

# GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - CENTRAL ISLANDS CRUISE | HERMES



## INTRODUCTION

Explore the **Galapagos Islands**, a living testament to the wonders of evolution and biodiversity. Explore **Baltra** and **Santa Cruz Island**, where Giant Tortoises can be found in the wild, **Dragon Hill**, where the majestic Galapagos land iguanas roam freely, **Chinese Hat**, a small islet that beckons with its iconic volcanic cone and crystal-clear waters—perfect for snorkelling and encounters with playful marine life.


For a true avian spectacle, head to **El Barranco** and **Darwin Bay** on **Genovesa Island**. Enjoy the aerial acrobatics of frigatebirds, red-footed boobies, and other seabirds.

Discover the hidden wonders of **Black Turtle Cove**, a serene mangrove sanctuary where sea turtles glide gracefully through the calm waters.

You will cruise on the **Hermes**, a modern and ultra luxury catamaran that has been designed for cruising in the Galapagos Islands and built with the utmost care and attention to detail in mind. Enjoy added extras like a 24/7 butler, unpacking service and a spa.

Check out some of the other itineraries onboard the **Hermes**: [5 Day North West Islands Cruise](#), [8 Day Central & West Islands Cruise](#)

## ITINERARY

<b>TRIP CODE</b>
ECVNH4DD
<b>DEPARTURE</b>
Selected Thursdays
<b>DURATION</b>
4 Days
<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador


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## DAY 1: Arrival to Baltra & Santa Cruz Highlands

Today, you are set to embark on an exciting journey to the Galapagos Islands. Upon your arrival at the airport, our dedicated staff will extend a warm welcome to ensure your smooth transition. Subsequently, you will be transported to the cruise ship, where you can begin your exploration of the stunning archipelago. In the afternoon, an enriching experience awaits as you explore the highlands of Santa Cruz. In the captivating setting of the Santa Cruz Highlands, you'll find yourself immersed in a unique and diverse ecosystem that showcases the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands. The highlands are renowned for their lush landscapes, mist-covered hills, and endemic flora and fauna, providing a stark contrast to the coastal environments. As you traverse the winding paths, you may encounter the iconic giant tortoises, meandering leisurely through their natural habitat. These magnificent creatures, often considered living fossils, contribute to the enchanting charm of the highlands. Observing these majestic beings in their native surroundings offers a rare glimpse into the evolutionary history of the Galapagos.



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### DAY 2: Dragon Hill & Chinese Hat

Embark on a captivating morning adventure to Dragon Hill, a distinctive site on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos archipelago. Named after the land iguanas that inhabit the area, Dragon Hill offers a unique opportunity to witness these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. As you stroll along the trail, keep your eyes peeled for the prehistoric-looking iguanas basking in the sun or meandering through the diverse vegetation. The panoramic views from the hill provide a picturesque backdrop to this enchanting encounter with the island's iconic residents. In the afternoon, set sail for the iconic Chinese Hat Islet, a geological marvel in the midst of the Galapagos seas. Known for its distinct shape resembling a traditional Chinese hat, this islet promises a fascinating exploration of volcanic landscapes and pristine beaches. Snorkel in the crystal-clear waters surrounding the islet, discovering the vibrant marine life that thrives in the underwater world. Alternatively, take a leisurely stroll along the shores, marveling at the unique formations and perhaps spotting some of the indigenous wildlife, including sea lions and marine iguanas. Chinese Hat offers a perfect blend of geological wonders and aquatic adventures for a memorable afternoon in the Galapagos.



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### DAY 3: Genovesa Island

Embark on a morning exploration of El Barranco, also referred to as Prince Philip's Steps, situated on Genovesa Island. This esteemed site provides a distinctive avian observation opportunity, notably featuring red-footed and Nazca boobies, along with the elusive short-eared owl. As you ascend the rocky terrain, take in the captivating behaviors of these avian inhabitants. The elevated vantage point affords panoramic views of the island's coastal expanse, enhancing the overall experience. Subsequently, in the afternoon, proceed to the renowned Darwin Bay, an immaculate white-sand beach gracefully enclosed by Genovesa Island's crescent shape. Bearing the name of Charles Darwin, this location pays homage to the island's profound natural beauty and rich biodiversity. A serene stroll along the sandy shores unveils colonies of frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls, and red-footed boobies. The option to engage in snorkeling activities in the pristine waters provides an intimate encounter with marine life, from vibrant reef fish to the playful presence of sea lions. The afternoon at Darwin Bay assures an immersive and refined exploration of the Galapagos, seamlessly blending picturesque landscapes with the contemplative observation of the islands' unique wildlife.



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### DAY 4: Black Turtle Cove & Disembarkation

Commence your day with a visit to the esteemed Black Turtle Cove, a secluded and tranquil mangrove lagoon nestled within Santa Cruz Island. Renowned for its pristine natural beauty and diverse marine life, this cove offers a serene exploration by panga (dinghy). Glide through the winding waterways, surrounded by mangrove forests, and observe the underwater world through the crystal-clear waters. Keep an eye out for marine turtles, golden rays, and various species of sharks that inhabit these serene waters. The morning at Black Turtle Cove promises a peaceful and contemplative encounter with the Galapagos' coastal wonders. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to Baltra Airport, marking the conclusion of your Galapagos expedition. Our dedicated staff will ensure a smooth transition, providing assistance with your luggage and transportation to the airport. Reflect on the enriching experiences and captivating moments as you bid farewell to the extraordinary landscapes and wildlife of the Galapagos Islands.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Suite on board a Yacht
Inclusions	<div> <b>INCLUSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodation in double cabin</li> <li>Fuel Surcharge</li> <li>All activities and excursions as depicted in the itineraries with an English speaking naturalist guide</li> <li>Snorkelling equipment</li> <li>Kayak</li> <li>Wetsuits</li> <li>Stand up Paddle Board</li> <li>Internet</li> <li>All meals on board</li> <li>Purified water, tea, coffee</li> <li>Non - alcoholic beverages</li> <li>Selected menu premium wines, beer, and cocktails</li> <li>Laundry service</li> <li>Mini bar consumption</li> <li>Butler service</li> </ul> </div> <div> <b>EXCLUSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air ticket to and from Galapagos</li> <li>Gratuities to guides and crew</li> <li>Personals expenses</li> <li>Alcoholic drinks not included in menu selection</li> <li>Travel insurance</li> <li>International Airfare</li> <li>Visa if applicable</li> <li>Anything not mentioned on the itinerary</li> <li>Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee* (US\$200 from Aug 2024, price subject to change)</li> <li>Galapagos Control Transit \$20* (price subject to change)</li> </ul> </div>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

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Notes	<p>All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.</p> <p>Please note water activities are subject to weather conditions.</p> <p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated)</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time</p> <p>Snorkelling equipment is available in average sizes onboard complimentary.</p> <p>Wetsuits are available at different sizes complimentary, on a first comes first serves basis</p> <p>Kayaks and stand-up paddle boards are complimentary</p> <p>Unpacking service is complimentary</p> <p>24/7 butler service is complementary</p> <p>Massages are available for an additional charge and must be booked onboard</p>
	<p>* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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