SOUTH AMERICA - NORTH EASTERN GALAPAGOS ISLANDS | ECOGALAXY



TRIP CODE

ECGSE5DN

DEPARTURE

Selected Tuesdays

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

INTRODUCTION

Explore the wonders of the Galapagos Islands on this 5 day expediton cruises onboard the premium vessel EcoGalaxy where you will cruise the North Eastern Islands of the Galapagos. Explore various islands and see groups of playful sea lions, marine iguanas and blue footed boobies. Snorkel with turtles, schools of fish and take in the delights of the underwater world. During landings you will have the chance to hike and walk and your expert local guide will share insights into this unique part of the world. This is an experience not to be missed.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: San Cristobal and Lobos Island

AM: SAN CRISTOBAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL Embark on an unforgettable journey to the Galapagos Islands, where nature thrives in its purest form. Your adventure begins at San Cristobal's modest yet bustling airport, where a seasoned naturalist guide will greet you. This guardian of the ecosystem will introduce you to a world of breathtaking landscapes and unparalleled biodiversity. Feel the excitement as you step into this living sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage site, marking the beginning of an extraordinary exploration. PM: LOBOS ISLAND Lobos Island, a small islet near San Cristóbal, offers an unforgettable wildlife experience. Upon landing, groups of sea lions will greet you as they play in tidal pools. Walking inland, you'll spot frigatebirds perched in bushes, displaying their inflated red pouches, while blue-footed boobies nest along the trail, performing their iconic courtship dance. In the calm waters, snorkeling provides an incredible opportunity to swim with playful sea lions, while sea turtles and rays rest on the sandy bottom.



DAY 2: Santa Fe & South Plaza

AM: SANTA FE Santa Fe Island, nestled in one of the most stunning bays in the Galapagos, boasts towering prickly-pear cacti and ancient lava formations. Its white-sand beach and turquoise waters are home to a large sea lion colony basking under the sun. As you follow the trail, look for the endemic Santa Fe land iguana and, if lucky, a Galapagos hawk perched atop a cactus scanning for prey. Along the way, Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds, and lava lizards are commonly seen, making this hike a true wildlife experience. PM: SOUTH PLAZAS Of the two twin islands, only South Plazas is open to visitors, while North Plazas remains a scientific research site. Despite its small size, South Plazas is teeming with wildlife. Upon landing, ll find land iguanas lounging beneath Opuntia cacti, waiting for fallen fruit. A large sea lion colony dominates the shore, where playful pups explore tide pools while massive bulls defend their territory. The trail leads to a dramatic cliffside, offering breathtaking ocean views where frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, and swallow-tailed gulls soar. A blanket of reddish succulents covering the island adds to its striking beauty.



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DAY 3: North Seymour & Mosquera Islet

AM: NORTH SEYMOUR This island is home for large colonies of both magnificent and great frigatebirds and you can see them displaying their red balloons to attract a female. Blue-footed boobies nest in the ground and perform their famous dance in the open areas, while swallow-tailed gulls perch on the cliff edges. Land iguanas are common inland while their marine cousins bask in the rocks by the sea, close to sea lions, which often like to body surf in the waves. PM: MOSQUERA Mosquera is mostly a barren sand bar with some rocky areas and scattered salt-resistant plants. You can walk along the beach and enjoy seeing playful sea lion pups surfing the waves and having a great time in the tide pools. Look for endemic lava gulls which are often seen flying over the beach in the search of food.



DAY 4: Darwin Bay

AM: DARWIN BAY Genovesa is a favorite island for birdwatchers as it is home for very large colonies of seabirds. From the minute you set foot at the beach you will be amazed by the noise of hundreds of boobies, gulls and frigatebirds flying over your heads, perched in the bushes or nesting on the sandy terrain. The trail is an ultimate wildlife experience as there are animals everywhere; sea lions and marine iguanas near the sea; night herons, lava and swallow tailed gulls, Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds and many more species inland. PM: BARRANCO El Barranco is located in the southern part of Darwin Bay at Genovesa Island. The cliffs facing the sea are made of very fragile fractured lava, making it the ideal place for storm petrels to build their colonies, which attracts an important population of short-eared owls preying on the nesting birds. Red footed and Nazca boobies are abundant along the trail. At the base of the cliffs you can see Galapagos fur seals resting in shaded areas, as well as several species of seabirds.



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DAY 5: Depart Galapagos

AM: SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS Either if you do this visit starting from Baltra or from Puerto Ayora, a bus will take you to the highlands stopping along the way at one of the reserves to visit the lush highland forests where you will look for Galapagos Giant tortoises in their natural environment. This is the best place in the Galapagos to see these gentle giants (reaching over 300 kg / 600 pounds!) casually grazing and resting in freshwater ponds. This is also home for a great diversity of birds rarely found at the lowlands, including finches (tree, woodpecker and vegetarian finches), flycatchers and several species of water birds. You will visit a lava tunnel (depending on the itinerary) and learn how these extraordinary formations were created by ancient volcanic eruptions. After this activity you will be transferred to the airport where you will board your departure flight from the Galapagos.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board A Catamaran Yacht
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Accommodation in chosen cabin Transfers in the Galapagos and airport assistance All meals during the cruise Water coffee and tea & soft drink All excursions as per the itinerary* English-Speaking Naturalist guide Snorkelling equipment Kayak & Paddle board equipment **EXCLUSIONS** Return airfares from mainland Ecuador Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (US$20 per person - Subject to change) Wet suit rental Alcoholic drinks Personal expenses Gratuities for crew/guides Services not specified
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)

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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. Please note kayak & paddle board activities are subject to weather conditions. Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated). Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. *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.

SUSTAINABILITY

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