

Puerto Bolívar, El Oro, Ecuador

Ecuador's busiest banana-export port doubles as the gateway to Machala — a real, unpolished South American city where shrimp ceviche is made fresh and cargo ships tower over the waterfront.

Docked (deep-water pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

USD (US dollars)

Spanish

🍹 MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Deep-water pier — no tender required

Best For: Authentic Ecuador, banana plantation tours, fresh seafood

Walk to Center: Port is industrial; shuttle or \$3-5 taxi to Malecón/Machala

Don't Miss: Lancha boat to Isla de Jambelí through the mangroves

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ \$5–\$10 · 📱 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Banana Plantation Tour** — Walk a working plantation to see how Ecuador's most famous export is grown, harvested, washed, and packed into those...
- **Lancha Ride to Isla de Jambelí** — Board a small motorboat on the Malecón and weave through mangrove channels to this car-free island.
- **Buenaventura Cloud Forest Reserve** — About 90 minutes into the Andes foothills, this Jocotoco Foundation reserve protects the endangered El Oro Parakeet and...
- **Machala City Highlights** — Walk Parque Juan Montalvo with its fountains and shady plaza, and visit the cathedral that overlooks it.
- **Malecón Seafood Lunch** — The waterfront restaurants of Puerto Bolívar are legendary among Ecuadorians for fresh shrimp and fish.

BEST WALKS

- **Puerto Bolívar Malecón Stroll** 1-2 km · Flat · 30-45 min — The waterfront boardwalk runs along the estuary, lined with seafood restaurants, bench seating, and views out over the...
- **Machala Central Plaza Walk** ~1 km loop · Flat · 30 min — Parque Juan Montalvo sits at the heart of Machala.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	81°	74°	22d
Jun	78°	72°	16d
Aug	76°	69°	8d
Sep	77°	70°	8d
Oct	77°	70°	10d

DAYLIGHT & 🌳 MONEY

Apr 6:19AM–6:20PM · Jun 6:22AM–6:18PM · Aug 6:24AM–6:24PM · Sep 6:12AM–6:17PM · Oct 6:00AM–6:10PM

USD (US dollars)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- USD is the official currency. No exchange needed — but bring small bills. Vendors and taxi drivers struggle to make change for \$20 or \$50 notes.
- Use yellow metered taxis. Ask port staff or a restaurant to call one; the fare to Machala center is \$3-5. Agree on price before you

Puerto Bolívar, El Oro, Ecuador — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 **Parque Lineal** Enjoy a stroll along this scenic waterfront park.

3 **Picapiedra Park** A themed park, great for kids, with Flintstones characters.

5 **S.O.S AUTOCENTRE** This is a car service center, not a tourist attraction.

7 **Centenary Park** Visit this historic park commemorating a local centenary.

2 **Infantil Acuático de Puerto Bolívar Park** Kids will love this fun aquatic park with splash pads.

4 **Municipal Center for Art and Culture** Explore local art and culture at this municipal center.

6 **Parque De La Madre** A tranquil park, often featuring a monument to mothers.

P **Cruise port / terminal**