# **GALAPAGOS ISLANDS** - WESTERN GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (A) | MONSERRAT



**TRIP CODE**

ECVNM5D

**DEPARTURE**

Selected Sundays

**DURATION**

5 Days

**LOCATIONS**

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

## INTRODUCTION

Experience the remote beauty of the Galapagos Islands aboard the Monserrat Yacht on a five-day journey through some of the archipelago's most pristine and wildlife-rich locations. This itinerary offers a balance of guided walks, snorkelling excursions, and peaceful cruising, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the landscapes and ecosystems that make the Galapagos so extraordinary.

From volcanic shores and mangrove coves to secluded beaches and open sea, each stop reveals a new facet of the islands' natural diversity. Swim alongside sea turtles, rays, and playful sea lions, observe unique bird species like blue-footed boobies and flightless cormorants, and explore habitats untouched by invasive species. Whether on land or underwater, the encounters are as educational as they are awe-inspiring.

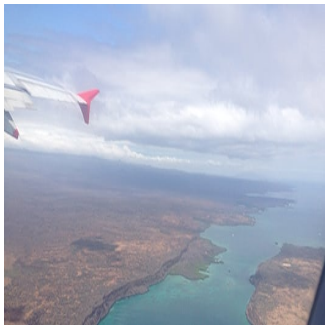
The Monserrat provides a comfortable and relaxed base throughout your trip, with expert naturalist guides on board to share the stories behind the islands' geology, history, and wildlife. Ideal for nature lovers and curious travellers alike, this itinerary offers a rich, rewarding way to explore one of the world's most iconic ecological destinations.

## ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos Islands



Upon arrival on Baltra Island and once you've cleared immigration and customs, our Monserrat Yacht naturalist guide will welcome you to the archipelago and escort you to the vessel. In the afternoon, visit Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill), renowned as one of the archipelago's best bird-watching sites. A short walk from the beach brings you to a hypersaline lagoon—saltier than the ocean—where pink flamingos, common stilts, pintail ducks and other waterbirds congregate. En route, you'll pass through a forest of endemic Scalesia trees—an iconic genus of which only around 400 specimens remain worldwide.

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DAY 2: Buccaneer's Cove & Puerto Egas



In the morning, you'll head to Buccaneer Cove for a thrilling panga ride along its towering cliff-wall rock formations—once a favorite hideout for pirates stocking up on food and fresh water. As you cruise the cove, keep an eye out for sea lions basking on the beach and seabirds nesting in the crevices above. After the ride, slip into the clear waters for a snorkeling adventure alongside playful sea lions and curious fur seals. In the afternoon, you'll explore Puerto Egas—also known as James Bay—where a salt crater, dark-sand beach, and rocky tidal pools set the stage for abundant wildlife. Wander the shoreline spotting shorebirds and sun-bathing marine iguanas, then grab your snorkel and dive in right from the beach. Beneath the surface, look for rays, turtles, and reef sharks before finishing your visit among the tide-pools, alive with Sally Lightfoot crabs and more marine iguanas.

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DAY 3: Espinoza Point & Urbina bay

In the morning, we'll hop ashore at Espinoza Point on Fernandina—arguably the archipelago's most untouched island, free of any invasive species. First, wander among tidal pools teeming with tiny fish, mollusks and, on lucky days, a stranded ray or sea turtle. A short trail leads past marine iguana burrows and sun-bathing sea lions, ending at the nests of the rare flightless cormorant—only a few hundred of which remain in the western islands. To cap it off, slip back into the water for more snorkeling, where curious penguins dart below and marine iguanas bob on the surface alongside gentle sea turtles. In the afternoon, you'll make a wet landing on the beach at Urbina Bay—where the sea floor thrust skyward in 1954, revealing a coral reef terrace that's still one of the youngest landscapes in the archipelago. Under the watchful slopes of Alcedo Volcano, you'll follow a winding trail past grazing Galápagos giant tortoises and sun-bathing land iguanas. As the path loops back toward the shore, colonies of flightless cormorants cling to the rocks, their glossy feathers shimmering in the sun. Before you leave, slip into the clear water for a snorkel: curious Galápagos penguins will dart around you while marine iguanas graze on underwater algae.



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DAY 4: Tagus Cove & Vicente Roca

In the morning, we'll venture to Tagus Cove on Isabela's northwestern coast—a sheltered inlet once frequented by whalers, pirates, and even Charles Darwin in 1835, whose footsteps (and those of countless sailors) are still etched into the cliff walls. After a dry landing, stroll along the shoreline where blue-footed boobies, brown noddies and, in season, Galápagos penguins and woodpecker finches flit among the volcanic boulders. Then climb the short trail to Darwin's Lake—a surprising saltwater lagoon perched high on the volcano's flank—where your naturalist guide will share the scientific theories behind this rare inland sea. In the afternoon, we'll visit Vicente Roca Point on Isabela's western shore, where the Bolivar Channel churns up some of the richest marine life on Earth. As we cruise along sheer cliffs, you'll spot blue-footed and Nazca boobies, brown pelicans, noddies and even flightless cormorants perched on lava outcrops. Then it's time to don your mask and fins for deep-water snorkeling: schools of Galápagos green turtles glide beneath you, and if visibility's clear you might glimpse reef sharks and graceful rays weaving through swaying corals.



DAY 5: Black Turtle Cove & Disembarkation

Early in the morning, enjoy a panga ride through Black Turtle Cove's mangroves, spotting manta rays, green turtles and whitetip reef sharks. Afterwards, return to Baltra Island, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight back to mainland Ecuador.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Accommodation** | Cabin on board a Ship |

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| **Inclusions** | **INCLUSIONS**<br>Cabin accommodation.<br>Fuel Surcharge.<br>All meals on board<br>All activities and excursions as depicted in the itineraries in company of a bilingual naturalist guide.<br>Snorkelling equipment.<br>Kayak<br>Wetsuits<br>Stand up Paddle Board<br>Group transfers to/from the Yacht (please note if you arrive on different flights to the rest of group surcharges may apply for transfers).<br><br>**EXCLUSIONS**<br>Air ticket to and from Galapagos<br>Gratuities to guides and crew<br>Personals expenses<br>Alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages.<br>Travel insurance<br>International Airfare<br>Visas if applicable<br>Wifi onboard<br>Anything not mentioned on the itinerary<br>Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee* (US$200 from Aug 2024, price subject to change)<br>Galapagos Control Transit $20* (price subject to change) |
| **Difficulty Rating** | 2 (light adventure) |
| **Single Surcharge** | A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information. There may be a limited number of cabins available onboard for sole occupancy. |

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| **Notes** | All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.<br>Please note water activities are subject to weather conditions.<br>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated)<br>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time<br>Snorkelling equipment is available in average sizes onboard complimentary.<br>Wetsuits are available at different sizes complimentary, on a first comes first served basis<br>Kayaks and stand up paddle boards are available complimentary to use<br>Cooking and cocktail lessons are complimentary<br>Passengers can open a tab for their bar and boutique consumption.<br>Tabs must be settled the last night of the cruise in Us dollars and in cash.<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. |

## SUSTAINABILITY

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