

Española Island, Galápagos, Ecuador

One of the Galápagos's oldest and most isolated islands, Española delivers wildlife encounters so close you'll forget you're not dreaming — nesting albatross with 8-foot wingspans, sea lion colonies on powder-white sand, and a blowhole that fires ocean spray 75 feet into the air.

 Tender only (panga landing)  Typical call: 5–7 hrs  USD (no commerce on island)  Spanish / English guides

 Wildlife-first destination

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender (panga) only — wet landing at Gardner Bay, dry landing at Punta Suarez

Best For: Wildlife photography, snorkeling, pristine beaches, birdwatching

Walk to Center: No town — two visitor sites accessed by guided trail (1–2 miles each)

Don't Miss: Waved Albatross courtship dance (Apr–Dec) and El Soplador blowhole

 Getting around:  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Punta Suarez Wildlife Trail** — The island's showpiece — a 1.5–2 mile loop over volcanic boulder fields past nesting Waved Albatross (Apr–Dec)...
- **Gardner Bay Beach** — One of the Galápagos's most stunning beaches — a mile of powdery white coral sand shared with hundreds of lounging sea...
- **Snorkeling at Gardner & Osborn Islets** — The waters just off Española teem with life: playful sea lion pups, eagle rays, manta rays, Galápagos sharks, white-tip...
- **El Soplador Blowhole** — At the end of the Punta Suarez trail, a natural fissure in the volcanic cliffs channels incoming waves into a geyser...

BEST WALKS

- **Punta Suarez Loop Trail** 1.5–2 miles | 2–3 hrs | Moderate — Rocky volcanic loop past booby nesting grounds, albatross colonies (Apr–Dec), Christmas iguanas, and ending at the El Soplador blowhole.
- **Gardner Bay Beach Walk** ~1 mile | 1 hr | Easy — Leisurely stroll along one of the Galápagos's finest white-sand beaches, weaving between sea lion colonies and marine iguanas.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Pack two pairs of footwear. Closed-toe hiking shoes for Punta Suarez's sharp lava; water sandals or shoes for the wet Gardner Bay landing.
- Sun protection is non-negotiable. Española sits on the equator with zero shade. Wide-brim hat, UV shirt, reef-safe sunscreen (required — protect the reef).
- Rough seas ahead. The passage to Española is among the roughest in the archipelago. Take anti-nausea medication before departure if you're at all susceptible.