# **ECUADOR** - CENTRAL AND WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | INFINITY



**TRIP CODE**

ECTSI8B

**DEPARTURE**

Selected Tuesdays

**DURATION**

8 Days

**LOCATIONS**

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

## INTRODUCTION

Enjoy a **Galapagos Islands** cruise and spend 8 days aboard the luxury yacht, Infinity. See giant tortoise hatchlings at the **David Rodriguez Breeding Centre**, snorkel with sea lions and Galapagos penguins, walk through forests of prickly pear alongside colourful land iguanas and hike around the **Sierra Negra volcano**. Explore the pristine island ecosystem of **Fernandina** where **La Cumbre volcano** dominates the landscape and lava fields stretch to the ocean. This action-packed itinerary introduces you to the stunning landscapes of the Galapagos and the incredible array of wildlife.

The Infinity also offers a 4 day cruise and a 5 day cruise

## ITINERARY

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DAY 1: San Cristobal & David Rodriguez Breeding Center

Assistance at the airport by our representative for your Galapagos flight. You will arrive at San Cristobal Island in the morning. After going through immigration and baggage claim you will be met by a Infinity staff member and transferred to the yacht. You'll be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing. The David Rodriguez Breeding Center is a new visitor site in the northeast part of San Cristóbal Island and takes approximately one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. At the Breeding Center you will be able to admire the hatchling turtles, from their birth until they are 4 years old when the grown turtles are taken to their natural habitat. In the afternoon you will visit Puerto Chino located 15,2 miles (24.5 km) away from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and a few miles from the Breeding Center Cerro Colorado, this walk takes approximately 30 minutes to the beach.



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DAY 2: Santa Fe & South Plaza Islands

Your morning visit is to Santa Fe Island (Barrington) which is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails: one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest. In the afternoon, you will head to South Plaza Island. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is Sesuvium. During the rainy season, its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.



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DAY 3: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center & Twin Craters

Today you will visit Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Subspecies of tortoises interact with one another and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept here until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own. The afternoon visit is to a site called Los Gemelos (Twin Craters). Los Gemelos wait for you at the end of a short hike. These sinkholes are often referred to as craters, though the term is only descriptive, not literal. They were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The endemic Scalesia forest surrounds the site where you may see vermillion flycatchers, short-eared owls, and finches.



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DAY 4: Isabela: Moreno Point & Elizabeth Bay

Moreno Point is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves create a birdwatcher's delight. In the tide pools, green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted. Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.



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DAY 5: Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling. In the afternoon, you will visit Tagus Cove on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, close to the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.



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DAY 6: Espinosa Point & Vicente Roca Point

In the morning you will visit Fernandina Island. No foreign species have ever invaded this island, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. Fernandina is the youngest island in the Galapagos. Access to this site is extremely restricted by the Galapagos National Park, and you will be one of those very lucky visitors. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinosa Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you'll reach the island's highlight: The flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk. In the afternoon, you will head to Isabela Island. which is the largest in the archipelago. This seahorseshaped island is also one of the youngest and most volcanically active. The afternoon visit is at Vicente Roca Point. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sunfish).



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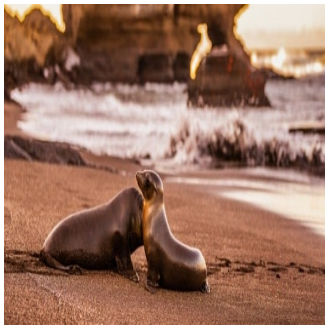
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DAY 7: Egas Port & Bartholomew Island

Also known as James Bay, Egas Port is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to a coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site. In the afternoon you will head for Bartholomew Island, home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. You will take a trail of stairs to the summit of the volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you will enjoy one of the best views of the islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation found on this barren island. The beach is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see the Galapagos penguins.



DAY 8: North Seymour Island - Departure

North Seymour. Here you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone. After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.



## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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| **Accommodation** | Cabin on board ship |

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|---|---|
| **Inclusions** | **INCLUSIONS**<br>Accommodation in your chosen cabin onboard the Infinity<br>All meals and excursions while onboard the ship<br>Group transfers in the islands<br>Bilingual National Park Guide<br>Use of snorkelling equipment/wetsuit<br>Use of underwater camera<br>Free Airport Assistance*<br>Hotel night in Quito or Guayaquil (the day before the cruise)*<br>A Free transfer to Galapagos Flights*<br>*Applies only when purchasing roundtrip<br>Galapagos/mainland airfare from the cruise operator<br><br>**EXCLUSIONS**<br>Roundtrip airfare to/from Galapagos<br>Alcoholic drinks<br>Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (US$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change)<br>Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD$20 per person - Subject to change)<br>Travel/Medical insurance<br>Gratuities<br>Personal Expenses<br>Any other expenses not listed above |
| **Difficulty Rating** | 2 (light adventure) |
| **Single Surcharge** | A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information. |
| **Notes** | All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.<br><br>* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations. |
| **Price Dependent upon** | Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking. |

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## SUSTAINABILITY

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