Toms La Palma (Santa Cruz) Cruise Port Guide: Canary Islands, Spain


There are 7 major Spanish Canary Islands of volcanic origin in the North Atlantic, west of Africa.

Why Visit and Vacation in the Canary Islands?

• Each island offers unique opportunities for outdoor activities. Hiking is very popular. Trails lead to spectacular settings. Organized tours and car rental are available to explore and photograph the rugged mountains, volcanoes, forests, rock formations, national parks, villages, coastline, beaches, etc.

• Each island has its own micro-climate. Some Canary Islands have lush vegetation. Others have dry, barren landscapes with volcanic rock formations and lava flows described as “moonscapes”. Rainfall in the western Canary Islands is influenced by proximity to the Atlantic Ocean Gulf Stream. These islands have tracts of forest and lush vegetation. The eastern islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura are deserts. The north of Tenerife has many plant species, while the south is an arid desert.

• Over hundreds of thousands of years each island evolved in geographical isolation. Hence, each island has unique, rare plant and animal life within its specific ecosystem.

• Each island has its own history and state of development. Some are rural and undeveloped with small towns, farming, vineyards, and old fishing villages along the coast. Other islands are more developed with larger towns and villages, abundant shops, hotels, resorts, and night life.

• All the islands are accessible by Ferry Boats. Most islands have airports and cruise ship docks.

The tough decision is which island to visit. If you have the time, visit all seven of them.

La Palma Island

Le Palma is the most northwestern of the Canary Islands. Its climate is influenced by the Atlantic Gulf Steam providing year-round, near-perfect, “Spring-like” temperatures and adequate rainfall for growth of lush forests and nature reserves. Its nicknames are “The Pretty Island” and “The Green Island”.

La Palma is designated a “World Biosphere Reserve and Starlight Reserve” by UNESCO. The unpolluted, clear night skies are “perfect” for star gazing. There are many observatories in the mountains.

The town of Santa Cruz is a very popular cruise port due to excellent duty-free shopping, restaurants & cafes, historic sites, museums, etc. It’s classified as a historic and artistic site with secular, religious, and military architecture. Santa Cruz is ideal for an independent walking tour along cobble streets to see, visit, and photograph colorful historic buildings, museums, churches, plazas, restaurants, and “shop til you drop”.
You’ll need transportation via a tour, rental car, bus or taxi to explore the area outside of Santa Cruz.

**The town of Santa Cruz is “ideal” for a self-guided walking tour from the cruise port.**

- It’s colorful, clean, and fun to walk along the streets lined on both sides with shops, art stores, cafes, etc. and visit the historic sites, churches, plazas, and museums.
- The most popular, best walking route, is north along Calle O’Daly to Calle Anselmo Perez de Brito to Calle Dr Perez Camacho to the Naval Museum Barco de la Virgen. This scenic route has eleven major tourist attractions – museums, churches, plazas, historic buildings, and many shops, cafes, etc. It’s a 3400 foot (0.64 mile) walk one way, before you add side trips off the main north-south walking route.

I’ve created a walking tour map in three sections covering the South section near the Dock, the Center Section, and the Northern Section of Santa Cruz. Streets parallel, and close to the coast are easy to walk. Streets that go inland may be steep because they go up/down the mountains. My map includes elevation above sea level to help you judge the steepness and difficulty of walking the streets. The suggested route is flat and easy to walk.

**GPS Coordinates**

I provide GPS coordinates for important locations for use with Microsoft and Google maps and GPS enabled devices. The GPS format is Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds ddd° mm' ss.ss” N ddd° mm' ss.ss” E.

**Copy and paste** GPS coordinates from this guide into Google or Microsoft Bing maps

**Or type** GPS coordinate numbers and periods into the map search box replacing the symbols for degrees, minutes, and seconds with spaces.

For example: **Santa Cruise Port Gate GPS = 28°40'48.6"N 17°45'58.4"W**

Copy & Paste 28°40'48.6"N 17°45'58.4"W from this guide into Google maps and press “enter key”

Or Type 28 40 48.6 n 17 45 58.4 w into Google Maps and press “enter key” to find the port gate

Google places a down-pointing red arrow at the GPS location for Santa Cruz Port Gate

To see the street level photo of Santa Cruz Port Gate, drag the little yellow man icon from the bottom right of the Google map onto the tip of the red arrow. Google maps have incredible street level photos!

