

Toms Gibraltar Cruise Port Guide

1) Walking tour map from ship to Casemates Square, 2) Maps/description of Main Street shops, Cable Car, St Michael's Cave, Siege Tunnels, Lighthouse, Trafalgar Cemetery, Airport/Border, and 3) a list of 113 stores offering a wide range of local and international products duty free, no VAT.

The “official” name is Gibraltar, British Crown Colony. It is a tiny, 3 mile by 1.5 mile, peninsula on the southern border of Spain facing Africa 14 miles across the strait.



Consider yourself lucky if Gibraltar is one of the ports of call for your ship.

- It is pedestrian friendly. The cruise ship dock is less than a mile from town center.
- Gibraltar has duty free, no VAT, shopping at competitive prices with familiar British shop names, international stores, and local shops. There are over 113 stores offering fine china, jewelry, watches, wine & spirits, designer clothes, shoes, lingerie, perfume, musical instruments, tobacco, electronics (computers, sound systems, cameras, phones), and more!
- The “rock” is world famous. There is a huge Nature Reserve along the face of the mountain offering majestic views, cable car rides, hiking trails, and St Michael's Cave. And you can visit the military defensive tunnels described as “Worthy of the Romans”.
- There are caves, museums, apes, beaches, boat rides for dolphin & whale watching, and more!
- The area is clean and safe. Violence or street crime is rare in Gibraltar. Tourists tend to carry more cash because it is “safe”. Unfortunately, this has attracted some pickpockets. Use common sense.

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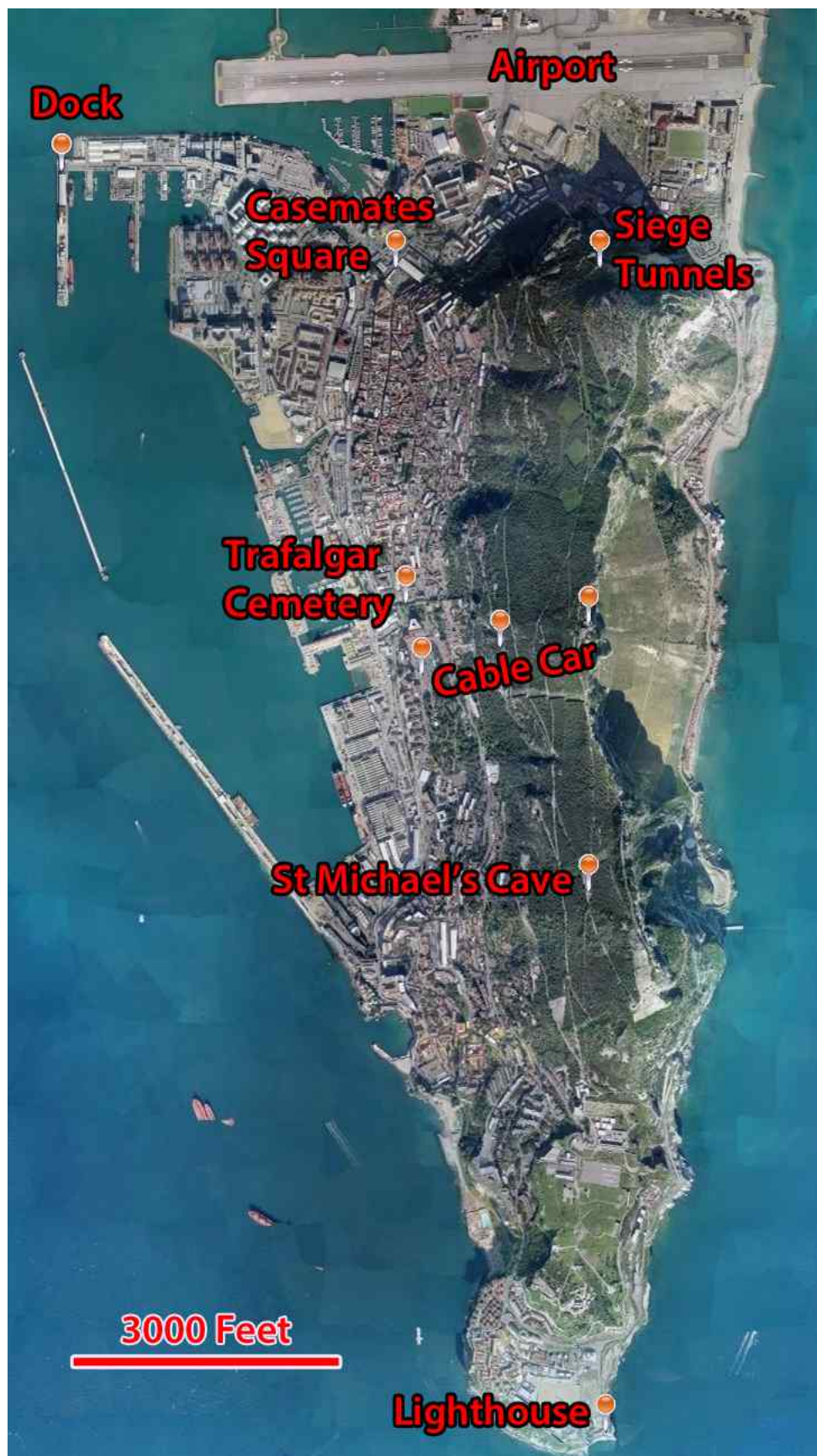
CAVEAT

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

NOTE: I would like to thank Mike Engelberg for his help on this port guide.

Aerial View of Gibraltar – Topography is Striking



Gibraltar peninsula is 3 miles long and 1.5 miles at the widest point with an area is 2.5 square miles.

Getting Around Gibraltar

It is relatively easy to walk on the West side of Gibraltar; the land is flat and roads are straight. As you approach the East, you encounter steep grades. The roads are narrow, laid out as switchbacks to “climb” the Rock. There are also hiking trails along the mountain.

Points of Interest on Map (left)

Dock = Cruise ship terminal

The **Airport** is in Gibraltar a short distance South of Spain

Casemates Square is 1.3 Km (0.75 miles) from the Dock. It's at the North end of Main Street. This is where you start your walking tour to the South. It is an attractive pedestrian street lined with many stores including those you would find in London.

Siege Tunnels are high up on the Rock. There are miles of tunnels, many batteries, and different entrances. The location shown is for the Upper Galleries entrance to the Great Siege Tunnels.

Trafalgar Cemetery is 1.3 Km from Casemates Square. There are vans and taxis at the cemetery offering private tours of Gibraltar.

Cable car base station is 0.3 Km from Trafalgar Cemetery.

Cable car middle station is at the **Ape's Den**. The cable car does NOT stop at the middle station in April through September.

Cable car top = fantastic views

St Michael's Cave = beautiful


Lighthouse is at Europa Point

Getting from the Cruise Terminal to Casemates Square (map below)



It is 1.3 Km (0.75 mile) from the cruise ship terminal to the entrance arch to Casemates Square. You'll find shuttle vans next to the cruise terminal. Euros are accepted. I paid ~ 3 Euros/person one way.

Some people walk along the side of the road. The road is flat and you can't get lost. Walk East through three roundabouts and you will see a large arch with a road above you. Walk through the arch.

Use the coordinates of 36.14809,-5.36577 for the cruise ship terminal and 36.145244,-5.353019 for the entrance arch to Casemates Square in Google or Bing Maps. Bing maps use this icon  to mark the exact location.

Casemates Square (below)

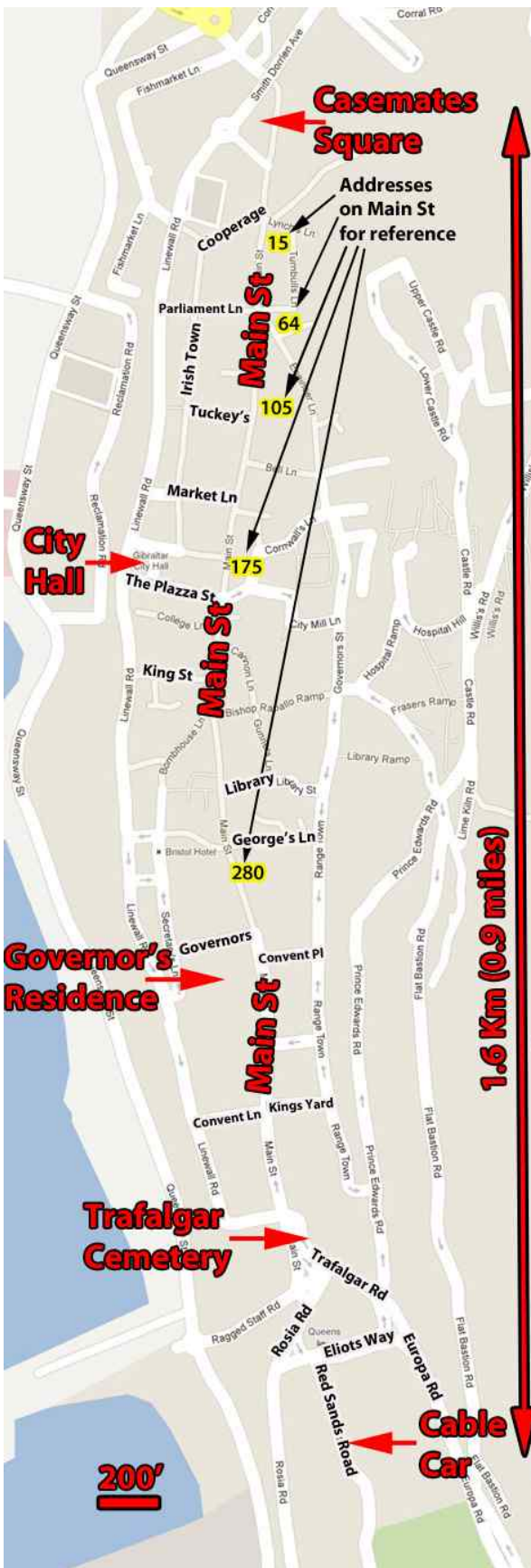


The photo (left) shows the roundabout, the bus and cab drop-off. Walk past the Public Market to the entrance arch (under the road) to Casemates Square. Main Street begins at the Square. Be sure to walk South on Main St. into town.

The square has a Tourist Office, several cafes, wine & liquor stores, and shops (photo below)



Main Street Map (below)



It is 1.6 Km (0.9 mi) from Casemates Square to the Cable Car Base Station on Red Sands Road (map at left). It's an easy walk with no steep grades nor steps.

Main Street is a wonderful area to explore. The street is lined with shops reminiscent of London. You'll find familiar British shop names, international stores, and a variety of local shops. It's duty free shopping, no VAT, at competitive prices.

Products include fine china, jewelry, watches, wine & spirits, designer clothes, shoes, lingerie, perfume, tobacco, electronics (computers, sound systems, cameras, phones), and more! **You need to know the value of products to spot the bargains.**

There are 113 stores on Main Street between Casemates Square and the Governor's Residence. I've shown **some addresses on Main Street, in yellow boxes, on the map at left** for reference to help you find a specific store from the list of 113 stores with addresses on the next page.

Main Street (Photo below)



List of 113 Stores Along Main Street & Casemates Square

There are 113 shops on Main Street and in Casemates Square. The map on the previous page shows some street addresses to help you find a specific store. **Shops in red color are recommended by some cruise lines.**

Accessories&Shoes		Sterling Stores	259 Main St.	Montecristo	1 Main St.
Funky Fish	254 Main St.	Kingsway	140 Main St.	PB Jewellers	101/103 Main St.
Tie Rack	222 Main St.	Carlos	87-89 Main St.	Regency	94 Main St.
Accessorize	240 Main St.	Liberty Electronics	63-65 Main St.	Rock Gems	7B Casemates Sq.
Trends	325A Main St.	Fine China & Gifts		Sakata	92 Main St.
Pisa Shoes	110-112 Main St.	CollectorsChoice	265 Main St.	Sapphiro	158 Main St.
Antiques		GibraltarCrystal	Casemates Sq.	SMSeruya	165 Main St.
Benzaquen Antiques	295 Main St.	Jasons	280 Main St.	Shangri-La	54 Main St.
Sanguinetti	288 Main St.	Nagrani's	149 Main St.	Silver Planet	246 Main St.
Clothing		Omni Classic	132-136 Main St.	Silver Shop	275 Main St.
Cosmopolitan Bazaar	73 Main St.	Omni Crystal	182 Main St.	Lingerie	
Caruana	181 Main St.	Omni Jewel	18 Main St.	La Senza	45 Main St.
Flemings	285 Main St.	Scala	10 Casemates Sq.	Mobile Phones	
Garcia	190/192 Main St.	Fortunes	22B Casemates Sq.	A & J Phones	329 Main St.
Manolo	12 Casemates Sq.	Gib Arts & Crafts	15B1 Casemates Sq.	Alpha Electronics	321 Main St.
Marble Arc	10 Main St.	Sq.		Cohen's Camera Centre	207 Main St.
Marks & Spencer	215B Main St.	Gift Centre	247 Main St.	Music & Multimedia	
Mascot	31 Main St.	Kwality	293C Main St.	Music Corner2	114/116 Main St.
Red	255/257 Main St.	Melbros	290 Main St.	Euphoria	164 Main St.
Fantasy	2 Casemates Sq.	The Nature Shop	16B Casemates Sq.	Perfume	
Wallis	22 Main St.	Pashmina	296 Main St.	Hotu	100 Main St.
Evans	22 Main St.	Princess Silks	212 Main St.	Pepe Indio	119 Main St.
Dorothy Perkins	28 Main St.	Tarachand	171/173 Main St.	S.M. Serruya	165 Main St.
Topshop	177 Main St.	Taraco	249 Main St.	Star Of India	108 Main St.
Topman	177 Main St.	Housewares & Furnishings		Sports	
Jade	166 Main St.	Vienna	236 Main St.	Sport City	78A Main St.
Isolabella	211 Main St.	Jewelers		Sports & Leisure	19B Casemates Sq.
Napolean	44 Main St.	Antonioll	159 Main St.	Sq.	
Tommy Hilfiger	237 Main St.	Antonio Jewellers	47-49 Main St.	Super Sport	178 Main St.
Trends	327ABC Main St.	Beau Jangles	123 Main St.	Tobacconists	
Trends	270 Main St.	Blue Spirit Jewellery	221 Main St.	La Casadel Habano	37 Main St.
TopShop	3 Casemates Sq.	Cellini Goldsmiths	313 Main St.	Monalisa	130 Main St.
Rosabella	133 Main St.	The Gold Shop	52 Main St.	Seruya	165 Main St.
Hearts Boutique	250 Main St.	Crown Jewels	105 Main St.	Toys	
Florida	261 Main St.	Don Lal	23 Main St.	UsForToys	238 Main St.
Computers, Hardware & Accessories		Garbo Jewellery	17 Main St.	Wines & Spirits	
Digital Corner	138 Main St.	Gibrocks	295 Main St.	Anglo Hispano	5-7 Main St.
Electronics & Cameras		GoldfingerJewellers	80/82 Main St.	Estanco	8 Main St.
Marquez	72 Main St.	The Jewel Box	148 Main St.	Europa Wine & Sprits	155 Main St.
Alpha Electronics	321 Main St.	Jewel Stars	154 Main St.	Lewis Stagnetto	41 Main St.
Chellsons	78/B Main St.	Jewellery Centre	1/7A Casemates Sq.		
Khubchands	55/57 Main St.	Jewels & Gems	122 Main St.		
Kaycee	29 Main St.	John J. Ocaña	256 Main St.		
ParisBazaar	150 Main St.	Just Diamonds	15 Main St.		
SonicElectronic	34 Main St.	MT Jewellers	6D Casemates Sq.		
		Glamour	30/38 Main St.		

Currency - Gibraltar has its own currency, the Gibraltar Pound (GIB)

Euros are widely accepted; you can get Euros or Gibraltar Pounds at some ATMs. I carry small Euro bills and coins for cash purchases because merchants can't change large Euro bills. When businesses accept Euros, they adjust the price higher because they are using an unfavorable Euro exchange rate. That's OK for small purchases. Wherever I can use a credit card, I charge the purchase in Gibraltar Pounds to get the best price, and use my Capital One card to get the most favorable exchange rate to US\$. **The Gibraltar Pound is NOT legal tender in the UK. I don't convert any money to Gibraltar Pounds because I can't use it outside Gibraltar.**

What to see along Main Street

Here's a slick website with 360° virtual tours along Main Street. From the convenience of your home computer, you can view 21 different virtual tours along Main Street in the Gibraltar shopping area!!!

This is a must visit website <http://www.gibraltarvirtualtours.com/streets.html>



When you open this website, you will see the street map (above). Move the street map to view the different dots along Main Street. Click on each dot for a virtual tour. What the heck, look at all of them to become familiar with what you'll see when you walk Main Street from Casemates Square to the Governor's Residence. The street view virtual tour of the Governor's residence is the last dot on Main Street (on the right in this map above as shown by the black arrow). Note the tourist information centers on this map at Casemates Square and near Cathedral Square at Secretary's Lane.

