

Muscatine, Iowa, USA

Once the Pearl Button Capital of the World, Muscatine sits on a sweeping bend of the Mississippi where Mark Twain once praised its sunsets. Today river cruisers step ashore to a walkable historic downtown, a world-class art collection, and one of the river's most scenic stretches.

Docked — Riverside Park Typical call: 6-8 hrs US Dollar (USD) English Pearl Button history

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at Riverside Park on the Muscatine Riverfront — a short walk to downtown.

Best For: Mississippi River history, pearl button heritage, small-town Iowa charm.

Walk to Center: Downtown is 5–10 min on foot from the dock; the riverfront trail connects the two.

Don't Miss: National Pearl Button Museum and the Muscatine Art Center (Musser Mansion).

Getting around: Taxi Varies · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **National Pearl Button Museum** — Muscatine once made 37% of the world's buttons from freshwater mussel shells.
- **Muscatine Art Center** — Housed in the 1908 Musser Mansion, this small-city museum holds a surprisingly strong collection — Chagall, Picasso, Renoir, Georgia O'Keeffe — plus...
- **Wildcat Den State Park & Pine Creek Grist Mill** — About 12 miles from the riverfront, Wildcat Den shelters hiking trails through sandstone bluffs and the Pine Creek Grist Mill (built 1848) — said to...
- **Historic Downtown Walk & Mark Twain Connection** — Mark Twain lived in Muscatine in 1854-55 and later wrote in *Life on the Mississippi* that he had never seen sunsets anywhere that equaled Muscatine's...
- **Lock & Dam No. 16 Tour** — The U.S.

BEST WALKS

- **Riverfront to Downtown Loop** 1.5 miles · Flat · 30-45 min — From the Riverside Park dock, walk north along the riverfront trail past the Mississippi Mist Fountain and the World's Largest Watermelon Slice sculpture.
- **West Hill Historic District Stroll** 1 mile · Gentle hills · 20-30 min — A short climb from downtown into the West Hill neighborhood reveals a dense collection of Victorian and early 20th-century homes, many on the National Register.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:24AM–7:44PM · Jun 5:30AM–8:39PM · Aug 6:13AM–8:02PM · Sep 6:45AM–7:12PM · Oct 7:16AM–6:22PM	
Apr	60°	41°	11d	US Dollar (USD)	
Jun	82°	64°	11d		
Aug	82°	66°	9d		
Sep	77°	61°	8d		
Oct	63°	48°	10d		

