging by our Bodden Tours office at some point during your day, where you will pay for your Bodden Tours experience. Be sure to have your guide point me out, I look forward to meeting you and hearing about how your tour day is going! If I am not around, please have one of my assistants call me if you have any questions or comments about your tour day! I can correct any problems or issues that you may have much easier while you are on the island, so please don't hesitate to visit with me!

Once again, we are really looking forward to meeting you very soon and can't wait to show you the ***VERY BEST*** day of your cruise. Have a safe trip to your ship...and a fun cruise...and remember, we'll be looking forward to getting to meet you and your group very soon! If you have any questions about your trip, let me know!

Yours,

**Victor Bodden**

[www.BoddenTours.com](http://www.BoddenTours.com)

[www.MayanJungleCanopy.com](http://www.MayanJungleCanopy.com)

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