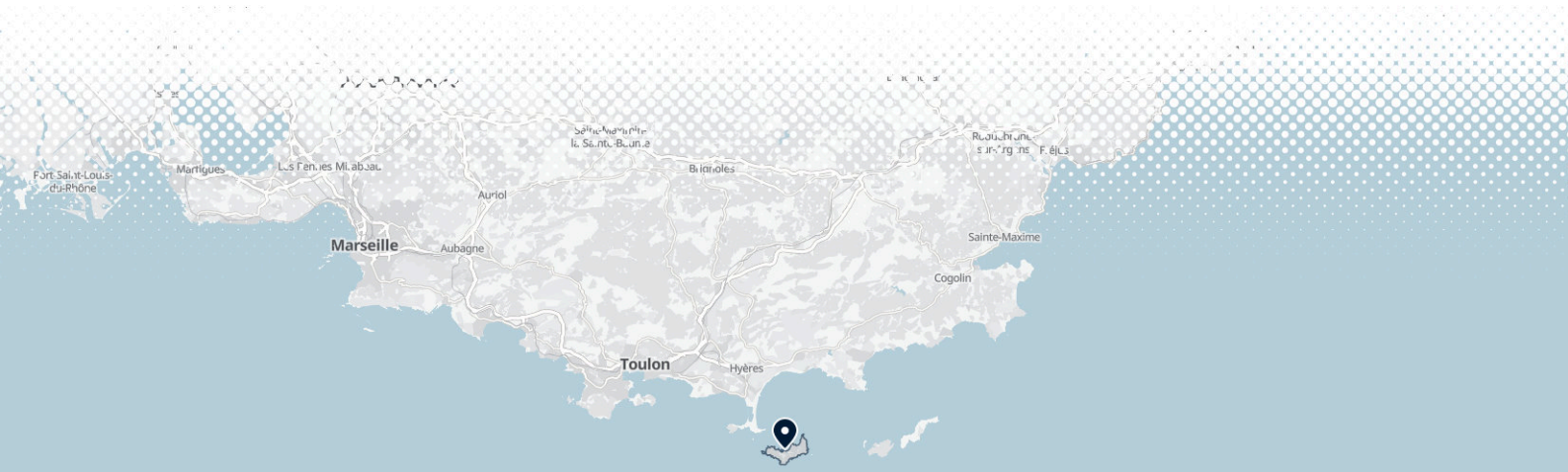


Porquerolles

Îles d'Hyères

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Porquerolles is the largest of the Îles d'Hyères, about 7 km long and 3 km wide. It lies just off the Var coast near Hyères. Pine forest, vineyards and Mediterranean scrub cover most of the island. Much of it belongs to Port-Cros National Park.

The island is car-free for visitors, and one small village holds the port, shops and restaurants. Sandy beaches with clear, shallow water line the north coast. The south coast has steep cliffs and few paths down to the sea. Porquerolles suits a relaxed day trip or a quiet stay of a few nights by the beach, on foot or by bike.

When to visit

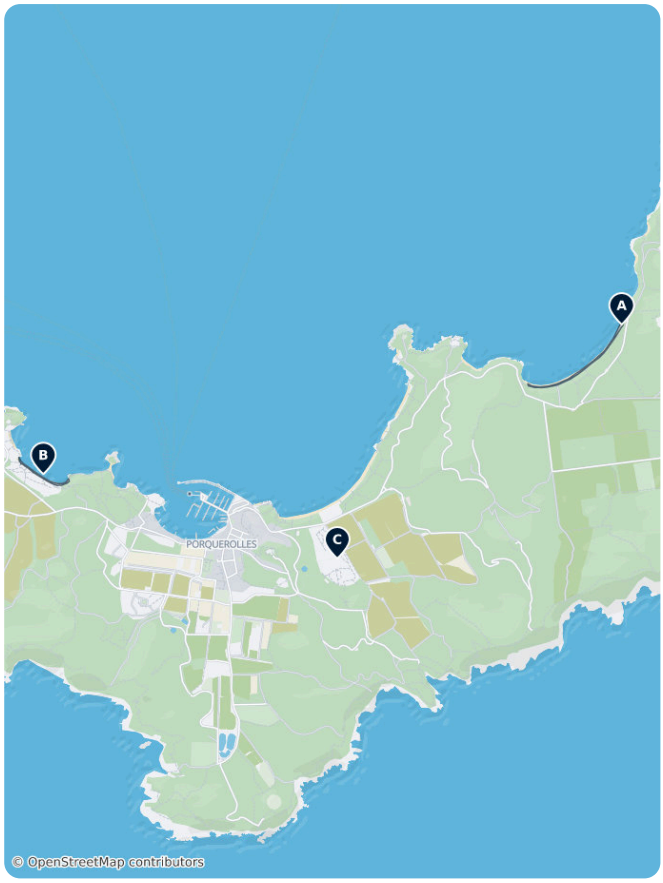
Late spring and early autumn are the best times. The weather is warm, the sea is pleasant and the paths are quieter. July and August are hot, dry and very busy. In peak season a daily visitor limit applies, so book your boat early. On hot, windy days the forest paths can close because of fire risk. Many shops and restaurants close in winter, and the villa gallery is closed until April 2027, then open only from spring to autumn.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for cycling	12° / 15° Feels like 8°	6° / 1°	Dry air
February	Great Great for hiking	13° / 17° Feels like 9°	5° / 0°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	15° / 20° Feels like 12°	7° / 3°	Dry air
April	Great Great for cycling	18° / 23°	10° / 7°	Dry air
May	Great Great for cycling	22° / 27°	14° / 10°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for the beach	27° / 33°	18° / 15°	Calm winds
July	Great Great for the beach	30° / 34°	21° / 17°	☀ 25 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for the beach	30° / 35°	21° / 18°	☀ 22 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for cycling	25° / 30°	18° / 14°	Calm winds
October	Great Great for cycling	21° / 25°	14° / 10°	
November	Great Great for cycling	16° / 20°	10° / 4°	Dry air
December	Good Good for hiking	13° / 16° Feels like 9°	7° / 2°	Dry air

Best months: April, May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Plage de Notre-Dame is the island's best-known beach. A wide curve of fine sand sits in a sheltered cove with pine trees behind it. It is a walk or bike ride of about 3 km from the village.
- B Plage d'Argent is a white-sand beach with calm, shallow water and a pine backdrop. It is lifeguarded in season. It lies about 1.5 km west of the village.
- C Villa Carmignac is a contemporary art foundation in a Provençal farmhouse. It has about 2,000 m² of galleries and a 15-hectare garden with sculptures. It is closed until April 2027. After that it is open from spring to autumn, so check dates before you go.
- Fort Sainte-Agathe stands above the harbour. King *François I* had an older defence here strengthened in 1531. It now has a small museum on the island's nature and history. The terrace on the tower gives a wide view over the island and the bay. It is open from May to September, mainly in the mornings.
- La Courtade is a sandy beach just east of the village. It is an easy walk from the port.
- The Cap d'Arme lighthouse stands at the southern tip of the island. It is a good goal for a bike ride, with views of the steep south cliffs.
- The Conservatoire botanique national méditerranéen works on Mediterranean plants on the island. Port-Cros National Park has managed it since 1979.

