

Villefranche-sur-Saône, Rhône, France

Capital of the Beaujolais wine country, this handsome Saône river town offers a photogenic old town of Renaissance facades, hidden inner courtyards off Rue Nationale, and vineyards stretching to the horizon — all within easy reach of Lyon.

Docked (river quay)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Euro (€)

French · some English in tourist areas

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Saône river quay, town center

Walk to center: 5–10 min

Best For: Wine · Old Town · Beaujolais

Don't Miss: Rue Nationale & wine villages

Getting around: Taxi €20–€37 · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Rue Nationale & Old Town Stroll** — Wander Villefranche's main pedestrian artery — lined with Renaissance and Gothic facades — and push open the doorways along Rue Nationale to discover...
- Beaujolais Wine Village Tour** — Head north into the crus of Beaujolais — Fleurie, Moulin-à-Vent, or Morgon — for cellar tastings with local producers amid rolling vineyard scenery.
- Collégiale Notre-Dame des Marais** — Villefranche's striking Gothic collegiate church, whose ornate flamboyant facade and soaring interior tower over the heart of the old town.
- Hameau du Vin (Georges Duboeuf)** — The celebrated Beaujolais wine museum in Romanèche-Thorins — a themed journey through wine history, viticulture, and the Beaujolais Nouveau legend...
- Beaujolais Vineyard Cycling** — Bike the gently rolling Beaujolais hills on marked routes through the famous wine villages — a scenic way to absorb the landscape at your own pace.

BEST WALKS

- Rue Nationale & Hidden Courtyards Loop** ~2 km · 1.5 hrs · easy — From the quay into the old town, down the pedestrian Rue Nationale, into the hidden inner courtyards behind the Renaissance house fronts, then past the Collégiale...
- Saône Riverbank Walk** ~1.5 km · 45 min · easy — A peaceful stroll along the Saône quay both north and south of the ship — pleasant views across the river to the far bank and a feel for the quiet rhythm of this river...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		62°	44°	9d
Jun		79°	60°	11d
Aug		81°	62°	8d
Sep		74°	56°	7d
Oct		64°	48°	10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:55AM–8:28PM · Jun 5:50AM–9:33PM · Aug 6:41AM–8:49PM · Sep 7:19AM–7:52PM · Oct 7:58AM–6:54PM

Euro (€)

