

Philipsburg, Sint Maarten / Saint-Martin

One island, two nations, zero border hassle — and one of the Caribbean's best spectacles. The Dutch side packs duty-free shops, casinos, and Maho's jet-blast beach into a walkable strip from the pier; the French side rewards a short taxi ride with Grand Case's bistros, Orient Bay's turquoise water, and a noticeably different vibe.

Docked — Dr. A.C. Wathey Cruise Pier

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

U.S. Dollar (Dutch side) · Euro (French side)

Dutch / English / French

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Dr. A.C. Wathey Cruise & Cargo Facility, Great Bay — up to 6 ships simultaneously

Best For: Duty-Free Shopping · Maho Beach · French Side Day Trip

To center: Walk or water taxi to Front Street, Philipsburg; walking time depends on berth, port gate and destination

Don't Miss: Planes landing over Maho Beach — check Flightradar24 for timing

Getting around: **Taxi** \$7 USD round-trip · **Rideshare** not available · **Hop-on hop-off** Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Maho Beach Plane-Spotting** — Princess Juliana International Airport's runway ends just meters from the beach — commercial jets pass directly overhead at rooftop height on final...
 - Orient Bay — French Side Showcase** — The French side's signature beach stretches nearly a mile along calm turquoise water.
 - Grand Case: Caribbean Culinary Capital** — A single main street on the French side lined with the best French-Creole restaurants in the
- entire region.

 - America's Cup Sailing Race** — Race a retired 12-metre America's Cup yacht in Great Bay alongside fellow passengers.
 - Loterie Farm & Fly Zone Ziplines** — A private eco-reserve on Pic Paradis (the island's highest point) with rainforest trails, a spring-fed pool, and zipline runs through the canopy.

BEST WALKS

- Pier to Front Street & Great Bay Beach** ~1.5 km · 20 min · easy — Walk straight off the pier along the Great Bay promenade.
- Fort Amsterdam & Little Bay** ~2.5 km · 45 min · easy-moderate — Head west from the pier to the Fort Amsterdam headland — a 17th-century Dutch fortification (the oldest in the Caribbean, built 1631) with cannons and panoramic views...
- Great Bay Boardwalk Loop** 1.5 km · flat · 30 min — Walk the Great Bay Beach boardwalk from Bobby's Marina westward, dipping in and out of Front Street's duty-free shops.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		79°	76°	11d
Jun		82°	79°	9d
Aug		83°	80°	16d
Sep		83°	80°	17d
Oct		83°	80°	17d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:55AM–6:28PM · Jun 5:36AM–6:48PM · Aug 5:54AM–6:38PM · Sep 6:00AM–6:13PM · Oct 6:05AM–5:49PM

