

Le Verdon-sur-Mer, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France

At the wild tip of the Médoc Peninsula, this deep-water port is your launchpad to Bordeaux's grand boulevards, UNESCO-listed wine châteaux, and the extraordinary "Versailles of the Sea" lighthouse.

Docked (pier) Typical call: 8–10 hrs Euro (€) French Bordeaux wine country

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Alongside at deep-water Môle d'Escale terminal — no tendering

Walk to center: Port-Médoc Marina ~25 min on foot; town center too far — use shuttle

Best For: Wine lovers, day-trippers to Bordeaux, Cordouan lighthouse seekers

Don't Miss: Cordouan Lighthouse UNESCO boat trip; Soulac Belle Époque villas

Getting around: Taxi €17–21 · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Bordeaux City Day** — France's "City of Art and History" rewards a full day: the Place de la Bourse and Miroir d'Eau reflecting pool, the Gothic Cathédrale Saint-André...
- **Cordouan Lighthouse Boat Trip** — Completed in 1611, the "Versailles of the Sea" is the oldest lighthouse still in operation in France and a UNESCO World Heritage site (inscribed 2021).
- **Médoc Wine Châteaux Tour** — The Route des Châteaux (D2) winds south past legendary estates: Saint-Estèphe, Pauillac (Lafite Rothschild, Mouton Rothschild), Saint-Julien, and...
- **Soulac-sur-Mer & Belle Époque Villas** — Just 10 km south, this seaside resort preserves over 500 ornate 19th-century villas in red brick and woodwork.
- **Pointe de Grave & WWII Bunkers** — Walk to the very tip of the Médoc Peninsula where the estuary meets the open ocean.

BEST WALKS

- **Port-Médoc Marina Stroll** 1.5 km · Flat · ~25 min from pier — A flat walk along the road from the cruise terminal to the 800-berth Port-Médoc Marina.
- **Pointe de Grave Monument Walk** 2 km loop · Easy · Flat coastal path — From the Phare de Grave, walk the coastal path to the Monument de la Libération commemorating the 1945 liberation of the Médoc, then continue to the headland viewpoint...
- **Soulac-sur-Mer Belle Époque Circuit** 2.5 km loop · Easy · Town streets — From the Soulac shuttle drop-off, loop through the old village to admire the ornate Belle Époque villas, visit the Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Fin-des-Terres, browse the...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

