

Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Colombia's principal Pacific port opened to cruises only in 2023. The rewards — pristine Pacific beaches, humpback whales, and dense mangrove swamps — all lie a speedboat ride away from the pier.

Anchor/Tender port

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

Colombian Peso (COP)

Spanish

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Anchor & tender; no dedicated cruise terminal

Best For: Pacific beaches, whale watching (Jul–Oct), mangroves

Don't Miss: Speedboat to Juanchaco & Ladrilleros beaches

Safety Note: Stay on guided tours — city centre is not safe for independent walking

Getting around: Taxi 8,000–15,000 COP (~\$2–4 USD) · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Juanchaco & Ladrilleros Beaches** — A one-hour speedboat ride delivers you to wild Pacific beaches backed by jungle.
 - Humpback Whale Watching** — From July to October (peak Aug–Sep), humpback whales migrate along the Colombian Pacific coast.
 - Mangrove Swamp Boat Tour** — Glide through Buenaventura's intricate mangrove channels with a local guide.
- San Cipriano Nature Reserve** — Reached via a memorable ride on a hand-powered rail cart (the famous 'brujita'), San Cipriano features crystal-clear rivers, jungle swimming holes...
 - Afro-Colombian Culture & Seafood** — The Tourist Pier area offers a gentle introduction to the region's Afro-Colombian heritage — folklore music, marimba de chonta performances, and...

BEST WALKS

- Muelle Turístico Promenade** 0.3 km · Easy · Stay on the pier — A short walk along the floating Tourist Pier offers bay views, craft vendors, and a seafood kiosk or two.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		83°	75°	29d
Jun		82°	74°	30d
Aug		82°	74°	31d
Sep		82°	74°	30d
Oct		81°	74°	31d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:02AM–6:14PM · Jun 5:58AM–6:19PM · Aug 6:05AM–6:19PM · Sep 5:59AM–6:07PM · Oct 5:53AM–5:54PM

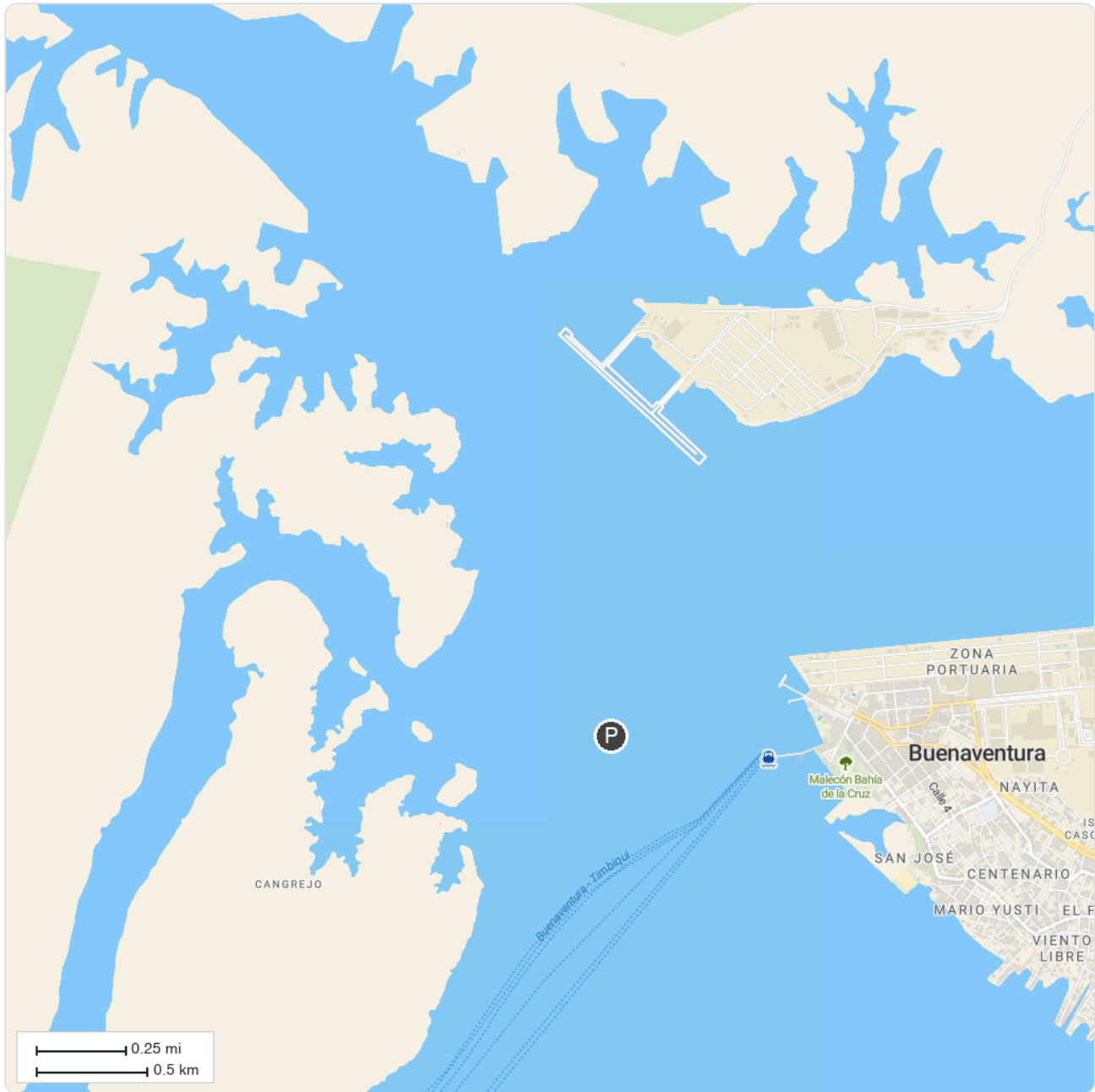
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Stay on organised tours. Buenaventura city centre carries a 'do not travel' advisory from the UK, Canada, and other governments due to gang activity. All sightseeing outside the pier zone should be on a booked excursion.
- Whale season is July–October. If your voyage calls here in that window, whale watching is the must-do excursion — book before you board.
- Bring COP for small purchases. Colombian Peso is the currency. US dollars work at some tour operators but you'll get better rates using local currency for pier-side food and crafts.
- Buenaventura is one of the wettest places on Earth — annual rainfall can exceed 7,000 mm. Pack a waterproof layer regardless of the forecast; the beaches at Juanchaco may have better conditions than the city.
- Speedboat to beaches takes ~1 hour each way. Factor the transit time into your shore-day planning — you need at least 8 hours ashore to make a beach trip worthwhile.
- Photography at the pier. Keep cameras discreet near the commercial port infrastructure; photographing cargo facilities and military vessels is not permitted.

Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca, Colombia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



P Cruise port / terminal