

Alkmaar, North Holland, Netherlands

Holland at its most photogenic: a medieval cheese market town of gabled houses, mirror-flat canals, and a world-famous Friday spectacle that's run for 400 years.

- Docked (river quay)
- Typical call: 6-8 hrs
- Euro (€)
- Dutch (English widely spoken)

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: River quay at Kanaalkade or Noorderkade, steps from the old town

Walk to center: 5-10 min on foot to Waagplein cheese market square

Best For: Cheese market Fridays (late Mar–Sep), canal walks, Dutch history

Don't Miss: The Friday morning cheese market at Waagplein (10:00–13:00)

Getting around: **Taxi** €3.10 start + €2.35/km · **Rideshare** Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Alkmaar Cheese Market** — The unmissable Friday tradition.
- **Dutch Cheese Museum (Waaggebouw)** — Inside the 1582 Weigh House on Waagplein, this interactive museum covers the history of Dutch cheese-making — Gouda, Edam, and beyond.
- **Grote Sint Laurenskerk** — The largest Gothic church in North Holland above the North Sea Canal, dating to 1470.
- **Windmills of the Schermer Polder** — About 12 km southeast, the village of Schermerhorn preserves a cluster of original polder windmills in a classic Dutch landscape.
- **Canal Boat Tour** — See Alkmaar from the water on a guided canal cruise through Verdrunkenoord, Luttk Oudorp, and Oudegracht.

BEST WALKS

- **Old Town Highlights Loop** 2-3 km · 1-1.5 hrs · Easy — From the quay, walk to Waagplein for the cheese market square, then continue to Grote Sint Laurenskerk, along the Verdrunkenoord canal, past the Accijnstoren (1622...
- **Hofjes & Hidden Courtyards** 1-2 km · 45-60 min · Easy — Seek out Alkmaar's quiet historic hofjes — almshouse courtyards hidden behind medieval facades.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:43AM–8:40PM · Jun 5:17AM–10:06PM · Aug 6:23AM–9:06PM · Sep 7:15AM–7:55PM · Oct 8:07AM–6:45PM	
Apr	54°	43°	10d	Euro (€)	
Jun	66°	56°	10d		
Aug	69°	60°	15d		
Sep	66°	57°	11d		
Oct	59°	52°	15d		

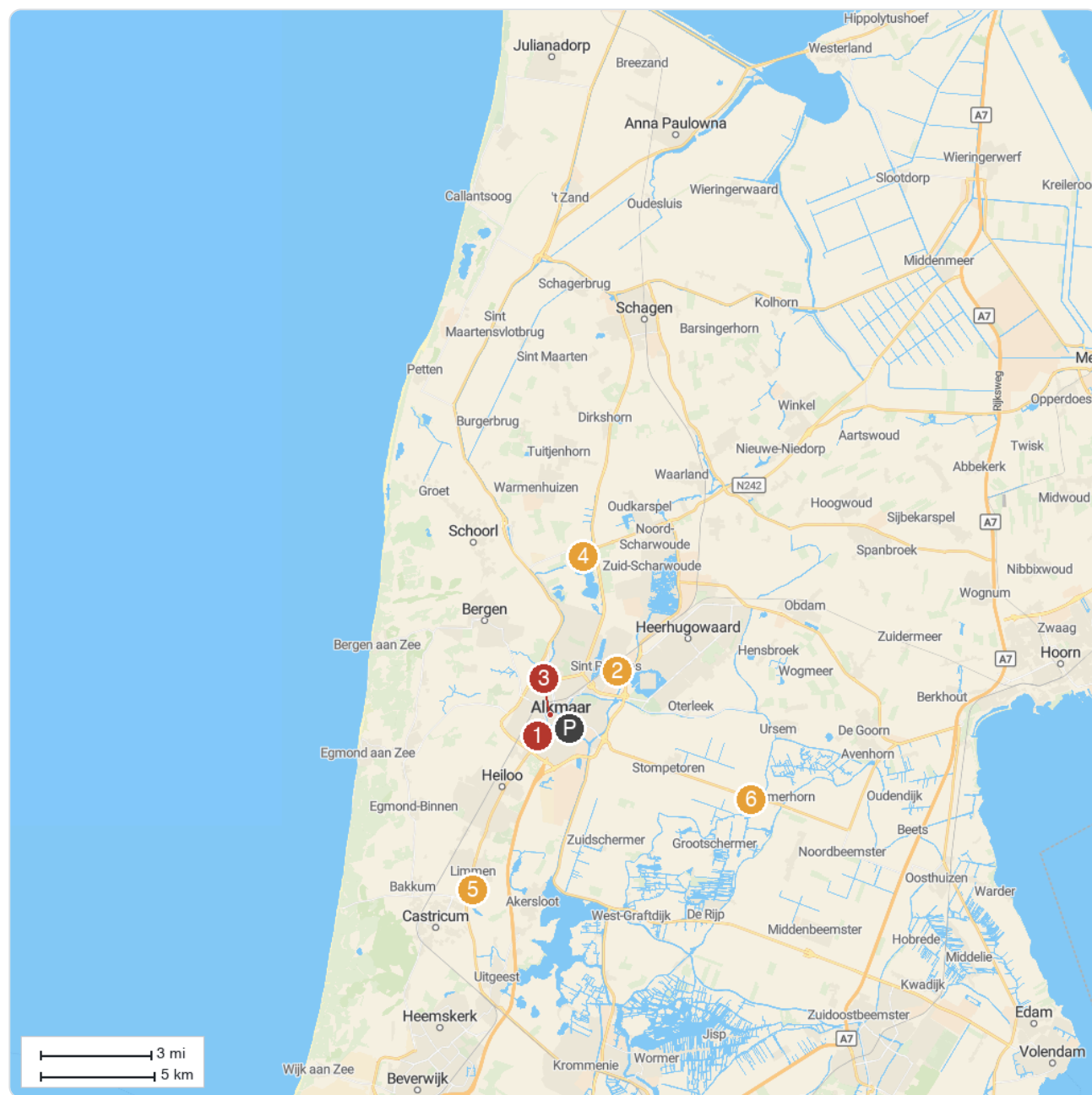
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Plan around the cheese market. It runs Fridays only, from the last Friday in March through the last Friday in September, 10:00–13:00. If your ship calls on a Friday in season, this is the centerpiece of your day. Tuesday evenings in July/August also have a smaller market.
- The center is entirely walkable from the river quay — flat terrain, no hills, pedestrian-friendly streets. Sturdy shoes are fine; no special gear needed.
- Rent a bike to reach the Schermer windmills or the Schoorl Dunes nature reserve. Several rental shops are near the town center.
- Currency is the euro. Cards are widely accepted everywhere; ATMs are available near Waagplein and Langestraat.
- Some venues are closed Mondays — if your call falls on a Monday, check museum hours in advance. The town itself is still pleasant for walking.
- Buy cheese to take home — vacuum-packed Gouda from the market vendors travels well. Look for aged (oud) varieties for the most intense flavor.

Alkmaar, North Holland, Netherlands — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Alkmaarderhout Alkmaarderhout is Alkmaar's oldest city park.

3 Stedelijk Museum Alkmaar city history, art, and cheese market paintings.

5 Hortus Bulborum a living museum of historic bulb flowers.

P Cruise port / terminal

2 Foundation Hortus Alkmaar Hortus Alkmaar: a botanical garden with medicinal plants.

4 Speelpark de Swaan De Swaan is an outdoor play park for children.

6 De Museummolen De Museummolen is a historic working polder windmill museum.