

Isla de los Estados, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

One of Earth's most remote and untouched places, Isla de los Estados is the island that inspired Jules Verne's *The Lighthouse at the End of the World* — a protected nature reserve in the stormy sub-Antarctic waters off the eastern tip of Tierra del Fuego, visited by only a few hundred people each year.

Tender only (Zodiac wet landings)

Typical call: 4–6 hrs

No commerce ashore

Spanish (Argentine Navy only)

Expedition cruise lines only

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac wet landing — no pier, no dock of any kind

Best For: Sub-Antarctic wildlife, Jules Verne history, total wilderness immersion

Walk to center: No town or infrastructure; all exploration is guided shore excursion

Don't Miss: San Juan de Salvamento Lighthouse and rockhopper penguin colonies

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- San Juan de Salvamento Lighthouse** — The original 1884 lighthouse — rebuilt in 1998 — that inspired Jules Verne's novel *The Lighthouse at the End of the World*.
- Rockhopper Penguin Colony** — One of the world's largest Southern Rockhopper penguin populations nests here, along with South American fur seals, sea lions, and enormous kelp...
- Puerto Cook Penal Colony Ruins** — A haunting 19th-century military prison site in a dramatic bay, with ruins of the colony and a small weathered cemetery where prisoners and sailors...
- Fjord Exploration by Zodiac** — The glacially carved fjords of Hoppner and Basil Hall rise in sheer cliffs draped in mist and wind-sculpted green vegetation.
- Dwarf Nothofagus Forest Walk** — The relentless sub-Antarctic winds stunt the southern beech trees into twisted, ground-hugging shapes encrusted with thick moss and lichen.

BEST WALKS

- San Juan de Salvamento Lighthouse Loop** ~1 mi | Guided | Moderate — rocky/wet — From your Zodiac landing on the pebble beach, follow your expedition guide up to the rebuilt 1884 lighthouse on its rocky promontory.
- Puerto Cook Beach and Ruins** ~0.5 mi | Guided | Easy–Moderate — A short walk from the Zodiac landing through dense coastal scrub to the ruins of the 19th-century penal colony and its small cemetery — atmospheric and sobering.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		42°	36°	15d
Jun		37°	32°	15d
Aug		36°	31°	16d
Sep		38°	32°	16d
Oct		40°	34°	16d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 8:09AM–6:24PM · Jun 9:41AM–4:54PM · Aug 8:37AM–6:06PM · Sep 7:23AM–7:02PM · Oct 6:07AM–7:59PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Knee-high waterproof boots are mandatory. Expedition lines usually loan them — confirm before packing. Wet landings mean stepping into shin-deep, near-freezing seawater.
- Layer up and waterproof everything. Weather here can bring rain, snow, hail, and sunshine within the same hour. A windproof/waterproof outer layer, thermals, and waterproof gloves are non-negotiable.
- Start seasickness medication before the Strait of Le Maire. This is one of the world's most turbulent stretches of water — strong currents and converging swells churn over a shallow shelf. Don't wait until you feel unwell.
- Protect your camera gear. Salt spray is constant. Bring a waterproof dry-bag for your camera and lens-cleaning cloths. Silica gel packets inside the bag help during landings.
- There is absolutely nothing to buy ashore. No restaurants, cafes, shops, or vendors of any kind. All food and drinks must stay on the ship — bringing food ashore is prohibited to protect the ecosystem.
- Only expedition ships land here. If you're on a mainstream cruise line, you may cruise past the island scenically but will not go ashore. Landings require a special Argentine government permit held by the vessel.

Isla de los Estados, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



P Cruise port / terminal