

Porto Santo Island, Madeira, Portugal

Forty-three kilometres northeast of Madeira and a world apart — Porto Santo is all golden sand, volcanic peaks, and unhurried Atlantic light. The whole island is smaller than Manhattan, which means you can cover the highlights on foot, by bike, or in a tuk-tuk before your ship calls you back.

 Tender or dock (Porto de Abrigo)  Typical call: 6-8 hrs  Euro (€)  Portuguese  Beach day

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Larger cruise ships usually tender; smaller/expedition vessels berth alongside at the Porto de Abrigo breakwater in Vila Baleira.

Best For: Beach lovers, history buffs (Columbus connection), cycling, and anyone craving a crowd-free port.

Walk to centre: The commercial pier sits ~2 km from the town centre and main beach access — most cruisers take a shuttle, taxi, or short bike ride.

Don't Miss: The full 9 km beach walk, the Casa de Cristóvão Colombo museum, and a glass of local aguardente.

 Getting around:  Taxi  €5–€6

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Porto Santo Golden Beach** — The island's famous 9 km crescent of fine golden sand is the main event.
- **Casa de Cristóvão Colombo (Columbus House Museum)** — Christopher Columbus lived on Porto Santo in the 1470s when he was married to Filipa Moniz, whose father was the island's governor.
- **Island Scooter or Bike Circuit** — Porto Santo's compact size makes it ideal for a self-guided circuit.
- **Pico do Castelo Hike** — A rewarding walk or short drive to the island's most prominent peak (437 m), topped by the ruins of a 16th-century fortress built to defend against...
- **Vila Baleira Town Walk** — The island's only town is quiet and pleasant — whitewashed houses, the Igreja Nossa Senhora da Piedade (one of the oldest churches in the...)

BEST WALKS

- **Beach Promenade Walk** Easy • 2-9 km • flat sand — Start at the pier end of the beach and walk east along the full golden crescent.
- **Town & Columbus Museum Loop** Easy • 1.5 km • flat — From the pier, walk to Largo do Pelourinho (the main square), visit the Columbus museum on Rua Cristóvão Colombo, then loop back via the seafront promenade to the pier.

WEATHER • DAYLIGHT • MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F • RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:35AM–8:35PM • Jun 6:56AM–9:15PM • Aug 7:28AM–8:50PM • Sep 7:49AM–8:11PM • Oct 8:09AM–7:31PM Euro (€)	
Apr	67°	61°	7d		
Jun	72°	66°	8d		
Aug	76°	71°	3d		
Sep	76°	71°	7d		
Oct	74°	69°	10d		

