

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

The world's great wildlife encounter — fearless tortoises, penguins, and sea lions in a living laboratory that Darwin never forgot. Every landing here is unlike anywhere else on earth.

Tender only (zodiac pangas)

Expedition cruise — full days ashore

US Dollar (USD)

Spanish

Expedition ships only (max 100 pax)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: All islands tender via zodiac pangas — wet or dry landings depending on site

Best For: Wildlife encounters, snorkeling, volcano hikes, photography

Park Fee: \$200 USD per international adult (paid on arrival; verify if pre-paid by cruise line)

Don't Miss: Giant tortoises in Santa Cruz Highlands, snorkeling at Bartolomé's Pinnacle Rock

Getting around: **Taxi** \$2–\$4 (San Cristobal town); \$25/vehicle (Itabaca Channel to Puerto Ayora) · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Santa Cruz Highlands — Giant Tortoises in the Wild** — A 25-minute taxi ride from Puerto Ayora pier brings you to ranches like El Chato and Rancho Primicias, where Galapagos giant tortoises roam free...
- Bartolomé — Pinnacle Rock Summit & Penguin Snorkel** — The most photographed view in the Galapagos.
- Sierra Negra Volcano Hike (Isabela)** — One of the world's largest active volcanic calderas, Sierra Negra is a strenuous 16 km round-trip hike from the Isabela highlands.
- Las Tintoreras — Penguins & Sleeping Sharks (Isabela)** — A short panga ride from Puerto Villamil to rocky lava islets where white-tip reef sharks rest motionless in a narrow crevice.
- Post Office Bay & Floreana Highlands** — Visit the barrel established by British whalers in 1793 — still an active hand-delivery post office where passengers drop unstamped postcards to be...

BEST WALKS

- Puerto Ayora Waterfront to Charles Darwin Research Station** 1.5 km | Flat | Free | ~20 min one way — From the main passenger pier, walk east along the harbour waterfront past the fish market (watch pelicans and sea lions compete for scraps), then continue along Avenida...
- San Cristobal Malecon to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas)** 2.5 km | Easy–Moderate | Free | ~40 min one way — From the passenger pier, walk north along the paved coastal malecon past sea-lion-occupied benches and the Interpretation Center to the trail up Cerro Tijeretas.
- Isabela Pier to Concha de Perla & Town** 1.5 km | Flat | Free | ~20 min — Step off the panga at El Embarcadero and walk immediately to the Concha de Perla boardwalk — a short path through mangroves (with sea lions sleeping across it) leading...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	83°	76°	19d
Jun	78°	72°	18d
Aug	75°	69°	13d
Sep	75°	69°	12d
Oct	75°	69°	13d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

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

US Dollar (USD)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring clean USD cash. Ecuador uses the US dollar. ATMs exist in Santa Cruz and San Cristobal, but bring cash from the mainland — machines frequently run out. Torn or heavily marked bills are routinely refused.
- Pack two types of footwear. Water sandals with grip (Chacos, Keens) for wet landings and snorkeling; sturdy trail shoes for jagged volcanic lava. Flip-flops alone will not work on basalt rock.
- Reef-safe sunscreen only. Standard chemical sunscreens are harmful to marine life and frowned upon by park authorities. Use mineral (zinc oxide) reef-safe SPF. The equatorial sun is intense — cover up with UV-rated rash guards.
- Keep 2 metres from all wildlife. Park rules require a minimum 2 m (6 ft) distance from every animal — even if a sea lion pup swims right up to you. No touching, no feeding. Violations carry steep fines and can get your guide's licence revoked.
- Verify your park fees before you fly. The Galapagos National Park entrance fee is \$200 USD per adult (raised from \$100 in August 2024). Many expedition cruises pre-pay this — confirm with your operator before departure to avoid surprises at Baltra or San Cristobal airport.
- Watch your step — everywhere. Marine iguanas, sea lions, and blue-footed boobies nest and rest on docks, boardwalks, and town streets. They will not move for you. Walk around them — never over or between them.

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador — 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 Charles Darwin Research Station | Scientific hub for Galapagos conservation. | 2 Fausto Llerena breeding center | Fausto Llerena: Giant tortoise breeding center on Santa Cruz. |
| 3 La Ratonera | Secluded beach near Puerto Ayora, great for swimming. | 4 El Mirador de Los Tuneles | Viewpoint over lava tunnels and marine life. |
| 5 Tortuga Bay Beach | Tortuga Bay: Pristine white sand beach, home to marine iguanas. | P Cruise port / terminal | |