

Belle-Île-en-Mer, Brittany, France

Brittany's 'beautiful island' rewards a shore day with wild sea-stack coastline, pastel-shuttered fishing villages, and the dramatic cliffs that captivated Claude Monet. Ships tender into the charming harbour of Le Palais — everything starts from the quayside.

 Tender port (Le Palais harbour)

 Typical call: 7–9 hrs

 Euro (€)

 French

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor offshore; tenders land at Le Palais quay

Best for: Dramatic coastal hikes, cycling, Monet landmarks, Breton seafood

Walk to centre: Instant — Le Palais town begins at the tender dock

Don't miss: Aiguilles de Port-Coton (Monet's needle rocks) & Sauzon harbour village

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ EUR 15-20 typical short trip

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Aiguilles de Port-Coton & Côte Sauvage** — The jagged sea stacks on the wild south-western coast — famously painted by Claude Monet in 1886 — are Belle-Île's signature view.
 - **Pointe des Poulains Walk** — A 2-hour circular walk to the island's northern tip takes in a lighthouse, sweeping Atlantic panoramas, and the fort once owned and renovated by the...
 - **Island Cycling** — Rent a standard or electric bike at Le Palais and follow waymarked lanes to Sauzon, Plage des Grands Sables, or
- sections of the GR 340 coastal trail.

 - **Vauban Citadel & Belle-Île Museum** — The 16th-century fortress above Le Palais harbour, reinforced by Vauban, now houses the Belle-Île Museum of Art and History.
 - **Sauzon Village & Goulphar Lighthouse** — Sauzon — Belle-Île's prettiest harbour, with pastel shutters and bobbing fishing boats — pairs perfectly with a stop at the Grand Phare lighthouse in...

BEST WALKS

- **Le Palais Harbour & Citadel Loop** 1.5 km · 40 min · Easy — From the tender dock, stroll the waterfront promenade, browse the market streets of Le Palais, then climb the ramparts path to the Vauban Citadel for harbour views...
- **Port-Coton Needles Coastal Path** 5 km loop · 2 hrs · Moderate — Take a bus or hire car to Port-Coton, then walk the clifftop path above the iconic needle rocks along the Côte Sauvage, with views towards the Grotte de l'Apothicaierie...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		55°	50°	8d
Jun		64°	60°	9d
Aug		67°	63°	8d
Sep		65°	61°	7d
Oct		62°	58°	11d

 **DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 7:24AM–9:01PM · Jun 6:15AM–10:10PM · Aug 7:09AM–9:23PM · Sep 7:50AM–8:24PM · Oct 8:31AM–7:24PM

Euro (€)

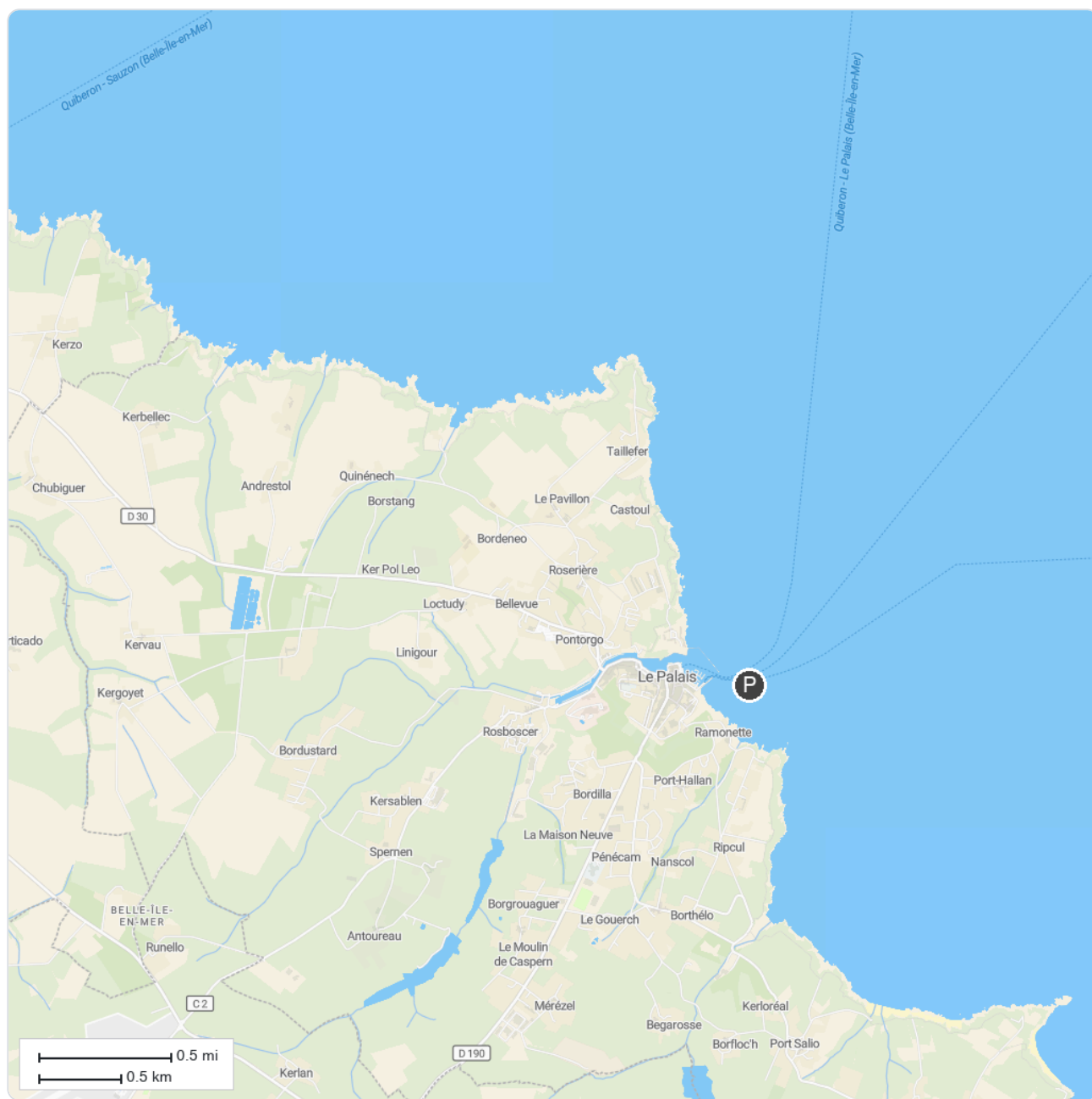
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender timing is everything. Collect tender tickets immediately — on busy calls the queue at Le Palais can mean a 45-min wait. Return to the dock at least 45 minutes before ship departure.
- E-bikes beat legs here. Belle-Île is hilly. Electric bike hire at Le Palais lets you cover the island comfortably in a day without a car — very popular, book the morning you arrive.
- Atlantic swell can disrupt tenders. Weather can cancel or delay tendering — check ship notices and be flexible with plans. Don't stray far from Le Palais if seas are rough.
- Bring cash and euros. Most beach kiosks and small vendors are cash-only. ATMs exist in Le Palais town but can have queues when a ship is in.
- Eat the fruits de mer. Fresh Breton oysters, moules-frites, and seafood platters at Le Palais quayside restaurants are excellent and good value — this is France's Atlantic coast at its best.
- Grab the free island map. The tourist office beside the harbourmaster on the Le Palais quay hands out free maps and bus timetables for Les Cars Bleus — essential for independent exploration.

Belle-Île-en-Mer, Brittany, France — Port Map

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



P Cruise port / terminal