For use of GPS coordinates with maps, see [https://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html](https://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html)


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**CAVEAT**

Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

*Tom Sheridan*
Santa Cruz de la Palma Port

There are docks for cruise ships and ferry boats. A free shuttle bus runs between the ships and the Port Gate. There are taxi cabs at the Port Gate. Car rental agencies are inside and outside the port at the gate.

To begin your walking tour, exit the port and walk to 1) Tourist Information "The Glass House".

Santa Cruz Port Gate GPS = 28°40'48.6"N 17°45'58.4"W (see map above)

1) Tourist Information Office (The Glass House) GPS = 28°40'51.1"N 17°45'59.8"W (see map above).

Stop at Tourist Information to learn about current events and activities and ask any questions you may have to help plan your walking tour of Santa Cruz or tours of the island.
South Section of Santa Cruz Walking Tour Map

Elevation Above Sea Level is shown in feet to illustrate the effect of the mountains. Calle O'Daly has minimal change in elevation. It's easy to walk. It's a 1040 foot walk along Calle O'Daly to 6) Plaza de Espana.

3) Centro de Interpretación de La Bajada
4) Casa Salazar
5) Centro de Interpretación Junonia

The main Santa Cruz tourist street with shops, cafes, and colorful historic buildings is "Calle Real". It's the combination of two streets:
1) Calle O'Daly, and
2) Calle Anselmo Perez de Brito

Walk North from the Santa Cruz Docks on Calle O'Daly and continue North where it ends and becomes Calle Anselmo Perez de Brito.
2) Entrance to Calle O’Daly  GPS = 28°40’51.9”N 17°46’00.8”W

As you walk North from the port gate, “The Glass House” Tourist Office will be directly in front of you. To your left (West) you’ll see the entrance to Calle O’Daly (Photo at left). This is the street for your walking tour. Proceed north.

I call your attention to the fact that the landscape changes abruptly to the west of Calle O’Daly. The street parallel, and west of Calle O’Daly, is called Calle Virgen de la Luz. It’s 100 feet above sea level on top of the cliff. Calle O’Daly is only 10 feet above seal level. Calle O’Daly is flat with almost no change in elevation and easy to walk.

3) Centro de Interpretación de La Bajada  GPS = 28°40’56.9”N 17°45’58.5”W

Virgen de la Luz St, No. 13
http://centrolabajada.es/en/
It’s the same building as the Museum of Contemporary Art. The Interpretation Center of the Bajada de la Virgen introduces visitors to the lustral festivals that can only be seen every five years. Technology including video and audio recreates festivals of the famous Dance of the Dwarves, the Minué, or the Pandorga.

Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00– 15:00 Sat 10:00– 13:00 Sun closed.
Admission:  4.50 euros Ticket for Interpretation Ctr of La Bajada & Naval Museum = 7 euros

NOTE: Visiting this site requires climbing stairs at Calle Blas Simon from 12 feet above sea level at Calle O’Daly to 74 feet above sea level at Calle Virgen de la Luz. That’s like walking up and down a 6 story building. It’s too strenuous for me. I prefer walking streets that are flat with no steps to climb.

The intersection of Calle O’Daly and Calle Blas Simon is at GPS = 28°40’55.1”N 17°45’57.3”W
The photo left shows the top of Calle Blas Simon looking down from Calle Virgen de la Luz street.

4) Casa Principal de Salazar
GPS = 28°40'56.0"N 17°45'56.5"W
Built in the first half of the 17th century, it’s a beautiful example of noble architecture. The restored building is used for exhibitions and cultural events. Admission is free. It’s open 9 am to 7 pm.

5) Centro de Interpretación Junonia
GPS = 28°40'57.8"N 17°45'54.5"W  Calle O’Daly No. 11
This traditional 2-story house will help you discover the island’s heritage, traditional architecture of old houses in the city, and the unique natural, historical, and artistic aspects of La Palma. Admission = 2.50 Euros  9:30 to 13:30 Mon-Sat
See https://centrumlapalma.com/en/museo/centro-de-interpretacion-junonia

6) Plaza de Espana  GPS = 28°41'00.2"N 17°45'53.1"W  This is the center of Santa Cruz
It’s a 1040 foot walk along Calle O’Daly to Plaza de Espana. The plaza is often used for an art and crafts market with high quality (and expensive) products. The 16th century Town Hall is Italian Renaissance-style. The interior has impressive painted walls. The Catholic Church Iglesia del Salvador is a “must visit” site. It has an impressive interior with beautiful stained glass windows and fine construction details. The church is open 10:00 to 13:00 and 17:00 to 20:00. Ermita de San Sebastian has an attractive small chapel, but it’s usually closed.

Calle O’Daly ends at the Plaza de Espana. Continue walking North on Calle Anselmo Perez de Brio.
Calle O’Daly ends at **6) Plaza de Espana**. Continue walking north on Calle Anselmo Perez de Brio for 900 feet past shops, cafes, and historic buildings. This is one of the best shopping areas in Santa Cruz for “high end” stores. Turn right on Calle Tedote and walk to Avenida Maritima. Turn right and you will be at **7) Balcones de la Aventine Maritima**. GPS = 28°41'05.7"N 17°45'45.9"W

The colorful, painted, historic buildings and balconies with flowers (photo above left) are one of the most famous sites in Santa Cruz. Keep your camera handy. These private homes are closed to the public, but there may be a shop or cafe in one of the buildings open to the public.
There is a lot to see in this area. Plan on spending time exploring the museums, plazas, shops, and cafes. The Naval Museum is a very popular site. There is a slight change in elevation on these streets, but it’s gradual and easy to walk. There are no steeply inclined streets to climb along the suggested walking route.
This Google aerial map shows more detail on the tourist sites.

- 7) Balcones de la avenida Marítima
- 8) Santa Catalina Castle
- 9) Museo Naval Barco de la Virgen
- 10) Plaza de la Almeda
- 11) Museo Insular de La Palma
8) Santa Catalina Castle "El Castillete" GPS = 28°41'12"N 17°45'37"W
It’s a large, heavily walled 16th Century fortress – a National Monument. It’s closed to the public.

9) Naval Museo (Naval Barco de la Virgen)  
GPS = 28°41'17.5"N 17°45'39.9"W  
http://museoanvallapalma.es/en/homepage/
This is a very popular museum in a ship (photo at right) that replicates the Santa Maria used by Christopher Columbus. The exhibits are well done covering five centuries of maritime history and highlighting the role played by Spain, trade routes, and ship building in the Canary Islands. Information is provided in English, German, and Spanish.

Hours: Saturday 10 to 18 hrs Sunday: 10 to 14
Admission 4.50 Euros You can purchase a combined ticket for 7 Euros to visit the 9) Naval Museum and 3) Centro de Interpretación de La Bajada.

10) Plaza de la Alameda  
GPS = 28°41'15.9"N 17°45'40.5"W  
You’ll find cafes, coffee bars, a tapas bar, bakery, bank and grocery store in the plaza.

11) Museo Insular de La Palma  GPS = 28°41'13.5"N 17°45'42.9"W at Plaza de San Francisco  
See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOG4JNa2nZI  
It’s an old Franciscan convent turned into the Island Museum with exhibits on ethnography, natural sciences and fine arts. Of particular note is the orange tree courtyard.

Hours: Oct to Jun 30 Monday to Saturday 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Sunday From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Jul to Sep 30 Monday to Saturday From 10:00 AM to 7:30 PM  
Admission Adult: 4 Euros Retired persons: Free

Castillo de la Virgen GPS = 28°41'21.7"N 17°45'40.2"W  
The Castle of the Virgin of Santa Cruz de la Palma was built in the 17th C to defend against pirate attacks.

Other than the fact that it has an excellent view of Santa Cruz and the harbor, there’s not much incentive for me to visit it.

For me, “the view is not worth the climb”. Walking from 9) Museo Naval Barco de la Virgen up to the Castle, involves a change in elevation from 52 to 131 feet above sea level. That’s like climbing up/down an 8-story building.