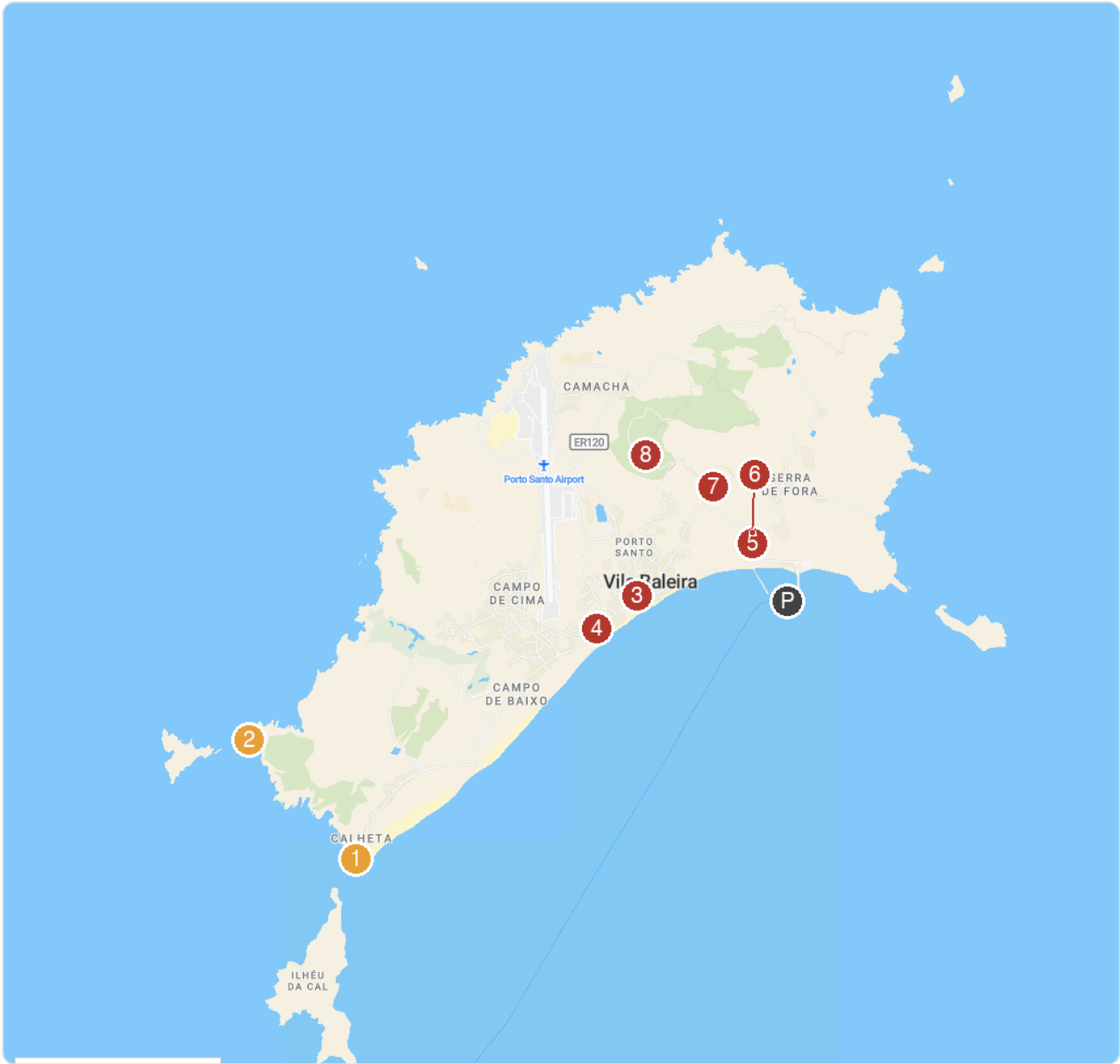
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- The beach is the port. If your ship is here for only 6-7 hours, spend the majority on the sand — it's genuinely one of the finest in the eastern Atlantic. Sunscreen and a towel are all you need.
- Bring euros. Porto Santo is a Portuguese island (EU). Card acceptance is reasonable in town, but smaller cafés and beach rentals often prefer cash.
- Rent a bike or scooter. The island is small enough to cover in an afternoon. Rental shops cluster near the pier; e-bikes handle the island's gentle hills easily.
- Sun is strong here. Porto Santo gets more sun than Madeira and the reflective sand intensifies UV. Hat, sunscreen, and water are essential — especially for the beach walk.
- Try the local wine. Porto Santo produces a small amount of distinctive wine from sun-baked vines. Ask at any café — it's worth a glass for curiosity's sake.
- Check your return time carefully. Porto Santo is a sleepy place and it's easy to lose track of time on the beach. The pier sits ~2 km from town, and larger ships tender — leave a buffer so you don't miss the last boat.

Porto Santo Island, Madeira, Portugal — 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 Ponta da Calheta | Calheta Point: A sandy beach with natural swimming pools. | 2 Ponta da Canaveira | Canaveira Point: A scenic viewpoint overlooking the sea. |
| 3 Casa de Cristóvão Colombo | Columbus House: A museum dedicated to Christopher Columbus. | 4 Miradouro das Lombas | Lombas Viewpoint: Offers panoramic views of the island. |
| 5 Miradouro da Portela no Porto Santo | Portela Viewpoint: Offers stunning views of Porto Santo's coast. | 6 Moinhos de Vento de Porto Santo | Porto Santo Windmills: Historic windmills dotting the landscape. |
| 7 Capela de Nossa Senhora da Graça | Our Lady of Grace Chapel: A small, historic island chapel. | 8 Miradouro do Pico do Castelo | Pico do Castelo Viewpoint: A peak with panoramic island views. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |