

Floreana Island, Galápagos, Ecuador

One of the Galápagos' oldest and most enigmatic islands, Floreana blends extraordinary wildlife — flamingos, sea turtles, reef sharks — with a stranger-than-fiction 1930s mystery that still isn't solved. Almost exclusively visited by small expedition ships.

Tender only (panga/zodiac)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

USD (cash rarely needed ashore)

Spanish

Galápagos National Park — guide required

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Anchor & tender (panga) — no deep-water pier; wet landings at most sites

Best For: Wildlife, snorkeling, history, the famous Post Office Bay barrel tradition

Walk to center: Puerto Velasco Ibarra is tiny — side to side in 10 min; other sites require ship repositioning

Don't Miss: Post Office Bay barrel, Cormorant Point flamingo lagoon, Devil's Crown snorkel

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ ~\$1–2 per person · 🚗 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Post Office Bay & the Barrel Tradition** — Since 1793, sailors have left unstamped postcards in a barrel at Post Office Bay, trusting fellow travelers to hand-deliver them.
- Cormorant Point: Flamingos & Flour Beach** — A flat 2 km loop trail passes a saltwater lagoon populated by Greater Flamingos, then ends at Flour Beach — ultra-fine white sand where green sea...
- Devil's Crown Snorkeling** — Corona del Diablo — a partially submerged eroded volcanic cone — is among the best snorkel sites in the entire Galápagos.
- Highlands: Asilo de la Paz & Giant Tortoises** — A bumpy 8 km chiva (open-air truck) ride into Floreana's lush highlands (Asilo de la Paz) brings you to the island's only freshwater spring, the...
- Champion Islet Snorkeling** — A short panga ride from Floreana brings you to Champion Islet, another excellent snorkel and dive site with sea lions, penguins, marine iguanas, and...

BEST WALKS

- Puerto Velasco Ibarra Village Stroll** Easy · ~10 min side to side · flat — The tiny settlement of Puerto Velasco Ibarra — Floreana's only village of ~170 residents — is walkable end to end in minutes.
- Cormorant Point Nature Trail** Easy · 2 km loop · flat volcanic path — Guided loop from the wet landing beach past the flamingo lagoon to Flour Beach.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		77°	71°	17d
Jun		73°	68°	11d
Aug		69°	65°	8d
Sep		69°	64°	6d
Oct		69°	64°	7d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:59AM–6:03PM · Jun 6:01AM–6:03PM · Aug 6:04AM–6:08PM · Sep 5:53AM–5:59PM · Oct 5:43AM–5:51PM

USD (cash rarely needed ashore)

