

East London, Eastern Cape, South Africa

South Africa's only river port trades container ships for cruise passengers chasing the Big Five. Beyond the Buffalo River, world-class surf beaches and Xhosa cultural villages await.

Pier (docked)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

South African Rand (ZAR)

English & Xhosa

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at the Port of East London on the Buffalo River — no tendering required

Best For: Safari day trips, Indian Ocean beaches, Xhosa culture

Walk to centre: ~3 km to Oxford Street; taxis and shuttles available at the terminal

Don't Miss: The coelacanth display at East London Museum — the world's best-preserved specimen

Getting around: Taxi R80–R150 · Rideshare Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Big Five Safari at Inkwenkwezi or Mpongo** — Private game reserves 30–45 minutes from the port offer open-vehicle drives to see lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo in malaria-free...
- Khaya La Bantu Xhosa Cultural Village** — An open-air living museum exploring Xhosa heritage through traditional dance, song, beadwork demonstrations, and a reconstructed homestead.
- East London Museum** — Home to the world's only known dodo egg and the finest preserved coelacanth specimen — a prehistoric fish rediscovered alive in 1938.
- Orient Beach & East London Aquarium** — Orient Beach offers calm Indian Ocean swimming, tidal pools, and a water slide.
- Nahoon Beach & Reef Surfing** — Nahoon Reef is one of South Africa's legendary surf breaks, producing fast right-handers that have hosted international competitions.

BEST WALKS

- Oxford Street City Centre Stroll** 1.5 km | 20 min | Flat — Take a taxi to the city centre, then explore Oxford Street on foot.
- Orient Beach Waterfront Walk** 2 km | 30 min | Flat beachfront — From Orient Beach, stroll south along the beachfront promenade past tidal pools to the East London Aquarium.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		74°	62°	10d
Jun		71°	56°	3d
Aug		70°	55°	6d
Sep		70°	57°	8d
Oct		71°	59°	10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:30AM–5:45PM · Jun 7:09AM–5:08PM · Aug 6:46AM–5:39PM · Sep 6:07AM–6:00PM · Oct 5:27AM–6:20PM

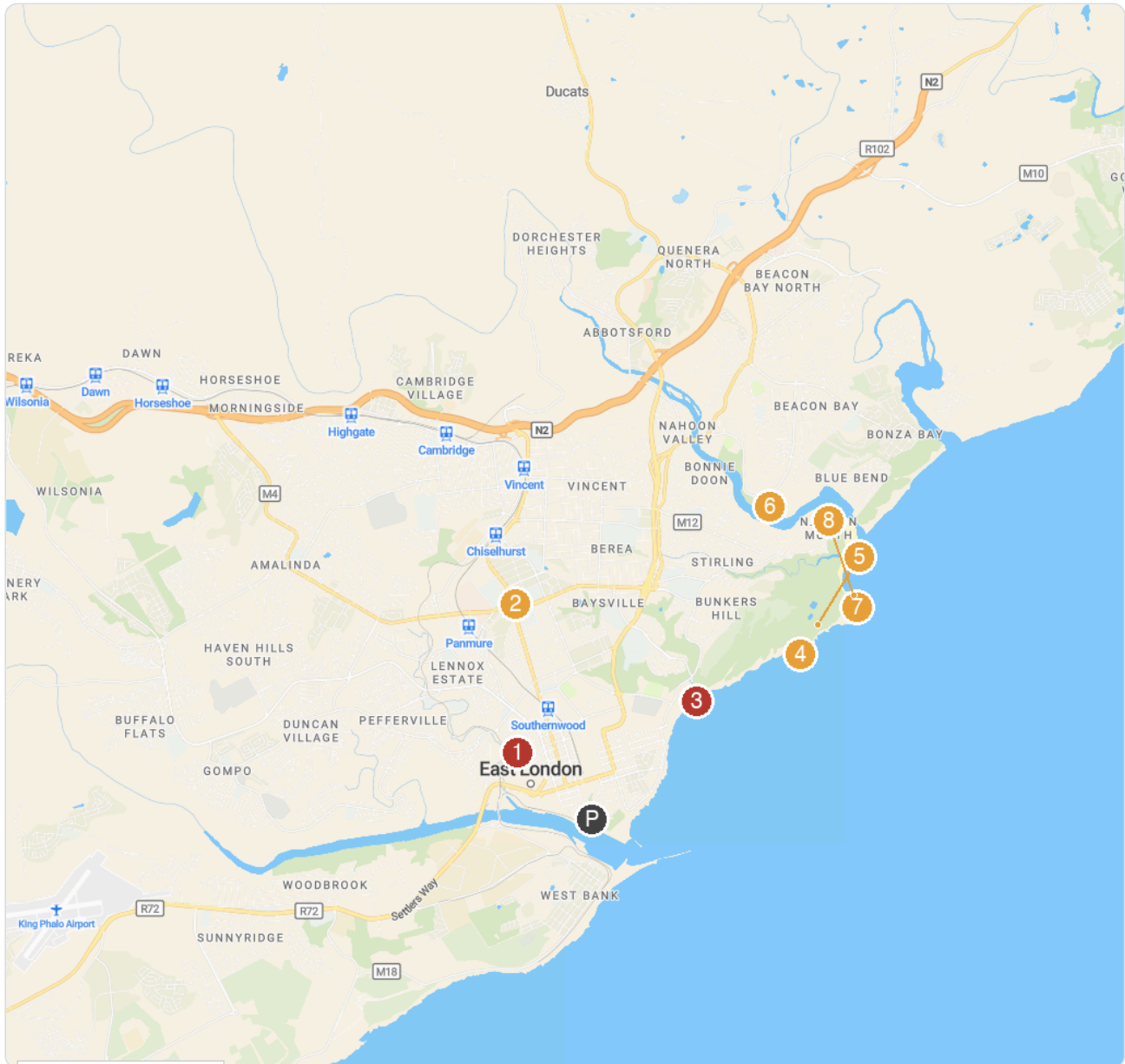
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book safaris before you sail. Inkwenkwezi and Mpongo are popular — shore excursion slots fill up. Independent bookings are possible but organising transfers on the day is stressful.
- Carry rand, not dollars. ATMs are available in the city centre and Hemingways Mall. Most tourist venues accept cards, but small vendors, taxis, and markets prefer cash.
- Agree taxi fares upfront. Metered taxis are reliable; informal minibuses are cheap but can be confusing. Ride-share apps (Uber, inDriver) work well in East London for solo travellers.
- Try a bunny chow. East London's curry scene is excellent — a hollowed-out half-loaf of bread filled with curry is the essential local street food and costs under R80.
- Indian Ocean currents can be strong. Orient Beach has calmer conditions than Eastern or Nahoon Beach. Heed lifeguard flags — rip currents are present at several beaches.
- Hemingways Mall has a casino, major stores, and restaurants if you want air-conditioned comfort. It's ~10 min by taxi from the port and useful on very hot days.

East London, Eastern Cape, South Africa — 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 East London Zoo | Home to various animals, including the rare white lion. | 2 East London Museum | Explore natural history, local culture, and the famous coelacanth. |
| 3 Eastern Beach | Long sandy beach perfect for swimming and sunbathing. | 4 Bats' Cave | Home to a large colony of fruit bats. |
| 5 Nahoon Point Lighthouse | Historic lighthouse guiding ships and offering ocean views. | 6 Dassie Trail | Enjoy a scenic coastal walk, often spotting dassies. |
| 7 Nahoon Reef | A renowned surfing reef with powerful, consistent waves. | 8 Mermaid's Pool | Swim in this beautiful, sheltered natural tidal pool. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |