

Djibouti City, Djibouti

A geopolitical crossroads at the mouth of the Red Sea, Djibouti blends French colonial grandeur, Afar and Somali street life, and otherworldly volcanic landscapes — all from a deep-water industrial port that rarely sees tourists.

- Pier (deep-water port)
- Typical call: 7-10 hrs
- Djiboutian Franc / USD accepted
- French & Arabic
- Extremely hot year-round

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — deep-water berth at Port of Djibouti; mandatory shuttle to city gate

Walk to center: Not walkable from pier; shuttle to Place Menelik (~10 min)

Best For: Off-the-beaten-path culture, volcanic day trips, Yemeni cuisine

Don't Miss: Lake Assal (lowest point in Africa) if ship is in port 8+ hours

Getting around: **Taxi** \$5–\$15 USD · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Lake Assal Day Trip** — Africa's lowest point at 155 m below sea level — a hypersaline crater lake surrounded by black lava fields and blinding salt pans that look like the...
- Moucha Island Snorkeling** — A 30–45 minute boat ride from L'Escale Marina to a pristine desert island with white sand beaches, turquoise water, and healthy coral reefs — a...
- Djibouti City Walking Tour** — Explore the colonial European Quarter from Place Menelik, the bustling African Quarter markets, and the 1906 Hamoudi Mosque.
- Decan Wildlife Refuge** — Thirty minutes outside the city, this refuge shelters endangered African species including cheetahs, caracals, lions, and ostriches.
- Yemeni Baked Fish Lunch** — Djibouti's iconic dish — fresh sea bass or kingfish split and baked in a clay tandoor oven with spiced red pepper paste.

BEST WALKS

- European Quarter & Hamoudi Mosque Loop** 2 km · 45–60 min · Easy — Start at Place Menelik and take in the whitewashed French colonial architecture.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:56AM–6:18PM · Jun 5:44AM–6:31PM · Aug 5:56AM–6:26PM · Sep 5:57AM–6:07PM · Oct 5:57AM–5:49PM Djiboutian Franc / USD accepted	
Apr	88°	79°	6d		
Jun	101°	87°	0d		
Aug	103°	88°	3d		
Sep	99°	86°	1d		
Oct	90°	80°	6d		

