

Royan, Charente-Maritime, France

Destroyed in WWII and rebuilt in bold 1950s concrete modernism, Royan is a seaside resort unlike any other in France — think futuristic church, shell-shaped market, and oysters by the dozen.

 River cruise pier / ocean ships may tender

 Typical call: 6–8 hrs

 Euro (€)

 French

🗓️ MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: River cruise ships dock at Sabliers pier in the marina; larger ocean vessels may anchor and tender

Best For: Architecture lovers, beach days, seafood & wine, Atlantic France

Walk to Center: 5 min from pier to main beach; 12 min to Notre-Dame Church

Don't Miss: Notre-Dame de Royan church, the shell-shaped Marché Central, and Marennes-Oléron oysters

 Getting around:  Taxi  €6–€10 ·  Rideshare  Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Cordouan Lighthouse** — The 'Versailles of the Sea' — a UNESCO World Heritage lighthouse built in the 16th century and still operational.
- **1950s Architecture Walk** — Royan's post-war rebuild produced one of Europe's finest collections of modernist architecture.
- **Oyster & Pineau Tasting** — The Marennes-Oléron oyster is world-famous — finished in shallow claire ponds to develop a green hue and nutty flavour.
- **La Grande Conche Beach** — A 2 km crescent of golden Atlantic sand starting just steps from the harbour.
- **Planet Exotica** — A tropical botanical garden and reptile park a short walk from the harbour.

BEST WALKS

- **Modernist Royan Circuit** 2 km · 45 min · Easy — From the marina, head up to Notre-Dame de Royan — the dramatic concrete church whose bell tower soars to 56 metres above its parabolic...
- **Coastal Path to Pontailiac** 3.5 km · 1 hr · Easy — Follow the rocky coastal path west from the harbour past Plage de Foncillon to the trendy Pontailiac beach.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	62°	48°	10d
Jun	74°	60°	11d
Aug	77°	63°	8d
Sep	74°	59°	9d
Oct	67°	54°	11d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 7:18AM–8:50PM · Jun 6:14AM–9:54PM · Aug 7:04AM–9:11PM · Sep 7:42AM–8:14PM · Oct 8:20AM–7:17PM

Euro (€)

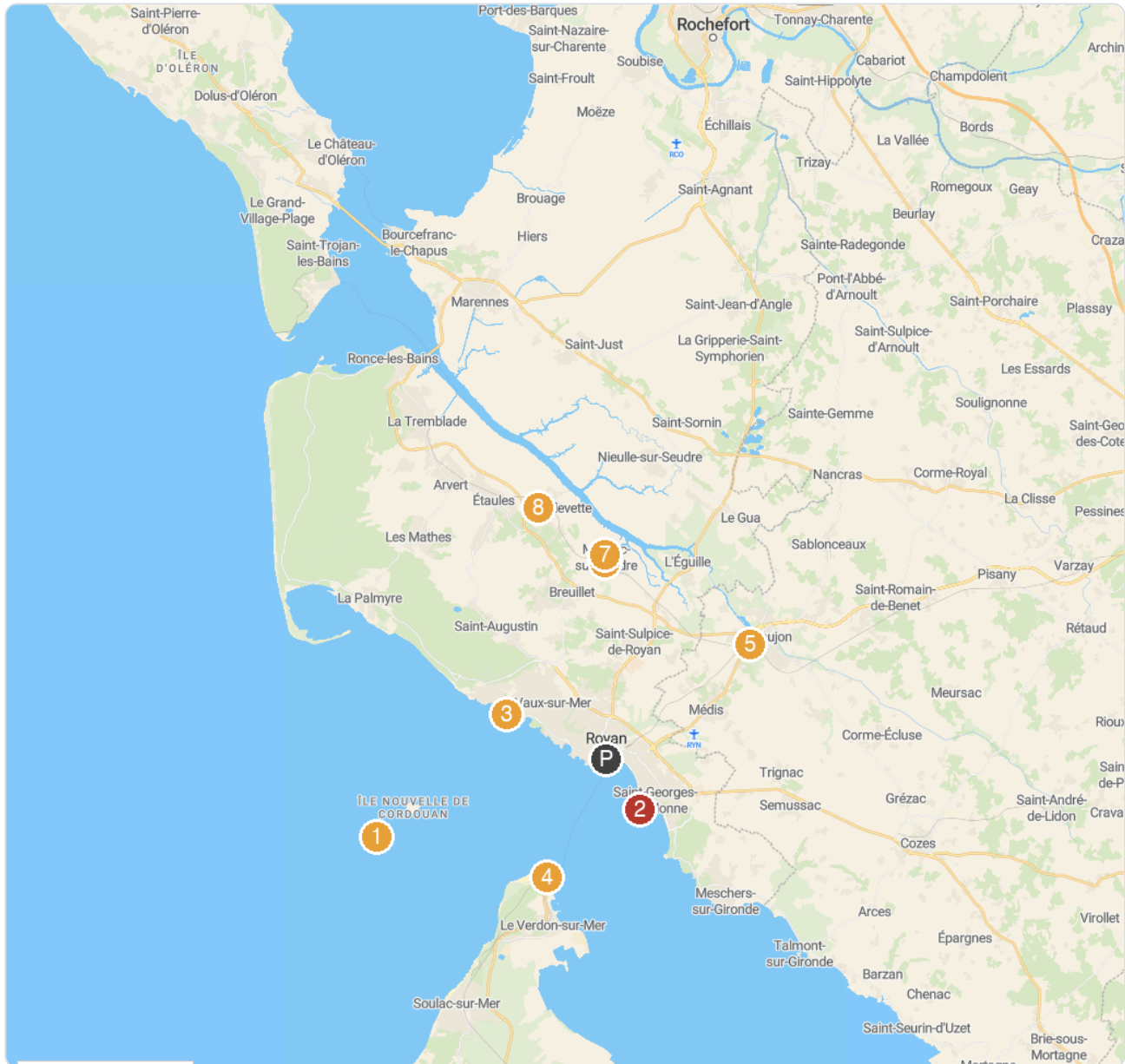
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Order the oysters. Marennes-Oléron oysters are the regional star — the beachfront restaurants and market stalls serve them fresh, often with a glass of Pineau des Charentes for...
- Notre-Dame church is free to enter. Don't skip it — the interior is as dramatic as the exterior, with soaring concrete vaults and coloured glass. It's a 12 min walk from the pier.

Royan, Charente-Maritime, France — 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 Cordouan Lighthouse | Historic offshore lighthouse, a UNESCO World Heritage site. | 2 Phare de Saint-Georges-de-Didonne | Coastal lighthouse offering panoramic views of the Gironde estuary. |
| 3 Maison des Douanes | Former customs house, now a museum and exhibition space. | 4 Phare de Grave | Lighthouse marking the entrance to the Gironde estuary. |
| 5 Le Train des Mouettes | Historic steam train offering scenic rides along the Seudre estuary. | 6 Le Train des Mouettes-Gare de Mornac. | Picturesque station for the historic 'Seagull Train' in Mornac. |
| 7 Mornac Sur Seudre | Charming oyster farming village, one of France's most beautiful. | 8 Gare de Chaillevette | Historic train station for the 'Seagull Train' in Chaillevette. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |