

Pearl Islands, Panama

Named by Spanish conquistadors for the pearls harvested here — and the filming location for multiple Survivor seasons — the Pearl Islands deliver untouched Pacific beaches, shimmering coves, and a shipwreck that's pure Instagram gold. No pier, no cruise-ship crowds, no chain stores.

Tender (no pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

USD (US Dollar / Balboa)

Spanish (English widely spoken at hotels)

Expedition & small-ship focus

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor offshore; passengers ride tenders or pangas to Playa Galeón

Best For: Snorkeling, beach-hopping, wildlife spotting, whale watching (Jul–Oct)

Walk to center: Isla Contadora is ~1.2 sq mi; most beaches are 5-20 min on foot or golf cart

Don't Miss: The rusted ferry shipwreck on Playa Larga and golf-cart island lap

Getting around: Taxi Included (cruise tender) · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Snorkeling the Outer Islets** — The uninhabited islets surrounding Contadora — including Bartolomé and Boyarena — host sea turtles, manta rays, and white-tip reef sharks.
 - Humpback Whale Watching** — From July to October the Pearl Islands are a major humpback breeding ground.
 - Golf Cart Island Lap** — Rent a cart at Playa Galeón and circuit the island's paved roads, stopping at each beach.
- The Shipwreck & Abandoned Hotel** — Playa Larga holds two eerie landmarks: a massive rusting ferry that ran aground decades ago, and the crumbling ruins of Hotel Contadora — once a...
 - Beach Day at Playa Ejecutiva** — A secluded cove with calm emerald water and fine white sand — widely considered Contadora's most beautiful beach.

BEST WALKS

- Playa Galeón to Playa Larga Shipwreck Walk** 1.5 km · 20-30 min · Easy-Moderate — From the tender landing at Playa Galeón, follow the island road south toward Playa Larga.
- Cross-Island Walk to Playa Ejecutiva** ~1 km · 15-20 min · Easy — A short walk from the center of Isla Contadora through the tree-lined interior (watch for iguanas) leads to Playa Ejecutiva, a sheltered cove with the island's calmest...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		83°	78°	10d
Jun		83°	78°	28d
Aug		82°	78°	29d
Sep		82°	78°	30d
Oct		82°	78°	30d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:06AM–6:25PM · Jun 5:58AM–6:35PM · Aug 6:08AM–6:32PM · Sep 6:06AM–6:15PM · Oct 6:03AM–5:59PM

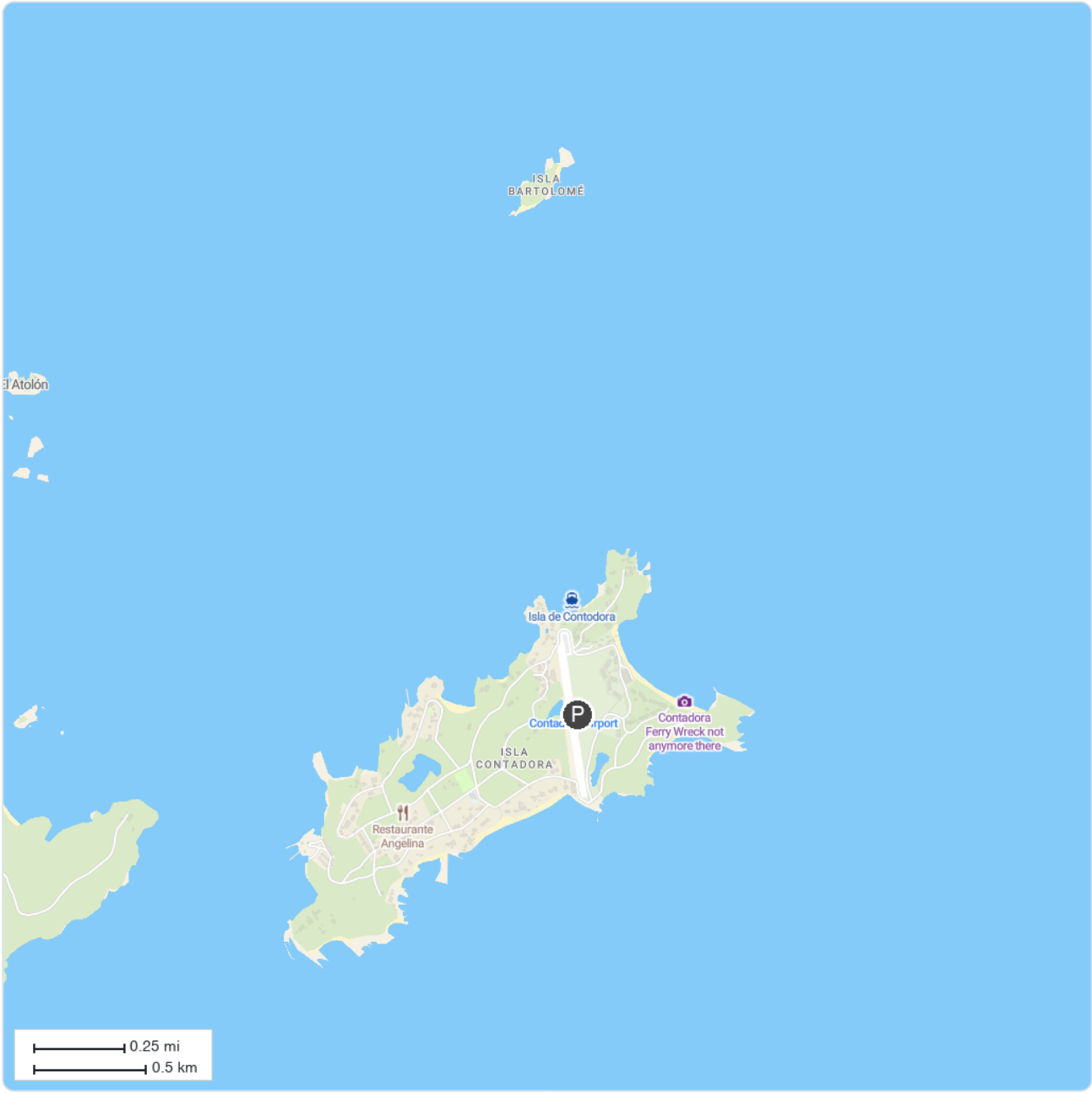
USD (US Dollar / Balboa)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash only island. There are no ATMs on Isla Contadora. Bring USD in small bills — golf cart rentals, panga captains, and many restaurants are cash-only. Card readers frequently drop signal.
- Sun is brutal at this latitude. The Pearl Islands sit near the equator. Pack reef-safe SPF 50+, a hat, and a rashguard. Even a short beach walk can burn.
- Bring insect repellent. Sandflies (no-see-ums) can be active on windless beach days. DEET-based repellent is the most effective defense.
- Wear water shoes for the tender landing. Playa Galeón landings can involve stepping into ankle-deep water depending on tides. Flip-flops that can get wet work fine.
- Visit July–October for whales. Humpback whales breed in these waters mid-year. If your itinerary calls here in that window, a panga whale-watching trip is unmissable.
- No public restrooms on the beaches. Buy a drink or lunch at a beachfront restaurant to access facilities — Gerald's Hotel and Mar y Oro on Playa Cacique are the most reliable options.

Pearl Islands, Panama — Port Map

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



P Cruise port / terminal