

Genovesa Island, Galapagos, Ecuador

A collapsed volcanic caldera at the northern edge of the Galapagos, Genovesa — 'Bird Island' — is where millions of red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, and storm petrels nest in complete fearlessness of humans. No hotels, no shops, just one of the world's great wildlife encounters.

-  Tender only (panga from ship)
-  Typical call: 6-8 hrs (plus overnight crossing)
-  USD / Galapagos NP fee paid at airport
-  Spanish (English-speaking guides on cruise)
-  Liveaboard Galapagos itineraries only

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: No pier — panga tender from anchored ship inside Darwin Bay caldera

Best For: Seabird photography, wildlife immersion, snorkeling with hammerheads

Getting Ashore: Wet landing on Darwin Bay Beach or dry landing at Prince Philip's Steps

Don't Miss: Red-footed booby colony (largest in Galapagos) and storm petrels at El Barranco

 Getting around: _____

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Darwin Bay Beach Trail** — An easy 1.2 km round-trip walk along a white coral-sand beach and into the tidal rock zone.
- El Barranco / Prince Philip's Steps** — A strenuous 1.6 km round-trip over cracked basaltic lava.
- Darwin Bay Snorkel** — Snorkel along the steep caldera wall inside Darwin Bay.
- Red-footed Booby Colony** — Genovesa hosts the largest red-footed booby colony in the Galapagos, with both brown-morph and white-morph birds nesting in Palo Santo trees and...

BEST WALKS

- Darwin Bay Beach Trail** 0.75 mi (1.2 km) round trip · Easy · Wet landing — From the panga wet landing on Darwin Bay Beach, the trail follows the shoreline past nesting frigatebirds and red-footed boobies, then turns inland over tide pools and...
- El Barranco (Prince Philip's Steps)** 1 mi (1.6 km) round trip · Strenuous · Dry landing on cliff — Dry landing on the volcanic cliff face on Darwin Bay's southern arm, followed by a steep 25-step climb.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring two pairs of footwear. Water shoes or Tevas for the Darwin Bay wet landing; sturdy closed-toe hiking shoes for El Barranco — the lava rock is as sharp as broken glass and will slice sandals and bare feet.
- Prepare for a rough overnight crossing. Genovesa is the northernmost island in the Galapagos — the 6-8 hour passage from the central islands crosses open Pacific swells. Take seasickness medication before departing.
- Biosecurity is strictly enforced. The island reopened in May 2024 after an avian flu closure. Expect mandatory boot brushing, gear inspection, and no outside food allowed ashore.
- Genovesa sits on the equator with zero shade. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, a UV rash guard, and apply reef-safe sunscreen — regular sunscreen is banned in Galapagos waters.
- You don't need a big telephoto. The birds nest at ground level and have no fear of humans (no land predators exist on Genovesa). A standard 24-70mm lens captures everything. Keep the 2-metre rule — they'll come closer on their own.
- No facilities whatsoever ashore. No toilets, no water, no shops. Use the ship's bathroom before boarding the panga. Bring only a reusable water bottle — single-use plastic is banned in the National Park.

Genovesa 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

Prince Philip's Steps

Steep rocky staircase landing leading to a plateau with dense red-footed booby and Nazca booby colonies.
- 2

Darwin Bay Beach

Coral-sand beach ringing the sunken caldera, home to frigatebirds, gulls, and sea lions at close range.
- P

Cruise port / terminal