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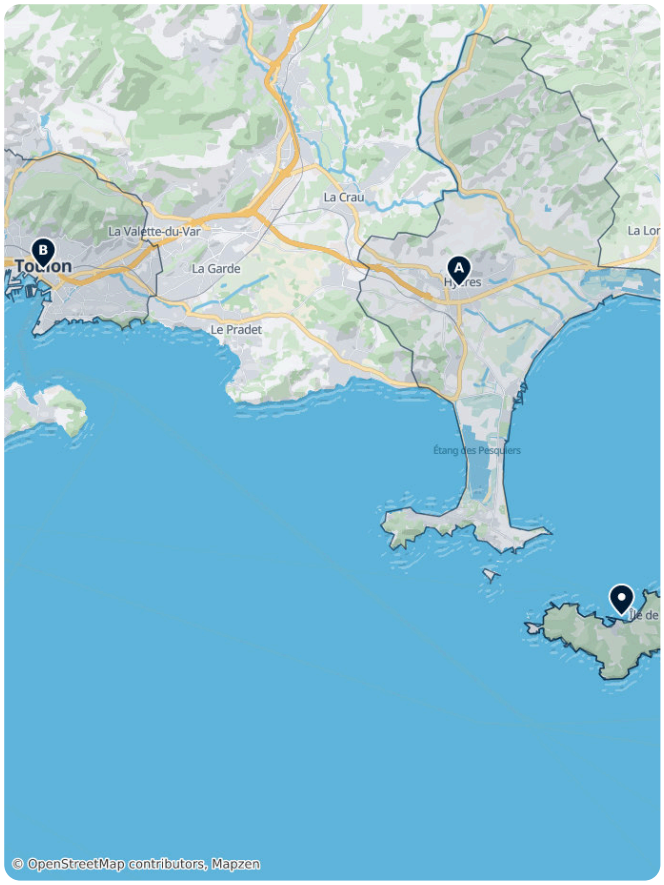
What to experience

- Ride a bike on the circuits around the island. Routes include a south circuit of about 45 minutes and a longer sunset ride of about 2 hours.
- Swim and snorkel in the clear, shallow water at the north-coast beaches.
- Join a guided visit of Fort Sainte-Agathe and the old windmill. These run in the warmer months, and booking is recommended.
- Visit a wine estate. Domaine de la Courtade makes Côtes de Provence wine on the island.
- Walk to the south cliffs and the lighthouse at the end of the day, when the day visitors have left on the last boats.

Day trips

Most visitors stay on the island. Day trips go to Port-Cros or back to the mainland.

- A Hyeres: ferry to La Tour Fondue (about 20 min), then a bus. The old town sits on a hill above the coast and has palm-lined streets.
- Giens peninsula: before or after the ferry, the peninsula around La Tour Fondue has beaches, salt marshes and coastal paths.
- Port-Cros: the neighbouring island is part of the same national park. It has forest paths and clear water for snorkelling. Boats run in season.
- B Toulon: boats run in the warmer months and take about 1.5 hours. The city has a large naval port and a cable car to Mont Faron.



Getting there

Porquerolles can be reached only by boat. There are no bridges and no cars on the island.

- **By air**: Toulon–Hyères airport is the closest airport. It is on the mainland near Hyères and has limited service. Most visitors fly to Nice Côte d'Azur or Marseille Provence and continue by train or bus.
- **By train**: Take a train to Toulon or Hyeres. Then take a bus to the pier at La Tour Fondue on the Giens peninsula. SNCF Connect
- **By ferry from La Tour Fondue**: This is the main route. Boats run all year, with many departures a day in season. The crossing takes about 20 minutes. A return ticket costs about 24 € in high season. The operator is TLV-TVM. TLV-TVM ferries
- **Bus to the pier**: Line 67 runs from the Arromanches stop in Hyères to La Tour Fondue. A free car park is next to that stop. In July and August the line is free with a TLV e-ticket for the Porquerolles boat.
- **Other ferries**: Boats also leave from Le Lavandou, La Londe, La Seyne-sur-Mer, Saint-Mandrier and Toulon in the warmer months. Crossings take from 30 minutes to 1.5 hours and cost more.
- **Book ahead**: In peak season a daily visitor limit applies. Reserve your crossing in advance, and note the time of the last boat back.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The village, the port and the nearest beaches are within a short walk. Many marked paths cover the island, about 50 km in total.
- **By bike**: This is the main way to see the island. Mountain bikes and electric bikes are hired in the village, and prices are about 19 € and 45 € per day in season. Return the bike at least 45 minutes before the last boat. Bike traffic is regulated inside the national park, so stay on marked paths. Port-Cros National Park
- **Public transport**: There is no bus on the island. Walk or ride a bike.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village and nearest beaches are a short walk apart. Other beaches and sights are 3 km or more away on island paths.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The island has no cars and many marked paths. Bikes are easy to hire in the village.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** No. Visitors cannot use cars on the island. Leave your car on the mainland.
- **Parking**: Free parking is available at the Arromanches stop in Hyères, with a bus to the pier. Other car parks near the ferry terminals charge a daily fee.
- **Restrictions**: Ferries to the island do not take visitor cars.

