



DELANAN ARAM PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION (DAPLF)

COMET NATION Vacation



Cruise Sails for the Bahamas

- FEBRUARY 28, 2026 -

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions (v. May 7, 2025)

1. How do I book my *Comet Nation Vacation* travel?

A BIG THANK YOU to DDHS Alum Ali Kay for helping to make *Comet Nation Vacation* (and this Aram Public Library Project fundraiser) a possibility! Please call or email Ali Kay to book your travel. **EARLY BIRD Registration deposits are due July 1, 2025.** After making the initial deposit, all travelers will have an online account. Travelers will provide their name EXACTLY as it appears on their Passport or Birth Certificate, and **ALL TRAVELERS need a REAL ID before Travel.** Please keep Ali Kay's contact information nearby for any pre-travel questions that arise.



Contact Ali Kay to Book Your Travel:

<https://rebrand.ly/AliciaKay>

ali.wanderlustjourneys@gmail.com

phone: (405) 640-2139

2. Can I buy cruise tickets after July 1?

Yes, you can! July 1 is the "Early Bird Registration Deposit Deadline." Travel Agent Ali Kay negotiated a deal with Carnival to EXTEND OUR HOLD of 24 cabins for the group until July 1 (formerly May 9). **After July 1, our cabin block is released to the public.** No guarantee they will be available (**last year, this cruise sold out!**), so the sooner you pay a \$200 deposit on your cabin, the better! Our cabin block includes 3 types of double-occupancy cabins:

(10) Interior cabins at **\$647.00** – These cabins have no ocean view or balcony.

(6) Oceanview at **\$729.00** – These cabins do not have a balcony.

(8) Balcony at **\$937.00** – These cabins have both a balcony and an ocean view.

3. What forms of payment does Ali Kay accept for the deposit?

DDHS Alum Ali Kay of Wunderlust Travel can help you work out a payment plan and accepts payment using a variety of traditional and digital platforms. Please discuss which approach works best for you both, including ...

- Venmo
- Zelle
- PayPal
- Check
- Credit Card (a 2.9% fee will be charged for using a credit card)

4. Which Cruise Line are we taking?

The Freedom is part of Carnival Cruise Line. You can learn more about this ship on the Carnival Cruise website: <https://www.carnival.com/cruise-ships/carnival-freedom>

5. What is the itinerary for the 2026 Comet Nation Vacation cruise?

Although more details will be released as the cruise date approaches, we know that the cruise leaves Port Canaveral, Florida, on Saturday, February 28, 2026, and returns to Port Canaveral on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Details about *Comet Nation Vacation* meetups will be shared with travelers who book their cabin with DDHS grad and Travel Agent Ali Kay of Wunderlust Travel.

Carnival “Freedom” Cruise Ship for Comet Nation Vacation:

- Day 1 - Feb 28 – Port Canaveral (Orlando) – ship leaves 3:30 pm
- Day 2 – March 01 – A day at sea
- Day 3 – March 02 - Nassau (8 am – 4 pm)
- Day 4 – March 03 - Princess Cays (9 am – 4 pm)
- Day 5 – March 04 - Celebration Key (NEW private island, opens 2025!) – 8 am – 5 pm
- Day 6 – March 5 - Return to Port Canaveral 8 am

6. Who is invited to join the Comet Nation Vacation?

This Carnival Cruise aboard the Freedom Cruise Ship is a public cruise. All are welcome! Anyone can book a ticket to join this cruise, regardless of hometown, high school, or year of graduation.

7. Why is it called “Comet Nation Vacation”?

In an attempt to give back to her hometown community and raise funds for the Delavan Aram Public Library Renovation and Expansion Project, DDHS Alum Ali Kay offered to identify a cruise package and work with the Delavan Aram Public Library Foundation (DAPLF) to book travel and collect donations for the project. She is excited to support all travelers booking through her, including DDHS alum, their friends and family, library lovers, and DDHS Comet enthusiasts of all kinds.

