

Puerto Villamil, Isabela Island, Ecuador

The largest and wildest of the Galapagos Islands, Isabela is a place where white-sand streets meet volcanic giants — and Galapagos penguins swim past your Zodiac.

Tender (no pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

USD

Spanish

Wildlife-rich

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor in the bay; Zodiacs ferry passengers to Muelle El Embarcadero pier

Best For: Wildlife encounters, snorkeling, giant tortoises, volcanic hiking, and desert-island beaches

Walk to center: 10–15 min walk (0.8 mi / 1.2 km) from the pier along boardwalk and sandy road; pickup trucks available (\$2–3)

Don't Miss: Concha de Perla snorkeling lagoon (free, 2 min from pier) and Arnaldo Tupiza Tortoise Breeding Center

Getting around: Taxi \$1–\$2 per person · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Concha de Perla Snorkeling** — A crystal-clear natural mangrove lagoon just two minutes from the pier — free to enter and arguably the best self-guided snorkel in the Galapagos.
- Arnaldo Tupiza Giant Tortoise Breeding Center** — Walk the flamingo estuary boardwalk to this conservation facility where you can see giant tortoises at every life stage — from palm-sized hatchlings...
- Los Túneles Snorkeling (The Tunnels)** — Ancient lava flows have formed underwater arches and bridges teeming with white-tip reef sharks, giant manta rays, seahorses, and sea turtles.
- Las Tintoreras Islet** — A short 10-minute boat ride from the pier leads to this rocky islet where white-tip reef sharks rest in a narrow lava crevice.
- Sierra Negra Volcano Hike** — A challenging 10-mile round-trip hike to one of the world's largest volcanic calderas.

BEST WALKS

- Pier to Town & Flamingo Estuary** 2.5 miles round-trip · 1-1.5 hrs · Easy · Free — Walk from the pier past Concha de Perla snorkeling lagoon (worth the 2-minute detour), through town along Avenida Antonio Gil, then follow the wooden boardwalk west...
- Bike to the Wall of Tears** 7 miles round-trip · 2-3 hrs · Easy cycling · Bike rental ~\$15 — Rent a bicycle in town and follow the sandy road west past Playa Grande beach, through dry forest and mangroves, watching for giant tortoises crossing the path.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		82°	74°	20d
Jun		77°	71°	18d
Aug		74°	68°	14d
Sep		73°	68°	13d
Oct		74°	68°	13d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:01AM–6:06PM · Jun 6:02AM–6:06PM · Aug 6:06AM–6:10PM · Sep 5:56AM–6:01PM · Oct 5:45AM–5:53PM

USD

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is king: The Galapagos runs on USD and the island's single ATM frequently runs empty or loses power. Bring plenty of small bills (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20) from your ship or the mainland.
- Keep your distance: Ecuador law requires 2 meters (6 feet) from all wildlife at all times. Do not touch or feed any animals — this applies to sea lions on the pier too.
- Equatorial sun is fierce: You are literally on the equator. Wear a rash guard and wide-brimmed hat. Use reef-safe, biodegradable sunscreen only — standard sunscreen is prohibited and may be confiscated.
- Free world-class snorkeling: Concha de Perla lagoon is 2 minutes from the pier, free to enter, and routinely delivers sea lions, turtles, and Galapagos penguins. Bring your own mask and fins from the ship.
- Pack the right shoes: Bring water sandals with straps for the pier landing, and closed-toe hiking boots if you plan to hike near the volcano or Wall of Tears (sharp lava rock).
- Insects on the trail: Aggressive horseflies (tábanos) are a nuisance in mangrove and forest areas, especially en route to the Wall of Tears. Bring DEET repellent for any biking or hiking excursion.

Puerto Villamil, Isabela Island, 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 | Wall of Tears | Historic wall built by prisoners, a somber reminder of the past. | 2 | Poza de los Flamingos | A natural pond to observe vibrant pink flamingos. |
| 3 | Malecon Puerto Villamil | Scenic boardwalk along the coast, perfect for a stroll. | 4 | Pearl Shell | Crystal-clear lagoon for snorkeling with sea lions and fish. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | | | | |