ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS 5 DAY NORTH



TRIP CODE
ECGGM5DD
DEPARTURE
Selected Sundays
DURATION
5 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador & Galapagos Islands

INTRODUCTION

Embark on a 5-day Galapagos adventure aboard the Monique, exploring diverse islands including San CristÃ³bal, Santa Fe, South Plaza, Genovesa, Chinese Hat, and Santa Cruz. This itinerary offers a blend of activities such as hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy rides, allowing guests to encounter unique wildlife like red-footed boobies, land iguanas, and sea lions. Experience the archipelago's rich biodiversity and stunning landscapes on this immersive journey.

Enjoy exclusive savings when you pair your Galapagos cruise aboard the Monique with a luxury stay at La Selva Lodge in the Amazon. Get in touch for details and pricing.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos Islands



Upon arrival, reception and assistance at the airport, transfer from San Cristobal Airport to the M/C Monique. In the afternoon, broaden your understanding of the archipelago at the San Cristobal Interpretation Center. This modern facility offers engaging exhibits that trace the Galapagos' geological beginnings, ecological richness, and complex human history over time. Learn about the unique species that call these islands home and the ongoing conservation initiatives working to protect their fragile ecosystems for generations to come.

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DAY 2: Santa Fe & South Plaza Islands

Begin your morning by landing on Santa Fe, one of the oldest islands in the Galapagos, known for its towering forests of Opuntia cacti and distinctive pale-yellow land iguanas. Hike along scenic trails that lead you across the island's arid landscape or into the highlands where these endemic iguanas bask under the sun. After your walk, cool off in the calm, crystal-clear waters of the bay — ideal for swimming or snorkeling alongside playful sea lions, rays, and colorful reef fish. In the afternoon, explore the compact yet incredibly diverse South Plaza Island. Its vivid red and green Sesuvium ground cover contrasts dramatically with the island's black lava and towering prickly pear cacti. Here, you can often see swallow-tailed gulls, tropicbirds, and other seabirds nesting or riding the thermals above the crashing waves.



DAY 3: Darwin Bay & El Barranco (Genovesa Island)

This morning you will disembark on the white coral beach of Darwin Bay, the only sandy landing site within Genovesa's volcanic caldera. During breeding season, male frigatebirds inflate their striking red throat pouches in elaborate mating displays while red-footed boobies perch on the mangrove branches. In the afternoon visit, El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps, a rocky stairway that leads past a colony of Nazca and red-footed boobies up to a plateau of dried lava. Continuing through the thin Palo Santo Forest and looking out over the plain, visitors are often treated to sites of storm petrels launching out over the ocean. A dinghy ride or kayaking along the edge of the cliffs provides a good chance to see the elusive Galapagos fur seals nestled on the rocks, and snorkeling is a great activity if you fancy a dip with a variety of shark species.



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DAY 4: Chinese Hat & Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)

This scenic islet off the coast of Santiago Island is known for its striking lava formations. With a maximum elevation of just 160 feet (52 meters) and within easy reach of Santa Cruz, Chinese Hat is typically only visited by those aboard a Galapagos Cruise, and is renowned as one of the best snorkeling spots in the archipelago. In the afternoon you'll head to Dragon Hill, located in the northwestern region of Santa Cruz Island. This visit offers guests the chance to explore the island on foot and observe the remarkable land iguanas—once nearly extinct, now thriving once again. You'll also encounter a saltwater lagoon home to flamingos, pintail ducks, and a variety of endemic bird species such as flycatchers and warblers. A brief hike leads to a stunning viewpoint at the top of the hill. Before returning to the yacht, enjoy some offshore snorkeling in the surrounding waters.



DAY 5: Black Turtle Cove & Depart

After breakfast, you'll explore Black Turtle Cove, located along the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. This site vividly demonstrates how mangroves shape the marine ecosystem, forming a vibrant and unique habitat. Three different species of mangroves extend from the shore deep into the water, stretching nearly a mile inland. While gliding silently through the calm waters aboard a dinghy, you may spot spotted eagle rays and mustard rays gracefully swimming in formation. Keep an eye out for white-tipped reef sharks gliding beneath the surface and Pacific green sea turtles surfacing to breathe or mate. The area is also a haven for waterfowl, such as pelicans, herons, and egrets, all drawn by the cove's rich feeding grounds. After this last visit, bid farewell to the crew as you are being transferred to Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board Catamaran

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Transfers in the Galapagos Islands Airport reception and assistance on the islands Guided expeditions according to the itinerary Top bilingual National Park guide (English-Spanish) Accommodation in cabin, according to your booking Cruise Service Officer Wi-Fi on board Activity daily briefing All meals and snacks while on board Soft drinks and juices One glass of wine or local beer per guest per night Captain's welcome and farewell cocktail Use of sea kayaks and paddle boards in authorized places Expedition gear (wet suits and fins, water container, and mask and snorkel) Yoga mats Kettlebells and dumbbells Stargazing laser pointer **EXCLUSIONS** International & internal flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Personal expenses Tips and gratuities for guide and crew Beverages other than specified Local taxes Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (USD$200 per person, subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD$20 per person, subject to change) Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure)
Single Surcharge	**Single Stateroom is not available for solo passengers.** Single Stateroom accommodates additional travellers who are part of odd-numbered groups and families. A single supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. * Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.

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Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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