I don’t have the energy, nor interest to climb up/down those steep streets.
Shopping
See https://www.hellocanaryislands.com/shopping/la-palma/shopping-santa-cruz-de-la-palma/

The web-link above covers shopping in Santa Cruz with a description of what to buy and where to shop. Print or download the information on shopping from the website to take with you on your tour.

The best information I’ve found on the Canary Islands is at this tourism website: www.HelloCanaryIslands.com

It’s packed with excellent, accurate, and the well-illustrated information you need to plan your visit.

I highly recommend visiting this website.

Travel to/from Le Palma Island

If you are arriving by Cruise Ship or Ferry Boat, your point of entry and departure will be at

A) Santa Cruz Port Gate  GPS = 28°40'48.6"N 17°45'58.4"W

Ferry boats connect all seven of the Canary Islands with routes to Europe and Africa. Rutas is one of the Ferry Boat companies. See their route map below.

If you are traveling by plane, you’ll use B) La Palma Airport  GPS = 28°37'16.9"N 17°45'10.2"W

Le Palma Airport (SPC) is five miles south of Santa Cruz. See http://www.aena.es/en/la-palma-airport/index.html
Touring La Palma Island

This YouTube video is an introduction to La Palma [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdtwUVdDDyU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdtwUVdDDyU)

If you are vacationing on La Palma Island, you’ll have time to rent a car and/or take tours to multiple sites.

If you’re on cruise ship, your time is limited and it’s tempting to spend most of your time in Santa Cruz:

- Santa Cruz has a lot to offer. There are many things to see and do. It’s a clean, colorful, and inviting town. The main pedestrian walking route (shown on my maps) is easy to walk.
- You don’t need a tour or a guide. Proceed at your own pace and stop along the way.
- Also, there’s a 45-minute Tractor Pulled Train tour from the Cruise Port Gate for ~ $ 28 USD.

Why take a tour or rent a car to visit sites outside of Santa Cruz?

- The world famous volcanoes, mountains, forests, parks, etc. are spectacular and have many hiking trails.
- If you rent a car or are on a tour, you can ride around the huge crater on narrow roads high up in the mountains and only have to walk a short distance to observation viewpoints for scenic views.
- You can drive to the Observatories high in the mountains. These observatories are second only to Hawaii for superb Northern Hemisphere astronomy views.
- There are also many excellent beaches around the coast of La Palma Island.

The Most Popular Natural Parks on La Palma Island (Map Below)

- **Bosque de Los Tilos**
  - A primitive forest.
  - It’s a subtropical laurisilva forest that thrives in areas with high humidity and relatively stable, mild temperatures. The broad-leaf trees with evergreen, glossy, and elongated leaves were very common millions of years ago.
  - It’s an inviting, safe jungle, where mosses abound and you can walk through the beautiful forest to see streams, waterfalls, and birds. It was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002.

- **Caldera de Taburiente National Park.**
  - It’s one of the largest volcanic craters in the world with very steep walls and high mountain peaks around the perimeter. There’s a narrow road around much of, but not all of, the crater. You can drive and stop along the road for fantastic views. There are many scenic viewpoints. Mirador de La Cumbrecita is the most popular.
  - There are many trails in the park allowing visitors to see the streams, waterfalls, and Canary Island pines.

- **Parque Natural Cumbre Vieja – the Volcano Trail**
  - This trail, “Ruta de los Volcanes”, goes through 2000-meter-high mountains past all the important dormant, but active volcanic cones. From the trail, you’ll have impressive views of the volcanoes, both sides of the island of La Palma, and neighboring islands.
  - For a 7-hour, 19 km, strenuous, guided hike, take a bus from Santa Cruz or park your car at the meeting point Centro de Visitantes de La Caldera de Taburiente. For details and a description of the guided tour, see [https://www.natour.travel/en/la-palma-hiking-tour-volcano-route](https://www.natour.travel/en/la-palma-hiking-tour-volcano-route)
This map shows driving routes from A Santa Cruz Port to some of the most popular tourist sites on the island.
A) Santa Cruz Port Gate  GPS = 28°40'48.6"N 17°45'58.4"W

B) La Palma Airport         GPS = 28°37'16.9"N 17°45'10.2"W  It’s 5 miles south of Santa Cruz.