8. Where can I purchase DDHS Merch for Comet Nation Vacation?

Please shop for your DDHS merch in-person at the [DDHS Spirit Store](#) or purchase online using this site that **benefits DDHS**: <https://www.ddcometnation.com/s/shop>. Library lovers can also purchase Aram Public Library-branded merch (hats, bags, t-shirts) at the APL Threadless Shop (aramlibrary.threadless.com/).

9. Are flights included in the cost?

No. If you need to fly to Orlando, flights are an additional cost. DDHS grads, Aram Library Lovers, and Comet fans live all over the country (and the world). Some will fly to Orlando from Milwaukee, some from Hawaii, and some from Switzerland! Some Comet Nation Fans and Alumni won't fly at all - either they plan to drive to Orlando or they live in Florida. Travelers can book flights independently or ask Travel Agent Ali Kay to book flights when she books cabin tickets for the cruise. Keep in mind that the cruise is February 28th (wintery weather for some to navigate). And PLEASE make sure your flights arrive in Orlando far enough ahead to get to the ship before departure! Ali Kay recommends flying in a day ahead, just to be sure.

10. I live in the Delavan-Darien area: what's the easiest way to get to the airport?

DDHS Alum Rafael Hernandez, formerly a second-gen restaurant owner (Hernandez Mexican Restaurant), currently a local community philanthropist, and owner/operator of Raf's Car Limo Service (<https://www.facebook.com/rafscarllc>), is all about hospitality and getting your travelers to the airport – Milwaukee, Chicago O'Hare, Chicago Midway, or Rockford. Give Raf a call, text (1-262-352-2974), or email (rafscarwalco@gmail.com) with your questions!

11. How much money will each *Comet Nation Vacation* traveler donate to the Delavan Aram Public Library Project?

Ticket prices start at \$647, which includes the \$50 donation. When travelers pay their \$200 Registration Deposit, a \$50 non-refundable donation will be donated to the project. This donation is non-refundable, even if the traveler cancels travel.

12. How many cabins are held for *Comet Nation Vacation*?

EXTENDED: 24 double occupancy cabins are held for us until **July 1, 2025**. After July 1, our block of cabins is released to the public. Contact Travel Agent Ali Kay for help identifying and booking your cabin. This cruise sold out last year, so we recommend reserving with a \$200 deposit as early as possible.

13. What is the difference between the three types of cabins on hold?

Travel Agent Ali Kay has contracted with Carnival Cruise Lines to hold 24 double occupancy cabins for *Comet Nation Vacation* until July 1, 2025 at three group rate price points:

- (10) Interior cabins at **\$647.00** – These cabins have no ocean view or balcony.
- (6) Oceanview at **\$729.00** – These cabins do not have a balcony.
- (8) Balcony at **\$937.00** – These cabins have both a balcony and an ocean view.

**Rates are per person, based on double occupancy (24 cabins, 2 passengers in each) and include taxes, port charges, cruise fees, agency fee, and donation to DAPLF. After July 1, or when all 24 cabins are booked (whichever comes first), there is no guarantee which types of additional cabins will be available (nor their rates).*

14. Can I book a different cabin and still contribute to the fundraiser?

Yes. Please work with your travel agent, Ali Kay, to determine availability and pricing on cabins aboard that are not being held for this group. Availability and prices vary. Booking a cabin other than the 24 cabins held for Comet Nation Vacation may impact additional costs associated with this cruise (ex. Travel Insurance is cabin dependent).

15. Can I book a cabin for myself and travel alone?

If available, travelers can book single-occupancy cabins. Single-occupancy cabins are sold at a higher, per-person rate than double-occupancy cabins being held for *Comet Nation Vacation*. Work with Ali Kay to find a cabin that fits your needs and budget.

16. After I pay \$200 deposit, when is the total balance of my travel due?

If you did not pay the entire amount of your ticket in your first payment, the next payment is due on **October 27, 2025**. All payments are due by **December 12, 2025**, for this February 2026 cruise.

