

Graciosa Island, Azores, Portugal

The quietest island in the Azores, Graciosa rewards those who seek it out: a dramatic volcanic cavern with a sulfur lake, red-domed Flemish windmills, warm thermal pools, and a sandy beach right at the tender pier.

Tender port (no cruise pier)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Currency: Euro (€)

Language: Portuguese

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Porto da Praia, Vila da Praia

Best For: Volcanic caves, windmills, thermal baths, off-the-beaten-path Azores

Walk to center: 2–5 min to Vila da Praia village; Santa Cruz capital is 6 km (needs transport)

Don't Miss: Furna do Enxofre sulfur cavern & queijadas pastries from the factory

Getting around: Taxi €7–€15 · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Furna do Enxofre — Volcanic Sulfur Cavern** — Descend a 183-step spiral staircase into a massive volcanic dome to find a cold, sulfurous lake and towering basalt columns.
- Termas do Carapacho — Thermal Baths & Natural Pools** — Soak in ~40°C (104°F) volcanic spring water at the island's thermal spa on the southeast coast, or swim in the adjacent natural rock pools where warm...
- Santa Cruz da Graciosa — Island Capital Walk** — Explore the whitewashed capital with its 16th-century Igreja Matriz, the Praça dos Pauis (tree-lined square with ancient reservoirs), and the hilltop...
- Flemish Windmills & Wine Cooperative** — Graciosa's red-domed windmills are an icon of Azorean heritage, introduced by Flemish settlers in the 15th century.
- Island Loop — Ponta da Barca Lighthouse & Ilhéu da Baleia** — Drive the island perimeter to the dramatic Ponta da Barca Lighthouse on the northwest tip, then stop at the Ilhéu da Baleia sea stack that looks...

BEST WALKS

- Vila da Praia Village Stroll** 0.5 km · 15 min · Flat · Free — From the tender pier walk along the seafront to Praia de São Mateus beach, then loop back through the village past the Fábrica das Queijadas for fresh queijadas pastries.
- Santa Cruz to Monte da Ajuda** 1.5 km one-way · 45 min · Uphill · Free — From Santa Cruz's Praça dos Pauis, walk up to the hilltop Monte de Nossa Senhora da Ajuda for sweeping views of the capital and the Atlantic.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		62°	57°	15d
Jun		69°	64°	13d
Aug		75°	70°	14d
Sep		73°	69°	14d
Oct		69°	65°	15d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 7:15AM–8:29PM · Jun 6:25AM–9:19PM · Aug 7:05AM–8:46PM · Sep 7:33AM–7:59PM · Oct 8:02AM–7:12PM

Currency: Euro (€)

