

MQ Martinique Cruise Port Guide

Your Complete Guide to Fort-de-France, French Caribbean Charm & Volcanic Beauty



Martinique is unlike anywhere else in the Caribbean. As an overseas department of France, the island combines the beauty of the Caribbean with the elegance, cuisine, and culture of France. You'll hear French spoken, pay with the Euro, enjoy freshly baked croissants, and discover charming cafés—all while surrounded by turquoise water, tropical rainforests, and volcanic mountains.

For many travelers, Martinique feels like taking a Caribbean cruise and a European vacation at the same time.

Whether you're exploring historic Fort-de-France, relaxing on beautiful beaches, visiting botanical gardens, or discovering the island's famous rum distilleries, Martinique offers an unforgettable and distinctly French experience.



Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?



Cruise ships dock in **Fort-de-France**, the island's capital.

The modern cruise terminal is within easy walking distance of:

- Shopping
- Restaurants
- Cafés
- Historic landmarks
- Markets
- Museums
- Taxi stand
- Excursion meeting areas

Many attractions in downtown Fort-de-France can easily be explored on foot.



Explore Fort-de-France



Spend time wandering one of the Caribbean's most charming capitals.

Highlights include:

- La Savane Park
- Schoelcher Library
- Fort Saint Louis
- St. Louis Cathedral
- Local markets
- French cafés
- Waterfront promenade

Take your time—you'll quickly notice Martinique feels very different from most Caribbean islands.

★ Top Shore Excursions

🌿 Jardin de Balata



Often considered one of the Caribbean's most beautiful botanical gardens.

You'll discover:

- Hundreds of tropical plants
- Palm trees
- Orchids
- Hummingbirds
- Suspension bridges through the rainforest canopy
- Spectacular mountain views

A paradise for photographers and nature lovers.

🌋 Mount Pelée



Martinique's famous volcano dramatically shaped the island's history.

In 1902, an eruption destroyed the city of Saint-Pierre, making it one of the deadliest volcanic disasters in recorded history.

Today visitors enjoy:

- Scenic drives
- Hiking trails
- Volcanic landscapes
- Panoramic views

Saint-Pierre



Known as the "**Pompeii of the Caribbean.**"

Visit:

- Volcanic ruins
- Museums
- Historic churches
- Waterfront cafés

History lovers shouldn't miss this excursion.

Rum Distillery Tour

Martinique is famous for producing **Rhum Agricole**, made from fresh sugarcane juice rather than molasses.

Popular distilleries include:

- Habitation Clément
- Distillerie Depaz
- Distillerie Neisson

Tours often include tastings and a fascinating look at the island's rum-making traditions.

Catamaran Sailing

Enjoy:

- Snorkeling
- Swimming
- Coastal sightseeing
- Lunch
- Tropical drinks

A wonderful way to appreciate Martinique's stunning coastline.

Best Beaches

Les Salines Beach



Often ranked among the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches.

Features:

- White sand
- Palm trees
- Calm turquoise water
- Food vendors
- Excellent swimming

Anse Dufour

A favorite snorkeling beach.

Visitors often encounter:

- Sea turtles
- Tropical fish
- Crystal-clear water

Anse Noire

One of Martinique's few black-sand beaches.

Excellent for snorkeling and photography.

Pointe Marin Beach

A long stretch of calm water perfect for families.

Scenic Highlights

Route de la Trace



One of the Caribbean's most scenic drives.

Travel through:

- Tropical rainforest
- Waterfalls
- Mountain scenery
- Historic villages

Many island tours include portions of this beautiful roadway.



Shopping

Martinique offers a distinctly European shopping experience.

Popular purchases include:

- French perfumes
- Local rum
- Chocolate
- Spices
- Caribbean artwork
- French wines
- Handmade crafts

The Grand Marché in Fort-de-France is an excellent place to browse for local souvenirs.



What to Eat

Martinique is often considered one of the Caribbean's finest culinary destinations.

Don't miss:

- Accras (salt cod fritters)
- Colombo chicken
- Fresh seafood
- Creole dishes
- French pastries
- Baguettes
- Macarons
- Tropical fruit tarts
- Rhum Agricole

Popular restaurants include:

- Le Petibonum

- Chez Carole
 - Le Kano
 - Ti Sable
 - Le Vieux Foyal
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Hidden Gems

If you've visited before, consider exploring:

- Presqu'île de la Caravelle Nature Reserve
- Diamond Rock viewpoints
- Habitation Clément
- Anse Couleuvre
- Canal des Esclaves
- Fonds Blancs sandbars

These destinations showcase a quieter side of Martinique.

Weather Throughout the Year

Martinique enjoys a tropical climate with warm temperatures year-round.

Winter (December – February)

- Highs: **81–84°F (27–29°C)**
- Comfortable 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
- Afternoon showers possible

Fall (September – November)

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

Trade winds help moderate temperatures throughout the year.

Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from:

June 1 – November 30

Peak activity usually occurs during:

- August
- September
- October

Martinique is generally south of the most active hurricane tracks but can still experience tropical systems.

Travel insurance is always recommended.

Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Taxi
- Cruise excursions
- Rental cars (driving is on the **right** side of the road, unlike many Eastern Caribbean islands)
- Public buses

Many attractions are **30–60 minutes** from the cruise terminal.

What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Swimsuit
- ✓ Reef-safe sunscreen
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Lightweight clothing
- ✓ Waterproof phone pouch
- ✓ Reusable water bottle

✓ Euros or a credit card for small purchases

Premium Travel Group Tip

Martinique is the perfect destination for travelers who enjoy culture, history, and incredible food as much as beaches. Spend part of your day wandering Fort-de-France, stop for a fresh croissant and espresso at a local café, then head out to explore the island's lush mountains, volcanic landscapes, or beautiful coastline.

If this is your first visit, consider an excursion that combines **Jardin de Balata**, a **rum distillery**, and **Fort-de-France**. It provides a wonderful introduction to everything that makes Martinique unique.

Continue Exploring the Eastern Caribbean

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Why Visit Martinique?

Martinique offers a travel experience unlike any other Caribbean island. Its blend of French sophistication and Caribbean warmth creates a destination where visitors can enjoy tropical beaches in the morning, tour a historic volcano in the afternoon, and finish the day with fine French cuisine and locally crafted rum. It's an island that rewards travelers who appreciate culture, history, and natural beauty just as much as sunshine and sand.

Joe's Logbook

One of the things that makes Martinique memorable is how different it feels from the rest of the Caribbean. You may spend the morning shopping in colorful markets, enjoy a fresh French pastry for lunch, and then find yourself standing in a tropical rainforest overlooking a volcanic coastline. It's that unique combination of European charm and Caribbean beauty that keeps travelers talking about Martinique long after their cruise has ended.