

Vila Real de Santo António, Algarve, Portugal

Built in just five months by the Marquis of Pombal after the 1755 earthquake, Vila Real de Santo António is a perfectly symmetrical neoclassical grid town on the Spanish border — and a quick ferry ride away from Ayamonte, Spain.

 Docked (small ships / river quay)  Typical call: 5–8 hrs  Currency: Euro (€)  Language: Portuguese

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Small cruise ships and river vessels dock at the Cais da Alfândega riverfront quay. Larger ocean ships are rare; check your itinerary.

Best For: Architecture, border-crossing day trip to Spain, beaches, seafood

Walk to centre: ~2 min flat walk (150 m) from the quay to Praça Marquês de Pombal

Don't Miss: Ferry to Ayamonte (Spain) — €3, 10 minutes, two countries in one day

 Getting around:  Taxi  €4–€6 ·  Rideshare  Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Ferry to Ayamonte, Spain** — Hop the 10-minute passenger ferry across the Guadiana River to the Spanish town of Ayamonte.
- **Castro Marim Castles** — A 10-minute taxi ride north to Castro Marim rewards you with a 13th-century hilltop castle and a 17th-century fort...
- **Castro Marim Nature Reserve & Flamingos** — The salt pans just north of town are a haven for flamingos, white storks, and avocets.
- **Praia de Monte Gordo Beach Day** — A 5-minute taxi or bus ride west delivers you to Monte Gordo's wide sandy beach with calm, warm Atlantic water, sunbed...
- **Pombaline Grid Walking Tour** — Explore the perfectly symmetrical street grid laid out in 1774 by the Marquis of Pombal — the same system used to...

BEST WALKS

- **Promenade & Town Square Stroll** 1.5 km · 20 min · Flat — From the cruise quay, walk south along the palm-lined Avenida da República promenade, then turn into the pedestrian grid to reach...
- **Pine Forest Path to Praia de Santo António** 2.5 km one-way · 30 min walk · Flat — Follow the dedicated cycle and walking path from the town edge through the Mata Nacional das Dunas pine forest to reach Praia de Santo...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain		
Apr	70°	54°	7d		
Jun	82°	64°	2d		
Aug	89°	69°	0d		
Sep	82°	65°	2d		
Oct	76°	61°	6d		

Apr 6:55AM–8:04PM · Jun 6:09AM–8:51PM · Aug 6:46AM–8:21PM · Sep 7:12AM–7:36PM · Oct 7:37AM–6:52PM

Currency: Euro (€)

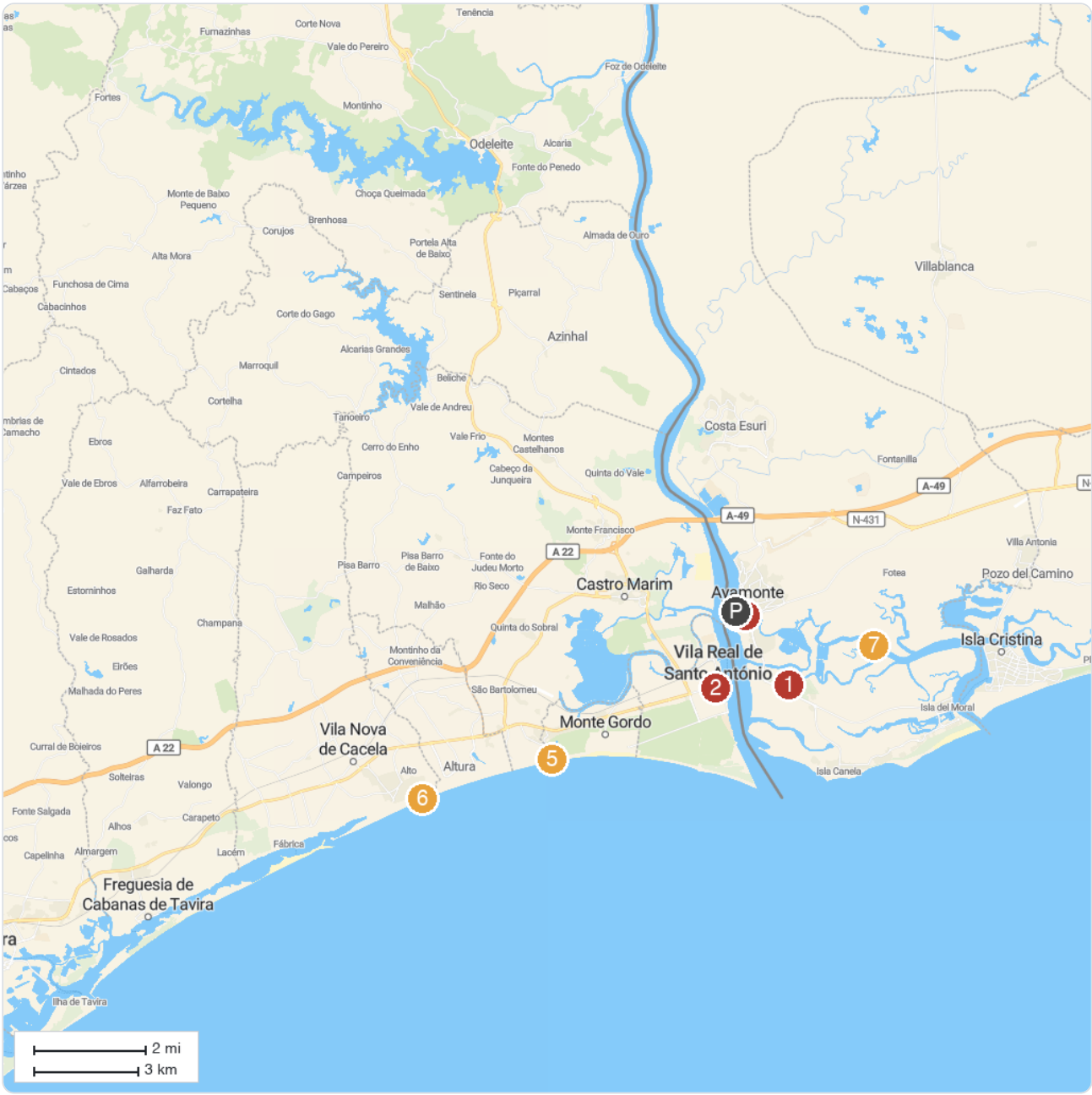
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Watch your time zone: Spain (Ayamonte) is 1 hour ahead of Portugal. Always keep track of ship time — missing the ferry back because your phone auto-switched is a real risk.

Vila Real de Santo António, Algarve, Portugal — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Isla Canela Golf Club A golf club with an 18-hole course.
- 3

Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de las Angustias A beautiful church dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows.
- 5

Praia Adão e Eva A secluded naturist beach with golden sands.
- 7

Marismas de Isla Cristina Protected wetlands, home to diverse bird species.
- 2

Centro Cultural António Aleixo A cultural center hosting exhibitions, concerts, and events.
- 4

Plaza de la Coronación A central town square for events and gatherings.
- 6

Praia da Lota A family-friendly beach known for its calm waters.
- P

Cruise port / terminal