

Tortuga Island, Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica

An uninhabited Costa Rican jewel in the Gulf of Nicoya — pure white sand, coconut palms, and calm turquoise water await. Ships anchor offshore; this is a true tender-to-beach experience.

-  Tender port (wet landing)
-  Typical call: 6–8 hrs
-  USD & Costa Rican Colón
-  Spanish (English widely spoken on tours)
-  Beach & snorkel day

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender / wet landing — ships anchor offshore; no pier on island

Walk to Center: 0 min — beach is the destination; everything within 5-min walk on sand

Best For: Beach days, snorkeling, wildlife spotting, diving sunken wrecks

Don't Miss: Shipwreck scuba dives — Costa Rica's only Pacific-coast wrecks are here

 Getting around:  **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Beach Day on the Main White-Sand Beach** — The main beach is pure vacation fantasy: soft white sand, calm warm water, coconut palms, and a thatch-roofed bar serving Coco Locos and Imperial beer.
- **Snorkeling Around the Rock Formations** — The best snorkeling is off the volcanic rock outcroppings just offshore.
- **Scuba Diving the Sunken Shipwrecks** — The waters off Tortuga Island hold several deliberately sunken shipwrecks — including the Franklin Chang Díaz (a former Coast Guard vessel sunk in...
- **Kayak & Stand-Up Paddleboard** — The sheltered, glassy water makes this one of Costa Rica's best spots for paddling.
- **Island Wildlife Walk** — Green iguanas, tropical birds, and coatis roam freely, and white-faced capuchin monkeys are sometimes seen.

BEST WALKS

- **Beach Stroll — Main White-Sand Beach** ~500m · Flat · 10 min · Easy — Walk the length of the main white-sand beach from the tender landing to the far end.
- **Forest Hill Trail** ~1 km · Steep · 30–45 min · Moderate — A trail heads uphill from the beach into dry tropical forest with views over the Gulf of Nicoya.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear water shoes. The tender landing is a wet landing — you'll step into shin-deep water. Flip-flops work but water shoes are better for the rocky snorkel areas too.
- Bring small USD bills. The beach bar and activity rentals accept dollars. Vendors often can't make change for \$50s or \$100s.
- Guard your bag. Coatis (raccoon-like animals) are bold thieves. Keep bags zipped and don't leave food unattended on the sand.
- Reef-safe sunscreen only. The island is a protected nature reserve. Bring reef-safe SPF — regular sunscreen is harmful to the coral and may be prohibited.
- Restrooms cost ~\$1–2 USD. Basic facilities are on the island but there's usually a small maintenance fee. Keep coins or small bills handy.
- Try a Coco Loco. A fresh coconut with guaro (Costa Rican sugarcane spirit) or rum poured in — the island's signature drink, sold at the beach bar.

Tortuga Island, Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica — Port Map

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



1 Playa Tortuga The main white-sand beach where tenders land, fringed by dry tropical forest on the Gulf of Nicoya.

P Cruise port / terminal

2 Isla Tortuga Nature Trail A short forest path across the small private island passing dry tropical forest and howler monkey habitat.