

Marseille, Provence, France

France's oldest city and its most visceral — a gritty, gorgeous port where bouillabaisse was invented, the Calanques begin, and 26 centuries of history press close.

Docked (MPCT cruise terminal) Typical call: 8–10 hrs Euro (EUR) French · Some English in tourist zones

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: MPCT — Môle Léon Gourret

To Vieux-Port: ~8 km — shuttle or taxi (not walkable)

Best For: Calanques · Old port · Food

Don't Miss: Basilique Notre-Dame de la Garde

Getting around: **Taxi** ✓ €15–€25 · **Rideshare** ✓ Uber, Bolt · **Hop-on hop-off** ✓ Colorbûs Marseille

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Calanques National Park Boat Tour** — The creamy white limestone fjords east of Marseille are one of France's great natural spectacles.
- **Basilique Notre-Dame de la Garde** — Marseille's gilded hilltop basilica — 'La Bonne Mère' — is the city's spiritual anchor and its best viewpoint.
- **Aix-en-Provence Half-Day** — Thirty minutes by train or bus, Aix is a world apart — fountained boulevards, Cézanne's studio, excellent markets, and better-behaved crowds.
- **MuCEM & the Historic Harbour** — The Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MuCEM) is a landmark building right at the port entrance, connected by walkway to the...
- **Bouillabaisse & Vieux-Port Lunch** — The Vieux-Port's quayside restaurants serve the real thing — bouillabaisse (book ahead), grilled sea urchin, and tielle pastries.

BEST WALKS

- **Vieux-Port to Notre-Dame de la Garde** 3.5 km · 1.5–2 hrs · Moderate (steep finish) — Start at Quai des Belges at the foot of the Old Port, walk through the Panier quarter (Marseille's oldest neighbourhood), pass the Cathédrale de la Major, then climb Rue...
- **Vieux-Port & MuCEM Waterfront Stroll** 2 km · 45 min · Easy — A flat, scenic walk along the north shore of the Vieux-Port from Quai des Belges to Fort Saint-Jean and the MuCEM museum.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:56AM–8:21PM · Jun 5:57AM–9:20PM · Aug 6:44AM–8:40PM · Sep 7:18AM–7:48PM · Oct 7:52AM–6:55PM Euro (EUR)	
Apr	63°	50°	7d		
Jun	78°	65°	5d		
Aug	82°	68°	3d		
Sep	76°	63°	5d		
Oct	69°	57°	8d		

