

El Hierro, Canary Islands, Spain

The smallest and most untamed of the Canary Islands, El Hierro trades beach resorts for ancient laurel forests, surreal wind-twisted junipers, and crystalline volcanic rock pools. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve running mostly on wind and water power, it rewards curious cruisers willing to venture beyond the pier.

Pier (Puerto de la Estaca)

Typical call: 7-10 hrs

Currency: Euro

Language: Spanish

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier at Puerto de la Estaca (northeast coast)
Best For: Nature lovers, hikers, divers, off-the-beaten-path explorers

Walk to Center: Valverde is 9 km and 600 m uphill — transport required
Don't Miss: El Sabinar twisted junipers & Charco Azul natural pool

Getting around: **Taxi** €9–12 · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- El Sabinar — The Twisted Junipers** — Walk among ancient juniper trees sculpted by trade winds into horizontal, surreal shapes.
- Charco Azul & La Maceta Natural Pools** — Turquoise volcanic rock pools on the northwest coast — Charco Azul sits inside a partially open sea cave, while La Maceta is fitted with ladders and...
- Guinea Ecomuseum & Giant Lizard Center** — A preserved stone village showing Bimbaches indigenous and early settler life, combined with a breeding center for the El Hierro Giant Lizard — a...
- Mirador de la Peña** — César Manrique's signature viewpoint perched 700 m above the sweeping El Golfo valley.
- Scuba Diving — Mar de las Calmas Reserve** — The southern coast's protected Sea of Calms is one of Europe's premier dive sites — volcanic pinnacles, rays, and exceptional visibility in flat...

BEST WALKS

- La Llanía Laurel Forest Loop** 1.5-2 hrs • Easy • Free — A circular trail through ancient mossy laurisilva (laurel forest) — misty, fairy-tale quiet, and dramatically different from the arid coast below.
- Playa de Tacorón Coastal Walk** 1 hr • Easy • Free — A short walk along the southern volcanic coast to a sheltered snorkeling cove with red rock formations and glassy water.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		70°	63°	5d
Jun		75°	68°	3d
Aug		78°	72°	1d
Sep		79°	72°	3d
Oct		78°	70°	7d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 7:46AM–8:36PM · Jun 7:15AM–9:08PM · Aug 7:42AM–8:49PM · Sep 7:57AM–8:15PM · Oct 8:12AM–7:42PM