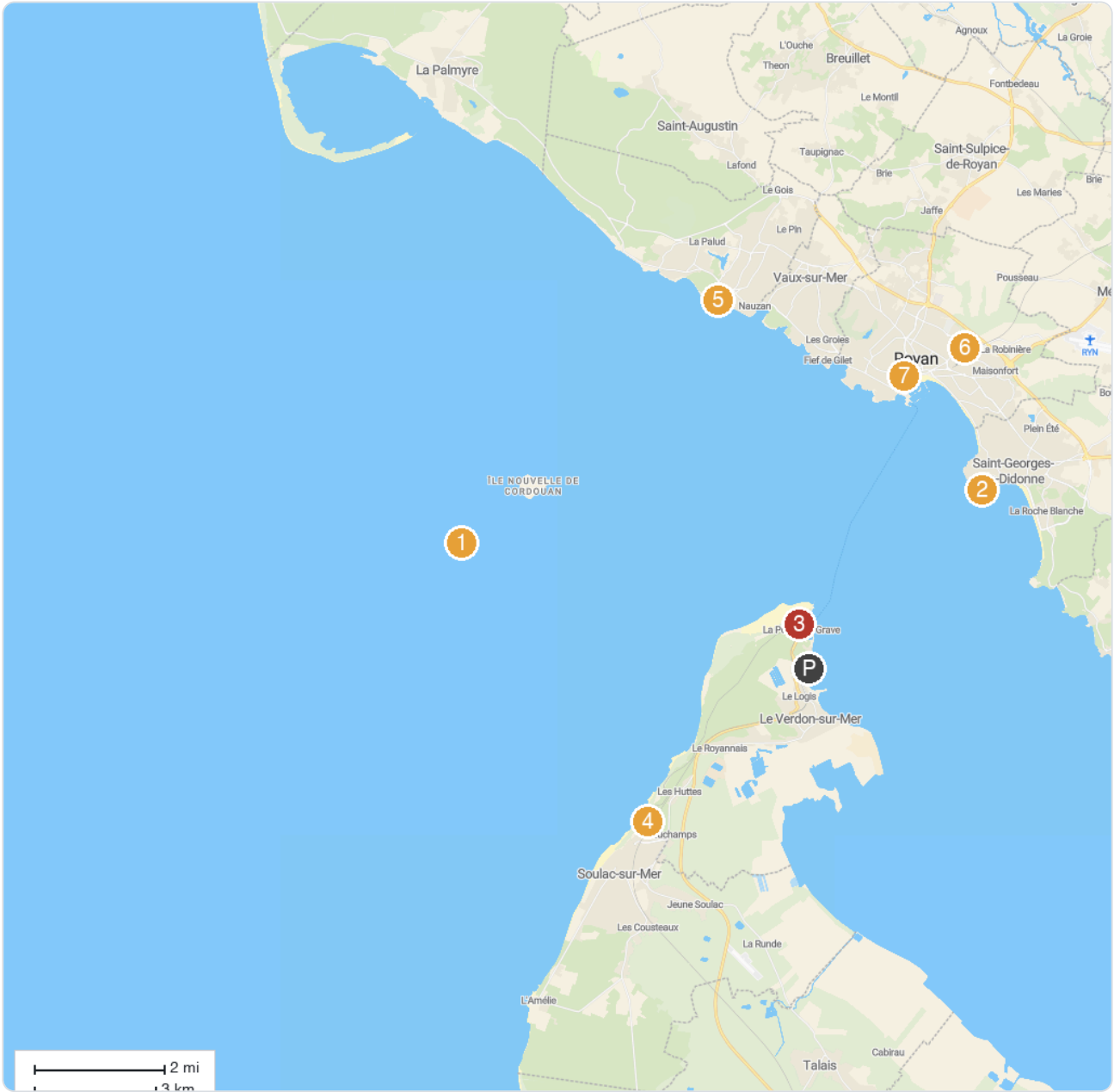
CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:18AM–8:50PM · Jun 6:15AM–9:54PM · Aug 7:05AM–9:11PM · Sep 7:43AM–8:14PM · Oct 8:20AM–7:18PM	
Apr	61°	49°	9d	Euro (€)	
Jun	73°	61°	11d		
Aug	76°	64°	8d		
Sep	73°	61°	9d		
Oct	66°	55°	11d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Shuttle is essential. The port area has little of interest within walking distance. Take the cruise line shuttle to Port-Médoc Marina or Soulac-sur-Mer — it's the only practical option without a taxi.
- Book Bordeaux and wine tours in advance. Ship excursions sell out fast. Independent drivers can be arranged, but confirm pick-up timing rigorously — missing the ship from Bordeaux is a genuine risk.
- Cordouan Lighthouse needs early planning. Boat trips are tide-dependent and sell out weeks ahead, especially in summer. Check tides before arrival and book online at phare-de-cordouan.fr.
- Cash handy for small purchases. Cards accepted at most restaurants, but the tourist train, market stalls, and some oyster shacks prefer cash. ATMs in Soulac-sur-Mer.
- Ocean beach has strong currents. Plage de Saint-Nicolas is stunning but the Atlantic rip currents are serious. Swim only where lifeguards are posted, and check the flag colour before entering the water.
- Eat oysters here, not in Bordeaux. Gironde oysters at Port-Médoc bistros are plump, fresh, and cheap — a far better experience than the tourist restaurants in the city. Pair with a glass of Entre-Deux-Mers white.

Le Verdon-sur-Mer, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France — Port Map cruiseports.org

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



1	Cordouan Lighthouse	Historic lighthouse, a UNESCO World Heritage site.	2	Phare de Saint-Georges-de-Didonne	A scenic lighthouse offering panoramic coastal views.
3	Phare de Grave	Lighthouse marking the Gironde estuary entrance.	4	Petit Train Touristique PGVS (Pointe Grave Le Verdon Soulac)	A charming tourist train connecting coastal towns.
5	Maison des Douanes	Former customs house, now a local history museum.	6	Planet Exotica	A unique park with exotic animals, plants, and dinosaurs.
7	Église Notre-Dame de Royan	A striking modern church with unique concrete architecture.	P	Cruise port / terminal	