

Aride Island, Seychelles

The 'Seabird Fortress of the Indian Ocean' — a pristine 71-hectare reserve hosting hundreds of thousands of breeding seabirds, endemic reptiles, and nesting sea turtles. No shops, no terminals, no crowds: just wild Seychelles as it was meant to be.

 Tender / wet beach landing

 Typical call: 4-6 hrs

 Seychellois Rupee (SCR)

 Seychellois Creole / English

 Expedition & small ships only

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Wet beach landing on La Cour Beach (south side) via reserve boats; no pier or terminal

Best For: Birdwatchers, wildlife photographers, nature lovers, eco-tourism

Walk to centre: No town — guided 2 km loop from beach is the entire island experience

Don't Miss: Hilltop viewpoint (Gros La Tête, 134 m) and the Wright's Gardenia — found nowhere else on Earth

 Getting around:  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Guided Island Nature Walk** — The signature 2 km guided loop through the reserve.
 - Hilltop Viewpoint (Gros La Tête)** — Hike 135 m to the island's high point for sweeping panoramas of the Indian Ocean and neighboring islands including Praslin, La Digue, Cousine, and...
- Seabird Colony Watch** — Aride hosts the world's largest colony of lesser noddies and Seychelles' biggest roseate tern population.
 - Endemic Flora Discovery** — Spot Wright's Gardenia (*Rothmannia annae*) — a shrub found only on Aride Island.
 - La Cour Beach Stroll** — After the guided walk, relax on the pristine south beach.

BEST WALKS

- Island Nature Loop** 2 km · ~2 hrs · guided only · moderate — The reserve's mandatory guided walk leads from the landing beach past the historic Cadbury Lodge, through native woodland teeming with nesting birds, up toward the...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		83°	80°	18d
Jun		80°	78°	19d
Aug		78°	76°	13d
Sep		79°	77°	17d
Oct		80°	78°	17d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:17AM–6:17PM · Jun 6:21AM–6:14PM · Aug 6:22AM–6:20PM · Sep 6:10AM–6:14PM · Oct 5:57AM–6:08PM

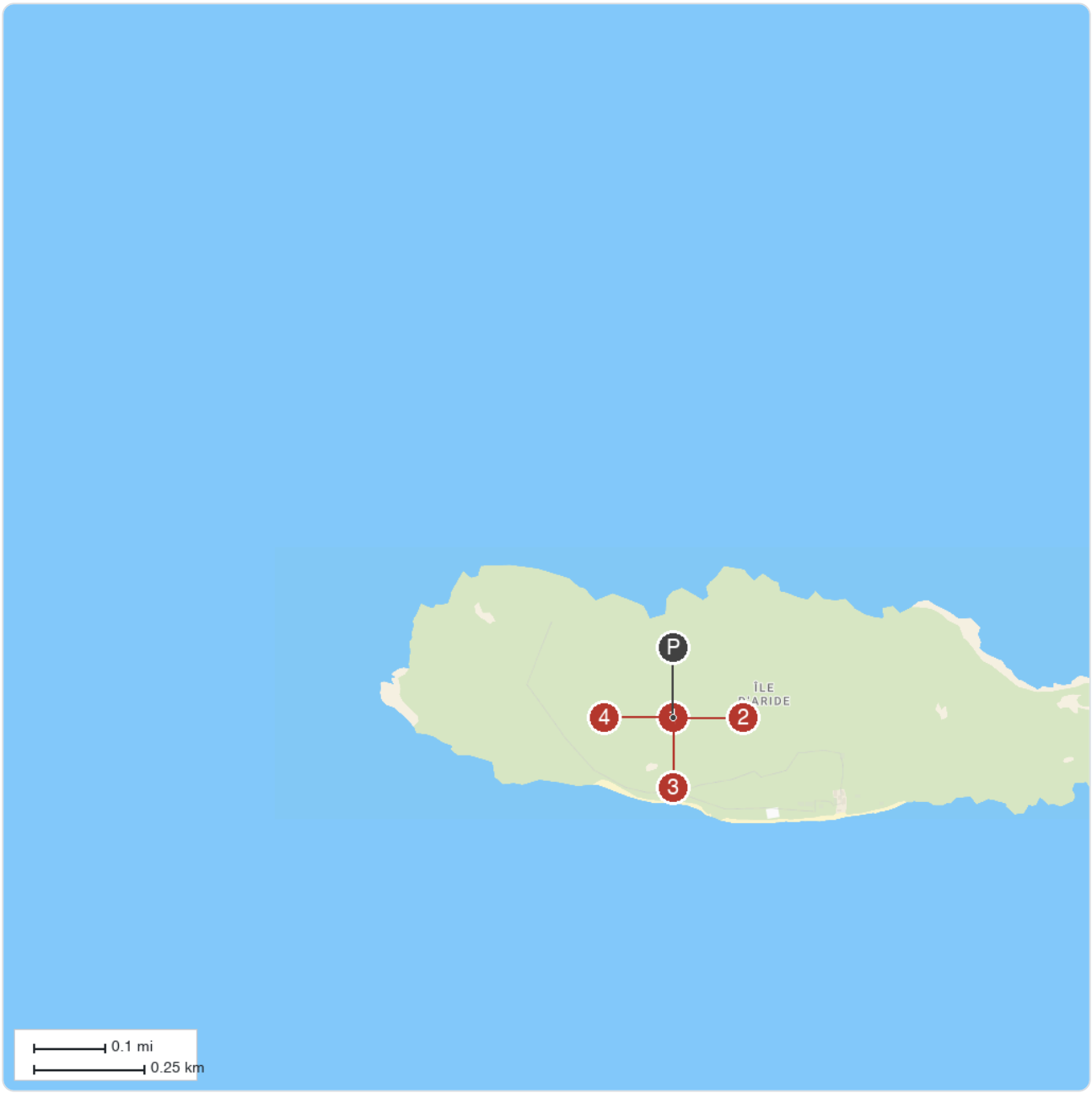
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear water shoes — the beach landing is a wade through shallow surf. Flip-flops work fine but closed water shoes grip better on the rocky patches.
- No independent access — only the Island Conservation Society's boats can land here. You cannot arrive by kayak, dinghy, or your ship's tender directly to the beach.
- Weather-dependent landings — swells in May–September can cancel access entirely. If your itinerary shows Aride in summer, have a backup plan.
- Bring food and water — there is nothing for sale on the island. Pack a picnic lunch and at least 1.5 litres of water per person; the midday heat and humidity are intense.
- Don't touch the wildlife — Aride is a strict reserve. Birds nest at eye level on the path. Your guide will tell you how close is acceptable; follow their lead.
- No ATMs, no shops, no mobile signal — pay the landing fee in cash (SCR or USD accepted) and leave cards behind. The island is blissfully off-grid.

Arde Island, Seychelles — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Nature Reserve

The Seychelles' northernmost granitic island, protecting the world's largest colonies of lesser nody and tropical shearwater among 1.25 million breeding seabirds.
- 2

Viewpoint

A trail climbing through granite outcrops to a summit lookout with panoramic views over the reserve's seabird cliffs and the Indian Ocean.
- 3

Historic Site

A surviving wooden plantation-era building, one of the few remaining structures of its type in the Seychelles, now part of the reserve's visitor infrastructure.
- 4

Beach

The island's single south-facing beach, a nesting ground for hawksbill and green sea turtles and the reserve's only landing point.
- P

Cruise port / terminal