

Isla de la Plata, Manabí, Ecuador

Floating 25 miles off Ecuador's coast inside Machalilla National Park, Isla de la Plata is where blue-footed boobies nest inches from your feet and humpback whales breach beside the tender on the way in. Same wildlife magic as the Galápagos — one fraction of the distance.

 Tender / Zodiac landing (wet feet expected)

 Typical call: 5–8 hrs

 USD (no shops on island)

 Spanish

 Machalilla National Park

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender or Zodiac — wet landing at Bahía Drake. No pier exists.

Walk to Center: No town. Trails start at the beach: 2.5–5.5 km guided loops.

Best For: Wildlife photography, whale watching (Jun–Sep), snorkeling with sea turtles

Don't Miss: Blue-footed booby mating dance and giant manta ray aggregation (Aug–Sep)

 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Blue-Footed Booby Trail** — Walk the signature loop where boobies nest right at your feet.
 - Humpback Whale Watching** — June through September, humpback whales migrate from Antarctica to calve in Ecuador's warm coastal waters.
- Snorkeling with Sea Turtles & Manta Rays** — The waters around Bahía Drake and reef sites like Palo Santo Reef host resident green sea turtles year-round.
 - Full-Day Isla de la Plata Combo** — The classic day excursion from Puerto López: speedboat crossing, guided booby trail, snorkeling stop, whale watching en route, and a box lunch on the...

BEST WALKS

- Sendero Punta Escalera (Short Loop)** 2.5 km · ~1.5 hrs · Moderate — The shorter trail circuit from Bahía Drake up the steep staircase to the clifftop plateau.
- Sendero Machete (Long Loop)** 4.3 km · ~2.5–3 hrs · Moderate–Strenuous — The longer trail circuit (the island's most-walked route), extending across the plateau to frigatebird colonies and panoramic clifftop ocean views.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		82°	71°	29d
Jun		80°	70°	24d
Aug		80°	69°	21d
Sep		81°	70°	22d
Oct		81°	70°	22d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:13AM–6:19PM · Jun 6:13AM–6:21PM · Aug 6:17AM–6:24PM · Sep 6:08AM–6:14PM · Oct 5:59AM–6:05PM

 USD (no shops on island)

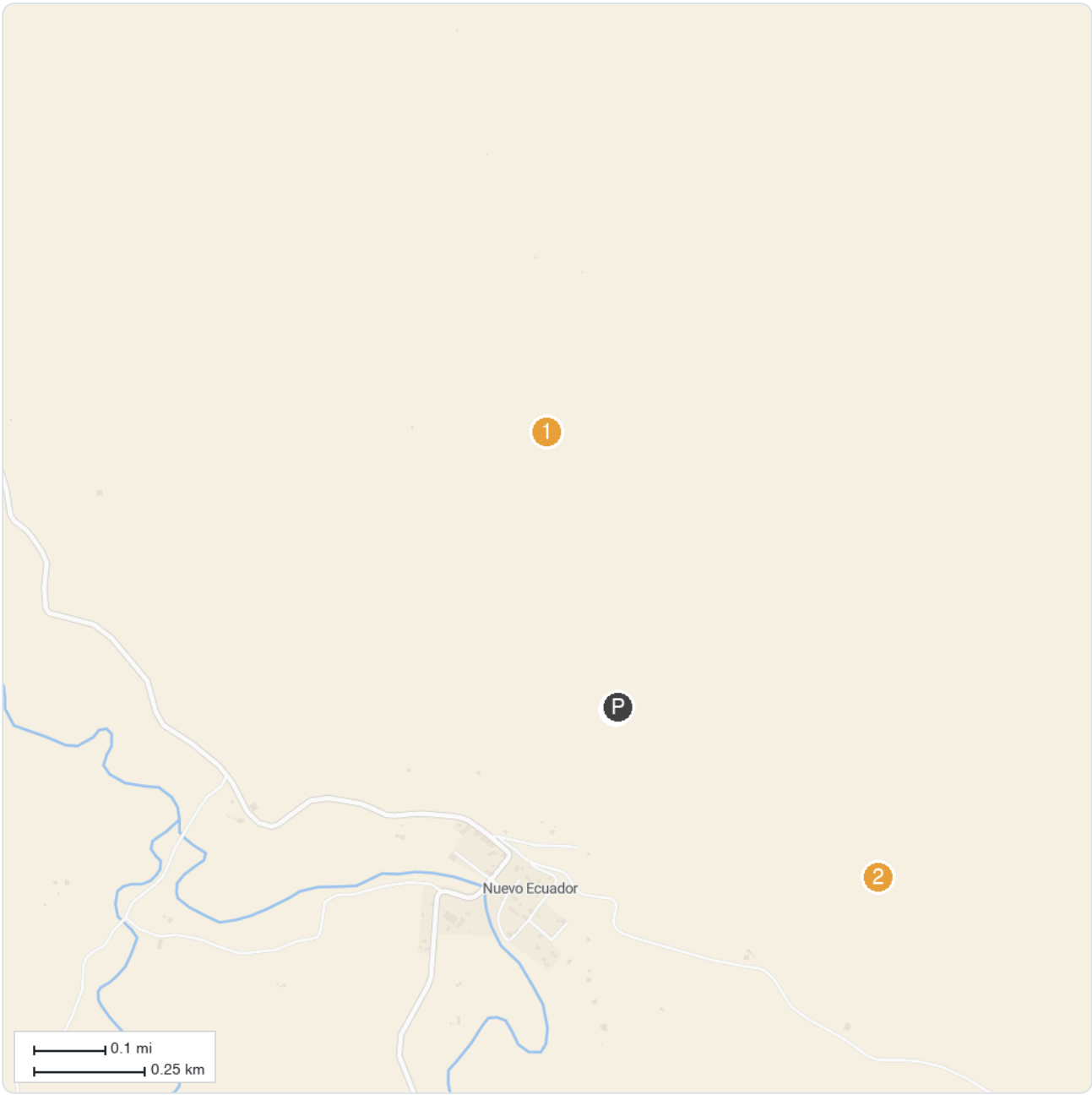
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Two pairs of footwear required: wear water sandals or water shoes for the wet Zodiac landing, then change into closed-toe hiking shoes on the beach before ascending the trail.
- Zero shade on trails. Equatorial sun is intense year-round. Wide-brim hat, UV shirt, polarized sunglasses, and reef-safe sunscreen are essential.
- Motion sickness risk: the speedboat crossing from Puerto López can be very rough. Take medication before boarding — not after you're already queasy.
- Bring everything you need. There are no shops, restaurants, or water vendors on the island. Your tour operator provides lunch and water — confirm what's included before you go.
- Stay 2 meters from wildlife — it's Ecuadorian law. Fortunately the birds have no predators and will often sit right in your path; your guide will lead you around them safely.
- Waterproof your gear for the Zodiac ride. A dry bag for camera and phone is strongly recommended for the landing approach.

Isla de la Plata, Manabí, Ecuador — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Sendero Punta Escalera

Cliffside hiking trail where blue-footed boobies nest right beside the path, part of Machalilla National Park.
- 2

Sendero Frailes

Longer loop trail across the island's arid highlands, favored for spotting frigatebirds and Nazca boobies.
- 3

Bahia Drake landing beach

Sheltered cove used as the island's main tender landing, named for the legend of Sir Francis Drake anchoring here.
- P

Cruise port / terminal