

GP Guadeloupe Cruise Port Guide

Your Complete Guide to Pointe-à-Pitre, French Caribbean Culture & Tropical Adventure



Guadeloupe is one of the Caribbean's best-kept secrets. Like Martinique, it is an overseas department of France, offering visitors the unique opportunity to experience French culture in the heart of the Caribbean. From fresh baguettes and cafés to volcanic mountains, waterfalls, botanical gardens, and pristine beaches, Guadeloupe combines European charm with tropical paradise.

Shaped like a butterfly, the island is actually made up of two main islands connected by bridges. **Grande-Terre** offers beautiful beaches and vibrant towns, while **Basse-Terre** is home to lush rainforests, waterfalls, and an active volcano.

If you're looking for a destination that feels authentic, uncrowded, and full of natural beauty, Guadeloupe deserves a place near the top of your list.

📍 Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?



Cruise ships dock in **Pointe-à-Pitre**, Guadeloupe's largest city and commercial center.

The cruise area includes:

- Duty-free shopping
- Local markets
- Cafés
- Restaurants
- Excursion meeting points
- Taxi services
- Visitor information

The downtown shopping district is within walking distance, making it easy to explore independently before or after an excursion.



Explore Pointe-à-Pitre



Spend some time exploring this colorful French Caribbean city.

Highlights include:

- Marché Saint-Antoine
- Spice Market
- St. Peter & St. Paul Cathedral
- Place de la Victoire
- Local cafés
- Boutique shopping
- Waterfront promenade

You'll quickly notice the French influence in both the architecture and cuisine.

★ Top Shore Excursions



La Soufrière Volcano



One of Guadeloupe's most famous attractions.

Known as "**The Old Lady**," La Soufrière is an active volcano located within **Guadeloupe National Park**.

Visitors enjoy:

- Scenic drives
- Hiking trails
- Volcanic landscapes
- Panoramic island views
- Tropical rainforest

For active travelers, hiking to the summit is an unforgettable experience.

Carbet Falls



Among the Caribbean's tallest waterfalls.

Walking trails lead to spectacular viewpoints overlooking cascading waterfalls surrounded by dense rainforest.

This is one of Guadeloupe's signature natural attractions.

Guadeloupe National Park

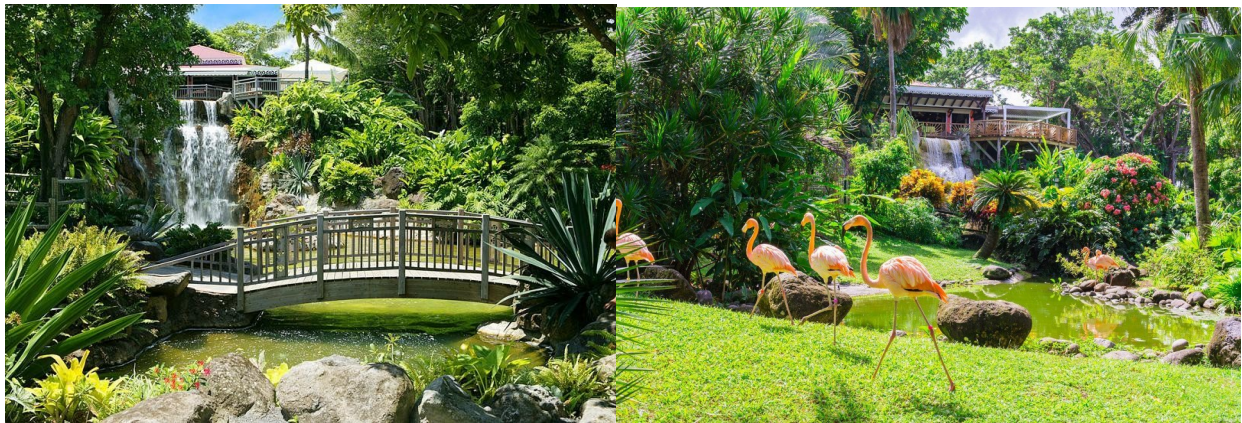
Explore one of the Caribbean's largest protected rainforests.

Discover:

- Tropical wildlife
- Hiking trails
- Rivers
- Waterfalls
- Giant ferns
- Colorful flowers

Nature lovers will find endless opportunities for exploration.

Deshaies Botanical Garden



A beautifully landscaped garden featuring:

- Tropical flowers
- Orchids
- Flamingos
- Waterfalls
- Exotic plants

Perfect for photographers and garden enthusiasts.

Catamaran & Snorkeling Cruise

Enjoy:

- Sailing
- Snorkeling

- Swimming
- Lunch
- Tropical drinks

Many tours visit secluded coves and coral reefs accessible only by boat.

Best Beaches

Sainte-Anne Beach



One of the island's most famous beaches.