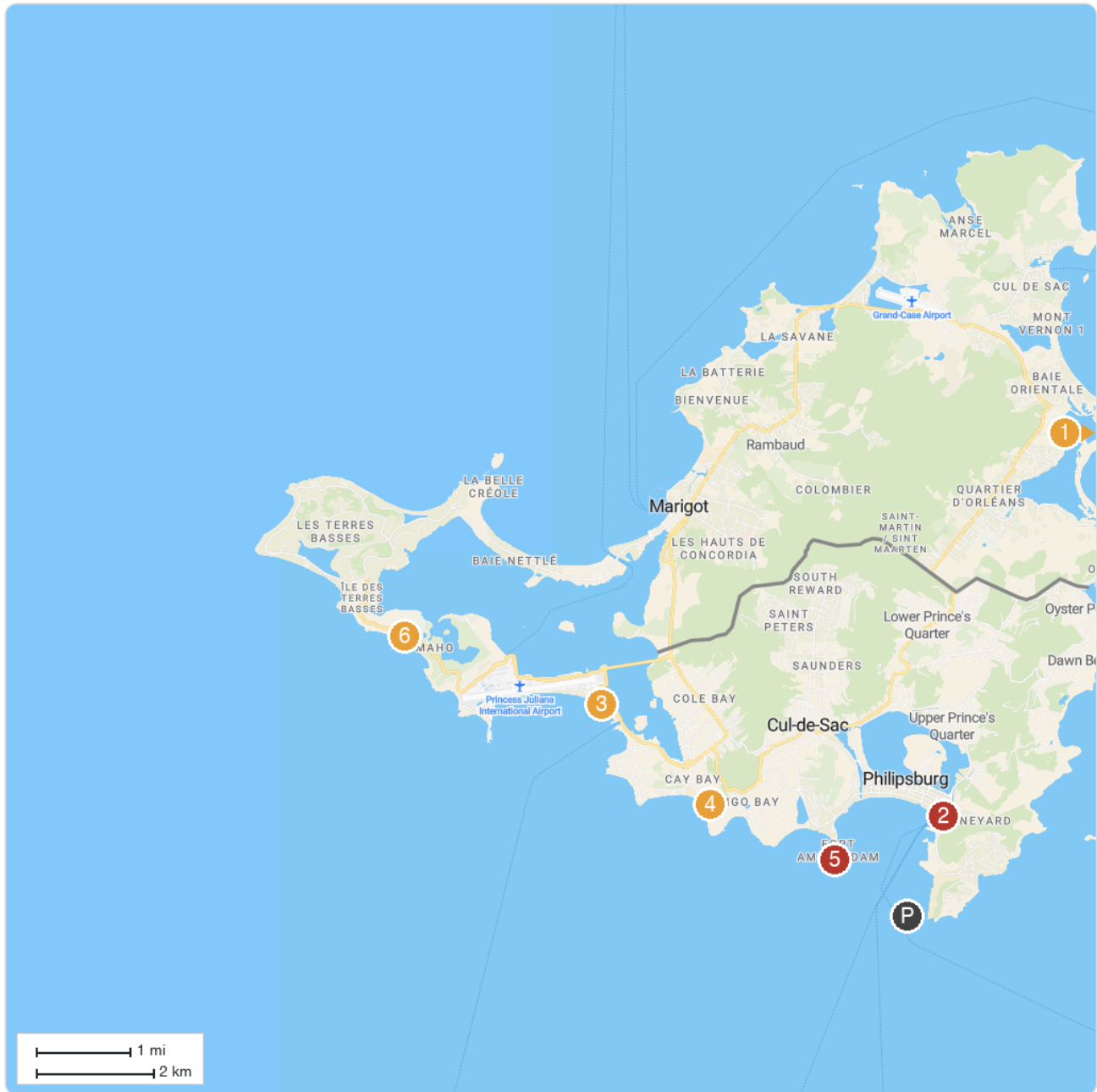
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Time your Maho visit around a wide-body arrival. The spectacle is timing-dependent. Check Flightradar24 or the posted schedule at Sunset Bar — big jets arrive roughly every 30–60 minutes. Stand behind the fence on takeoff or you will be knocked over.
- Front Street duty-free is real — but compare prices. Name-brand spirits, jewelry, and electronics are genuinely discounted. A few shops inflate 'original' prices. Check online before you buy.
- Cross to the French side for lunch. Grand Case's bistros and lolos are far better than anything in Philipsburg at similar prices. Even a quick lunch at a Marigot waterfront café beats Front Street.
- Always agree on taxi fares upfront — no meters here. Rates are per vehicle, not per person. The tourist board publishes an official rate card most drivers know. Or use the water taxi from the pier for an easy \$7 all-day pass.
- USD works everywhere on both sides. Dutch side: USD is the official currency. French side: euros are official but USD is universally accepted. No need to exchange for a day visit.
- Great Bay Beach is convenient but not the island's best. It's fine for a stroll or quick dip. For real swimming, take a taxi to Orient Bay or Dawn Beach — calmer, clearer water.

Philipsburg, Sint Maarten / Saint-Martin — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1 The Butterfly Farm** Walk through a lush garden filled with hundreds of live butterflies.
- 3 Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church** A beautiful, historic Catholic church in Philipsburg.
- 5 Fort Amsterdam** Explore a historic fort with panoramic views and birdwatching.
- P Cruise port / terminal**

- 2 Diamond Casino SXM** A casino offering slots, table games, and live entertainment.
- 4 Seaside Ranch St. Maarten** Enjoy horseback riding, often on the beach, at this ranch.
- 6 Starz City Casino** A modern casino with slots, table games, and entertainment.