Currency: Euro

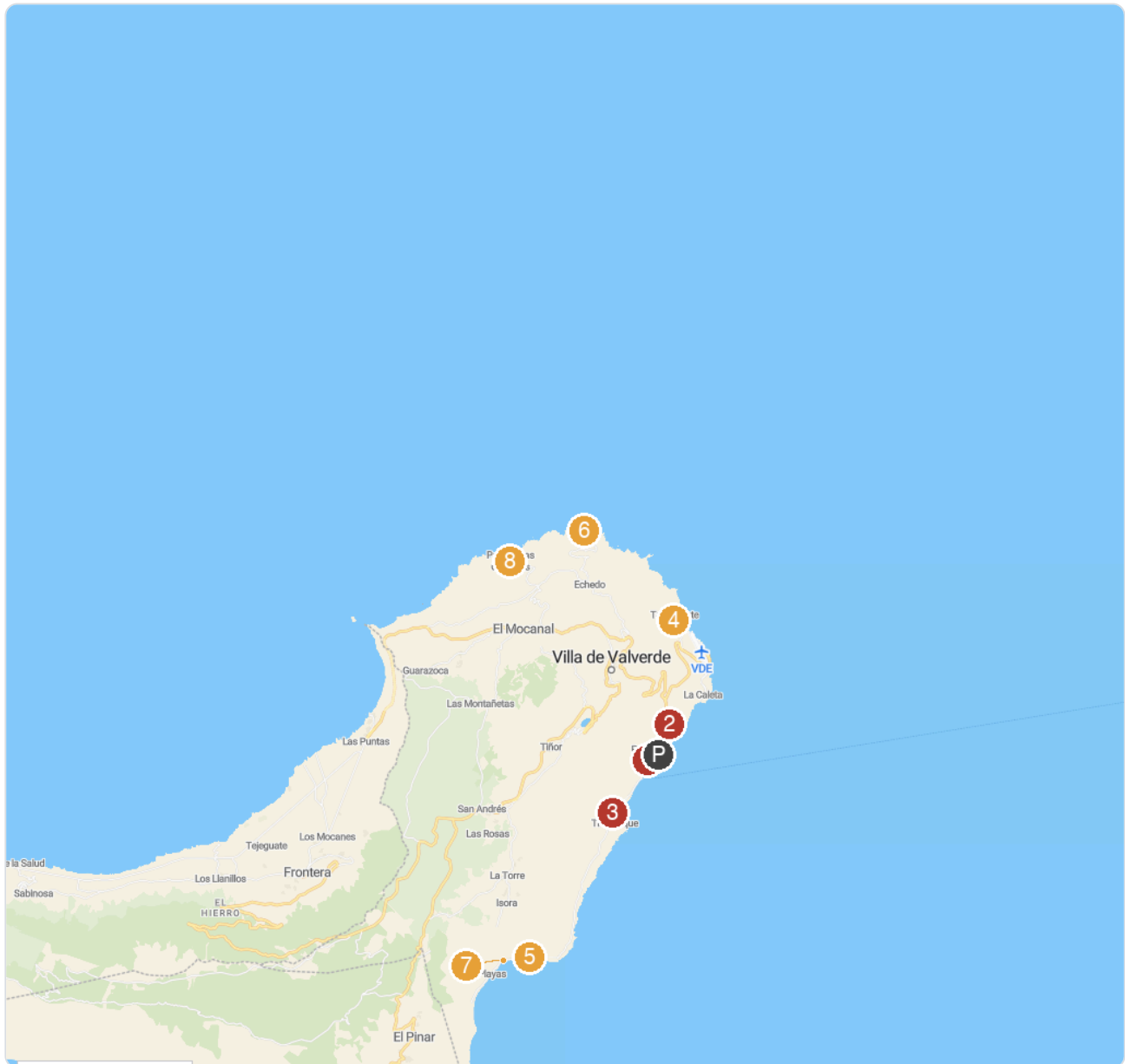
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book a rental car months ahead. The island has very few vehicles for hire — CICAR and PlusCar at the pier sell out far in advance. Without a car, your options shrink dramatically.
- Dress in layers. The port can be warm and sunny while the forest interior sits in cold mist. Bring a windbreaker and sturdy shoes even on sunny days.
- Check tides before Charco Azul. The cave pool is stunning in calm conditions but can be dangerous when swells are high. La Maceta is the safer family alternative.
- Try the local specialties. Quesadilla Herreña (star-shaped anise cheesecake), grilled Queso Herreño with mojo and honey, and Frontera wine from steep volcanic terraces are all unique to El Hierro.
- Sunday closures. El Hierro is traditional — if your ship calls on Sunday, expect many Valverde shops and restaurants to be shut. Natural sites and outdoor attractions stay open.
- A renewables pioneer. El Hierro runs on nearly 100% clean energy via a unique wind-hydro system. The island has no traffic lights and actively limits mass tourism — a rare find in the Canaries.

El Hierro, Canary Islands, Spain — 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 Playa de La Estaca | Small, dark sand beach near El Hierro's main port. | 2 Monumento a la Sabina | Monument to El Hierro's iconic wind-sculpted juniper trees. |
| 3 Playa de Timijiraque | Secluded, dark sand beach with calm waters for swimming. | 4 Mirador El Tamaduste | Viewpoint overlooking El Tamaduste's natural pools and coastline. |
| 5 Mirador Roque de La Bonanza - El Hierro | Iconic viewpoint of the dramatic Roque de La Bonanza rock. | 6 El Charco Manso | Series of beautiful natural volcanic rock swimming pools. |
| 7 Área recreativa de Las Playas | Coastal recreational area with picnic spots and ocean views. | 8 Pozo de Las Calcosas | Traditional village with natural pools and thatched-roof houses. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |