

Port Louis, Mauritius

Thursday, March 3

8 am - 7 pm

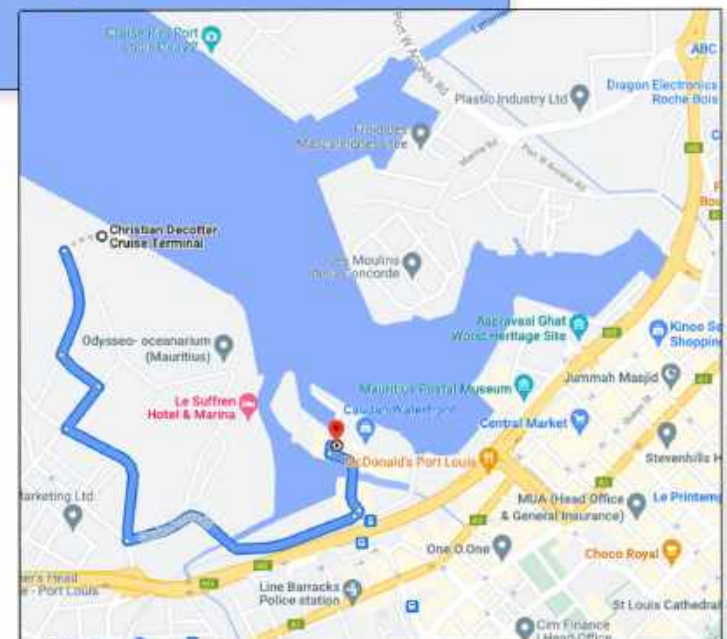


**fast
facts**

- * Mauritius is the 2nd largest island in the Mascarenes group
- * One of the most ethnically mixed countries on earth
- * Port Louis is the capital & largest city
- * Busiest port in the Indian Ocean
- * First settled by the Dutch. French & British arrived later. Independence in 1968
- * Charming & threadbare Victorian buildings
- * The dodo bird existed here & is a major theme throughout the island.

"Mauritius was made first and then heaven; heaven being copied after Mauritius."

Mark Twain





Port Louis Tourist Information



No visa necessary for U.S. citizens



English is the official language

90% of the population speak French based Creole

French is used in education and the media



Mauritius Rupee 1 USD = 44 MUR

US \$ & euros are accepted in tourist shops and hotels

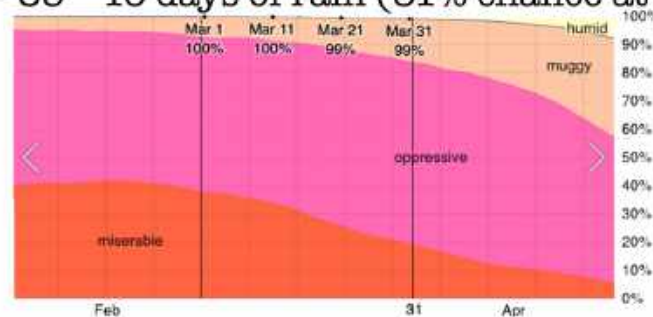
ATMS are available around tourist destinations (local currency)

Tipping not expected but is sometimes included in the bill

Credit cards accepted (AmEx not everywhere)



75° - 85° 16 days of rain (31% chance at beginning of month)



Check phone carrier for availability

Free internet in many restaurants and coffee shops

Hot spots located throughout the city



Port Louis Tourist Information



Taxis available can be slow due to traffic congestion
No credit cards have meters but better to negotiate the fare beforehand
Fares may be printed on yellow panel on driver's door
Can book ahead: taxismauritius.com Motaxi app
Shared taxis depart when full and operate on popular routes



Bus service within city and between cities
Buy tickets from conductor when you board



Cars can be rented
Can be a chaotic experience
ABC Car Rental & Endeavour Car Rental closest to port



Cuisine has many influences: Asian, Indian, European specialties
Curries of all types
Vindaye: Fish coated in various spices
Rougaille: Fish or meat stew
Salade palmiste: Heart of Palm salad
Dim Sum