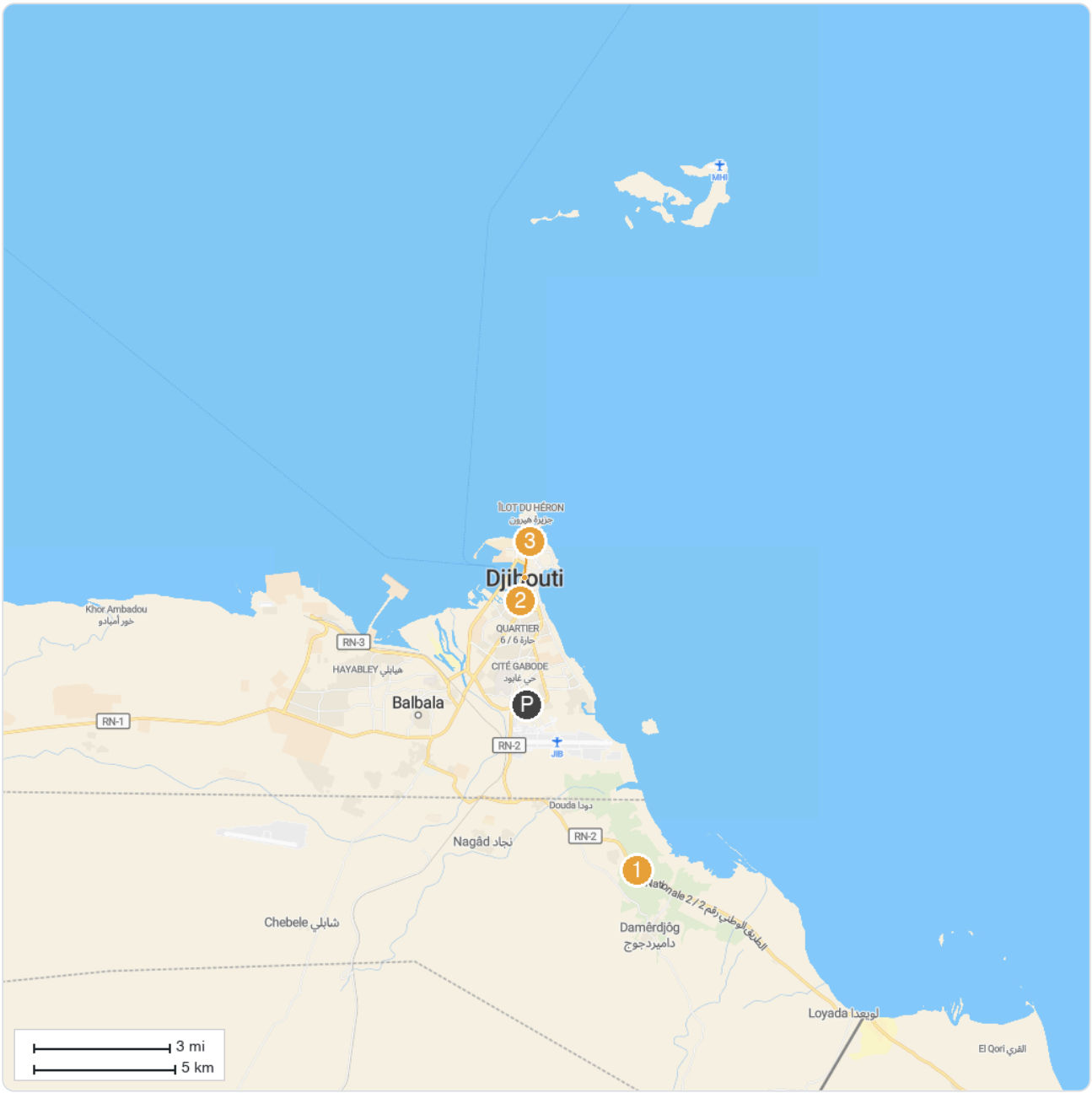
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- No photos of military or port. Djibouti hosts US, French, Chinese, and Japanese military bases. Photographing any military personnel, vessels, or port infrastructure can result in confiscation of your device and detention — take this seriously.
- Bring crisp USD bills. Cash is essential — cards are rarely accepted outside high-end hotels. US dollars (post-2013, clean bills) are widely accepted by taxis and tour operators; change will come in Djiboutian Francs (177 DJF ≈ \$1).
- Extreme heat is real. May–September temperatures routinely exceed 40°C (104°F). Carry at least 1.5L of bottled water, wear a hat, and apply strong sunscreen. Lightweight, modest clothing is both practical and culturally appropriate.
- Negotiate taxi fares before you get in. Taxis have no meters. A short city ride is ~1,000–1,500 DJF (\$6–9 USD). For Lake Assal or Khor Ambado beach, arrange a 4x4 tour — standard taxis cannot handle those roads.
- Dress modestly. Djibouti is a conservative Muslim country. Women should cover shoulders and knees; men should avoid sleeveless tops. This also helps you blend in and get more respectful service.
- Lake Assal needs 8+ hours in port. The drive is 2 hours each way across volcanic desert. Only attempt it if your ship has a long call — it's the most unforgettable thing you can do here, but don't rush it.

Djibouti City, Djibouti — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 DECAN Refuge | A wildlife refuge protecting endangered birds and local flora. | 2 Mosquée Al-Hamoudi | Djibouti City's grandest mosque, a beautiful architectural landmark. |
| 3 The People's Palace | Official residence and workplace of Djibouti's President. | P Cruise port / terminal | |