

South Plaza Island, Galápagos, Ecuador

One of the smallest visitor sites in the Galápagos, South Plaza Island punches far above its weight — a 32-acre volcanic upthrust carpeted in fiery-red Sesuvium, patrolled by land iguanas, and ringed by cliffs where tropicbirds and swallow-tailed gulls ride the updrafts.

 Tender — panga dry landing  Typical call: 3–5 hrs  USD (Ecuador)  Spanish / English guides  Wildlife-first visit site

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — panga dry landing onto rocky jetty; no pier

Trail: Single loop ~1.2 km (0.8 mi), 2–2.5 hrs; rocky, uneven terrain

Best For: Iguanas, hybrid iguana, seabird cliffs, Sesuvium color display

Don't Miss: Bachelor sea lion inlet and the rare land × marine hybrid iguana

 Getting around:  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Land Iguana Trail** — The 1.2-km loop winds through a dense colony of ~300 Galápagos land iguanas resting beneath giant Opuntia cacti.
- **Hybrid Iguana Spotting** — South Plaza is the only place on Earth where the rare land × marine iguana hybrid has been documented.
- **Seabird Cliffs & Bachelor Sea Lion Inlet** — The windward cliffs rise sheer from the ocean, funneling updrafts that swallow-tailed gulls (the world's only nocturnal...)
- **Sesuvium Color Display** — The ground cover that blankets the island — Sesuvium (Galápagos carpetweed) — transforms from lush green in the rainy...
- **Panga Snorkel in the Channel** — Many cruise itineraries include a zodiac snorkel excursion in the deep channel between North and South Plaza — home to...

BEST WALKS

- **South Plaza Loop Trail** 1.2 km loop • ~2 hrs • Rocky/uneven • Naturalist guide required — Starting at the panga landing jetty, the trail crosses the flat interior through Opuntia cactus forest and Sesuvium carpetweed, then...

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Grip is everything. The landing jetty and trail rocks can be slick with algae and sea spray. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes — not flip-flops. The sea lions that sleep on the jetty...
- Zero shade on the island. Bring a wide-brimmed hat, UV sunglasses, and reef-safe biodegradable sunscreen. Standard sunscreen is strongly discouraged to protect the marine...
- Reusable bottles only. Single-use plastic bottles are banned throughout the Galápagos. Bring a filled refillable bottle from your ship — there's nowhere to buy water on South...