C) Caldera de Taburiente National Park
Viewpoint at Mirador de La Cumbrecita  GPS  = 28°41'52.6"N 17°51'23.5"W
Driving = 41 minutes, 30 Km (18.6 miles) from Santa Cruz Port

Enter the GPS coordinates 28°41'52.6"N 17°51'23.5"W into Google maps and press the Enter key. Change the map to satellite view. Mouse click on the little yellow man icon on the bottom right corner of the map and the view below will appear with blue photo spheres.

The down-pointing red arrow shows the parking lot at Mirador de La Cumbrecita Viewpoint. It’s on the perimeter road at the mountain top looking down into one of the largest volcanic craters in the world surrounded by the highest mountain peaks on La Palma. The interior of the crater has huge Canary Island Pine trees and gorgeous scenery with many streams and water falls. There are many hiking trails, but no roads in the park. The blue circles are 360 degree photo spheres at the locations shown on the map. Note the continuous line of blue spheres in the park. This is where visitors walked from the parking lot to take photos. Note the scale on the map of 50 ft. Using this scale, you estimate how far it is to walk from the parking lot to each of the photos.

Click on some, or all of the photo spheres and examine the photos to decide where you want to take your photos.

The Google photo at left was taken at one of the blue photo spheres on this map.
The image below shows the volcanic crater. It’s a 2D Google satellite map. If you need information on how to use Google maps, see my map user guide at [https://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html](https://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html)

“Ruta de los Volcanes” - The Volcano Trail in Parque Natural Cumbre Vieja

See the map of this hiking trail on page 13 of this guide.

**The hiking trail begins at** **D) El Pilar Refuge**  **GPS = 28°36'50.6"N 17°50'12.6"W**

(It's a 36 minute, 20.7 Km (12.9 mile) drive from Santa Cruz Port to El Pilar Refuge)

**The trail ends at Lighthouse Fuencaliente**  **GPS = 28°27'19.3"N 17°50'36.0"W**

For an independent hike, park your car at El Pilar Refuge, the beginning north end of the trail. When you arrive at the south end of the trail in Fuencaliente, take a cab back to your car.

For a 7-hour, 19 km, strenuous, guided hike, take a bus from Santa Cruz or park your car at the meeting point Centro de Visitantes de La Caldera de Taburiente. Your hiking group will be transported to El Pilar Refuge.

The volcanic hiking trail begins and ends in pine tree forests. As you climb to the tops of the volcanoes, you'll be above the trees with unrestricted views of both sides of Le Palma Island. Trails have rocks, loose stones, and sand. Wear substantial boots and consider poles. The scenery is AMAZING!!!
Star Gazing in the Canary Islands

The Canary Islands are recognized internationally for their exceptional conditions to observe the stars. You can see constellations from all of the Canary Islands, but it’s on La Palma and Tenerife where the three IAC international astronomy observatories are set up to study the stars.

Location of the Canary Islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and climate on the islands causes clouds to form between 1,000 and 1,500 meters high. The observatories are on mountain tops above the clouds. The clouds act as a “mirror in the night sky” reflecting lights from the towns back to earth. Hence, the observatories that are above the clouds have a clear night view of the constellations.

Roque de los Muchachos is at one of the highest points on La Palma at 2,396 meters above sea level. It’s one of the best places in the world for star gazing because it has the clearest night skies on the planet. You can also enjoy the night sky from other nearby hills and mountains. (Source Canary Island website)

See https://www.hellocanaryislands.com/star-gazing/la-palma/roque-de-los-muchachos/

(Photograph) Gran Telescopio de Canarias at Roque de los Muchachos Observatory is the largest, and one of the most advanced optical-infrared telescopes in the world. (Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

There are guided tours of the observatory. Be sure to book your tour a day in advance. If you visit at night, you’ll need warm clothing. Also, bring food and drink; there is no cafeteria open to the public.

