

Chinese Hat Island, Galápagos, Ecuador

A cone-shaped volcanic islet between Santiago and Bartolomé, Chinese Hat rewards small-ship passengers with calm snorkeling channels, lazing sea lions, and a surreal lava-tube trail — all in under three hours.

 Tender / Wet Landing  Typical call: 2-3 hrs  USD (US Dollar)  Spanish  National Park — small ships only

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Wet landing by panga (tender) onto white coral-sand beach; no pier

Best For: Snorkeling with reef sharks & sea lions, volcanic geology, wildlife photography

Walk to center: No settlement — visitor trail only (~400 m loop)

Don't Miss: Snorkeling the channel between Sombrero Chino and Santiago Island

 Getting around:  **Rideshare**  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Lava Trail & Wildlife Walk** — A 400-meter loop across volcanic lava fields and pillow lava formations, passing Galápagos sea lion colonies, marine...
- **Channel Snorkeling** — The calm, deep channel between Sombrero Chino and Santiago Island is one of the Galápagos's best snorkel spots.
- **Geology & Volcanic Formations** — Chinese Hat's distinctive cone shape is pure volcanic geology.
- **Penguin & Rare Wildlife Spotting** — Galápagos penguins occasionally perch on rocks near the islet or appear underwater during snorkeling — a bucket-list...

BEST WALKS

- **Sombrero Chino Loop Trail** 0.4 km · 45-60 min · Easy-Moderate · Guide required — The official Galápagos National Park trail loops from the landing beach across volcanic lava fields, past sea lion haul-outs and...

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear water shoes or sturdy sandals — the wet landing and rough aa-lava trail will tear up bare feet. Water shoes do double duty for snorkeling entry.
- Don't panic about the sharks — whitetip reef sharks in the channel are common and non-aggressive. They'll swim right past you. It's a highlight, not a hazard.
- Two-metre rule is real — Galápagos National Park guides enforce the 2-meter (6 ft) wildlife distance rule strictly. Sea lions may approach you; don't move toward them.