Governor's Residence

From Governor's Residence to the South (to the right in the map above) you'll see many government buildings. Use these coordinates to locate the Governor's residence in Google or Bing Maps 36.137115,-5.353526



Photo of Governor's Residence and Convent Guard Room Cannon (above)

To see spectacular views of the rooms inside the Governor's Residence, go to this website <http://www.gibtour.com/convent.html#tour>

Trafalgar Cemetery

Continue walking ~ 750 feet South on Main Street from the Governor's Residence. You'll see the **Southport Gates** across the road with arches for vehicles and pedestrians. Trafalgar Cemetery is just South of the arch.

Use these coordinates to locate the arch to Trafalgar Cemetery in Google or Bing Maps 36.134908,-5.352714



Trafalgar Cemetery is on the other side of Southport Gates (photo above)

Be sure to visit the cemetery. It has interesting grave stones and attractive vegetation. **There's a taxi stand at the cemetery (photo right).** Drivers offer tours of Gibraltar. After you walk Main Street, I would suggest this location if you want a cab to visit other locations or to go back to the ship.



Trafalgar Cemetery to Cable Car Base Station (map below)



It's about 1000 feet from Trafalgar Cemetery to the Cable Car Base Station. The cable car ride is 12.75 Euros/person round trip. See <http://www.gibraltarinfo.gi/gibraltar-tickets.aspx> for pricing. You can buy tickets on-line, good for a year, and you can buy "combined" tickets for multiple tourist sites.

Cable Cars operate between 9:30 AM and 7:15 PM 7 days a week.

NOTE: There can be long lines and wait time in the morning. I suggest "Plan B" as an alternate if you encounter long lines. Consider hiring an "official" tourist taxi or van licensed to stop at the Cable Car top station. You can hire these "tourist" vehicles at Trafalgar Cemetery. The tours will stop at St. Michael's Cave and the Ape's Den on your way back to town.

The guide on our ship's tour knew there were long lines at the Cable Car, so she changed the tour sequence to avoid the delay and we still got to ride the cable car.

The cable car does NOT stop at the middle station (Ape's Den) between April and September.

Cable Car Base Station and Cable Car Middle Station at Ape's Den (photo below)



Use these coordinates to locate the cable car on Google or Bing Maps

Cable Car Base Station = 36.132864,-5.352096 Cable Car at Ape's Den = 36.133488,-5.349046

The Cable Base Station is on Red Sands Road in a large parking lot. The only cable car stop between the base and top of the Rock is at the Ape's Den on Old Queen's Road as shown in the photo. There is no “den” or “cave” at the Ape's Den. It's just an area where a pack of apes live near the cable car station.

CAUTION: Apes are wild animals and will bite when threatened. **DO NOT** attempt to touch them. Keep your distance, especially if there are young ones around. **NEVER** carry food, the apes will smell food a mile off. **DO NOT** carry plastic bags because Apes associate plastic bags with food and will go after the bags.



The Ape's Den is **NOT** the only place to see the apes. You will see apes at the Top Cable Car Station and at St. Michael's Cave. Don't worry about seeing the Ape's Den.

The **map at left** shows roads between the Cable Car Base and Middle Station. Some people walk these roads. The recommended route is to walk **DOWN HILL** from the cable car top station to St Michael's Cave and then to the Ape's Den.

I have included the “official” tourist map for Gibraltar in **this port guide on page 15**. The map shows walking trails. I've also included a **reference to a website on page 14** which lists the **Six Best hiking Trails in Gibraltar**.

Bear in mind, there are many things to see and do in Gibraltar. If walking is your priority, you'll have many opportunities. But to see many of the sites, you will probably find that taxis or tours are more efficient.

I'm not a hiker. I take the shuttle van (~ 3 Euros) between the ship and Casemates Square, walk Main Street, ride the Cable Car, and take tours everywhere else.

Cable Car Top Station = GREAT VIEWS



Use these coordinates to locate the Cable Car Top Station on Google or Bing Maps 36.134095,-5.345908



The Cable Car Top Station provides great views! It's 412 meters (1236 feet) above sea level. There is a large circular observation tower outside and a glass enclosed snack bar. You can enjoy refreshments while observing the panoramic views. See the “rock” photo at left.

It's understandable why the cable car is a top tourist attraction, but the winds were brisk during our visit.

If concerned about heights, the suggestion is to look up while on the cable car. If you want to avoid the Cable Car, check travel options at the tourist office. Some vehicles e. g., “official” touring cabs are permitted to drive to the Top Cable Car Station.

The Tourist Office states, “The Top Station is the best place to meet our most famous residents, the Barbary apes” (photo left).

St Michael's Cave

St Michael's Cave is 3 Km (3000 feet) due South of the Cable Car Top Station as shown on page 2 of this guide. Use these coordinates to locate St Michael's Cave on Google or Bing Maps 36.126257,-5.345559

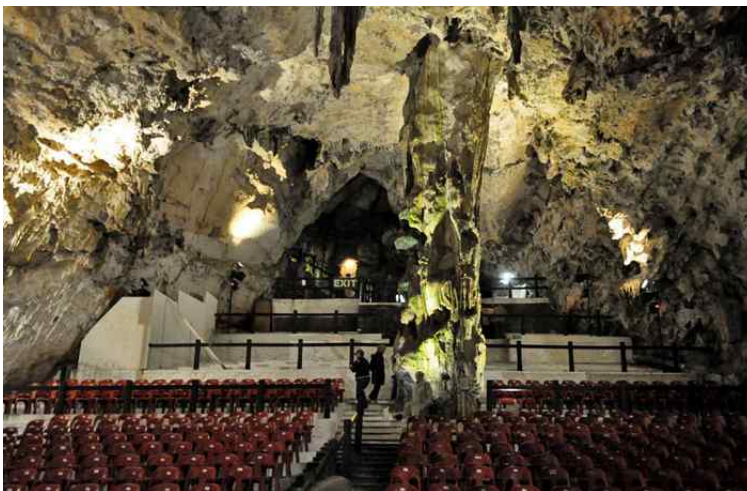
The cave is my favorite place to visit in Gibraltar. It is uniquely beautiful and memorable. You will need a camera that's capable of excellent pictures in low light. I used a Nikon D5000 set to ISO 3200 max. The Nikon does an impressive job of focusing and faithfully capturing colors without noise. Although I loved the D5000, I replaced it with a D7000. The D7000 can be used at ISO 6400 to produce “no excuse” photos in churches, museums, and the ship's theater (to photograph entertainers). The new D5100 is also capable of ISO 6400.

Photos of St Michael's Cave (below) – The stalactites are amazing!



Concerts are performed in the cathedral-like upper cave to take advantage of the excellent acoustics (photo below - left)

Enjoy the caves, but don't stay too long unless you wish to become a permanent resident (photo below - right)



You'll see many Barbary apes outside the caves. Keep your camera handy for “action” shots as the apes move around, climb on vehicles, and “perform” for tourists. The apes like to pull out the windshield wipers on cars and swing from them.

Trinity Lighthouse & Ibrahim-al-Ibrahim Mosque at Europa Point (photo below)



The lighthouse is on the Southern tip of Gibraltar. Use these coordinates to locate the Lighthouse on Google or Bing Maps 36.14809,-5.36577

Ibrahim-al-Ibrahim Mosque is near the lighthouse. It was a gift from King Fahd Al-Saud to commemorate the role of the Moors in the history of Gibraltar and their contributions to the city.

Photo of the mosque (below – left).

