

Arcachon, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France

A shimmering Atlantic bay backed by Europe's tallest sand dune — Arcachon rewards curious cruisers with oysters straight from the water, stilt-house islands, and Belle Époque villas hidden in a pine forest.

 Tender port  Typical call: 7-9 hrs  Currency: Euro  Language: French  Famous for: oysters & Dune du Pilat

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor offshore; tenders land at Jetée Thiers

Walk to center: Immediate — Jetée Thiers is in the heart of the waterfront

Best For: Nature, seafood, scenic hikes, coastal walks

Don't Miss: Climbing Dune du Pilat for Atlantic panoramas

 Getting around:  Taxi  €10–€20 ·  Rideshare  Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Dune du Pilat** — Climb Europe's tallest sand dune (110 m) for sweeping views of the Atlantic, the Landes pine forest, and the mouth of Arcachon Bay.
- **Arcachon Bay Boat Tour** — Traditional pinasse boats cruise to Île aux Oiseaux and its iconic Cabanes Tchanquées stilt huts, a protected salt-meadow island in the middle of the...
- **Oyster Farm Visit & Tasting** — Arcachon Bay is one of France's premier oyster-farming regions.
- **Ville d'Hiver Walking Tour** — Arcachon's hillside 'Winter City' is a labyrinth of extravagant 19th-century Belle Époque villas built for wealthy Bordelais families.
- **Cap Ferret Day Trip** — Take a ferry across the bay to the Cap Ferret peninsula — pine-backed Atlantic beaches, the Cap Ferret lighthouse with 180° views, and a village of...

BEST WALKS

- **Waterfront to Ville d'Hiver** 2.5 km · 1.5 hrs · Easy (elevator available for uphill section) — Start at Jetée Thiers, stroll west along the promenade past Plage Pereire, then take the elevator up to the Ville d'Hiver.
- **Town Center & Market Stroll** 1 km · 45 min · Easy — From Jetée Thiers walk into the Ville d'Été (summer city) centre.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:20AM–8:49PM · Jun 6:18AM–9:51PM · Aug 7:07AM–9:09PM · Sep 7:43AM–8:14PM · Oct 8:20AM–7:19PM Currency: Euro	
Apr	62°	49°	10d		
Jun	74°	61°	11d		
Aug	77°	64°	9d		
Sep	75°	61°	9d		
Oct	68°	55°	11d		

