

Portsmouth, Saint John, Dominica

Dominica's second city sits where a 18th-century British fort guards a sweep of tropical bay. Tender ashore at Cabrits Pier and you're steps from wild rivers, volcanic hikes, and one of the Caribbean's most unspoiled coastlines.

Tender port (Prince Rupert Bay)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

Eastern Caribbean Dollar / USD accepted

English (official)

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Cabrits Pier, Cabrits National Park

Best For: Nature, history, river tours, whale watching

Walk to center: ~1 mile (20 min) south to Portsmouth town

Don't Miss: Indian River boat tour & Fort Shirley

 Getting around: **Taxi** \$5–10 USD (local); \$15–19 USD (to Roseau)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Indian River Boat Tour** — Glide through a serene mangrove corridor on a hand-oared wooden boat guided by local boatmen.
- Fort Shirley & Cabrits National Park** — Walk straight from the pier into this restored 18th-century British garrison perched on volcanic headlands.
- Whale & Dolphin Watching** — Dominica is one of the world's best year-round spots for sperm whale encounters.
- Champagne Reef Snorkel** — Drive south to this volcanic snorkel site where underwater hot springs bubble through the reef like carbonation, creating a surreal 'champagne'...
- Trafalgar Falls Day Trip** — Twin waterfalls — Father and Mother — cascade into pools surrounded by lush Morne Trois Pitons National Park vegetation.

BEST WALKS

- Cabrits Peninsula Loop** 1.5 miles | Easy-moderate | 45-60 min — From Cabrits Pier, follow signs into Cabrits National Park.
- Pier to Portsmouth Waterfront Walk** 1 mile | Easy | 20 min — A flat, pleasant walk south along Prince Rupert Bay's shoreline from Cabrits Pier into Portsmouth town.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		86°	73°	9d
Jun		88°	77°	13d
Aug		88°	77°	16d
Sep		88°	75°	16d
Oct		87°	75°	16d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:51AM–6:20PM · Jun 5:35AM–6:37PM · Aug 5:51AM–6:29PM · Sep 5:54AM–6:07PM · Oct 5:57AM–5:44PM

Representative sunrise/sunset — 2025, 15th of each month; local civil time including DST (America/Dominica). Source: Astral; not a forecast or climate average.

Eastern Caribbean Dollar / USD accepted

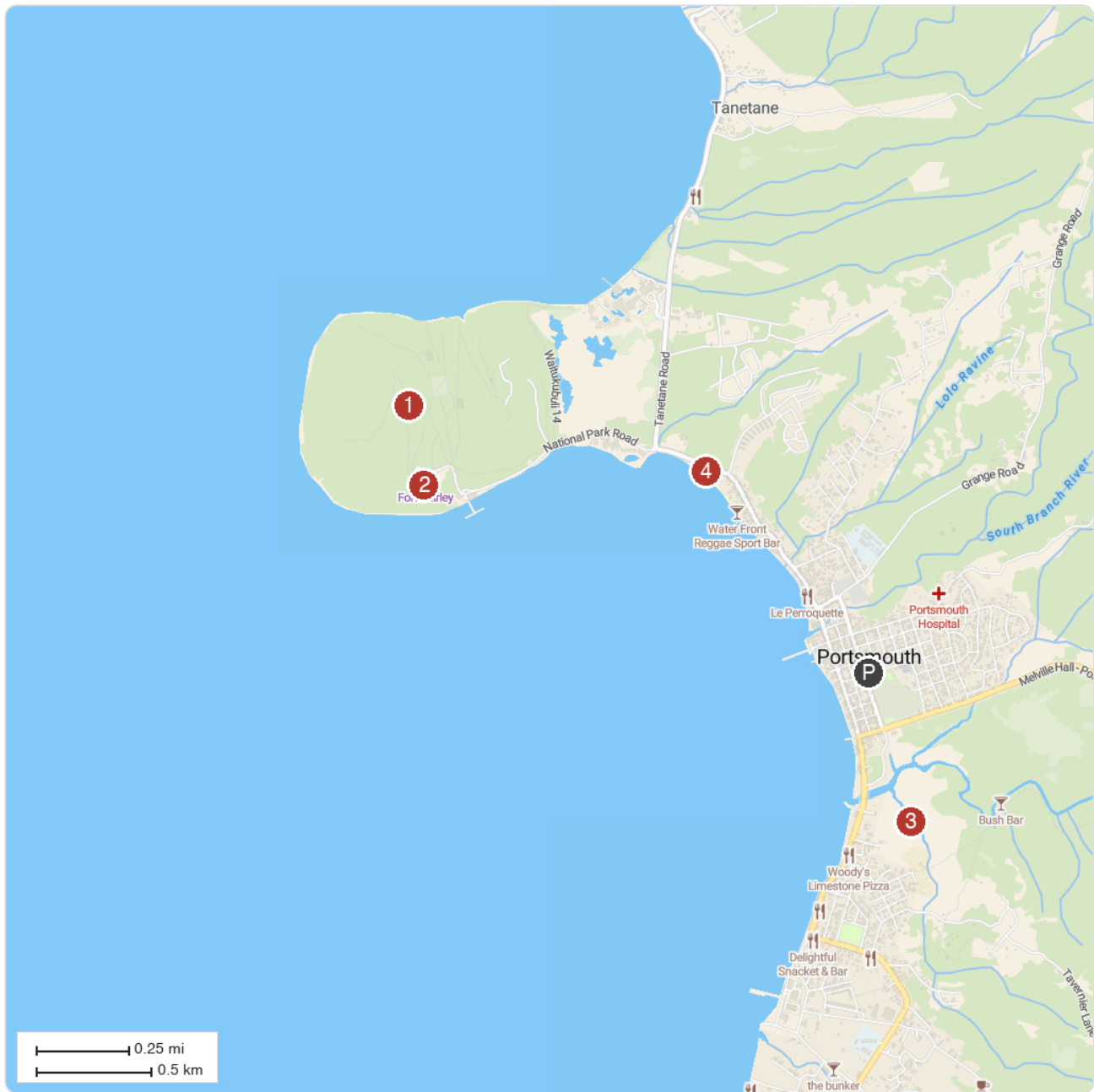
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring small bills. ATMs are in Portsmouth town (EC dollars). Most tour operators and restaurants accept USD, but change may come in EC. Credit cards less common outside tour operators.
- Book Indian River early. This is the most popular excursion from Portsmouth. Tour operators meet tenders at Cabrits Pier — grab a guide early or pre-book to avoid a full boat.
- Dominica is very wet. The Nature Island gets significant rainfall year-round. Pack a light rain jacket — it can shower and clear within minutes.
- Bug spray matters. Mosquitoes and sand flies are present, especially near the Indian River mangroves. Apply repellent before tendering ashore.
- Watch tender cutoff times. This is a tender-only port. Know your ship's last tender time — being stranded is a real risk if you head inland for a long excursion.
- Prince Rupert Bay is sheltered but check conditions. Tendering can occasionally be rough if there's ocean swell. Ships may cancel calls; have a backup plan for your day.

Portsmouth, Saint John, Dominica — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 National Park Rainforest-covered peninsula protecting historic fort ruins and coastal reef, dominating the view north of town.

2 Fort Shirley Restored 18th-century British garrison within Cabrits National Park, one of the best-preserved forts in the Eastern Caribbean.

3 Indian River Slow-moving river winding through dense mangrove tunnels, traditionally explored by rowboat rather than motor.

4 Purple Turtle Beach Long stretch of tranquil, shallow-water beach at the edge of Portsmouth town in Prince Rupert Bay.

P Cruise port / terminal