- \$200 Reservation Early Bird Deposit due July 1, 2025 (per person)
- Payment #2 is due by **October 27, 2025**
- Balance due **December 12, 2025**

17. Is DDHS Alum and Travel Agent Ali Kay the only agent who can book passage on the Freedom Cruise Ship for *Comet Nation Vacation*?

Travel Agent Ali Kay has contracted with Carnival Cruise Line and is the only travel agent collecting donations at the time of booking for the Aram Public Library. Travel needs beyond the cruise booking (ex. flights) can be booked independently without impacting the fundraiser.

18. What additional costs should I consider as part of my personal travel expenses?

In addition to the base cost of the cabin, there are other costs to consider with any travel planning. The total cost of your travel will be unique to you, the options you select and the choices you make. Costs will begin with your vision and budget for the cruise and can evolve from there. **SEE BELOW ...**

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO CONSIDER INCLUDE:

+\$65 - \$95 VACATION protection – (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, but Optional)

Vacation Protection **must be paid with deposit** and cannot be added later. This travel insurance provides protection against unexpected life events and interruptions. Every claim is unique. The cost is determined by the cabin you reserve, and is non-refundable, as are the agency fees and library donations. Final claim decisions are up to the insurance company, and guests who cancel may receive a credit rather than a refund.

Comet Nation Vacation FAQ (v. May 7, 2025)

Interior cabins +**\$65** Vacation protection

Oceanview cabins + **\$79** Vacation protection

Balcony cabins + **\$95** Vacation protection

Note: Cruise Cancellation Policy - Assuming you purchased Carnival Travel Insurance at the time of your deposit and the full amount of your cruise is paid by December 12, 2025. If you cancel by the following dates, the following amounts will be deducted from your insurance award:

Cancel by Dec 17 - \$150 cruise + Non-refundable \$75 fees, library donation + \$ Travel Insurance

Cancel by Jan 6 - 50% cruise + Non-refundable \$75 fees, library donation + \$ Travel Insurance

Cancel by Feb 1 - 75% cruise + Non-refundable \$75 fees, library donation + \$ Travel Insurance

Cancel by Feb 16 - 100% cruise + Non-refundable \$75 fees, library donation + \$ Travel Insurance

More details on Carnival site: <https://www.carnival.com/about-carnival/vacation-protection>

Please know: If you opt out and **do not** purchase travel insurance, but need to cancel your ticket, or are delayed due to late flights, weather, etc., and are too late to board your ship, **NONE** of your fare is refundable. Please note that Carnival Travel Insurance applies to cruise portion of travel only.

+ \$80 CABIN GRATUITIES – (Not Optional)

Cabin gratuities are added to your account either when you book your cabin or after you board. \$80 per person will be charged to your account (regardless of cabin).

+\$ BEVERAGE PROGRAM - (Optional)

Carnival offers a variety of optional pay-ahead beverage plans (cocktails, mocktails, soda, etc.). Travelers can either add package prices to their accounts when booking travel or once they have access to their online account. If you don't pay for a beverage program, travelers will "pay as they order" aboard the ship. Note: if one person in a cabin buys into the beverage program, everyone in the cabin needs to buy into the program. [\[LINK to review Beverage Program Plans\]](#)

+\$ SHORE EXCURSIONS - (Optional)

Carnival offers optional excursions at each port of call, **at an additional cost**. Travelers can browse, select, and pay for these options when they have access to their online account. [\[LINK to Celebration Key examples\]](#)

+ \$400? DO YOU NEED TO FLY TO ORLANDO? (Optional) – Travelers can book flights with travel agent Ali Kay or independently. If flying to Orlando in February, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** to arrive **AT LEAST 1 DAY EARLY** to anticipate weather delays, flight cancellations, etc. Of course, not all DDHS alum will need flights, and some will fly from cities other than Milwaukee or Chicago.

FYI, for estimation purposes only, an O'Hare to Orlando flight estimate (pulled March 2025) is about \$400 per person (6 mos ahead; doesn't include ground transportation, tolls, or parking at the airport).

