

Isle of Pines, New Caledonia, France

Towering columnar pines meet blindingly white sand and turquoise lagoons — the Isle of Pines is one of the Pacific's most striking cruise calls. Most of the island's best moments are free.

Tender port (no pier)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

XPF (CFP Franc) — bring cash, no ATMs near pier

French / Kanak (Kwényî)

UNESCO-listed lagoon

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Kuto Bay jetty (~10–15 min ride)

Best For: Snorkeling, beaches, natural pool, colonial history

Walk to center: Kuto Beach is right at the tender pier; Kanumera Bay 5 min walk

Don't Miss: Piscine Naturelle (natural pool) at Oro Bay — bring reef shoes

Getting around: **Taxi** ~555 XPF base + 123 XPF/km (~USD 5–12) · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Piscine Naturelle (Natural Pool)** — A coral-rimmed natural swimming pool at Oro Bay on the far (northeast) side of the island, teeming with tropical fish.
- Kanumera Bay & the Sacred Rock** — A 5-minute walk from the tender pier brings you to this horseshoe bay dominated by the giant Kanumera Rock — a Kanak sacred site.
- French Penal Colony Ruins** — A 20-minute inland walk from Kuto Beach leads to the overgrown ruins of a 19th-century French colonial prison, where Communards and other political...
- Pic N'Ga Hike** — The island's highest point (262 m) rewards a steep 1-hour climb with a 360° panorama of the reef, bays, and columnar pines.
- Queen Hortense's Cave** — A large limestone cavern where the local Kanak queen hid during a 19th-century tribal war.

BEST WALKS

- Kuto Beach to Kanumera Bay** 0.5 km · 5 min · Easy · Free — Walk across the narrow sandy isthmus from the tender jetty at Kuto Beach to the gorgeous Kanumera Bay.
- Kuto Bay to Penal Colony Ruins** 1.5 km · 20 min · Easy–moderate · Free — Follow the main road inland from the tender pier to the atmospheric ruins of the 19th-century French penal colony.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		78°	74°	17d
Jun		73°	69°	9d
Aug		71°	66°	12d
Sep		72°	67°	11d
Oct		74°	69°	14d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:03AM–5:36PM · Jun 6:28AM–5:13PM · Aug 6:15AM–5:34PM · Sep 5:47AM–5:43PM · Oct 5:18AM–5:53PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring XPF cash. There are no ATMs near the pier. Some stalls accept AUD or EUR but give poor change rates. Exchange before arriving or take cash from Noumea.
- Bring your own snorkel gear. There are no reliable rental shops on the island. Reef shoes are essential — stonefish and sharp coral are present in the water.
- Sunscreen must be reef-safe. The lagoon is UNESCO-listed. Chemical sunscreens damage coral; wear a rash vest and use mineral-based SPF.
- Buy your Natural Pool shuttle early. Local shuttle tickets (to Oro Bay) sell out fast at the pier. Head straight there after tendering if this is your priority.
- Respect Kanak culture. The Kanumera Rock is sacred — do not climb it. Ask permission before photographing locals. Cover up (shirt or sarong) when walking away from the beach.
- Try bougna if it's on the menu — traditional Kanak food cooked in banana leaves. Hotel Kou-Bugny on Kuto Beach serves French-Melanesian fare with fresh coconuts and cold beer.

Isle of Pines, New Caledonia, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Grotte de la Reine Hortense

Explore a historic limestone cave with impressive stalactites.
- 2

Saint Maurice

Visit a memorial to early missionaries and local chiefs.
- P

Cruise port / terminal