

# Iles des Saintes, Guadeloupe, France

Nicknamed the 'Saint-Tropez of the Caribbean,' Iles des Saintes is a tiny, car-free French archipelago where the pace is slow, the beaches pristine, and the pastries irresistible.

Tender port (no cruise pier)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Euro (€) — bring cash

French / basic English in tourism

Small-ship & luxury lines

## MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive: \_\_\_\_\_ All aboard: \_\_\_\_\_

Excursion: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Tender only — ships anchor in Baie des Saintes; tenders land at the Gare Maritime in Bourg

**Best For:** Beaches, French Creole food, Fort Napoléon, golf-cart exploration

**Walk to Center:** 0 min — you step off the tender into the village

**Don't Miss:** Tourment d'amour pastries at the pier and Fort Napoléon (closes 12:30 PM)

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ €12–€15 per trip / tour packages vary · 🚗 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Fort Napoléon & Botanical Garden** — A 19th-century fortress built on volcanic heights, housing a museum on the 1782 Battle of the Saintes and a cactus garden roamed by free iguanas.
- Plage de Pompierre** — The island's most popular beach — a reef-sheltered cove with impossibly calm, shallow turquoise water and a palm-shaded shore.
- Plage du Pain de Sucre & Snorkeling** — Named after its dramatic basalt cliff, this intimate cove has the best snorkeling on the island — corals and reef fish right off the shore.
- Le Chameau Summit Hike** — The highest point on the island (309 m) has a Napoleonic watchtower and 360° views of Guadeloupe, Marie-Galante, and Dominica.
- Bourg Village Stroll & Local Food** — Wander the pastel-painted main street, visit the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption church, spot the boat-shaped maison-bateau on the waterfront, and eat...

## BEST WALKS

- Bourg Village & Cemetery Loop** 1.5 km · 20 min · Easy — From the Gare Maritime, stroll through the colorful village center, past the Notre-Dame church, out to the conch-shell cemetery (graves lined with giant conch shells — a...
- Pier to Plage de Pompierre** 1.8 km · 20-25 min · Easy-moderate — Head east from the Gare Maritime along the main road, following signs to Pompierre.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

**CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

|     | Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr |     | 80°  | 77° | 12d  |
| Jun |     | 82°  | 79° | 13d  |
| Aug |     | 83°  | 80° | 19d  |
| Sep |     | 84°  | 80° | 16d  |
| Oct |     | 83°  | 80° | 19d  |

**DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 5:51AM–6:21PM · Jun 5:35AM–6:38PM · Aug 5:51AM–6:30PM · Sep 5:54AM–6:07PM · Oct 5:58AM–5:45PM

