

Baltra Island, Galápagos, Ecuador

The gateway to the Galápagos, Baltra Island is where most cruises begin and end — a flat, arid outpost with a storied WWII history, a solar-powered 'green' airport, and land iguanas wandering the tarmac.

Tender / Zodiac transfer

Embark / Debark port

US Dollar (USD)

Spanish

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender / zodiac transfer — ships anchor in Aeolian Bay or Itabaca Channel

Also Known As: South Seymour Island

Best For: Galápagos cruise embarkation, land iguana spotting near the airport

Don't Miss: North Seymour Island excursion — blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds, sea lions

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ \$25–\$30/taxi (up to 4 passengers) · 🚗 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- North Seymour Island Walk** — A short panga ride brings you to North Seymour, just north of Baltra and one of the Galápagos' best seabird colonies.
- Mosquera Islet Sea Lion Colony** — This tiny sandy islet between Baltra and North Seymour hosts a large sea lion colony.
- Snorkeling the Itabaca Channel** — The nutrient-rich waters of the Itabaca Channel attract marine iguanas feeding on algae, green sea turtles, rays, and the occasional Galápagos shark.
- WWII Military History of Baltra** — During WWII, the US Army Air Force used Baltra as a strategic Pacific base to protect the Panama Canal.
- Daphne Major Panga Ride** — The twin tuff cones of Daphne Major and Minor rise dramatically from the sea near Baltra.

BEST WALKS

- Dock to Airport Road** 1.5 km | Flat | 20 min — A simple walk from the Muelle de Baltra dock along the paved road toward Seymour Airport.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	83°	77°	13d	
Jun	82°	74°	2d	
Aug	79°	70°	0d	
Sep	79°	70°	0d	
Oct	79°	70°	0d	

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:58AM–6:03PM · Jun 5:59AM–6:04PM · Aug 6:02AM–6:08PM · Sep 5:53AM–5:59PM · Oct 5:43AM–5:50PM

US Dollar (USD)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Watch for land iguanas near the tarmac. Baltra's native land iguanas died out by the mid-1950s and were reintroduced from North Seymour in the 1990s. They roam freely near the airport road.
- Tender conditions can be choppy. The Itabaca Channel and open anchorages can have swells. Keep a bag for tender and zodiac transfers and stow cameras safely.
- Ecuador uses US dollars. Bring small bills — there are very limited services on Baltra. Stock up on cash in Quito or Guayaquil before your cruise.
- Galápagos biosecurity rules are strict. Inspectors check bags for prohibited food, seeds, and soil at the airport. Do not attempt to bring fresh produce onto or off the islands.
- UV is intense year-round. The Galápagos sits on the equator. Wear SPF 50+, a hat, and UV-protective clothing — shade is scarce at Baltra's dock and on most visitor sites.
- Seymour Airport is the world's first 'green' airport, running on solar and wind power. There's a small café and gift shop airside — the only real services on the island.

Baltra Island, Galápagos, Ecuador — Port Map

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



P Cruise port / terminal