Le Caudan Waterfront / Craft Market
Central Market

Famous for the low price of clothes imported from China or India



Reputation of being one of the safest countries in Africa
Normal precautions



1 Blue Penny Museum
Best Museum in town
2 world famous stamps
Lit every hour / 10 min.
about 1 mile from terminal



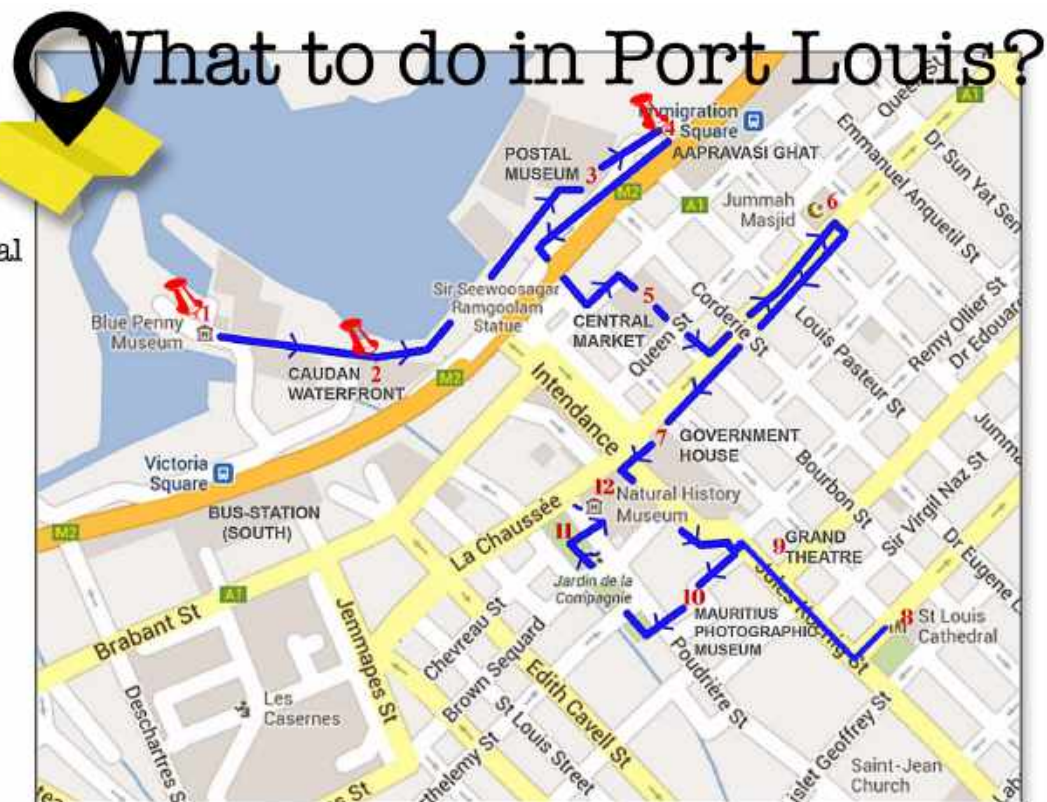
2 Le Caudan Waterfront
Shopping
Restaurants
Entertainment
Craft Market nearby



3 Postal Museum
1 of oldest buildings
circa 1865



4 Immigration Square
Aapravasi Ghat
UNESCO site
Between 1884-1920
1/2 million Indian
indentured workers
processed here for work
in sugar plantations



