

Golfo Dulce, Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

One of only four tropical fjords on Earth, Golfo Dulce wraps calm, whale-nursery waters in some of the planet's densest rainforest. Expedition ships anchor offshore; mornings here belong to scarlet macaws, howler monkeys, and the occasional tapir track.

Tender port (anchor out)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

USD widely accepted / Costa Rican Colón

Spanish (English common in tourism)

Eco & expedition destination

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor; Zodiacs or pangas ferry passengers ashore to Golfito or Puerto Jiménez

Best For: Wildlife, birdwatching, rainforest hikes, Corcovado access, whale-watching

Walk to center: 5–10 min flat from Golfito pier; Puerto Jiménez main street is directly at the dock

Don't Miss: Wild scarlet macaws in flight, a fresh ceviche at the waterfront, and the drive or boat to Corcovado

Getting around: Taxi \$5–\$15

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Corcovado National Park Hike** — National Geographic's 'most biologically intense place on Earth.' A certified guide is required by law.
- Whale & Dolphin Watching** — Golfo Dulce is one of few places where both Northern and Southern Hemisphere humpback whales breed.
- Casa Orquídeas Botanical Garden** — A private garden on the gulf's inner shoreline accessible only by boat.
- Mangrove Kayaking (Coto or Esquinas River)** — Paddle through ancient mangrove tunnels that shelter caimans, herons, kingfishers, and boa constrictors.
- Playa Cacao Beach Day** — A 10-minute water taxi from Golfito, Playa Cacao offers calm, warm dark-sand swimming, a couple of rustic beach bars, and far fewer crowds than any...

BEST WALKS

- Golfito Waterfront & American Zone** ~1.5 km · 25 min · Flat · Free — Walk north from the marina along the waterfront to the 'Zona Americana,' a cluster of raised wooden plantation houses built by United Fruit Company in the 1930s.
- Puerto Jiménez Town Stroll** ~1 km · 15 min · Flat · Free — From the dock, walk along Calle Principal past tour operators, Café Monka for coffee, and the Marisquería Corcovado on the waterfront for fresh ceviche.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		84°	74°	24d
Jun		82°	73°	29d
Aug		81°	73°	30d
Sep		82°	72°	29d
Oct		81°	72°	30d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:23AM–5:41PM · Jun 5:14AM–5:51PM · Aug 5:25AM–5:48PM · Sep 5:22AM–5:32PM · Oct 5:20AM–5:15PM

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear the right shoes. Tender landings and most walks require closed-toe shoes or sturdy sandals. Flip-flops won't cut it for any nature excursion.
- Bring a dry bag. Zodiac and panga tenders can be splashy, and afternoon rain is routine year-round. Protect your phone and camera.
- Bug spray is non-negotiable. Sandflies and mosquitoes are intense near mangroves and the forest edge. Use DEET or picaridin and bring reef-safe sunscreen.
- USD works everywhere. Costa Rican Colón is the local currency but US dollars are universally accepted. Keep small bills (\$1–\$10) for water taxis and fruit stands.
- Rain happens any time. Even in the dry season (Dec–Apr) a downpour can appear suddenly. Pack a lightweight poncho or rain jacket.
- Mornings are best for wildlife. Scarlet macaws, monkeys, and toucans are most active in the first two hours after sunrise. Schedule shore time early if possible.

Golfo Dulce, Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



P Cruise port / terminal