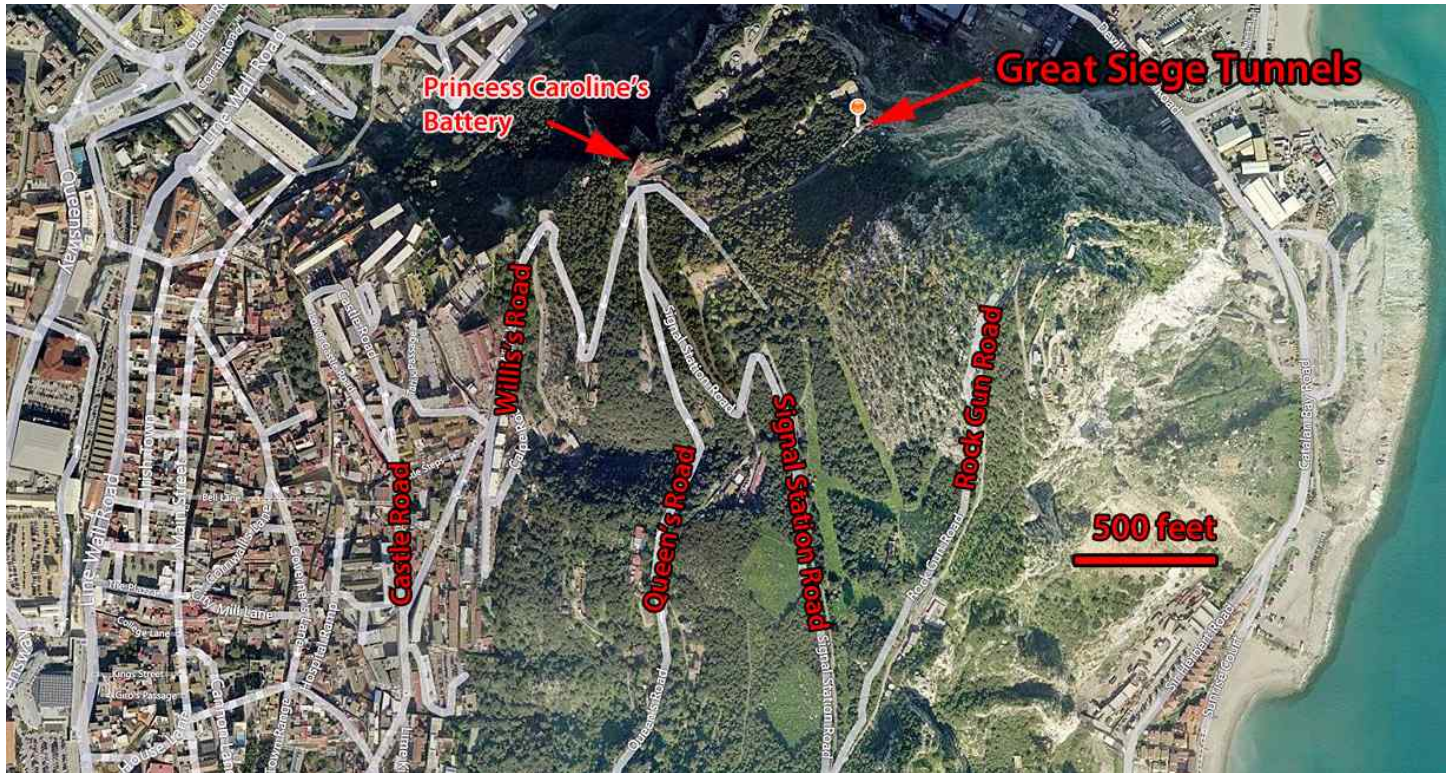
Photo of Trinity lighthouse (below – right.)

Tour buses make a 15-minute photo stop at the lighthouse. If lighting and cloud cover are right, you can get some excellent photos of the Rock. The buildings are attractive but there is nothing to do at this site. There were fences around the vacant lots and we didn't have time to walk to the Mosque. Our guide told us this area is scheduled for development as a tourist attraction.



Great Siege Tunnels

Use these coordinates to locate the Great Siege Tunnels on Google or Bing Maps 36.145197,-5.345357



The tunnels are located in the “notch” in the rock facing North toward Spain with holes in the rock for guns. As shown in the photo above, take Wills's Rd., Queen's Rd., or Signal Station Rd. North to Princess Caroline's Battery. The photo below shows the road to the Great Siege Tunnels “Upper Galleries Entrance”.

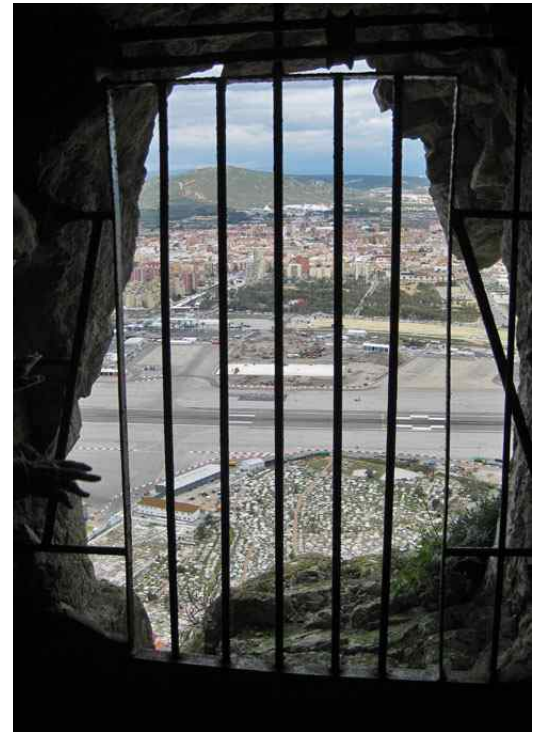


If you are a hiker, you may want to walk all along the Nature Reserve at the top of the mountain and include the Siege Tunnels in your journey. That's too strenuous for me. I took a ship's excursion van tour.

