

1. Building the 2 new piers and dredging to allow access by larger cruise vessels would impact 22 acres of seabed and destroy 15 acres of coral reef.

Coral reefs are endangered marine ecosystems with a high level of biodiversity; pollution and silt could destroy them and cloudy water prevents sunlight reaching the coral. Although corals are animals and do not, as such, need sunlight, they have a symbiotic relationship with algae that require sunlight for photosynthesis.

2. Dredging and building could also disrupt the sand budget on the coast and prevent beach replenishment. The impact on the popular 7 mile beach, coral reefs, marine life parks and the turtle centre could, in fact, discourage the longer stay tourists who come to visit and enjoy these natural features and swim, snorkel and dive amongst the diverse marine wildlife in the special aquatic environments.

3. Cruise ships cause pollution due to oil spills, sewage, garbage and waste water deposition in the ocean, This can have a negative impact on local ecosystems, habitats, flora and fauna. 70,000 tonnes of waste water is deposited by cruise ships in the Caribbean annually. Cruise ships also use very dirty, heavy, polluting diesel fuels.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS CRUISE PORT  
DISADVANTAGES / CONS**

4. Endangered species live on the coral reefs and other natural marine features, such as the Hawksbill turtle, of which there are estimated to be only 8000 left worldwide. There are probably only 5 places around the world where this turtle breeds and it does so on average only once every 7 years.

5. The cruise ship tourists don't stay as long at St George on Grand Cayman and spend less money locally than longer stay visitors staying on the islands. They stay for a much shorter period, a few hours or a day compared to 8 to 10 days on average.

6. Some locals believe that more responsible, sustainable or even ecotourism may be the future on the Cayman Islands to minimise the environmental, cultural and social impacts of mass tourism, and, in fact approach zero impact. The increase in numbers brought about by cruise tourism may discourage those visitors coming to enjoy the environment.

7. There may be some negative economic impacts of increasing cruise tourism numbers. At present small boats ferry passengers to shore from cruise ships moored offshore, this trade will be lost. Tax concessions will be paid to cruise lines, amounting to \$150 million over 25 years, and damage to marine resources may cost another \$150 million over 25 years.