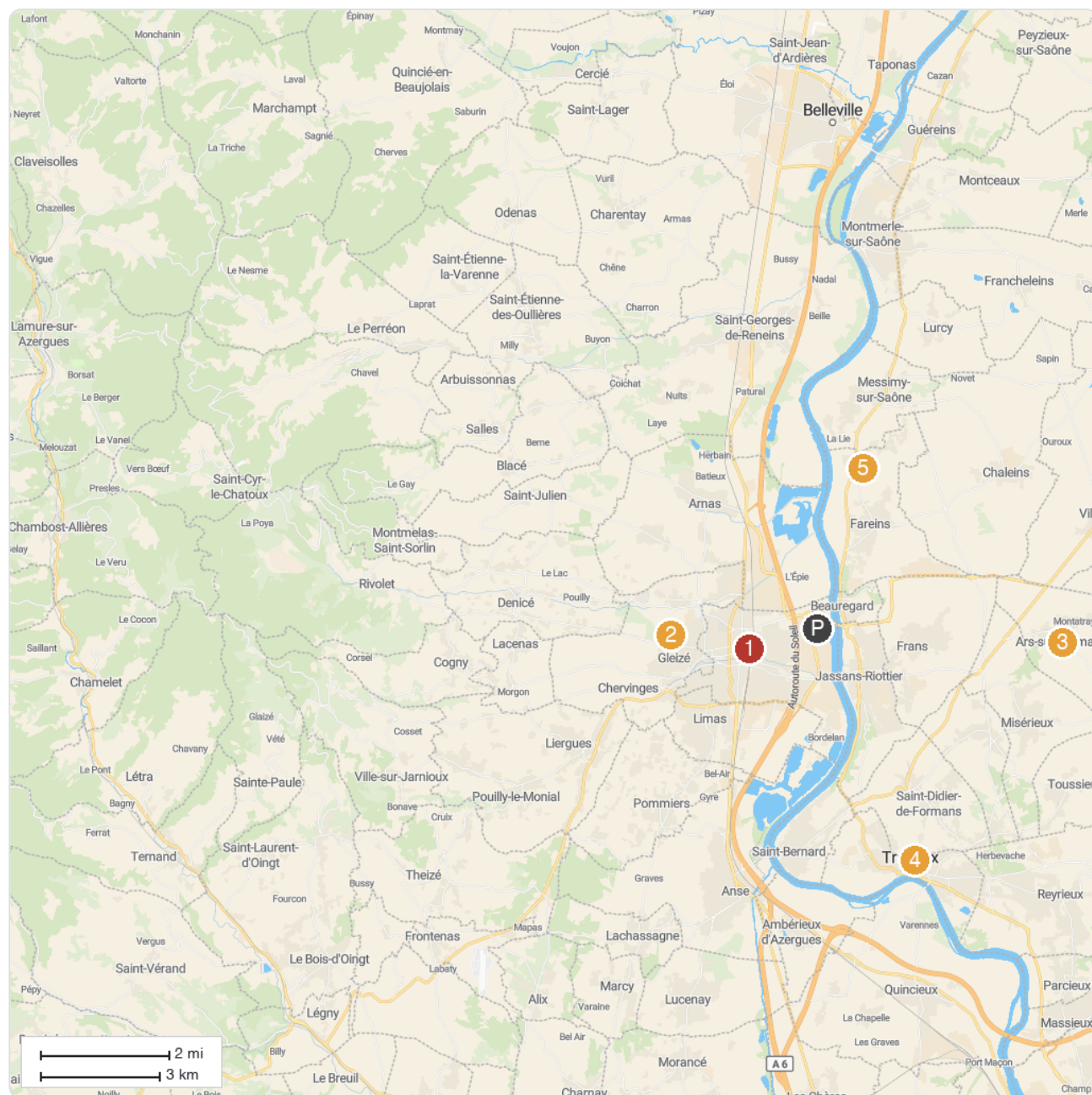
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Plan for the vineyards. The Beaujolais crus are the main draw — if you want to visit wine villages like Fleurie or Moulin-à-Vent, arrange a taxi or ship excursion in advance. They're 20–30 km away.
- Don't miss the hidden courtyards. Push open the doorways off Rue Nationale to find the cours intérieures — secret Renaissance courtyards few visitors discover. The Tourist Office's 'Hidden Treasures' trail maps the best ones.
- French lunch hours are real. Many shops and smaller restaurants close 12:00–14:00. Plan your wine tastings or town stroll to avoid the midday lull.
- Cards work in town; bring small cash for markets. The weekly market and some village cellars prefer cash.
- The old town is entirely walkable. Flat, compact, and easy on foot — comfortable shoes are all you need for the Rue Nationale circuit.
- Beaujolais Nouveau timing. If you're here in late November, the town comes alive for the Nouveau release — otherwise, the cru Beaujolais wines (Morgon, Fleurie, Moulin-à-Vent) are worth seeking out year-round.

Villefranche-sur-Saône, Rhône, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1 Musée Paul Dini** Art museum in Villefranche-sur-Saône showcasing 19th and 20th-century French paintings.
- 3 Basilica of Ars** Major Catholic pilgrimage basilica dedicated to Saint Jean-Marie Vianney, the Curé of Ars.
- 5 Château de Fléchères** 17th-century château near the Saône noted for its painted interiors and formal architecture.

- 2 Château de Vaurenard** 18th-century château near Villefranche with landscaped gardens and period architecture.
- 4 Château de Trévoux** Medieval fortress ruins with a keep overlooking the Saône, once seat of the Dombes principality.
- P Cruise port / terminal**