From 1779 to 1783, France and Spain attempted to capture the “Rock” from the British. The successful defensive strategy was to place cannon in the North, notch-shaped face of the rock. It worked. After the war, the defeated commander of French and Spanish troops visited the tunnel network and described it as “Worthy of the Romans”.

In 1783 the tunnel was 370 feet long with 4 guns. But work did not stop. Two more tunnels were added with large “halls” and 7 guns. During the Second World War, 23 miles of new tunnels were added. Plus there are a host of “Batteries” with anti-aircraft and guns that can fire 80 lb shells 13 miles at ships. The bottom line is this is an amazing defensive tunnel and gun network.

There are multiple entrances to the tunnels; some are accessible only by special arrangement with guides. But the most common entrance for the 1779-1783 Great Siege Tunnels is at the “Upper Galleries Entrance” as shown in the photos on the previous page.



Tip: You can get an excellent exterior photos of holes in the rock for the cannons from the street level North of the rock. Wish I had thought of that, all my photos are from inside the Siege Tunnels looking out.

Photo of cannon in tunnel (upper left)

Photo looking North to Spain (upper right)

Tunnel (photo at left). This is the kind of crappy photo I used to take in low light conditions BMN (Before My Nikon). I don't have to deal with crappy photos since I bought a Nikon D5000. The photos are even better with my D7000. Guess I'll have to revisit every vacation spot to re-take photos in low light conditions.

The Airport



On one of our ship's excursion tours, we drove around the city to the border with Spain. This involved crossing the active runway for the airport. When planes are about to take off or land, a gate with flashing lights crosses the road and sidewalks. Vehicles and pedestrians stop and a moment later, a plane crosses the road. I have never seen anything like this.

Photo of traffic and pedestrians crossing the airport runway (left).

The Border with Spain

Our tour guide was emphatic, “Don't cross the border unless you have a lot of time”. He explained that Gibraltar and Spain have been battling over this border for hundreds of years. Even today, border guards give tourists a “rough time” with lengthy delays to cross the border.



Photo of border crossing to Spain (right).

Planning your visit to Gibraltar

Gibraltar offers a variety of things to see and do unmatched by most cruise ports. Shopping is excellent and it's duty free with no VAT. Sightseeing includes panoramic views from atop the rock or the cable car and there are caves, museums, world famous defensive tunnels, Barbary apes, etc. There is also a very large Nature Reserve with hiking trails. And there are beaches, boat rides for watching dolphins & whales, and more.

The Gibraltar Travel Guide website is an excellent resource, see <http://www.gibraltar.com/>

From the main menu, click on “Sightseeing” for a list of 21 different things to see and do in Gibraltar. You'll find a good description of each site with details on pricing, open times, travel tips, and information on local buses. One of the suggested activities is a dolphin & whale watching boat tour. That tour is on my “bucket list”. We've spotted dolphins around Gibraltar. Some boat tours are so confident you will at least see a dolphin, they'll refund your money if you don't.

Hiking is a popular method of self-guided touring in Gibraltar. There is a huge Nature Reserve along the face of the rock with trails and roads. I'm not a hiker, but I assume you'll have some great views hiking along the rock. Some of the ship's excursions include a 4 hour hike. Typically, the strategy is to take the cable car to the top and then walk down the mountain, stopping at various sites.

Gibraltar Tourist Information Offices Locations:

The Cruise Ship Terminal, Casemates Square, Gibraltar Coach Terminus, Airport Arrivals Hall and the Border

Taxis are located at:

The gate at the Cruise Ship Terminal, outside Casemates Square, City Hall on Main St., and Trafalgar Cemetery.

This website lists the “Six Best Hiking Trails in Gibraltar,” see

<http://www.wikiloc.com/trails/hiking/gibraltar>

You can download this as a high resolution pdf map FREE from <http://www.gibraltarinfo.gi/gibraltar-maps.aspx>



The large green area is the Nature Reserve along the face of the Rock. The map shows suggested walking routes from the Cable Car Top Station to St Michael's Cave and the Ape's Den or to the Great Siege Tunnels. If I planned to hike this area, I would make my own maps using the map coordinates in this guide and take it to the Tourist Information center in Casemates Square to see if they have a better, detailed map for walking trails.

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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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

If there is any question about use of my guides, contact me at TomsPortGuides@Gmail.com

Tom Sheridan