+ \$76 RT FLORIDA GROUND TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT – (Optional)

Do you need a ride to the ship from the airport? Travelers can book ground transportation upon

Comet Nation Vacation FAQ (v. May 7, 2025)

arrival (ex: taxi, Uber, Lyft) from Orlando International Airport to Cape Canaveral. Or, travelers can purchase a round-trip shuttle ticket for \$76 from Ali Kay.

+Pre or Post-Cruise Lodging, Meals, Ground Transport (Optional) – If you arrive a day before your cruise departs and/or remain in the area after the cruise returns, please consider the costs of additional lodging, meals, and any other spending money needed to support your needs.

POSSIBLE COST ESTIMATE – Although your total cost will depend on which cabin you begin with, plus additional options you choose when booking, here is an example of a cost estimate for this trip. For demonstration purposes, only:

Interior Cabin \$647.00 Base Cabin Rate (per person)

- + 80.00 Cabin Gratuity
- + 65.00 Vacation Protection
- + 76.00 RT Ground Transportation (ORL)
- + 400.00 Airline ticket (estimate ORD to ORL)
- + 200.00 Pre-cruise hotel room estimate

= \$1,468.00 per person estimate*

(does not include: optional beverage pkg, shore excursions, spending money)

**Rate is per person, based on double occupancy, and include taxes, port charges, cruise fees, agency fees, gratuities, travel protection, \$400 RT flight estimates, \$200 pre-cruise hotel estimate, \$76 RT ground transport from/to ORL airport, and donation to the Delavan Aram Library Project.*

COST ESTIMATE INCLUDES	COST ESTIMATE DO NOT INCLUDE
5-Day Bahama Cruise (Sails Feb 28, 2026) on the Carnival Cruise Ship Freedom	Ground Transport to or parking at your origin airport (ex: MKE or ORD)
24 Double Occupancy Cabin (2 per cabin)	Pre or post cruise lodging
All meals on board, including non-bottled meal beverages (coffee, juice, tea)	Ports of call entertainment, dining, drinking, and gratuities
Recreational facilities on board (fitness center, pool, etc.)	Shore excursions
In-room TV and movies (except pay-per-view)	Various Beverage Packages available on cruise
Full-service room cleaning	Personal purchases (souvenirs, spa services, gambling, internet packages, photos, etc.)
Cabin Gratuities	Gratuities for anyone beyond maid service
Known taxes, fees, port expenses, tolls, harbor taxes and fees, agency fees, inspection fees, charges, etc. as used by Carnival in transit, ports, and harbors.	Actual cost of transportation to/from Orlando (car, train, bus, air, other)
Travel Protection (Optional, but factored in)	Ground transportation in ports of call
\$400 Estimated Air Fare	
RT Ground Travel from/to Orlando Airport	
DAPLF Donation to Aram Public Library	

16. Did any other DDHS Alum contribute to this *Comet Nation Vacation* fundraiser?

Why, YES! BIG THANK YOU to [Your Plan B](#)'s President, DDHS Alum Jamey Brumfield, and Your Plan B Designer Extraordinaire, David Birdwell, for the dreamy *Comet Nation Vacation* graphics.

17. What can other DDHS Alum do to help?

If you would like to help raise donations for the Delavan Aram Public Library Foundation, please send a note with your ideas and contact info via email to: DelavanAPLF@gmail.com.

18. I can't join the cruise. How can I donate to the project?

Would you like to send a gift to the Aram Public Library Project but can't join the *Comet Nation Vacation 2026* cruise? Send a note about your "cruise gift" and check to:

Delavan Aram Public Library Foundation
404 E. Walworth Avenue
Delavan, WI 53115

Please visit the Aram Public Library site (<https://www.aramlibrary.org/site/library-expansion/>) for news about the project and to make an online contribution. You can also mail a check via US Post to 404 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan, WI. 53115.

Do you have a question that wasn't answered here? Please send it to DelavanAPLF@gmail.com.