Features:

- Calm turquoise water
- White sand
- Beach cafés
- Palm trees

Perfect for families.



Grande Anse Beach



One of the Caribbean's most photographed beaches.

Known for:

- Golden sand
- Scenic mountain backdrop
- Relaxed atmosphere



Malendure Beach

Famous for snorkeling and diving.

Nearby waters are home to:

- Sea turtles
- Coral reefs
- Tropical fish

A great choice for underwater enthusiasts.



Jacques Cousteau Underwater Reserve



One of the Caribbean's premier snorkeling and diving locations.

Expect:

- Coral gardens
- Sea turtles
- Colorful fish
- Excellent visibility

Many excursions visit the nearby **Pigeon Islands**.



Visit a Rum Distillery

Guadeloupe has a long history of rum production.

Popular distilleries include:

- Damoiseau
- Longueteau
- Bologne

Many offer tours and tastings showcasing traditional rum-making techniques.



Shopping

Popular souvenirs include:

- French perfumes
- Caribbean spices
- Local rum
- Vanilla

- Handmade crafts
- Chocolates
- Coffee
- French gourmet products

The local markets are excellent places to experience Guadeloupe's unique blend of French and Caribbean culture.

What to Eat

Don't leave Guadeloupe without trying:

- Accras (saltfish fritters)
- Colombo chicken
- Bokit sandwiches
- Fresh seafood
- Creole curries
- French pastries
- Coconut flan
- Tropical fruit sorbets
- Ti' Punch (traditional rum cocktail)

Popular restaurants include:

- La Touna
 - Le Mahina
 - Chez Margaux
 - Koté Lagon
 - Le Poisson Rouge
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Hidden Gems

If you've visited Guadeloupe before, consider exploring:

- Pointe des Châteaux
- Les Saintes Islands
- Marie-Galante
- Petite Terre Nature Reserve
- Cascade aux Écrevisses
- Plage de Cluny

These destinations showcase a quieter and even more authentic side of Guadeloupe.

Weather Throughout the Year

Guadeloupe enjoys a tropical climate year-round.

Winter (December – February)

- Highs: **81–84°F (27–29°C)**
- Lower humidity
- Excellent sightseeing weather

Spring (March – May)

- Highs: **82–86°F (28–30°C)**
- Warm and sunny

Summer (June – August)

- Highs: **87–90°F (31–32°C)**
- Warm and humid
- Brief tropical showers

Fall (September – November)

- Highs: **84–89°F (29–32°C)**
- Warm ocean temperatures
- Fewer visitors

The lush landscape remains green throughout the year thanks to regular rainfall in the mountainous interior.

Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from:

June 1 – November 30

Peak activity generally occurs during:

- August
- September
- October

Cruise lines closely monitor tropical weather and adjust itineraries if necessary.

Travel insurance is always recommended.



Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Taxi
- Cruise excursions
- Rental cars (driving is on the **right** side of the road)
- Public buses

Many of the island's top attractions are **30–75 minutes** from the cruise port.



What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
 - ✓ Swimsuit
 - ✓ Reef-safe sunscreen
 - ✓ Sunglasses
 - ✓ Hat
 - ✓ Lightweight clothing
 - ✓ Insect repellent
 - ✓ Waterproof phone pouch
 - ✓ Reusable water bottle
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Premium Travel Group Tip

Guadeloupe is one of the Caribbean's most underrated cruise destinations. If it's your first visit, consider combining a rainforest excursion with a stop at Carbet Falls or the Botanical Gardens. If you're looking for a beach day, Grande Anse or Sainte-Anne provide some of the most beautiful scenery in the French Caribbean.

Because Guadeloupe receives fewer cruise visitors than many neighboring islands, you'll often enjoy a more relaxed and authentic experience with fewer crowds.



Continue Exploring the Eastern Caribbean

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Why Visit Guadeloupe?

Guadeloupe offers something refreshingly different from many Caribbean cruise ports. Its combination of French culture, lush rainforests, dramatic volcanic scenery, quiet beaches, and authentic local traditions creates a destination that feels both sophisticated and adventurous. Whether you're hiking a volcano, snorkeling among sea turtles, exploring colorful markets, or enjoying a flaky croissant at a sidewalk café, Guadeloupe delivers an experience that is both distinctly Caribbean and unmistakably French.



Joe's Logbook

Guadeloupe is one of those islands that often surprises travelers simply because they don't know much about it before they arrive. It's not as heavily promoted as some Caribbean destinations, but that's part of its appeal. If you enjoy discovering places that feel authentic, less crowded, and full of natural beauty, Guadeloupe is a destination you'll likely remember long after your cruise is over. It's the kind of island that reminds you why exploring beyond the most popular ports can be so rewarding.