

## Sandals South Coast Preview (2026): What the Renovation Is Changing

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Sandals South Coast reopens November 18, 2026 after a top-to-bottom renovation. What's confirmed, what's expected, and whether to book early.

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A quick-reference printable from **The Resort Edit** — the data and verdicts from the full article, distilled into a one-page cheat sheet you can take to your travel agent or save offline.

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### Comparison 1

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Compared to	South Coast advantages	South Coast drawbacks
Sandals Royal Caribbean	Better beach, more overwater suites, more space per guest	Farther from MBJ, fewer dining venues, no private offshore island
Sandals Grande St. Lucian	Has overwater bungalows SGL doesn't, longer beach, lower price point	Weaker restaurant lineup, less dramatic setting, no Piton views
Sandals Royal Plantation	More affordable, larger property, broader room mix	Far less intimate, food program not at RP's level, longer transfer

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### Quick Answers

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#### Q: When does Sandals South Coast reopen after renovation?

A: Sandals South Coast reopens November 18, 2026 after a top-to-bottom renovation. The work is squarely aimed at the property's main weaknesses — the pre-renovation village rooms (Italian, Dutch, and French villages) where furnishings and bathrooms have shown their age, plus likely food-and-beverage upgrades. Expect refreshed millwork, updated bathrooms, and new bedding packages in the reopened blocks. Reopening pricing is likely to step up, so locking 2026 dates at current published rates is a defensible move.

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#### Q: How long is the airport transfer to Sandals South Coast?

A: Plan for 90 minutes to two hours each way from Sangster International (MBJ) in Montego Bay, depending on traffic through Savanna-la-Mar. This is not a long-weekend property — the transfer eats too much of a short trip. Five nights is the floor, seven is the sweet spot. Butler-level suites get Rolls-Royce transfer service with stocked drinks and a smoother route; everyone else gets a Club Sandals coach with a midway stop. Kingston's airport (KIN) looks closer but the cross-island drive is worse.

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#### Q: What are the over-the-water bungalows at Sandals South Coast?

A: The overwater bungalows opened in late 2016 as the first of their kind in the Caribbean and remain the headline room category. Features include glass floor panels, private overwater hammocks, outdoor showers, direct ladder access into the lagoon, and a butler. They photograph better than anything else in the Sandals catalog. The trade-off: a long walk or shuttle from the main resort core, and the lagoon water around the bungalows is calmer and shallower than the open beach.

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