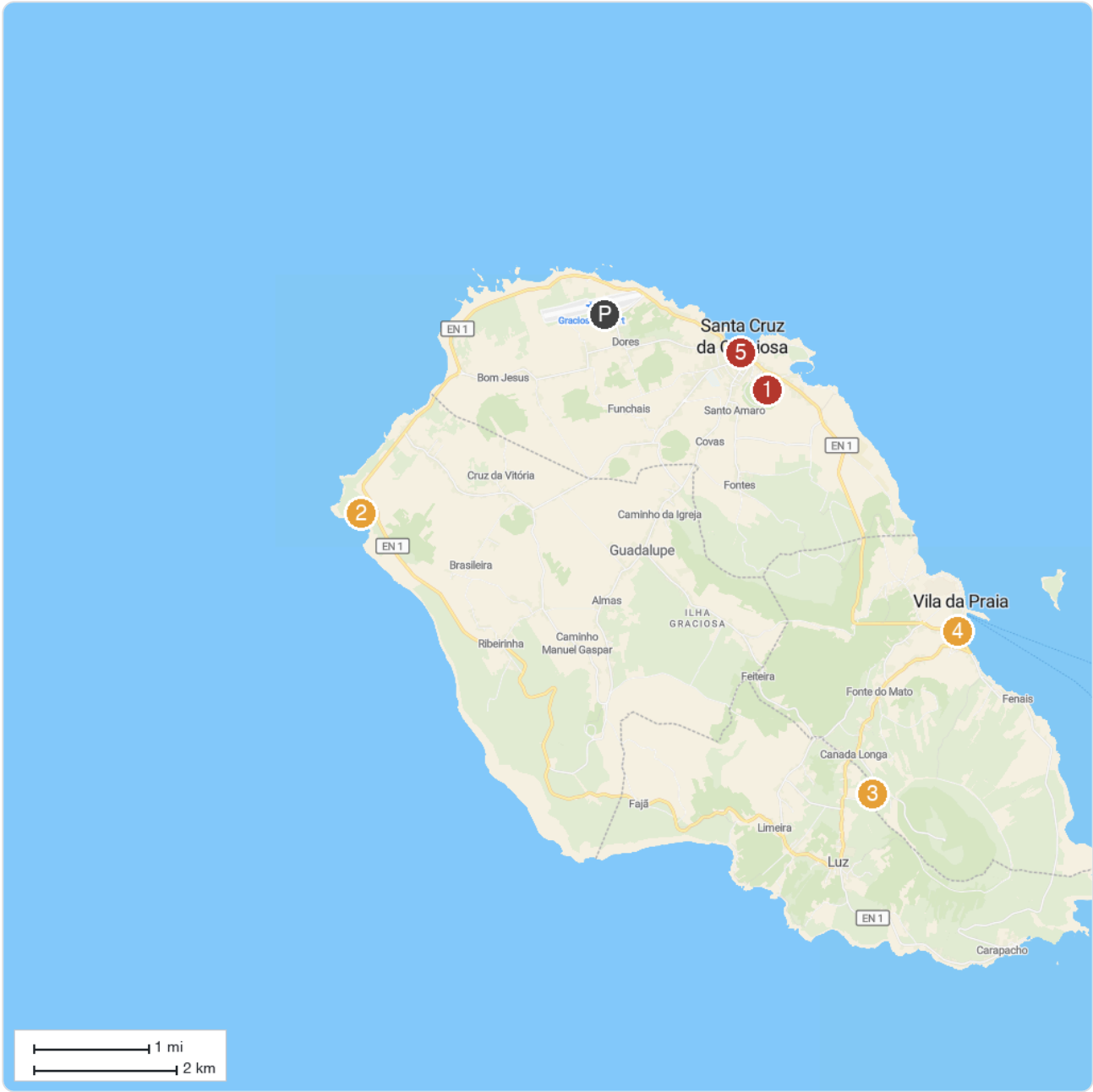
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book transport before you sail. Graciosa has very few taxis and rental cars. Without advance booking you may be stranded in Vila da Praia for the day — which is lovely, but limiting.
- Eat queijadas at the source. The Fábrica das Queijadas da Graciosa in Vila da Praia is steps from the tender pier. These crispy star-shaped custard tarts are the island's signature food — grab a box fresh from the oven.
- Furna do Enxofre may close. CO₂ levels are monitored daily; closures are rare but real. Confirm it's open before making it the centerpiece of your day — your ship's excursion desk will know.
- Carry cash. Small cafes, taxis, and cave/bath entry fees often require euros in cash. ATMs exist in Santa Cruz but not at the tender pier.
- Pack layers. Azorean weather can shift from sunshine to drizzle within an hour. A light waterproof layer and sturdy shoes are worth the bag space, especially for the cave steps.
- The beach is right at the pier. If you have limited time or no transport, Praia de São Mateus is calm, sheltered, and beautiful — a rare fine-sand beach for the Azores. Swimwear in your daypack is a good call.

Graciosa Island, Azores, Portugal — 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 | Hermitage of Nossa Senhora da Ajuda | Historic chapel with panoramic views of the island. | 2 | Porto Afonso | Natural ocean swimming pool with scenic coastal views. |
| 3 | Furna do Abel | Accessible volcanic cave with unique geological formations. | 4 | Praia de São Mateus | Graciosa's largest sandy beach, perfect for swimming. |
| 5 | Museu da Graciosa | Island museum showcasing Graciosa's history and culture. | P | Cruise port / terminal | |