Euro (€) — bring cash

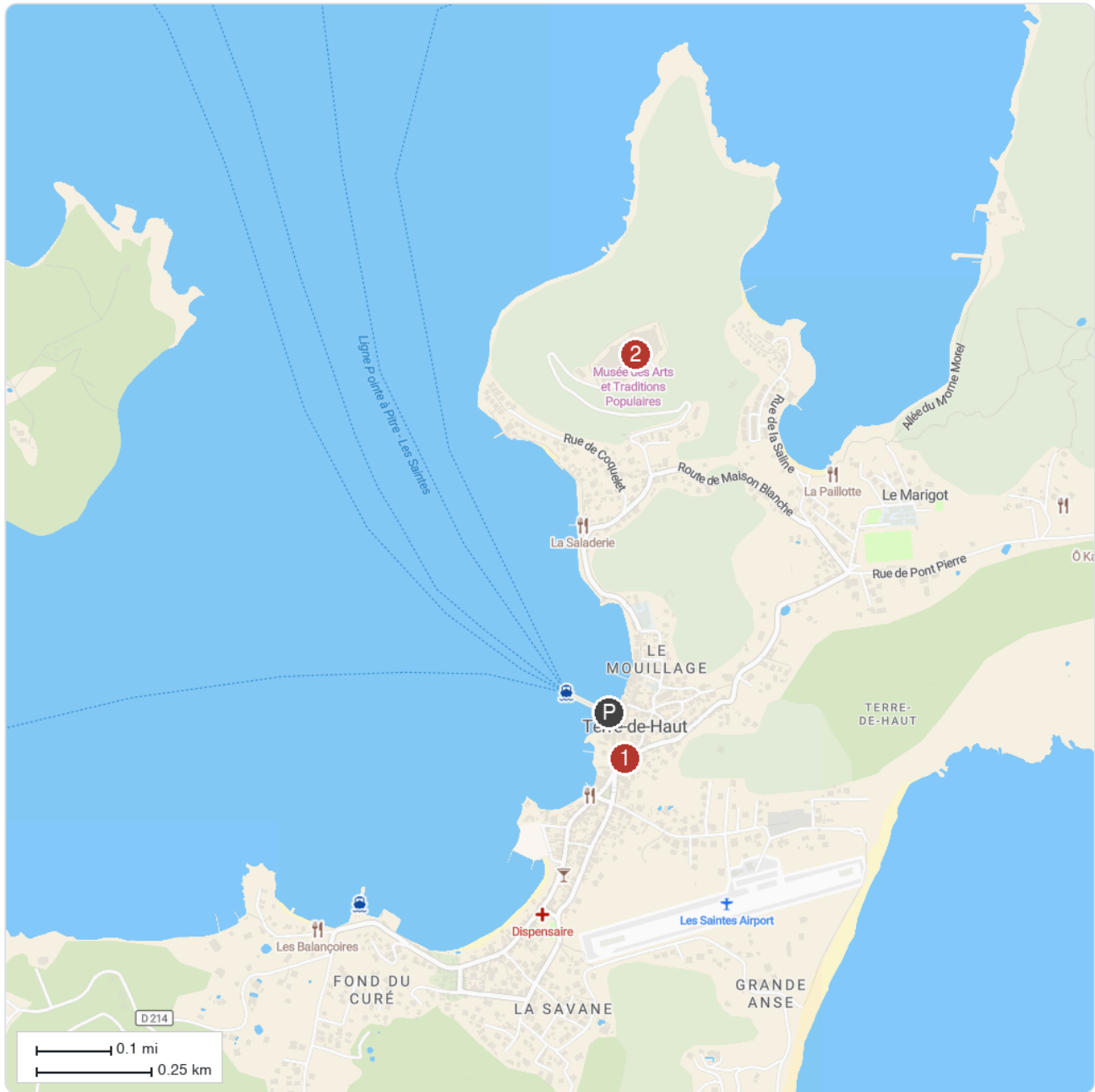
## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring euros in cash. Credit cards are accepted in restaurants and some shops, but cash is essential for pastry vendors, beach chairs, and the ATMs sometimes run dry. Withdraw before you arrive.
- Buy tourment d'amour at the pier, first thing. Local women sell these warm coconut-guava tartlets for €1–2 each. They sell out before noon — don't skip them.
- Fort Napoléon closes at 12:30 PM daily. Go first thing in the morning. Everything shuts for a long siesta between 12:30 and 3:00 PM — plan your beach time around it.
- Rent a golf cart immediately on arrival if you want to see beyond Bourg. Carts go for €60–80 and sell out fast during busy calls. You need a valid driver's license.
- Check sargassum conditions on the day. Windward beaches (including Pompierre occasionally) can have seaweed influxes. Ask at the tourist office near the pier for the cleanest beach.
- Confirm your last tender time before heading far. Le Chameau hike and Pain de Sucre are 30–40 min from the pier on foot — missing the last tender on a small-ship call is a real risk.

# Iles des Saintes, Guadeloupe, France — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

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



**1** Notre Dame de l'Assomption, les Saintes Historic island church, a beautiful landmark.

**2** Fort Napoléon des Saintes Historic fort with panoramic views and a museum.

**P** Cruise port / terminal