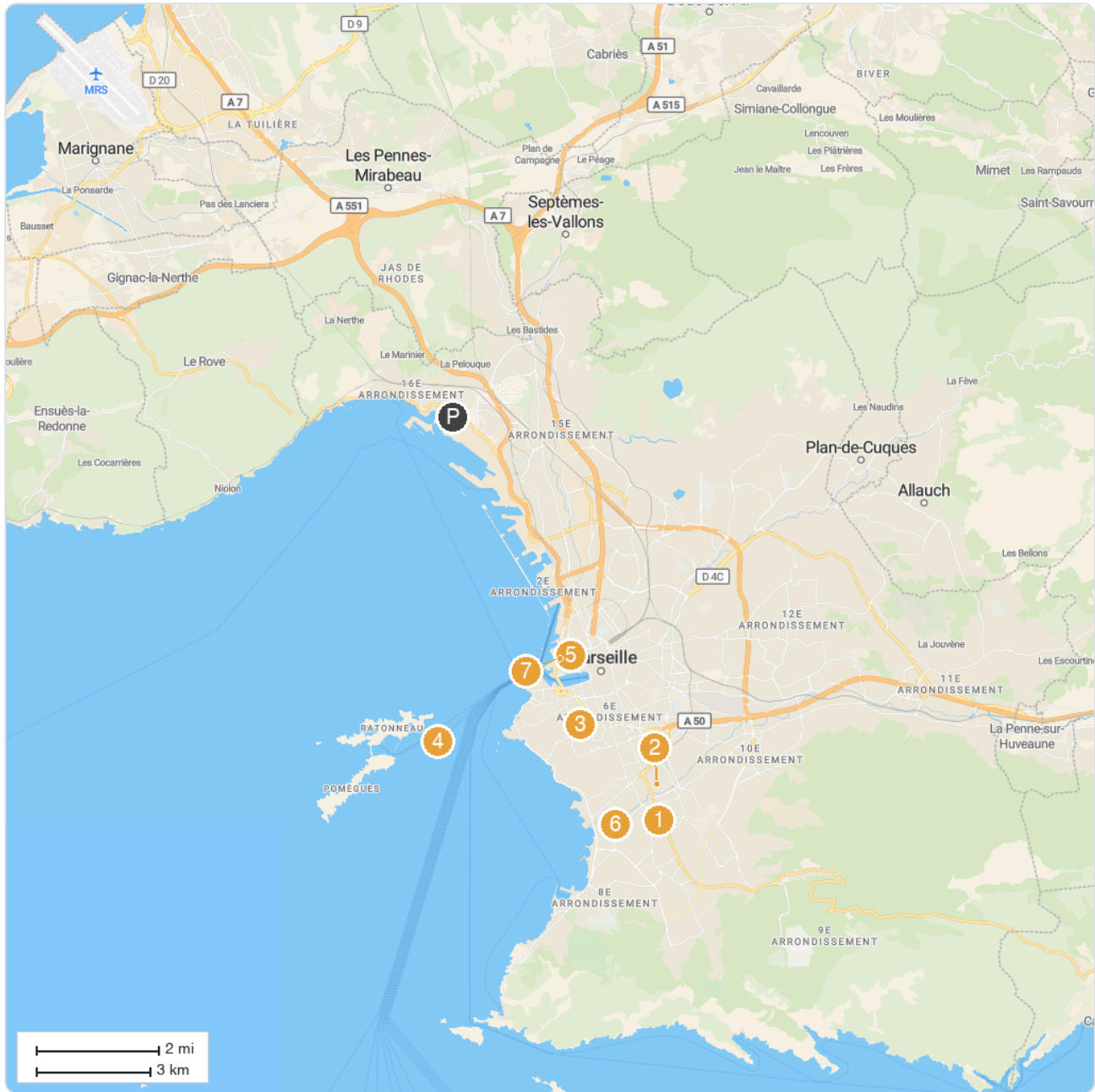
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book bouillabaisse in advance. Authentic versions at Chez Fonfon, Le Miramar, or Péron must be ordered ahead — they don't serve it to walk-ins on busy port days.
- Watch your belongings around La Canebière, the fish market, and busy tourist spots. Marseille is lively but opportunistic theft is real — zip up bags and avoid showing valuables.
- Taxis are metered and reliable from the cruise terminal — budget roughly €17–25 to the Vieux-Port, as the MPCT berth sits ~8 km north of the city. Uber and FreeNow also work; avoid unofficial 'taxis' offering flat rates outside the terminal.
- Calanques access changes seasonally. In summer (July–Sept), hiking trails into the calanques may be restricted due to fire risk — boat tours remain available. Check before planning a hike.
- Train to Aix is fast and cheap — buses and trains run frequently from Gare de Marseille-Saint-Charles for under €10 each way. Factor in the shuttle or taxi from the MPCT terminal to the station first (~€15–20 by taxi).
- Shops close midday. Many Marseille businesses observe a 12:30–2:30pm lunch break — plan sightseeing accordingly and eat when the locals do.

Marseille, Provence, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1 Unité d'Habitation
- 3 Notre-Dame de la Garde
- 5 Old Charity Center
- 7 Cathédrale La Major

- 2 Orange Vélodrome
- 4 Château d'If
- 6 Parc Borély
- P Cruise port / terminal