Book a tour at https://www.adastralapalma.com/activities/tours-roque-de-los-muchachos-observatory/

(E) Viewpoint below of Roque de Los Muchachos at the Observatory  
GPS = 28°45'18.2"N 17°53'06.1"W
Driving = 75 minutes, 45 Km (28 miles) from Santa Cruz Port

This Google satellite map shows the observatories perched high on a cliff.
It’s a 38 minute, 24.9 Km (15.5 mile) drive from Santa Cruz Port Gate to the Visitor Information Center.

You can’t park at the Visitor Center. Use one of the three parking areas along the road. Tour buses park in one lane of the road near the Visitor Information Center.

The map below shows the parking areas. Note the scale of 200 feet. The road goes up/down through the hills.

#1 Parking  GPS = 28°47'29.3"N 17°47'58.4"W

At the west end of this parking area, there’s a small, brown wood building. The 2.8 Km trail begins behind the building as shown by the arrow on the photo at right.

Walk up the wide path. It’s a popular, short hike uphill. Unlike the main hiking trail that takes ~ 5 hours, some people hike part of this trail round trip to the first bridge in an hour.

It’s best to hike the full 2.8 Km for amazing views of the deep gorge, steep canyon walls, beautiful ferns, trees, moss, and the forest.

You’ll walk through a tunnel where a flashlight would be handy, but it’s not essential because it’s a short tunnel.
#2 Parking  GPS = 28°47′28.8″N 17°48′00.2″W
Google map photo at right for these GPS coordinates.
There aren’t many designated parking spaces, so cars park along the road near parking lots.

#3 Parking  GPS = 28°47′24.9″N 17°48′03.2″W
Google map photo at these GPS coordinates at right.

Bus Parking  GPS = 28°47′22.7″N 17°48′06.4″W
Google map photo at right for these GPS coordinates.
Tour buses park on the road close to the Visitor Information Center.

The Visitor Center is at the end of the road. There’s a cafeteria, displays, and videos to introduce you to this amazing and beautiful primitive moss filled forest with a rare, primitive ecosystem.

See this YouTube Video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ulsTmGS4ak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ulsTmGS4ak)

This forest survived millions of years because climate conditions have been favorable for this type of plant life; namely, cool temperatures, humidity, abundant water, rainfall, and shade.

“Los Tilos Forest is a passive, peaceful jungle where mosses, silence and the smell of leaves abound. It’s one of the few strongholds left in the world when it comes to laurisilva; a dense, verdant, primitive forest full of broad-leaved trees that dominated the planet millions of years ago.” (Source: Tourism Website)

Hiking provides an opportunity to see giant ferns, massive laurel trees, a carpet of moss, flowers, streams, waterfalls, dense forest, green mountain tops, and deep gorges where the mountains tower above on either side.

When planning a hike, consider the following:

- It’s a sub-tropical rain forest. Trails can be slippery and dangerous when wet. You’ll be hiking over stones, climbing wooden stairs, walking through unlit dark tunnels, past canals with rushing water, near streams and waterfalls.
  
  Wear suitable boots with good traction and take care that you do not fall. Consider a light raincoat or protection from rain and water sprays from the waterfalls. Also, you need a rain coat to sit down, otherwise, you’ll be sitting on wet surfaces.
  
  If it is raining, some sections of the trail may be to dangerous to hike.

- Carry a flashlight so that you can see to walk through the tunnels. Short tunnels may have enough light to see the rocky trail surface, but you must have a flashlight for the long tunnels.

Plan a hike suitable in length and difficulty for your physical condition and stamina. There are two common hiking trails.

1. The 2.8 Km moderate difficulty hike begins behind the brown wood building next to #1 parking lot.
2. The 5-hour, or longer, hike begins at the Visitor Information Center. It’s popular with physically fit, experienced hikers. The trail can be very steep. You’ll walk through 13 tunnels and pass waterfalls and rushing water in the canals. Parts of the trail may be slippery.
Many websites provide descriptions and photos of tourist sites. Google is unique because it combines excellent maps with high quality “photo spheres” on the map so you can view that location in different directions. The photos below are from Google maps in Los Tilos Forest.
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation. Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website
The only negative feedback I get is, “I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation”. Please tell your friends and post a reference to my guides and website on the blogs. To receive email notification when new guides are available, send your email address to me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

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