Food & drink

Food is simple and Provençal, with a focus on fish and seafood, salads and pizza. Prices are higher than on the mainland.

Most restaurants and cafés are in the village around the port and the main square. Many close in winter. The island also has wine estates, and local wine is served in the village. You can buy bread and picnic food in the village shops before you walk to the beaches.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Croissant
Buttery, flaky laminated pastry and a classic French breakfast staple.

LUNCH

Ratatouille
A Provençal stewed vegetable dish of eggplant, zucchini, peppers, and tomatoes.

DINNER

Coq au Vin
Chicken braised slowly in red wine with mushrooms, onions, and lardons.

Beef Bourguignon · Bœuf Bourguignon
Beef stewed in red Burgundy wine with carrots, onions, and mushrooms.

Escargot · Escargots de Bourgogne
Snails cooked in garlic and parsley butter, a classic starter.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Baguette
Long, crusty white bread loaf bought fresh daily from the local boulangerie.

Cheese · Fromage
France produces hundreds of cheese varieties, often served as a course before dessert.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Crepes · Crêpes
Thin pancakes served sweet with sugar or jam, or savory as galettes.

Macarons
Delicate almond meringue sandwich cookies in a range of flavors and colors.

DRINKS

Wine · Vin
France's wine regions, including Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Champagne, are among the world's most renowned.

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Safety & health

Porquerolles is very safe. Petty crime is rare. Take care with the sun, and bring a hat and sun cream.

- **Fire risk**: On hot, dry, windy days in summer the forest and paths can close. Follow the signs and ask at the tourist office. Do not smoke on the paths.
- **Water and shade**: The south coast has few shops and little shade. Carry water for walks and bike rides.
- **Medical help**: The village has a doctor and a fire station. For serious cases, call 112 or 15. The mainland hospital is reached by boat or rescue service.
- **Beaches**: Some beaches are lifeguarded only in season. Swim with care when the sea is rough.

History

The island has guarded the entrance to the Hyères roadstead for centuries. The oldest sight is the fort above the harbour. In 1531, King *François I* ordered the defences strengthened. English sailors blew up the fort in 1793 after they evacuated its garrison.

The village was founded in 1820. The lighthouse dates from 1837 and the village church from 1850. In 1912 *François Joseph Fournier* bought the whole island. He planted vineyards. In 1971 the French state bought most of the estate to protect it from building. Today Port-Cros National Park manages it.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for France at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

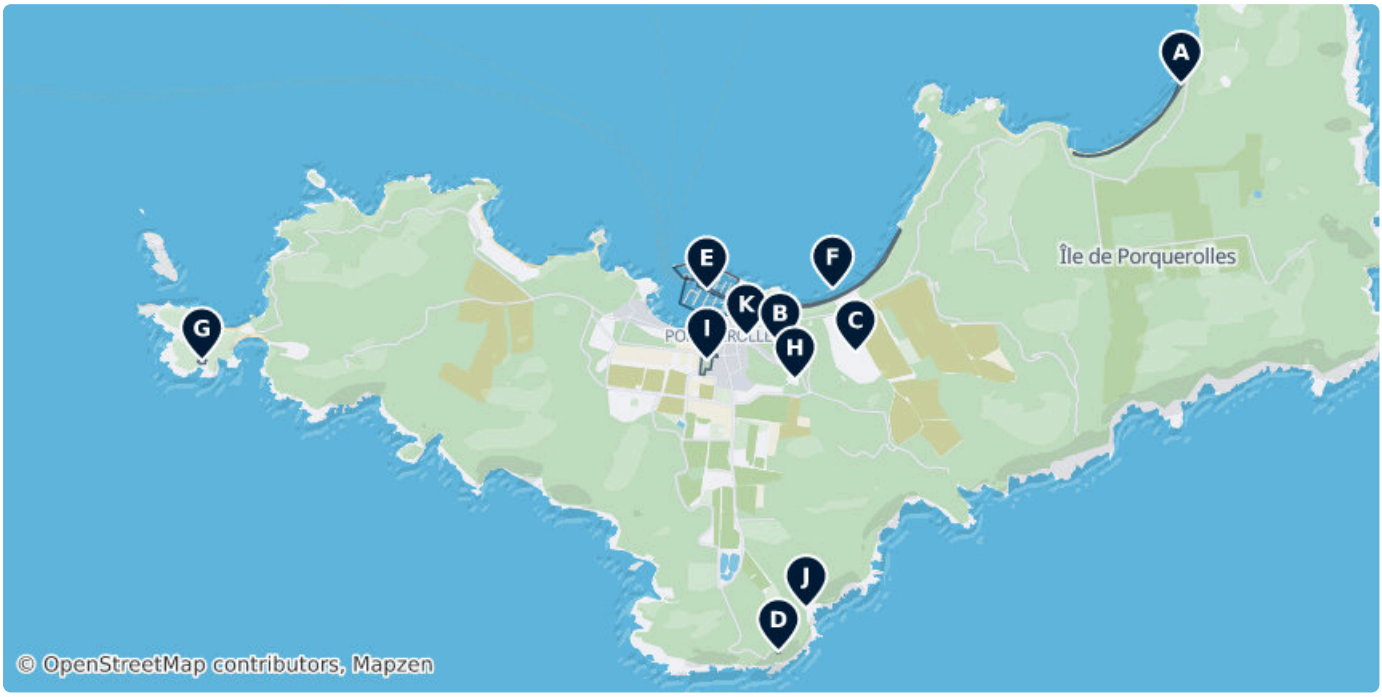
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Île de Porquerolles Essentials