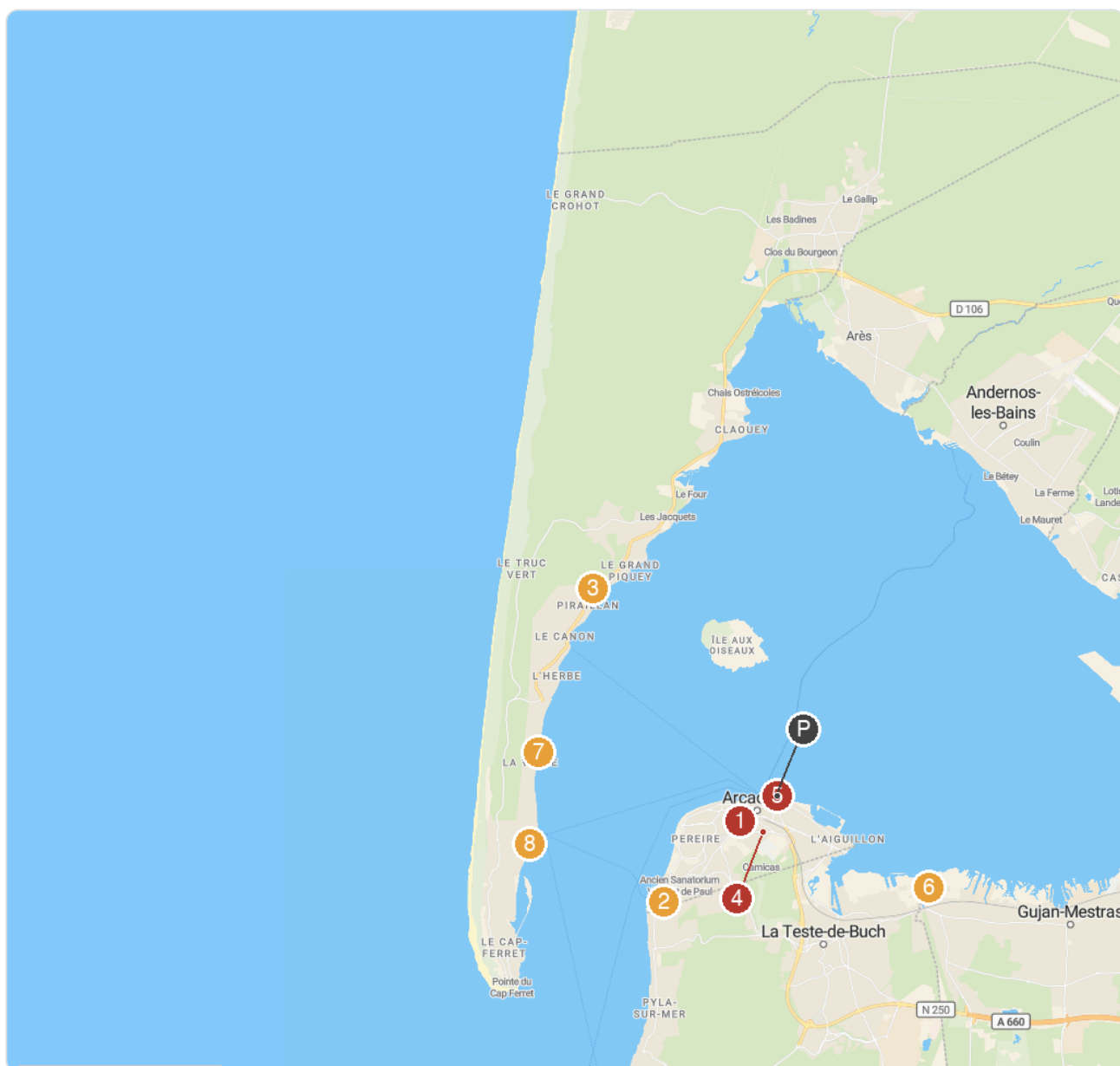
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Plan tender time. Allow 20–30 min each way for tender boats. Mid-day queues can be long — head ashore early and return before the rush.
- Wear shoes for the dune. The Dune du Pilat is pure sand — flip-flops sink and heels are useless. Sneakers or sandals with straps work; many people go barefoot on the ridge.
- Eat oysters at the source. The waterfront has oyster bars selling Arcachon Bay oysters for €1–2 each. Skip the tourist restaurants and go straight to a fisherman's stall near the marina.
- Bus to the dune saves money. Baïa Line 3 runs hourly Mon–Sat to the Dune du Pilat (~€3 each way). Taxis cost €20–25 each way — fine for groups.
- Carry euros in cash. Small oyster stalls and local market vendors often prefer cash. ATMs are plentiful in the town center.
- Sun and wind are fierce on the dune. Bring sunscreen, water, and a hat. There is no shade on the dune ridge and sand can blow into your eyes on windy days.

Arcachon, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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| 1 Observatoire Sainte-Cécile | Historic metal observation tower with panoramic views. | 2 Église catholique Notre-Dame-des-Passes d'Arcachon | Historic Catholic church overlooking the bay. |
| 3 Réservoirs de Pirailan | Historic oyster reservoirs, now a protected nature site. | 4 Le Quartier de la Ville d'Hiver | Historic district with ornate Victorian villas and parks. |
| 5 Union des Bateliers Arcachonnais : point de vente Jetée Eyrac | Ticket office for boat trips from Eyrac Pier. | 6 Plage de La Hume | Family-friendly beach with calm waters and amenities. |
| 7 Plage de la Vigne | Quiet beach known for its scenic beauty. | 8 Eglise Notre Dame des Flots | Church dedicated to sailors, with maritime decor. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |