

Puntarenas, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica

A slender sandy peninsula jutting into the Gulf of Nicoya, Puntarenas puts you minutes from scarlet macaws, massive crocodiles, and the best shaved ice you'll ever eat.

Pier (docked)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

USD & CRC accepted

Spanish (English widely spoken near pier)

🚢 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier (docked) — either the Muelle de Cruceros in Puntarenas town or Puerto Caldera (~20 km/12 mi away); no tendering either way

Best For: Wildlife lovers, rainforest excursions, families, foodies

Walk to center: ~10 min walk to the Paseo de los Turistas if docked at the town pier; from Puerto Caldera you'll need a shuttle, taxi, or tour

Don't Miss: A Churchill (shaved ice dessert) from a kiosk on the Paseo de los Turistas

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ \$2–\$5 · 📱 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Tarcoles River Crocodile Safari** — Boat down the Tarcoles River to see enormous American crocodiles (some over 15 ft) basking on the banks, plus scarlet...
 - **Carara National Park** — A rare transition zone between dry and humid rainforest — one of the best places in Costa Rica to spot wild scarlet...
 - **Isla Tortuga Catamaran Day** — Sail 45-60 minutes to a stunning uninhabited island with white-sand beaches and
- turquoise water — the best beach day...

 - **Rainforest Canopy & Zipline** — Fly through the rainforest canopy on ziplines or cross hanging bridges for a bird's-eye view of the jungle.
 - **Parque Marino del Pacífico** — A small marine rescue center just 5 minutes' walk from the pier — sea turtles, crocodiles, seahorses, and tropical fish.

BEST WALKS

- **Paseo de los Turistas Stroll** 1.5 km | Flat | 20-30 min each way — Walk the full length of the tourist promenade from the pier terminal east along the oceanfront.
- **Pier to El Faro (Lighthouse)** 0.8 km | Flat | 10-15 min — Short walk from the cruise terminal to the lighthouse at the tip of the peninsula — great photo spot with views across the gulf.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	89°	76°	19d
Jun	83°	75°	29d
Aug	83°	75°	29d
Sep	83°	75°	29d
Oct	82°	74°	30d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:28AM–5:49PM · Jun 5:19AM–6:00PM · Aug 5:30AM–5:56PM · Sep 5:29AM–5:39PM · Oct 5:27AM–5:21PM

USD & CRC accepted

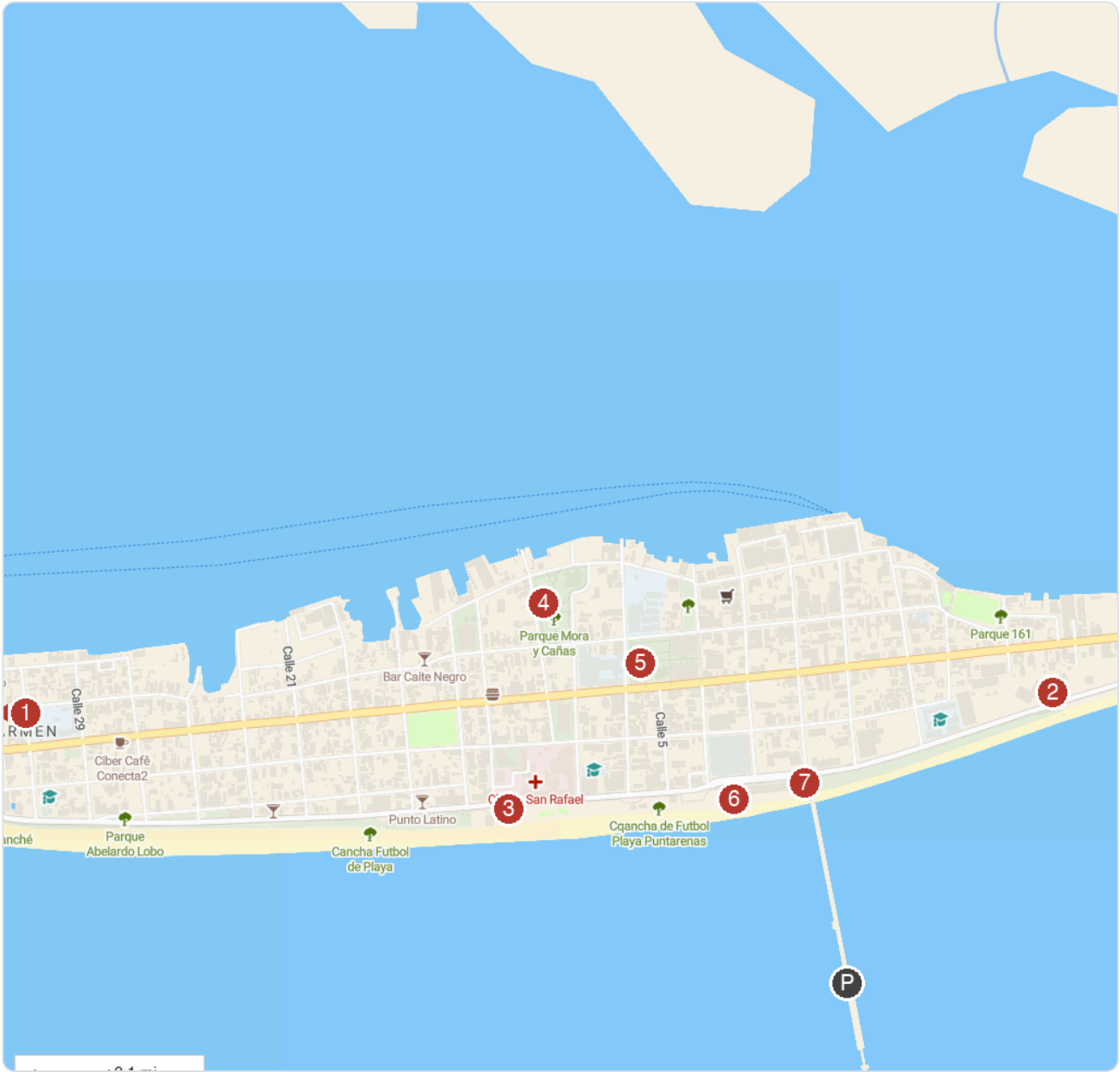
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dress for heat. Puntarenas routinely hits 90°F (32°C) with high humidity. Lightweight clothes, a sun hat, SPF 50+, and a reusable water bottle are essential — especially walking

Puntarenas, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Faro de "Puntarenas" | Puntarenas Lighthouse: a historic beacon with ocean views. | 2 | Parque Marino del Pacifico | Marine Park of the Pacific: an aquarium with local sea life. |
| 3 | Paseo de los Turistas | Tourists' Promenade: a lively waterfront walk with shops and food. | 4 | Parque Mora y Cañas | Mora y Cañas Park: a historic town square with monuments. |
| 5 | Catedral de Puntarenas. Sagrado Corazón de Jesús | Puntarenas Cathedral: a beautiful historic church, Sacred Heart of Jesus. | 6 | Parador Fotográfico Puntarenas | Puntarenas Photo Stop: iconic letters for memorable pictures. |
| 7 | Antigua Capitanía de Puntarenas | Old Captaincy Building: a historic former port authority structure. | P | Cruise port / terminal | |