

Île-d'Aix, Charente-Maritime, France

A car-free crescent of whitewashed cottages and Napoleonic ghosts off France's Atlantic coast — where the Emperor spent his final hours on French soil before surrendering to the British.

- Tender port (no pier)
- Typical call: 5–7 hrs
- Currency: Euro
- Language: French
- Explore by bicycle or on foot

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor offshore; boats land at the island's jetty (Jetée Barbotin / Quai de l'Arcadie)

Walk to center: 2 min from tender dock to village gate

Best For: History buffs, beach lovers, slow-travel cyclists

Don't Miss: Musée Napoléon & views of Fort Boyard from the beach

Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Musée Napoléon** — Tour the house where Napoleon spent his last nights on French soil in July 1815, awaiting a ship to America that never came.
- **Fort Liédot** — Napoleon ordered this massive stone fort in 1808.
- **Fort Boyard Views** — The oval sea-fort made famous by the French TV game show sits just offshore to the west.
- **Island Bicycle Loop** — Rent a bike at the pier and circuit the entire 3 km island: pine forest in the north, Atlantic beaches on every side, ramparts in the south.
- **Anse de la Croix & Oysters** — Settle on the sandy Anse de la Croix cove just west of the village near the pier — or the longer Grande Plage further along the west shore — then...

BEST WALKS

- **Village & Rampart Walk** 45 min · Easy · Flat — Enter through Porte de la Ville and explore the walled village streets, then climb the Vauban ramparts for views over the Atlantic and toward Fort Boyard.
- **Fort Liédot Forest Walk** 1.5 hrs return · Easy · Pine forest path — Follow the shaded forest path north through the Bois de la Chasse to Fort Liédot.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:18AM–8:51PM · Jun 6:13AM–9:57PM · Aug 7:04AM–9:12PM · Sep 7:43AM–8:15PM · Oct 8:21AM–7:18PM	
Apr	60°	49°	9d	Currency: Euro	
Jun	71°	61°	10d		
Aug	74°	64°	8d		
Sep	72°	61°	9d		
Oct	65°	55°	10d		

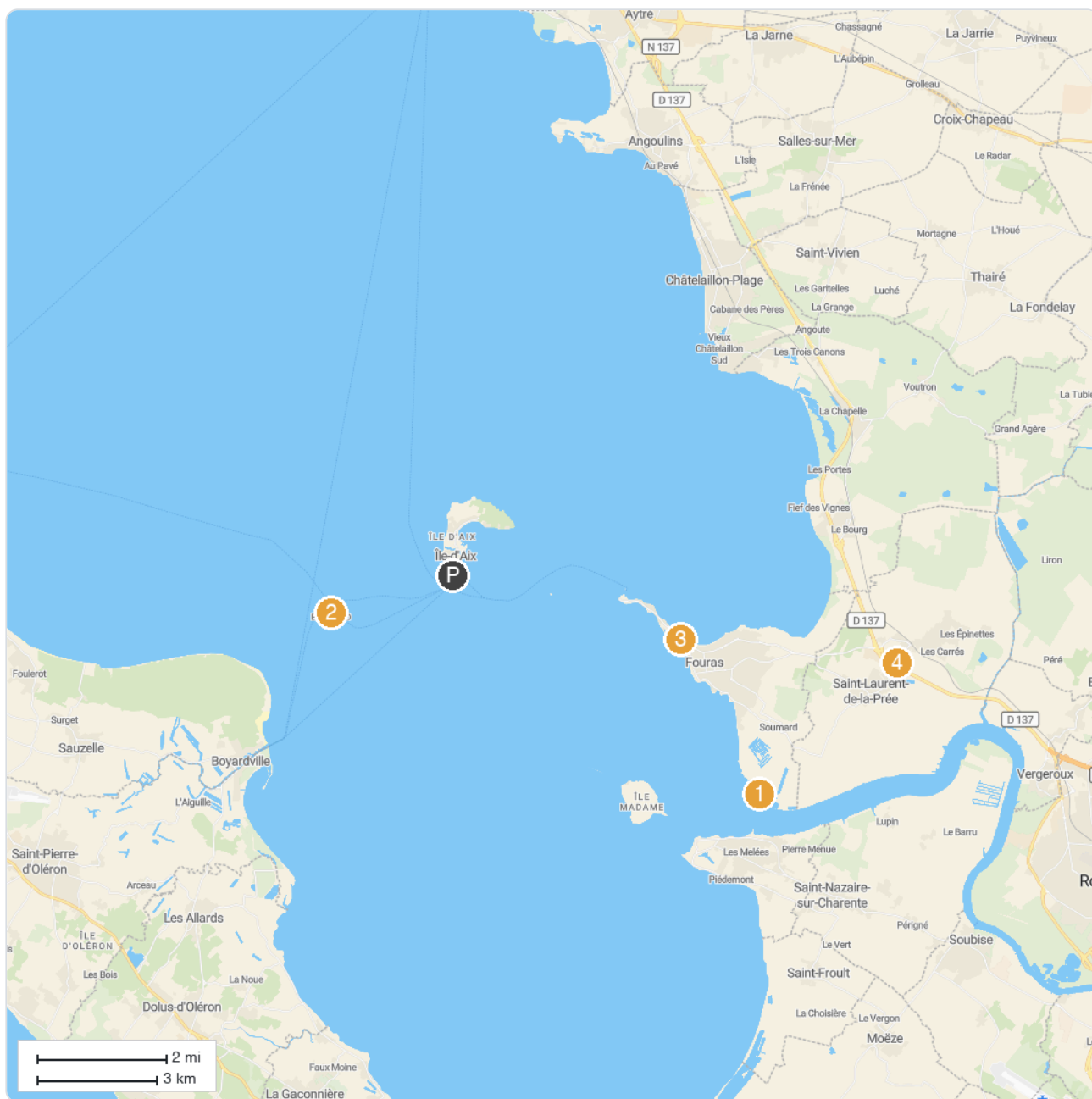
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Rent a bike at the pier. Rental shops (Cyclaix, L'Aixois) are right at the tender dock — €10–15 for a half-day. It's the fastest way to see the whole island before tender recall.
- Tender timing matters. Atlantic swells can delay tender operations. Check ship announcements and return to the pier 30 minutes before the last tender listed.
- Eat oysters. Charentaises oysters from the bay around Île-d'Aix are among the best in France — order a dozen with Pineau des Charentes at any café near the beach.
- Bring cash. Cards are accepted at museums and larger restaurants, but smaller stalls, bakeries, and bike rentals often prefer euros in hand.
- Fort Boyard is better from shore than by boat. The game-show fort is visible from the west-coast beaches (Anse de la Croix and Grande Plage), a short walk from the tender dock — skip the expensive excursion unless you want the full boat tour.
- Beaches on every side. Grande Plage and Anse de la Croix face west (waves, sunset); Anse du Saillant (Plage aux Coquillages) is sheltered on the east. Choose based on wind direction that day.

Île-d'Aix, Charente-Maritime, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 Fort Lapointe Historic coastal fort offering panoramic views.

2 Fort Boyard Iconic sea fort, famous for the TV game show.

3 Les Salons du Parc Elegant event venue set within a beautiful park.

4 Yaka-jouer Indoor play park for children's entertainment.

P Cruise port / terminal