



This comprehensive 17-day tour of the stunning Galapagos Islands sees you sailing as far afield as Espanola, the spectacular southernmost island of the Galapagos, past Kicker Rock to the westernmost island of Fernandina and up to the north-eastern outpost of Genovesa. Spectacular scenery and an incredible array of flora and fauna, both land and marine, are all waiting to be discovered as you cruise between the islands aboard the M/Y Daphne. Blue and red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, vermillion flycatchers and Darwin's finches are amongst the colourful birds you are likely to spot. Be intrigued by the prehistoric-looking iguanas and lava lizards, the playful sea lions, the placid giant tortoises and the soaring albatrosses. Be mesmerised by the beautiful landscapes from mangrove wetlands to lava fields, Scalesia cloud forests, red sand beaches and picturesque coves. This will be an incredible experience that will be etched in your memory forever.

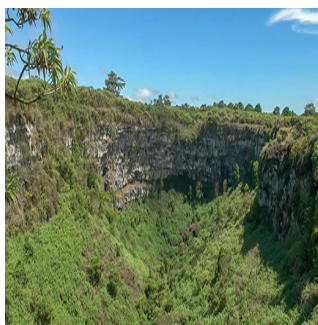
\* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.

## ITINERARY

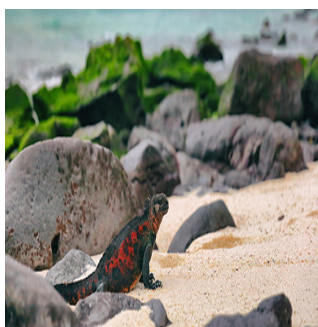
## Ecuador, Galapagos Islands













Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido) is the magnificent basalt remains of a crater in the middle of the sea, the shape resembling a sleeping lion. The rock rises 150 metres above the surface and is divided into two parts by a narrow channel. Cruise through the channel as nesting seabirds flank the boat, tropicbirds soar overhead, marine iguanas swim about and sea lions lounge on the water. Snorkelling from the panga gives you the chance to see Galapagos sharks, sea turtles and an incredible biodiversity of invertebrates on the wall. You might even spot a hammerhead shark. Some passengers will be leaving/joining today, so you may have some free time to explore the town of San Cristobal. Today you will visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Centre. The centre brings the history and geography of the archipelago to life, from its volcanic origins to the present day. The human history exhibit offers an insight into the discovery and colonisation of the Galapagos and the issue of problems the islands face today is also explored. This is a great place to get a complete overview of the Galapagos. If there's time, your guide may be able to organise an optional visit to the Highlands of San Cristobal which will be the last chance for you to see the giant tortoises in the wild. The price of this activity depends on the number of passengers attending. Relaxing at the beach is of course a great option too.



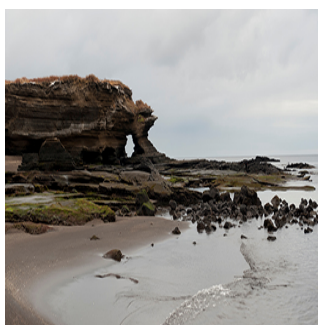












**ECUADOR - ABSOLUTE GALAPAGOS | GRAND DAPHNE**

## DAY 14: Isla Bartolome - Isla Sombrero Chino

Wake up in Bartolome Island, a spectacular volcanic landscape full of spatter cones and lava flows, and home to Galapagos penguins and lava lizards. Put on your walking shoes and climb up 360 wooden steps to the summit, where an amazing view of Pinnacle Rock awaits. This is one of the most photographed sights in the Galapagos – an abrupt jag of rock protruding from the earth like a tooth, providing a focal point for two nearby bays. Hike to the top of a once-active volcano and enjoy superb views across to Bahia Sullivan on nearby Isla Santiago. If you're in luck, you might catch a glimpse of the Galapagos hawk. There's also the chance to go snorkelling among the colourful marine life. In the afternoon, travel to the small island of Sombrero Chino, found on the southeast side of Santiago Island. With lovely sandy beaches and a striking volcanic landscape, this is a fantastic place to take a hike and look out for the sea lions and penguins that rest here, and snorkel in search of reef sharks and sea turtles.



## DAY 15: Isla North Seymour - Isla Santa Cruz

Wake up this morning in North Seymour, one of the most visited islands of the Galapagos. First up is a walk around the island to spot some blue-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. Boobies and frigates have an interesting relationship, sharing the same nesting area on North Seymour. Blue-footed boobies nest on the ground while the frigate birds nest just above them in the saltbushes. As you walk, look out for land iguanas, marine iguanas, Galapagos sea lions and the endemic incense tree. After the walk, cool off and go snorkelling and encounter a great variety of fish and perhaps some white-tipped reef sharks, rays and sea lions. Later in the day, travel to Isla Santa Cruz, the second largest island in the Galapagos. Pay a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station in the small town of Puerto Ayora. As well as undertaking vital conservation work, the station also makes for interesting exploration and offers the best opportunities for close encounters with giant tortoises. You may also see baby tortoises and land iguanas.

**TRIP CODE**

ECTSABG

## DEPARTURE

### Selected Tuesdays

## DURATION

17 Days

## LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands





Flights to the mainland from Galapagos depart mid-morning, so it's an early start for your last morning on the islands. You will visit the Santa Cruz Highlands for a second time. Travel through the agricultural region and into the misty forests where you can see the unique *Scalesia* cloud forest and experience seeing the dome-shaped giant tortoises in the wild once again. Take in the serene atmosphere of the highlands and its wildlife and then it's time to bid farewell to the archipelago and head to the airport for your mid-morning flight back to Quito for the last night of the tour. This flight takes approximately 2.5 hours with a transit in Guayaquil. Upon arrival at Quito Airport, at about 4pm, you'll be transferred back to your hotel for an overnight stay. A local Intrepid representative might stop by the hotel this evening to get your feedback on the trip.



There are no activities planned for the final day so we are able to depart our accommodation at any time. If you have not spent time here before, we recommend you stay on a few days as there are many fascinating things to do in and around Quito, such as the Cotopaxi volcano, the Cloud Forest, hot springs, the Equatorial Monument or perhaps city tour of the fascinating Old Town. Please speak to our customer service representative about any optional activities that might be of interest. They can also assist you in booking a departure transfer to the airport.



## ECTSABG

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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

<b>Accommodation</b>	Cabin on board ship & hotel
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