Île de Porquerolles, the largest of the Îles d'Hyères, is a car-free Mediterranean sanctuary characterized by its contrasting landscapes. The northern coast features sheltered white sand beaches like Plage de Notre-Dame and shallow turquoise waters, while the rugged southern shore is defined by steep cliffs and the Cap d'Arme lighthouse. Historical landmarks include the 16th-century Fort Sainte-Agathe and the restored Moulin du Bonheur windmill, complemented by contemporary art installations at the Villa Carmignac foundation.





A Notre-Dame Beach

A crescent-shaped stretch of white sand bordered by pine and eucalyptus trees. Its shallow, turquoise waters are sheltered from the mistral wind, making it one of the island's most protected swimming areas.

France (43.01369, 6.23566)

B Fort Sainte-Agathe

Built in the 16th century under François I, this fortification offers panoramic views of the village and the Hyères roadstead. It now hosts exhibitions focused on the island's history and underwater archaeology.

Porquerolles 83400, France (42.99979, 6.20647)

Tu–Su	10:00–13:00, 15:00–18:00

C Villa Carmignac

A contemporary art foundation located in a Provencal farmhouse. Visitors explore 2,000 square meters of underground galleries barefoot and wander through a 15-hectare sculpture park featuring international works.

Porquerolles 83400, France (42.99941, 6.21196)

May-Jun Tu–Su	10:00–18:00
Jul-Aug Tu–We	10:00–19:00
Jul-Aug Th	10:00–22:00
Jul-Aug Fr–Su	10:00–19:00

fondationcarmignac.com, +33 4 65 65 25 50

D Phare de Porquerolles

Constructed in 1837 at Cap d'Arme, the island's southernmost point, this 84-meter-high lighthouse is one of the most powerful on the Mediterranean coast, marking the rugged southern cliffs.

Chemin du Phare, 83400, France (42.98348, 6.20634)

E Port de Porquerolles

The primary arrival point for ferries from La Tour Fondue, this marina serves as the island's commercial hub and the main location for bicycle rentals and boat charters.

83400, France (43.00273, 6.20113)



F Première Courtade

The closest sandy beach to the main village, featuring shallow waters and views of the nearby vineyards. It is easily accessible by foot or bicycle via the coastal paths.

France (43.00279, 6.21029)

G Fort du Grand Langoustier

A 17th-century defensive structure built during the reign of Richelieu. It features a unique square design and occupies a strategic position overlooking the western passage and the Baie du Langoustier.

83400, France (42.99898, 6.16436)

H Le Moulin du Bonheur

A traditional Provencal windmill restored to working order in 2007. Located behind Fort Sainte-Agathe, it provides demonstrations of traditional flour milling during the summer months.