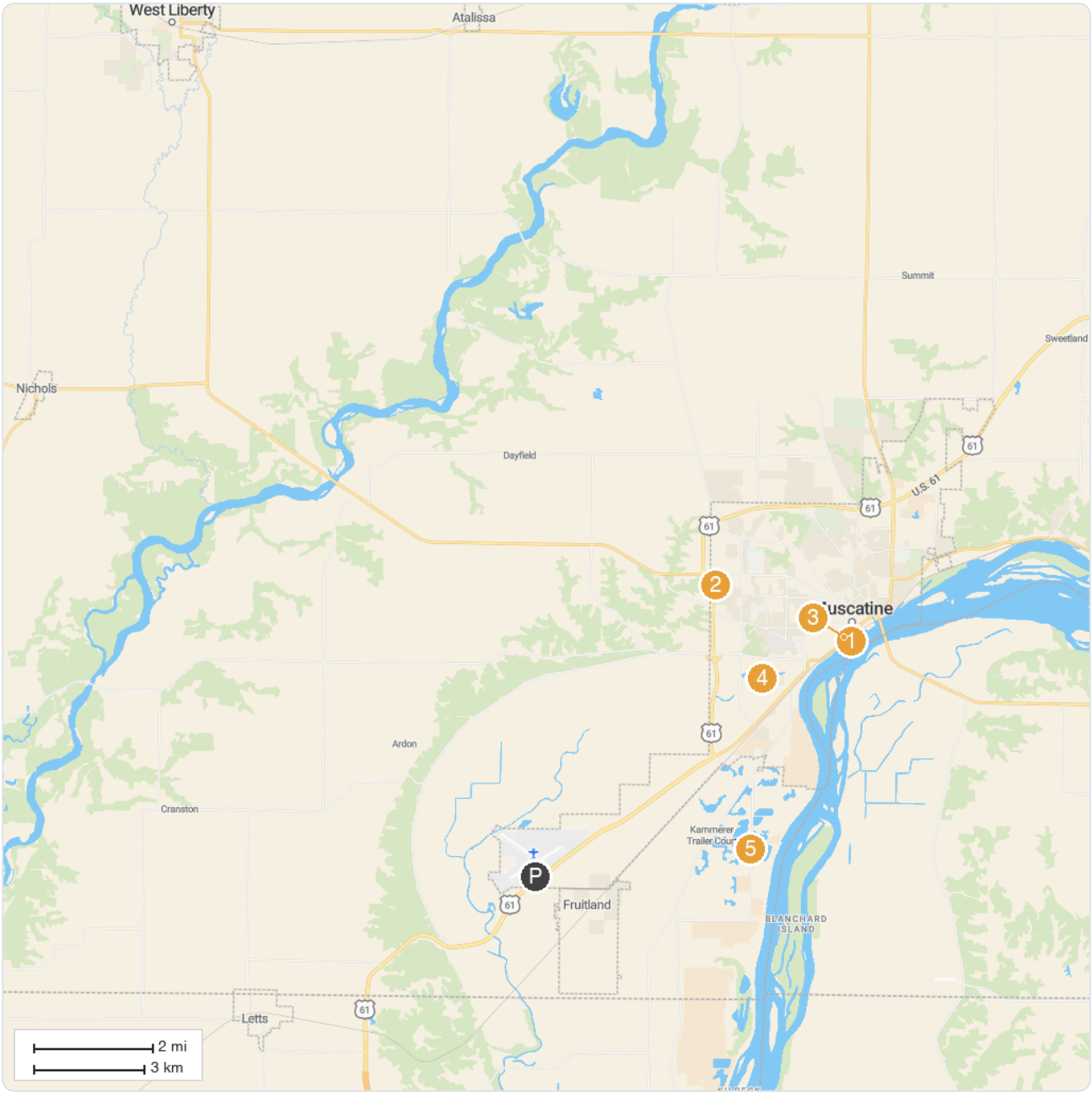
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- The button story is genuinely fascinating. Don't skip the Pearl Button Museum — it's free with most cruise excursion packages and tells a completely unique slice of American industrial history.
- Mark Twain praised Muscatine sunsets. If your ship stays into evening, the view west across the Mississippi from Riverside Park is exceptional.
- Wildcat Den requires a ride. The state park is about 12 miles away — book the cruise-line motorcoach excursion or arrange a car rental ahead of time. You can't walk there.
- Cash optional. Downtown Muscatine is small but all businesses accept cards. Bring a few dollars if you want to tip at local cafes or farmers' market stalls.
- Mississippi River weather swings hard. Summer calls can be hot and humid (85–95°F); spring and fall are pleasant but pack a layer for cool river breezes in the morning.
- Local flavor: Contrary Brewing Company in downtown Muscatine is a short walk from the dock — a good spot for a pre-sail local beer.

Muscatine, Iowa, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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| 1 Riverside Park | Riverside Park is a scenic park along the Mississippi River. | 2 Discovery Park | Discovery Park offers nature trails and outdoor recreation. |
| 3 The National Pearl Button Museum @ The History and Industry Center | This museum showcases Muscatine's pearl button industry history. | 4 Muscatine Kent-Stein Park | Kent-Stein Park offers sports fields and recreational areas. |
| 5 Deep Lakes Park | Deep Lakes Park features lakes for fishing and recreation. | P Cruise port / terminal | |