

Saint-Denis, Réunion, France

France's volcanic island in the Indian Ocean — an active lava-spewing caldera, three UNESCO-listed cirques carved into jungle mountains, and a Creole capital that smells of vanilla and rum agricole.

Docked (Le Port / Port Réunion) Typical call: 8–10 hrs Euro (EUR) French / Réunionnais Creole

🍷 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Le Port (Port Réunion), NW coast

Walk to Saint-Denis: ~20 min by taxi/shuttle

Best For: Volcano · Cirques · Creole culture

Don't Miss: Piton de la Fournaise (active volcano)

Getting around: **Taxi** ✓ ~€45 one-way · **Rideshare** ✓ Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Piton de la Fournaise — Active Volcano** — One of the world's most active volcanoes, with hikes across hardened lava fields to the crater rim.
- **Cirque de Cilaos** — The most accessible of Réunion's three UNESCO calderas — a mountain bowl of soaring peaks, terraced fields, lentils, and thermal springs.
- **Cirque de Salazie & Hell-Bourg** — The lushest cirque, dripping with waterfalls including the spectacular Cascade du Voile de la Mariée.
- **Saint-Denis: Rue de Paris & Le Barachois** — Réunion's capital has elegant Creole colonial architecture along the Rue de Paris, the seafront promenade of Le Barachois, the Jardin de l'État...
- **Saint-Paul Market & Rum Distillery** — The open-air Saturday market in Saint-Paul (south of Le Port) is one of the best in the Indian Ocean — spices, vanilla, Creole street food, and crafts.

BEST WALKS

- **Saint-Denis Creole Quarter & Seafront** ~3 km · 1.5–2 hrs · easy — Walk the elegant Rue de Paris lined with colonial Creole mansions, through the Jardin de l'État, and out to the Le Barachois seafront promenade along the waterfront.
- **Saint-Paul Seafront** ~1.5 km · 45 min · easy (best on Saturday for the market) — The seafront promenade in Saint-Paul is just a few minutes south of Le Port — a pleasant stroll alongside the beach, lined with market stalls on Saturdays.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)			
Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	82°	75°	17d
Jun	76°	69°	11d
Aug	75°	67°	10d
Sep	77°	68°	9d
Oct	79°	70°	12d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Apr 6:29AM–6:06PM · Jun 6:52AM–5:44PM · Aug 6:41AM–6:04PM · Sep 6:14AM–6:12PM · Oct 5:47AM–6:20PM	
Euro (EUR)	

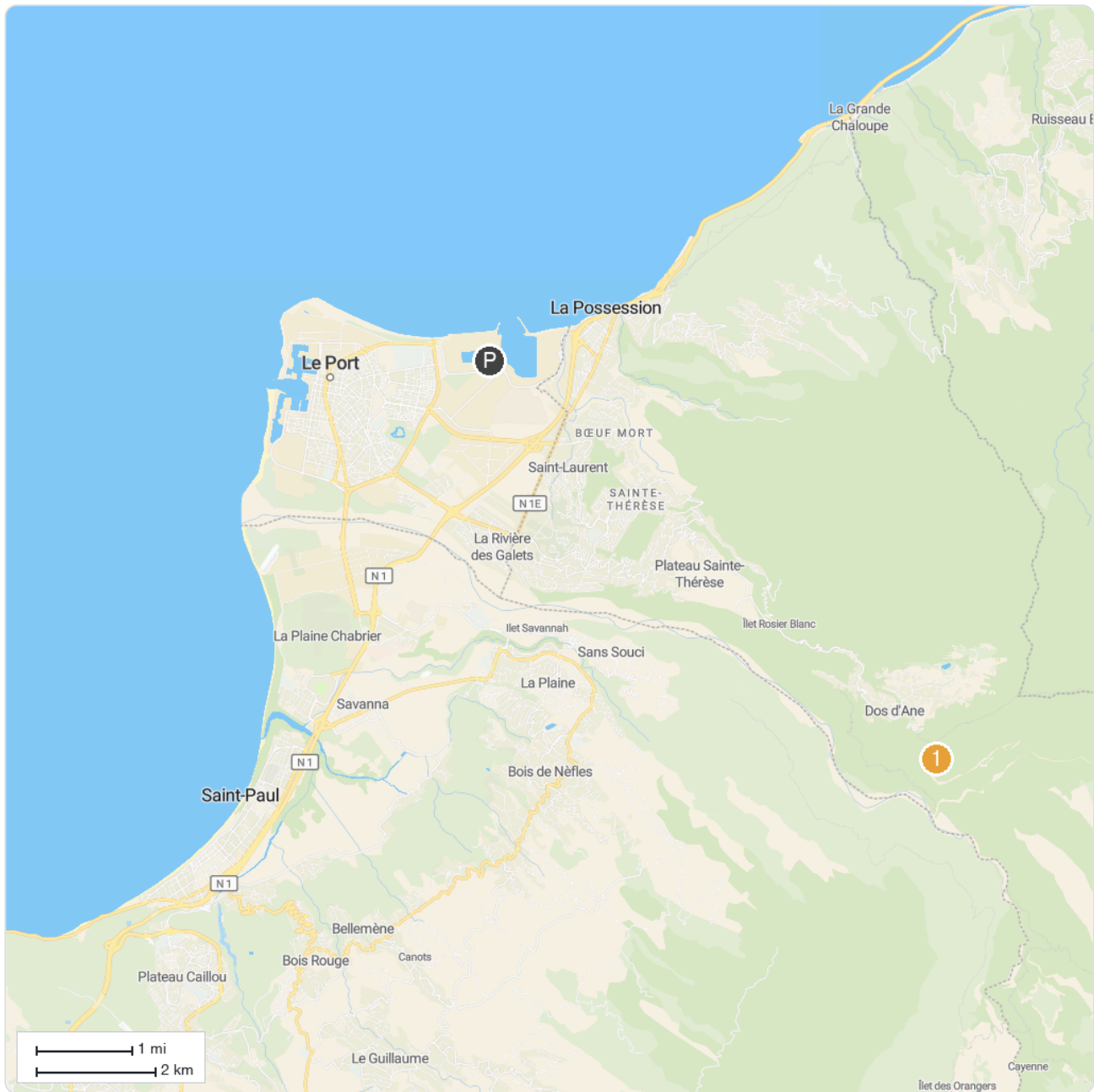
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- The volcano is the priority. Piton de la Fournaise is one of the world's most accessible active volcanoes — if it's not erupting (lava flow can close trails), this is a once-in-a-lifetime shore day. Book early; ship's excursions fill fast.
- This is a driving island. Public transport exists but is slow. A rental car, a taxi for the day, or a guided tour is the practical way to see the cirques or volcano. Negotiate a half-day rate with a driver at the port.
- Mountain drives take longer than the map suggests. Cilaos road has 400+ hairpin bends; the volcano plateau road is high and slow. Build in buffer time before all-aboard.
- Euro island, French prices. Réunion is a French overseas department — expect French prices, not budget tropical. Cards accepted in Saint-Denis and most businesses; carry some cash for markets and taxis.
- Pack a waterproof layer. The cirques and volcano plateau are often cloudy and wet even when the coast is sunny. A light rain jacket fits in a day bag and you'll be glad to have it.
- Eat Creole. Réunion's cuisine is a blend of French, Indian, Chinese, and African influences — rougail saucisse, carry poulet, and bouchons are cheap, delicious, and found in Saint-Denis covered markets and roadside vans called 'camions-bars'.

Saint-Denis, Réunion, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 Cap
Noir

Panoramic viewpoint offering stunning views of Mafate caldera.

P Cruise port / terminal