(42.99795, 6.20754)

I Jardin Emmanuel Lopez

A one-hectare botanical garden adjacent to the National Park house. It showcases Mediterranean and exotic flora, including numerous species of palm trees, cacti, and flowering shrubs adapted to the island's climate.

Porquerolles 83400, France (42.99898, 6.20114)

porquerolles.com/default.php

J Calanque de l'indienne

A viewpoint on the southern coast offering views of steep schist cliffs. This site illustrates the dramatic geological contrast between the island's rugged southern edge and its sandy northern shore.

(42.98578, 6.20836)

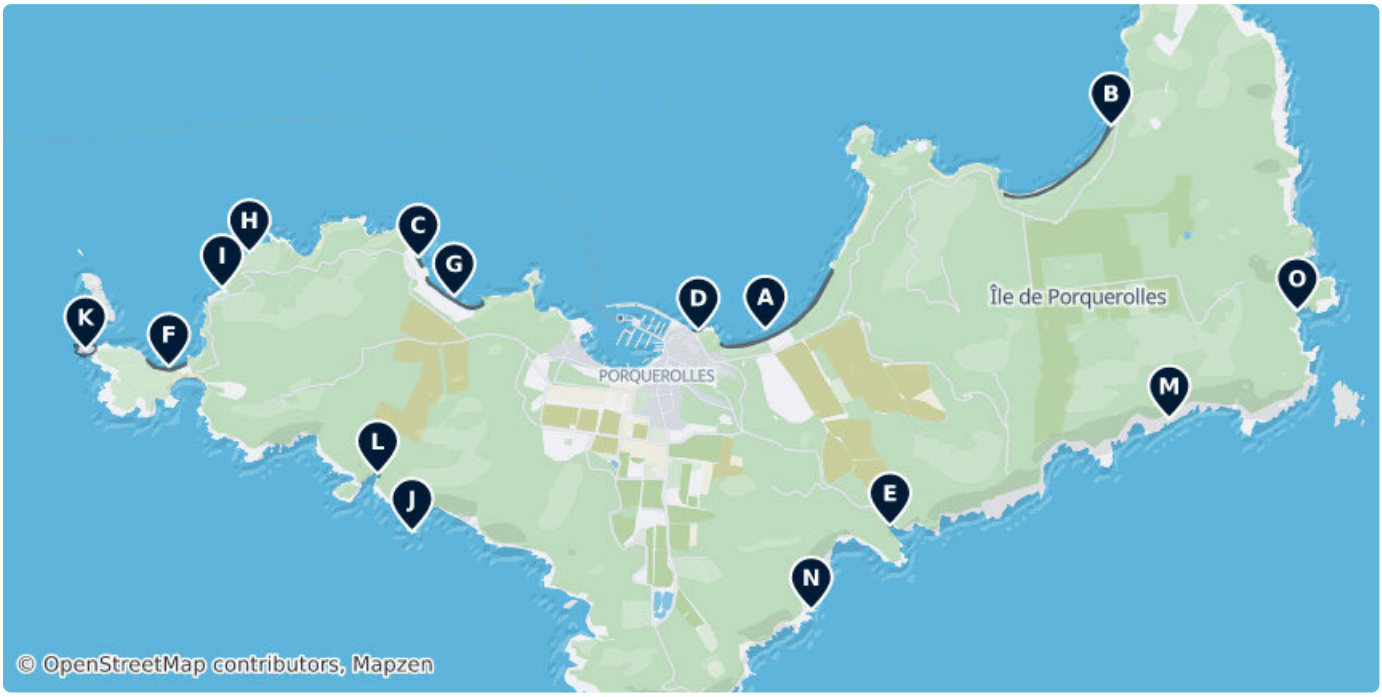
K Église Sainte-Anne

Originally a military chapel built in 1850, this village church is notable for its Stations of the Cross, which were hand-carved with a simple penknife by a soldier stationed on the island.

