

Midway Atoll, North Pacific, USA

A haunting, beautiful atoll at the edge of the world — home to a million albatrosses, Hawaiian monk seals, and the ghosts of one of history's most decisive naval battles. Most cruise lines pass in scenic mode; landing permits are rare and special.

 Scenic cruising (no regular shore access)

 Typical call: scenic pass or anchor day

 USD (no commercial operations ashore)

 English

 World's largest albatross colony

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Scenic cruising only for most ships; historic expedition landings by tender into Sand Island harbor

Don't Miss: Over 1 million Laysan albatrosses nesting on Sand Island (Nov–Jul)

Best For: WWII history, birdwatching, wildlife photography, bucket-list remote destinations

Key Rule: Atoll closed to public tourism; USFWS permit required for any shore visit

 Getting around:  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Laysan Albatross Colony Walk** — Sand Island hosts the world's largest Laysan albatross colony — over a million birds nesting literally alongside the paths.
- **Battle of Midway Memorial Sites** — Visit WWII pillboxes, gun emplacements, the historic hangar with shrapnel holes from the 1942 Japanese air raid, and the Battle of Midway National...
- **Hawaiian Monk Seal & Sea Turtle Watch** — Critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals haul out on Midway's pristine white-sand beaches, and green sea turtles swim in the lagoon shallows.
- **Scenic Deck Cruising** — For ships that pass without landing, onboard naturalists narrate the atoll's wildlife and WWII history as albatrosses soar alongside the ship and the...

BEST WALKS

- **Sand Island Albatross Loop** ~2 miles / Easy / Flat roads & paths — A loop around Sand Island's roads and paths takes you through the albatross colony, past WWII officer housing ruins, the Battle of Midway Memorial, and along the lagoon...

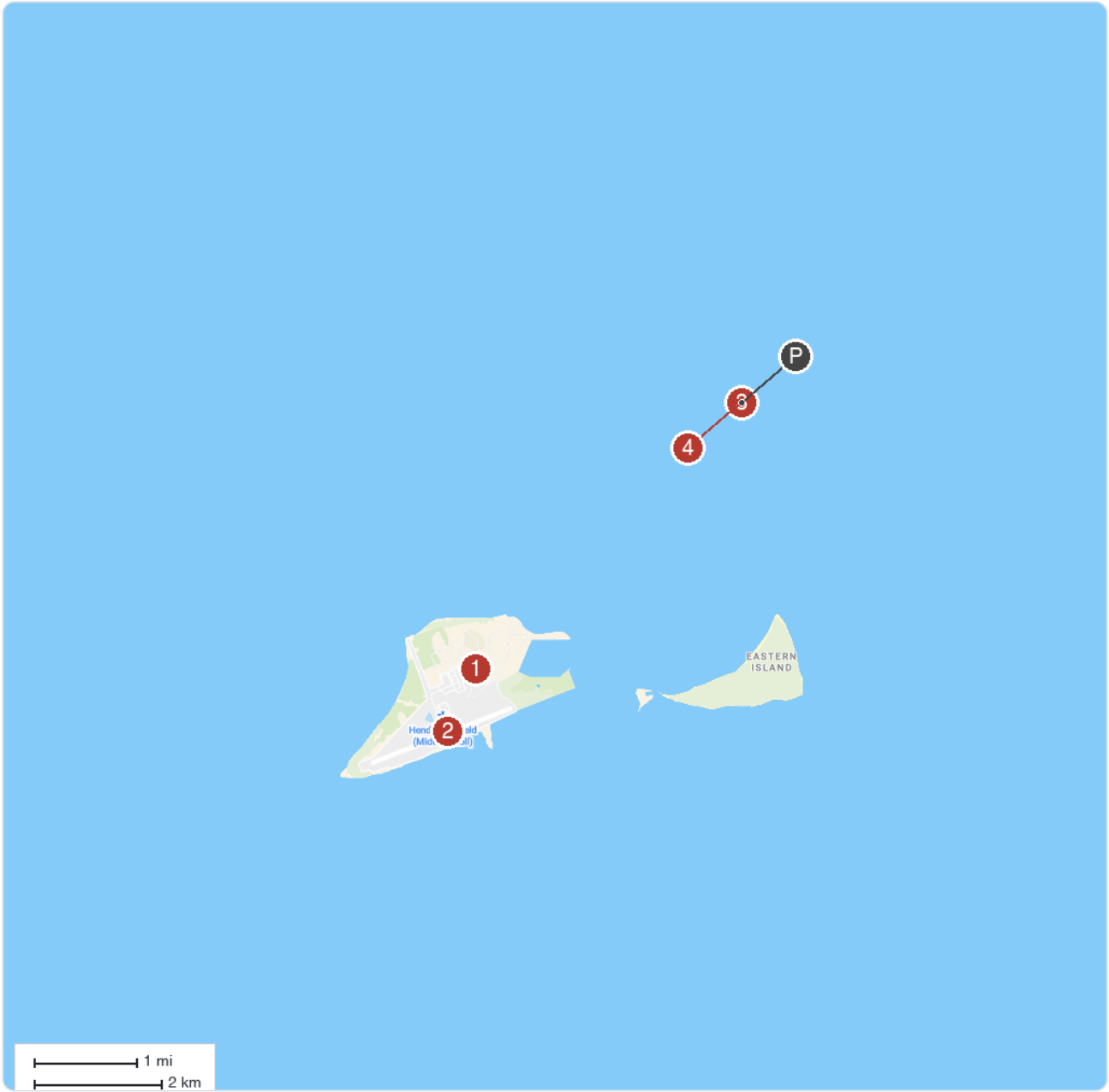
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Expect scenic only. Most cruise calls at Midway are scenic cruising — no tendering ashore. If shore access matters, book an expedition line with a confirmed permit.
- Binoculars are essential. Whether scenic cruising or on the rare shore visit, albatrosses, monk seals, spinner dolphins, and sea turtles are the highlight. Bring zoom lenses too.
- Albatross season peaks Nov–Jul. Laysan albatrosses are present and nesting in the greatest numbers between November and July — timing your transit for this window maximizes wildlife viewing.
- Weather can cancel landings. Reef channel conditions are unpredictable; even permitted expedition landings can be called off by swell or wind. Build in flexibility.
- No services ashore. There are no restaurants, shops, ATMs, or tourist facilities on Midway. All meals and supplies come from your ship. Bring your own reusable water bottle if you land.
- Read up on the battle. The Battle of Midway (June 4–7, 1942) — four Japanese carriers sunk in three days — is one of history's greatest naval turning points. The context makes the scenery profound.

Midway Atoll, North Pacific, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Battle of Midway National Memorial | National Historic Landmark on Sand Island commemorating the pivotal 1942 naval battle that turned the tide of the Pacific War. | 2 Henderson Field | WWII-era airstrip on Sand Island, still maintained as an emergency trans-Pacific landing strip today. |
| 3 Charlie Barracks | Restored 1941 Navy barracks building, one of the atoll's few surviving pre-battle military structures. | 4 Laysan Albatross Colony | Sand Island hosts the world's largest colony of Laysan albatross, with birds nesting in the open right alongside the old airfield roads. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |