

Porto Venere, Liguria, Italy

A UNESCO-listed medieval gem on the Bay of Poets, where striped Gothic churches cling to sea cliffs and Lord Byron once swam — and Cinque Terre is just a ferry hop away.

Tender port

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

Currency: Euro (€)

Language: Italian

UNESCO World Heritage Site

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor in the bay; tenders land on Calata Doria in the village center

Best For: Medieval architecture, coastal scenery, Cinque Terre day trips

Walk to center: Steps off tender — you land right in the village

Don't Miss: Church of San Pietro on the cliff & Byron's Grotto below it

Getting around: **Taxi** €35–45 to La Spezia

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Church of San Pietro & Byron's Grotto** — Walk to the tip of the promontory for Porto Venere's most dramatic sight: the striped black-and-white Gothic church perched above crashing waves.
- **Doria Castle** — Climb the steep lanes above the village to reach this 12th-century Genoese fortress.
- **Ferry to Palmaria Island** — A short boat hop from the harbor takes you to Palmaria, the largest island in the Porto Venere archipelago.
- **Cinque Terre Ferry Hop** — Porto Venere sits at the southern end of the Cinque Terre ferry route.
- **Medieval Village Walk** — Enter through the ancient Porta del Borgo gate and wander the narrow carruggi (alleyways) of Porto Venere's borgo antico.

BEST WALKS

- **Harbor to San Pietro Promontory** 0.6 km · 25–35 min · moderate (steps) — From the tender landing at Calata Doria, stroll south along the waterfront past the colorful Palazzata tower-houses.
- **Village to Doria Castle** 0.8 km uphill · 30–40 min · strenuous — From the harbor, follow signs uphill through the medieval lanes past the Church of San Lorenzo.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear proper shoes. Porto Venere is paved in polished cobblestones and steep stone steps. Flip-flops are a bad idea — trainers or walking shoes are essential.
- Cinque Terre by ferry, not train. There's no train station here. Ferries (seasonal, spring–autumn) run directly from the harbor to all five Cinque Terre villages — scenic and convenient.
- Allow tender time. In peak season tenders can be slow. Factor 20–30 minutes each way and prioritize your shore time accordingly.
- Portoro marble makes a great souvenir. The local black marble veined with gold (found in jewelry and gift shops along Via Capellini) is unique to this coastline.
- Cards work almost everywhere, but carry a few coins (€0.50–€1) for public restrooms near the harbor tourist office.
- Byron's Grotto is swimmable in summer — the rocky ledges around the grotto are a popular local spot. Pack a swimsuit if you're visiting in warm months.

Porto Venere, Liguria, Italy — 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 | Chiesa di San Pietro | Black-and-white striped Genoese Gothic church from the 13th century perched dramatically on the rocky point. | 2 | Castello Doria | Genoese fortress from the 12th-17th centuries overlooking the entire village, with walkways and watchtowers. |
| 3 | Grotta di Byron | Rocky sea cove between the castle and church named for Lord Byron, who reputedly swam across the gulf from here. | P | Cruise port / terminal | |