1 Rue de la Poste, Porquerolles 83400, France (43.00027, 6.20402)

Best Beaches and Cliffs

Porquerolles island presents a distinct geographical contrast between its northern and southern shores. The north coast features gently sloping sandy beaches like Plage de Notre-Dame and Plage d'Argent, sheltered by eucalyptus and pine forests. Conversely, the southern coast is defined by steep limestone cliffs, deep rocky inlets known as calanques, and high-altitude viewpoints like Pointe de l'Indienne. This selection spans the island's diverse coastline, from the white sands of the north to the rugged, vertical walls of the south.





A Première Courtade

The closest beach to the main village, featuring a wide sandy shore bordered by a forest of eucalyptus and maritime pine trees.

France (43.00279, 6.21029)



B Notre-Dame Beach

A large, northeast-facing bay sheltered from the wind and surrounded by dense pine forest. It is frequently cited for its water clarity.

France (43.01369, 6.23566)



C Plage du Bon Renaud

A small sandy beach located west of the port, providing a clear view across the water to the Giens peninsula.

Chemin du Langoustier, 83400, France (43.00664, 6.18482)



D Plage des Porquerollais

A central sandy beach located within walking distance of the island's harbor and village center.

Rue de l'Artisanat, 83400, France (43.00272, 6.20538)

E Calanque de l'Oustaou de Diéu

A narrow, rocky inlet on the rugged south coast enclosed by high cliffs. The name translates to "House of God."

83400, France (42.99225, 6.21944)

F Plage du Grand Langoustier

Situated at the western tip near the Langoustier fort, this beach is notable for its darker sand and views of the Petit Langoustier islet.

(43.00078, 6.16652)

G Plage d'Argent

Named for the white quartz in its sand that creates a silvery reflection in the shallow water. It features a seasonal restaurant and facilities for visitors with reduced mobility.

France (43.00456, 6.18746)

H Plage du Maure

A secluded cove on the western coast of the island, characterized by its quiet, rocky surroundings.

(43.00688, 6.17243)

I Calanque du Maure

A rocky inlet on the western shore offering deep waters and views of the rugged coastal landscape.

(43.00500, 6.17043)

J Pointe des Tamaris

A southern headland characterized by sharp limestone formations and unobstructed views of the Mediterranean.

(42.99193, 6.18437)

K Pointe Sainte-Anne

A strategic coastal point at the western end of the island, situated near historical military fortifications.

83400, France (43.00170, 6.16041)

L Calanque du Brégançonnet

A narrow, sheltered cove on the southern coast accessible via a trail through the island's interior woodland.

83400, France (42.99502, 6.18184)

M Le gros mur du Sud

A significant stretch of vertical sea cliffs on the southern side of the island, rising directly from the Mediterranean.

(42.99799, 6.23993)

N Pointe de l'Indienne

One of the most prominent viewpoints on the southern cliffs, offering panoramic vistas near the island's lighthouse.

(42.98773, 6.21366)

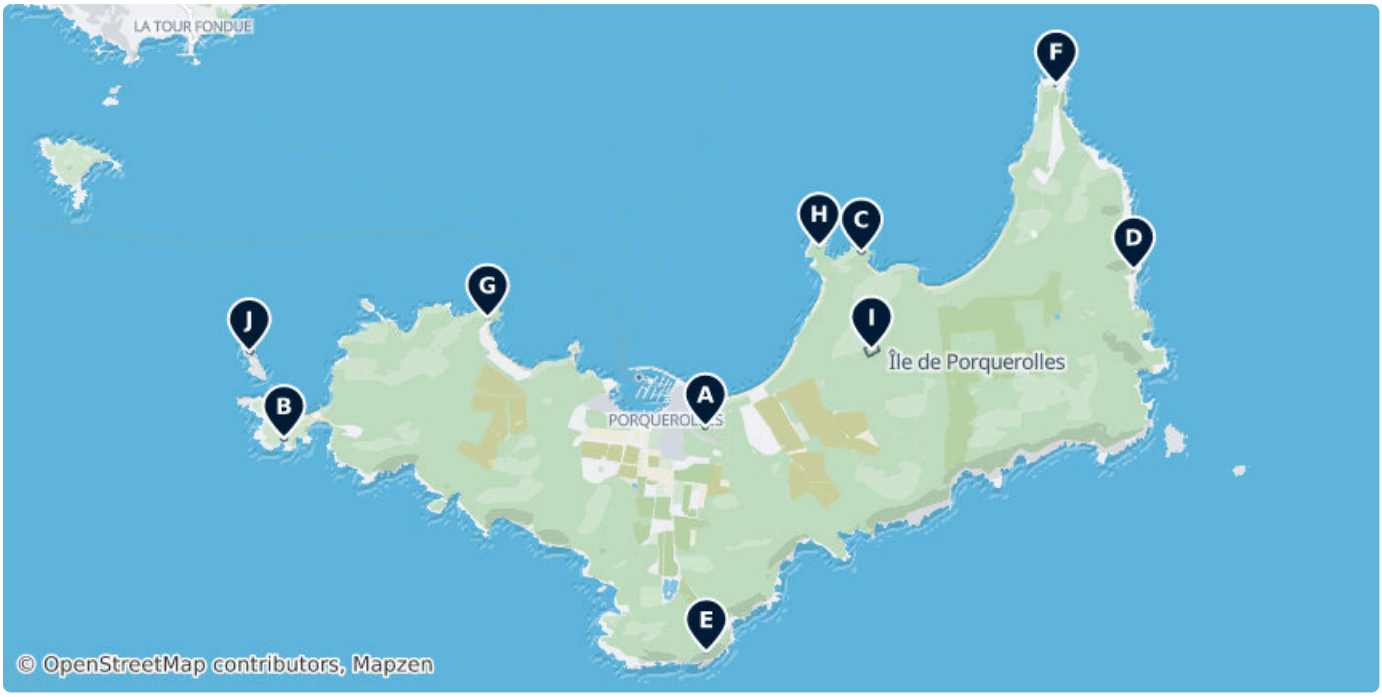
O Anse de la Galère

A rocky bay on the northeastern coast known for its distinctive geological formations and clear, deep water.

(43.00377, 6.24933)

Historic Forts of Porquerolles

Explore the strategic military architecture of Porquerolles, featuring a network of defenses dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries. This collection includes fortifications built under Richelieu and Napoleon, coastal batteries designed to protect the Hyères anchorage, and the Cap d'Arme lighthouse. These sites illustrate the island's historical role as a vital defensive outpost in the Mediterranean.



A Château Sainte-Agathe

A 16th-century fortification built under François I to protect the village and harbor. It offers panoramic views from its terrace and houses exhibitions on the island's natural and military history.

Porquerolles 83400, France (42.99983, 6.20626)

B Fort du Grand Langoustier

A 17th-century fortress situated on the western tip of the island. This privately owned military structure was built to guard the Langoustier passage.

83400, France (42.99898, 6.16436)

C Fort de l'Alicastre

A defensive square tower and fort built during the 17th century under the direction of Cardinal Richelieu to strengthen the island's northern coastline.

83400, France (43.01254, 6.22175)

D Fort du Galéasson

A fortified military structure located on the eastern part of the island, forming part of the 19th-century coastal defense network.

83400, France (43.01124, 6.24883)

E Phare de Porquerolles

Also known as the Cap d'Arme lighthouse, this 19th-century structure stands at the southernmost point of the island, marking one of the most powerful lights on the Mediterranean coast.

Chemin du Phare, 83400, France (42.98348, 6.20634)

F Batterie des Mèdes

A former coastal battery located near the northern cliffs, used historically to monitor maritime traffic between the islands.

France (43.02472, 6.24113)

G Fort du Bon Renaud

A 19th-century coastal battery designed to defend the western approaches of the island.

Chemin du Bon Renaud, 83400, France (43.00775, 6.18460)

H Fort du Lequin

A former defensive battery situated on the northern coast, part of the island's extensive 19th-century maritime protection system.

Chemin du Lequin, 83400, France (43.01294, 6.21755)

I Fort de la Repentance

A 19th-century military fort located in the island's interior. It is currently a privately owned site.

83400, France (43.00544, 6.22278)

J Fort du Petit Langoustier

A 17th-century coastal fort located on a small islet at the western end of Porquerolles, designed to secure the Petit Langoustier strait.

France (43.00528, 6.16090)

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