

Santiago Island, Galapagos, Ecuador

A raw, uninhabited island where ancient lava flows meet pristine Pacific waters. Santiago delivers the Galapagos at its most elemental — fur seals in lava grottos, marine iguanas by the hundreds, and snorkeling with sea lions in glassy black-sand bays.

Tender / Panga only (no pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

USD (Ecuador)

Spanish

Wildlife-focused

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Panga (zodiac) tender to wet landings — no pier, ships anchor offshore

Best For: Wildlife encounters, snorkeling, volcanic geology, birdwatching

Walk to Center: No town — this is uninhabited national park; all sites are trailheads

Don't Miss: Fur seal grottos at Puerto Egas and the pahoehoe lava field at Sullivan Bay

Getting around: Taxi €2–€8 · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Puerto Egas Fur Seal Grottos Walk** — Follow the coastal trail from the black sand beach at Puerto Egas to the famous fur seal grottos — shadowy lava caves where Galapagos fur seals...
 - Sullivan Bay Lava Field Hike** — Walk across a young pahoehoe lava flow (from an 1897 eruption) on the southeast coast — a surreal moonscape of rope lava with early colonizing plants...
- Snorkeling at Puerto Egas** — Slip into the calm waters off the black sand beach to snorkel with Galapagos sea lions, green sea turtles, whitetip reef sharks, rays, and bright...
 - Buccaneer Cove Panga Ride** — Cruise the dramatic eroded tuff cliffs of Buccaneer Cove by zodiac — a former pirate and whaling anchorage with hundreds of seabirds nesting on sheer...
 - Espumilla Beach & Flamingo Lagoon** — A quiet white sand beach on the north side of James Bay where sea turtles nest.

BEST WALKS

- Puerto Egas Coastal Trail** 2 km | Easy-Moderate | 1-1.5 hrs — The main trail from the black sand beach at Puerto Egas follows the rocky coastline north to the fur seal grottos, passing tide pools, marine iguanas, and oystercatchers...
- Sullivan Bay Lava Loop** 2.5 km | Easy | 1.5 hrs — A loop trail across the remarkable pahoehoe lava field on Santiago's southeast coast.

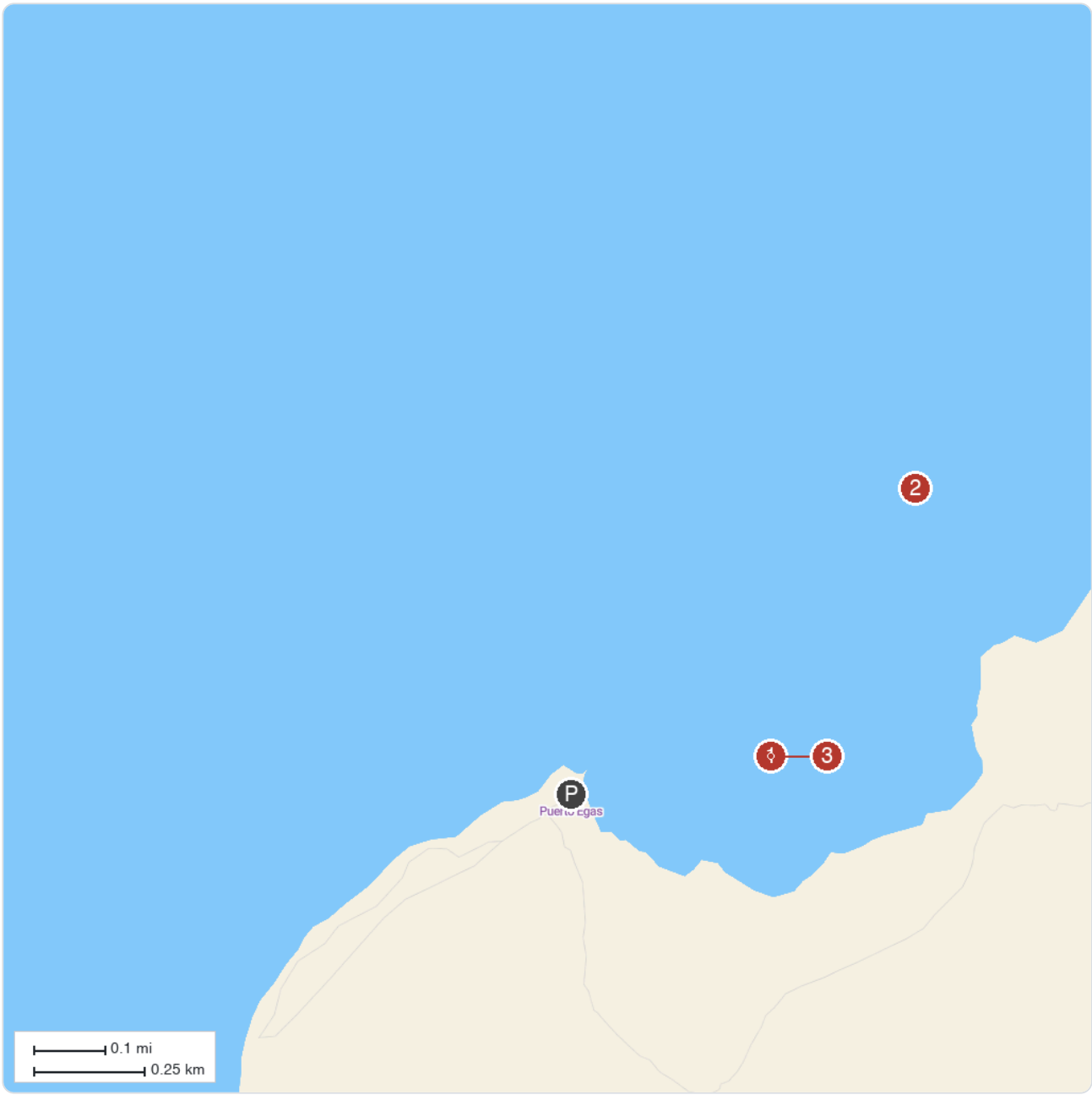
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear water shoes for every landing. All access is by wet landing — you will step into the water from the panga. Closed-toe water shoes grip lava rock better than sandals.
- Keep 2 meters from all wildlife. Galapagos regulations require maintaining distance from animals — but they often approach you. Let them come; do not reach out or block their path.
- Equatorial sun is fierce. SPF 50+, a wide-brim hat, and a rash guard for snorkeling are essential. There is zero shade on the lava fields.
- Panga transfers can be rough. In heavy swell, the zodiac ride can be wet and bouncy. Keep gear in a dry bag; listen to crew for boarding instructions.
- No food, drinks, or services ashore. Santiago is uninhabited national park. Bring all water and snacks from the ship. No shops, restaurants, or restrooms on the island.
- Wildlife moves fast — be ready. Marine iguanas and sea lions are everywhere, but Galapagos hawks and fur seals in the grottos require patience. A versatile zoom lens (24-200mm) handles both landscapes and close encounters.

Santiago Island, Galapagos, Ecuador — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Puerto Egas Fur Seal Grotto

Volcanic tide pools and dark lava grottoes at Puerto Egas where Galápagos fur seals rest in shaded pockets carved by the sea.
- 2

Sugarloaf Volcano

A pale, eroded volcanic cone rising behind Puerto Egas, popular as a short interpretive hike with views over James Bay.
- 3

Buccaneer Cove

A dramatic cove with sheer red-and-tan volcanic cliffs once used by 18th-century pirates and whalers to resupply.
- P

Cruise port / terminal