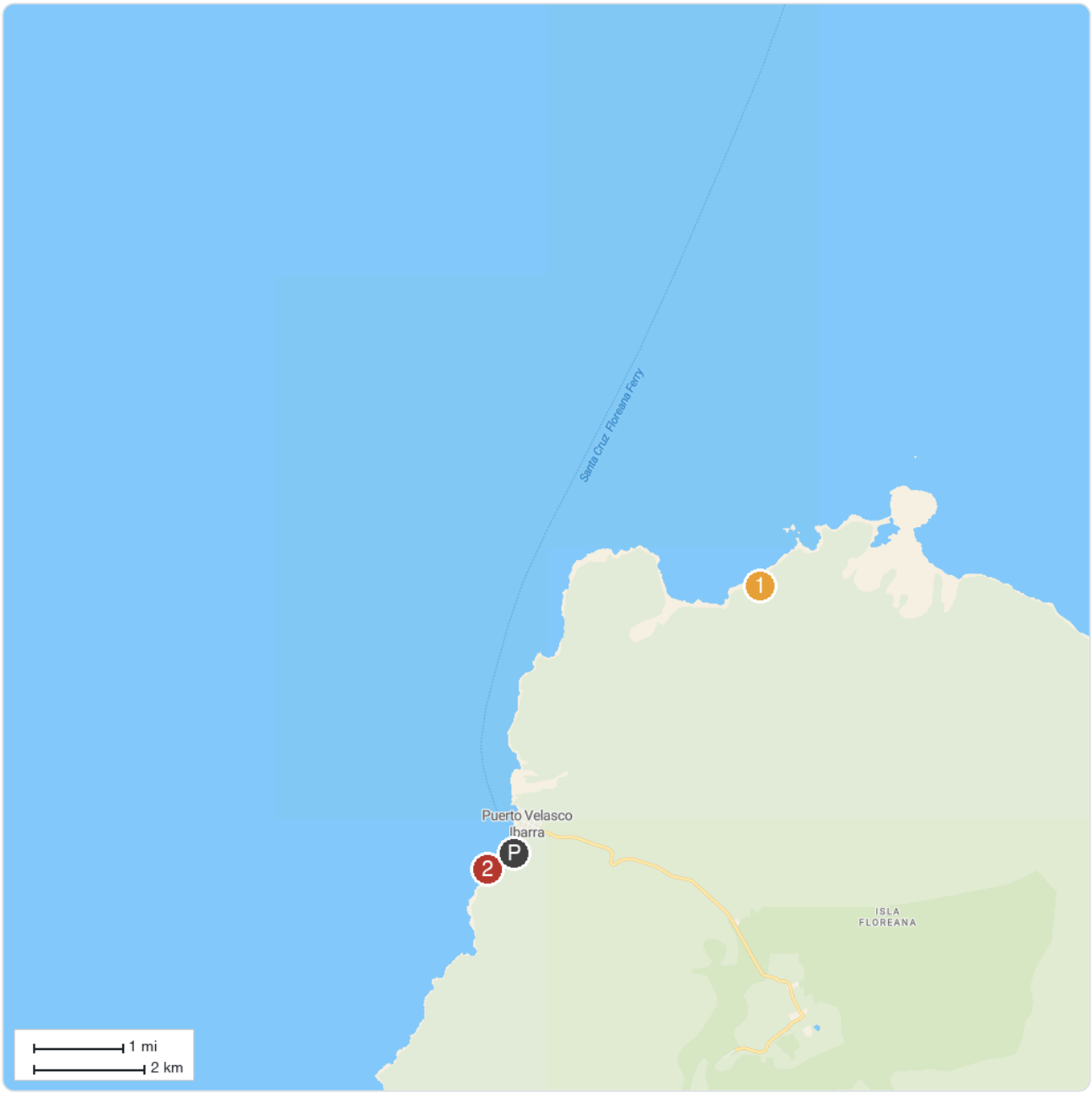
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Write postcards before you land. Bring several unstamped cards to Post Office Bay — no pen or cards are sold on the island. Also jot down addresses of cards you pick up to hand-deliver at home.
- Pack two types of footwear. Water shoes for wet landings (Post Office Bay, Cormorant Point), and closed-toe hiking shoes or Keens for lava trails. Flip-flops won't cut it on volcanic rock.
- Do the Galápagos shuffle at Flour Beach. Drag your feet along the sandy shallows rather than stepping — stingrays rest in the sand and will move away if warned, but will sting if stepped on.
- No food ashore — zero exceptions. Galápagos National Park strictly prohibits bringing any food or open organic material onto the islands to prevent invasive species. Keep snacks on the ship.
- Use biodegradable sunscreen only. Chemical sunscreens are harmful to the reef ecosystems at Devil's Crown and Champion Islet. The equatorial sun is intense — reapply often.
- Watch the documentary before you go. The Galápagos Affair: Satan Came to Eden (2013) covers the strange 1930s settler mystery that haunts Floreana — it makes the island far more fascinating on arrival.

Floreana Island, Galápagos, Ecuador — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1** Post Office Bay
Historic barrel for sending and receiving postcards.
- P** Cruise port / terminal

- 2** La Loberia Isla Floreana
Beach with a large, accessible sea lion colony.