

Isla de la Plata, Manabí, Ecuador

Floating 25 miles off Ecuador's coast inside Machalilla National Park, Isla de la Plata is where blue-footed boobies nest inches from your feet and humpback whales breach beside the tender on the way in. Same wildlife magic as the Galápagos — one fraction of the distance.

⚓ Tender / Zodiac landing (wet feet expected)

🕒 Typical call: 5–8 hrs

🇪🇨 USD (no shops on island)

🗣️ Spanish

🦋 Machalilla National Park

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender or Zodiac — wet landing at Bahía Drake. No pier exists.

Best For: Wildlife photography, whale watching (Jun–Sep), snorkeling with sea turtles

Walk to Center: No town. Trails start at the beach: 2.5–5.5 km guided loops.

Don't Miss: Blue-footed booby mating dance and giant manta ray aggregation (Aug–Sep)

🚗 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Blue-Footed Booby Trail** — Walk the signature loop where boobies nest right at your feet.
- **Humpback Whale Watching** — June through September, humpback whales migrate from Antarctica to calve in Ecuador's warm coastal waters.
- **Snorkeling with Sea Turtles & Manta Rays** — The waters around Bahía Drake and reef sites like Palo Santo Reef host resident green sea turtles year-round.
- **Full-Day Isla de la Plata Combo** — The classic day excursion from Puerto López: speedboat crossing, guided booby trail, snorkeling stop, whale watching en...

BEST WALKS

- **Sendero Punta Escalera (Short Loop)** 2.5 km · ~1.5 hrs · Moderate — The shorter trail circuit from Bahía Drake up the steep staircase to the clifftop plateau.
- **Sendero Machete (Long Loop)** 4.3 km · ~2.5–3 hrs · Moderate–Strenuous — The longer trail circuit (the island's most-walked route), extending across the plateau to frigatebird colonies and panoramic clifftop...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌦️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	82°	71°	29d
Jun	80°	70°	24d
Aug	80°	69°	21d
Sep	81°	70°	22d
Oct	81°	70°	22d

🇪🇨 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY

Apr 6:13AM–6:19PM · Jun 6:13AM–6:21PM · Aug 6:17AM–6:24PM · Sep 6:08AM–6:14PM · Oct 5:59AM–6:05PM

🇪🇨 USD (no shops on island)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Two pairs of footwear required: wear water sandals or water shoes for the wet Zodiac landing, then change into closed-toe hiking shoes on the beach before ascending the trail.