

Toliara, Atsimo-Andrefana, Madagascar

Known as the "City of the Sun," Toliara opens the door to one of Earth's most bizarre ecosystems — the spiny forest — plus ancient baobabs, Vezo fishermen in outrigger pirogues, and beautiful coral reefs just a short drive up the coast.

-  Pier (Mahavatsy Pier)
-  Typical call: 8-10 hrs
-  Malagasy Ariary (MGA) / Euros accepted
-  French & Malagasy
-  Wildlife & nature focus

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Mahavatsy Pier — commercial port, ~2 km from town center

Walk to center: ~2 km / 25 min on foot; tuk-tuk or taxi recommended in heat

Best For: Spiny forest, baobabs, snorkeling at Ifaty, Vezo culture

Don't Miss: Arboretum d'Antsokay and Reniala Reserve near Ifaty

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  \$3–5 USD

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Arboretum d'Antsokay** — A 40-hectare botanical reserve 12 km from port preserving 900+ plant species from Madagascar's sub-arid south — 90% endemic.
- Reniala Reserve & Baobabs (Ifaty)** — Drive 30 km north to this spiny-forest sanctuary near Ifaty, home to a 1,200-year-old baobab, ring-tailed lemurs, radiated tortoises, and dozens of...
- Ifaty Beach & Snorkeling** — White-sand beaches backed by a lush coral reef system, about 30 km north of the pier.
- Musée de la Mer (Coelacanth)** — A small university museum near the waterfront showcasing a preserved coelacanth — the prehistoric "living fossil" rediscovered in nearby waters.
- Town & Pousse-Pousse Ride** — Explore the vibrant Marché de Coquillages craft market, stroll La Corniche waterfront, and take a pousse-pousse (rickshaw) ride through Toliara's...

BEST WALKS

- Waterfront & Craft Market Stroll** 1.5 km · 30 min · Easy — Walk from the port gate along the seafront to La Corniche promenade, watch Vezo fishermen launching outrigger pirogues, then loop to the Marché de Coquillages for wood...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F)			 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Apr 6:19AM–5:51PM · Jun 6:44AM–5:26PM · Aug 6:30AM–5:48PM · Sep 6:02AM–5:59PM · Oct 5:32AM–6:09PM	
Apr	90°	70°		
Jun	84°	62°		
Aug	84°	63°		
Sep	87°	65°		
Oct	87°	69°		

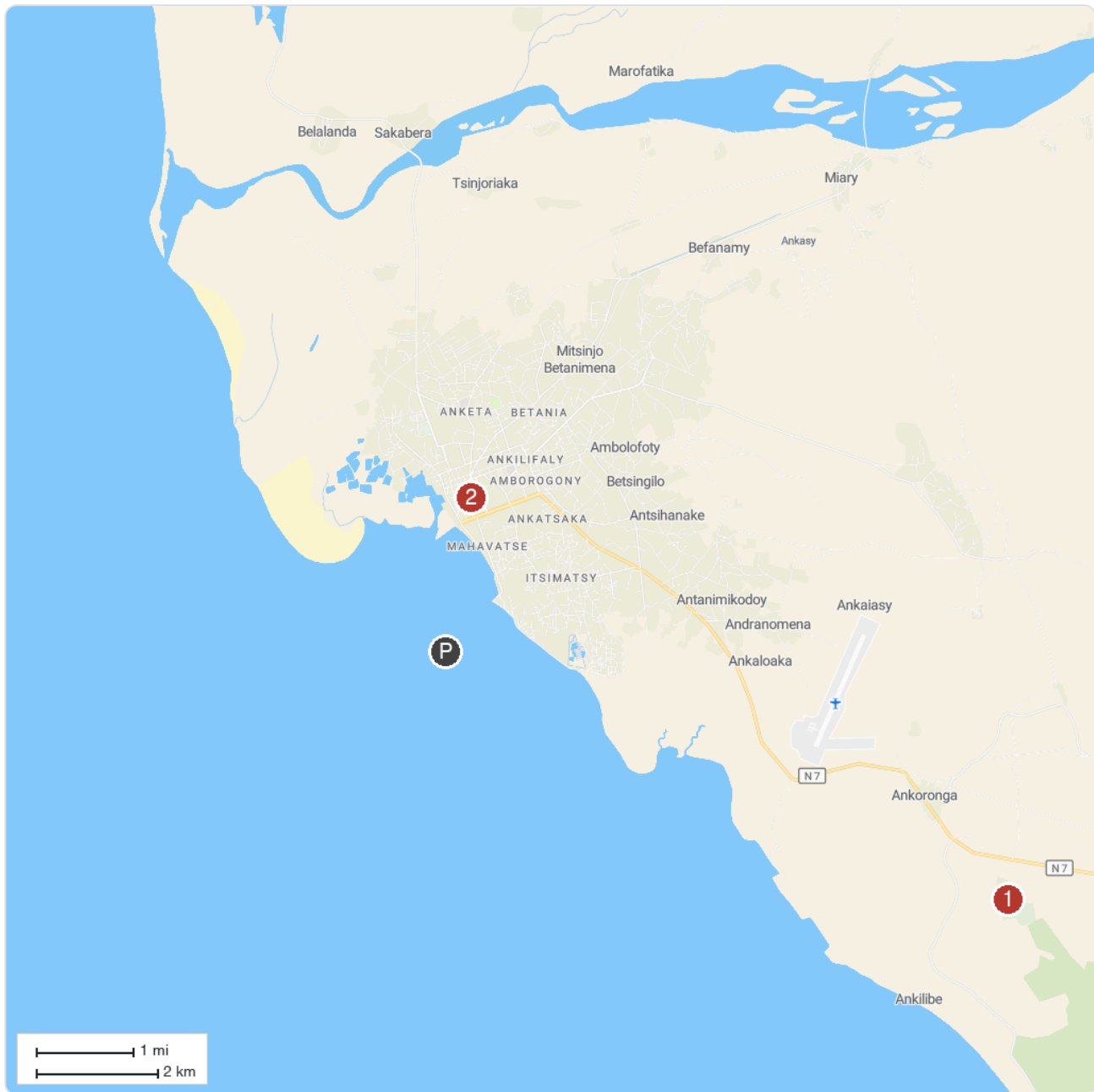
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is king. Malagasy Ariary (MGA) is the currency; Euros are widely accepted by drivers and vendors. Credit cards rarely work outside upscale hotels. ATMs exist in town (BNI, BFV-SG) but can run out of cash — bring small Euro notes.
- Extreme heat. Toliara is one of the sunniest, driest cities in Madagascar. Wear a hat, light clothing, and high-SPF sunscreen, and carry plenty of bottled water. Don't walk long distances in midday sun.
- Negotiate before you board. Always agree on a fare with tuk-tuks, taxis, and pousse-pousse before getting in. A town ride costs 5,000–10,000 MGA (~\$1–2). Day taxis to Ifaty run €40–60 EUR.
- Watch what you buy. The craft market sells sea shells, dried starfish, and tortoise-shell items — many are CITES-protected and will be confiscated by customs. Stick to wood carvings, textiles (lambas), and vanilla.
- Eat seafood. Fresh lobster (langouste), mangrove crabs, and red snapper are superb and cheap. Try L'Étoile de Mer or Le Corto Maltese on the seafront road for a proper Malagasy lunch.
- Small ships only. Mahavatsy Pier accepts vessels up to ~640 ft (195 m). If your ship is larger, check with the crew — you may be tendering instead.

Toliara, Atsimo-Andrefana, Madagascar — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 Arboretum d'Antsokay

A 40-hectare botanical garden of spiny-forest flora established in 1980, home to some 900 mostly endemic plant species.

P Cruise port / terminal

2 Toliara Central Market

The city's main marketplace where Vezo and Mahafaly traders sell produce, seafood, and woven crafts.