5 Central Market
3 story building
Fresh produce
Souvenirs / handicrafts
Clothing



6 Jummah Masjid
Largest & most
important Mosque
in Mauritius
1853 by local Muslim
traders



Government House
Seat of colonial power
1738
Can enter



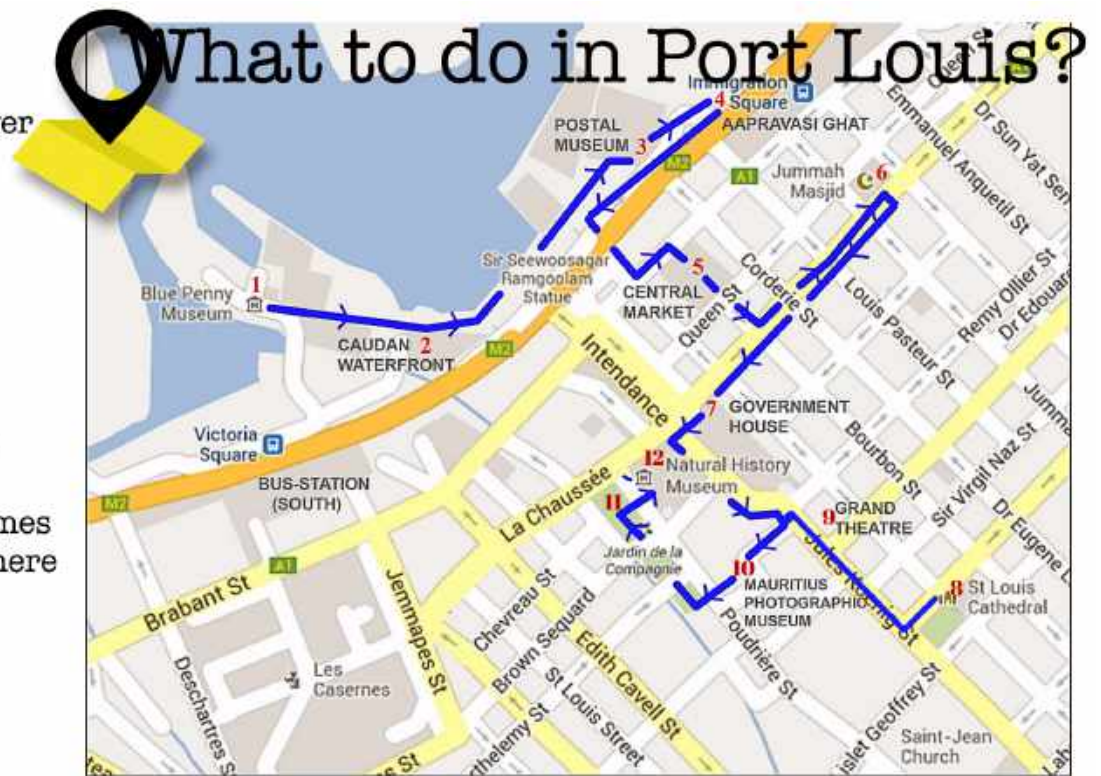
St. Louis Cathedral
1 of oldest
Rebuilt several times
6 bishops buried here



Grand Theater
oldest theater in
Southern Hemisphere
1822
closed for reno



Photographic Museum
oldest photos of Mauritius
camera collection
1st printing press on island
Closed??



Jardin de la Compagnie
Banyan trees
plaques & statues



Natural History Museum
founded in 1880
Exhibits & library
Dodo exhibit
In ill repair

What to do in Port Louis?



Fort Adelaide

20 minute walk from waterfront
View main reason to visit
Complete 1840; never used



Champ de Mars Race Track



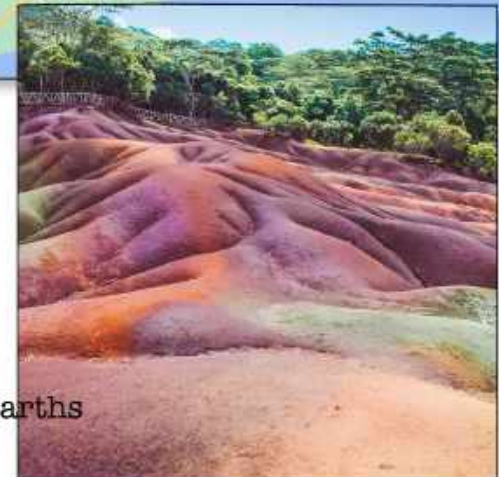
Sir Seewoosagur Rangoolam Botanical Gardens

About 7 miles from downtown area
Self guided tours
Golf-buggy tours
Centerpiece is the water lily pond



Eureka

Perfectly preserved Creole Mansion
1830s



Seven Colored Earths



Tour Options & Resources

Curepipe Shopping

Departs: 9:15 AM Approximately 4½ Hours \$59.95

- * Stop for scenic view
- * Ship model factory
- * Shopping

Multicultural Mauritius

Departs: 9:00 AM Approximately 4 Hours \$79.95

- * Visit several places of worship

Port Louis & Pamplemousses Gardens

Departs: 9:15 AM Approximately 4 Hours \$99.95

- * Botanic Gardens
- * Grand Baie Bazaar

Historic Pamplemousses

Departs: 8:30 AM Approximately 8 Hours \$169.95

- * Hindu Temple
- * Labourdonnais village
- * Village
Church, Botanic Garden, Museum

The Tea Route

Departs: 8:30 AM Approximately 7½ Hours \$169.95

- * Gastronomic and cultural journey
Domain Abineaux (colonial mansion)
Bois Cheri tea factory and museum
St. Albin (colonial house)
Lunch
La Maison de la Vanille

The Colors of Mauritius

Departs: 8:45 AM Approximately 4 Hours \$99.99

- * Extinct volcano in the middle of Curepipe
- * Plaine Champagne Forest
- * Black River Gorges National park
- * Seven Colored Earths unique geological curiosity