

Daphne Island, Galápagos, Ecuador

A near-perfect volcanic cone rising from the Pacific, Daphne Major is one of the Galápagos' most iconic scientific sites — where Darwin's finches were observed evolving in real time. Expedition ships circle its sheer cliffs by zodiac for seabird spectacle and marine wildlife.

 Zodiac/panga circumnavigation (no landing)

 Typical visit: 1-2 hrs

 USD (all-inclusive expedition)

 Spanish / English naturalist guides

 Wildlife & nature focus

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Anchor offshore; panga/zodiac ride around the island — no pier, no tourist landings

Best For: Seabird watching (blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, frigatebirds), Darwin's finches, volcanic geology

 Getting around:

Walk to center: N/A — public landing is not permitted; viewing from water only

Don't Miss: Scanning the cliffs for blue-footed booby colonies and red-billed tropicbirds in flight

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Panga Circumnavigation** — Your main activity: a zodiac ride around Daphne Major's sheer tuff-cone cliffs.
 - Darwin's Finch Spotting** — Daphne Major is the site of the Grant study — 40+ years of real-time natural selection research on medium ground finches and cactus finches.
- Snorkeling Around Daphne Minor** — When conditions permit, zodiacs anchor near the smaller Daphne Minor islet for snorkeling.
 - Seabird Cliff-Nesting Observation** — Daphne Major hosts one of the densest seabird colonies in the central Galápagos.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	83°	77°	13d
Jun	82°	74°	2d
Aug	79°	71°	0d
Sep	79°	70°	0d
Oct	79°	70°	0d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

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

Representative sunrise/sunset — 2025, 15th of each month; local civil time including DST (Pacific/Galapagos). Source: Astral; not a forecast or climate average.

 USD (all-inclusive expedition)

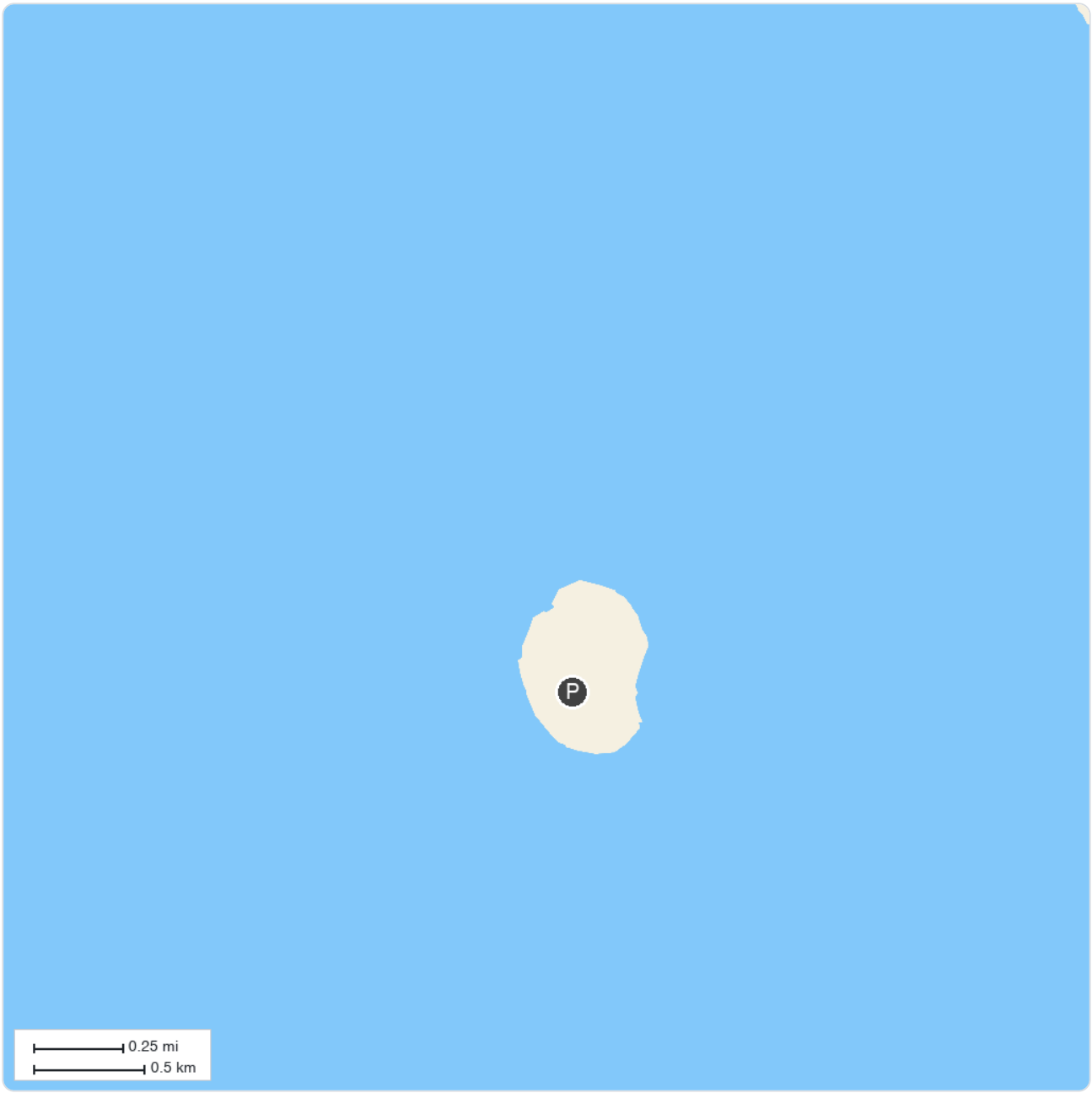
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring binoculars. Since you stay in the zodiac, high-magnification binoculars are essential to see Darwin's finches and nesting boobies on the cliffs.
- Use a long zoom lens. A 200mm–400mm telephoto will capture the birds far better than a phone camera from the panga.
- Take sea-sickness precautions. Waters around Daphne Major can be choppy; take anti-nausea medication before boarding the zodiac if you're susceptible.
- Apply sunscreen before boarding. No sunscreen or food may be applied or eaten near the island to protect the ecosystem. Apply fully on the ship.
- Drones are illegal in the Galápagos National Park. Do not bring or fly one — fines are severe and confiscation is immediate.
- Leave nothing, take nothing. Even accidentally dropping organic matter near the island can introduce invasive species. Keep all food and litter on the zodiac.

Daphne 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