ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS 8 DAY WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | MONIQUE



TRIP CODE

ECGGM8WA

DEPARTURE

Selected Thursdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador & Galapagos Islands

INTRODUCTION

Embark on a 8-day expedition through the Northern, Western, and Central Galapagos Islands aboard the Monique. This comprehensive itinerary includes visits to iconic sites such as Bartolome, Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago, and Santa Cruz, offering opportunities to snorkel with penguins, hike volcanic terrains, and observe unique wildlife like blue-footed boobies and giant tortoises. Experience the diverse landscapes and rich biodiversity of the archipelago 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 landing, guests will be welcomed and assisted at the airport before being transferred to the M/C Monique. In the afternoon, you'll explore Las Bachas, a stunning white-sand beach along the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. It’s a great spot for a relaxing walk or gentle snorkeling. This beach is a nesting site for sea turtles, and you may spot a rusted pontoon—an old World War II remnant. The name "Bachas" is derived from a mispronunciation of "barges," referring to the two partially sunken vessels in the area.

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DAY 2: Rabida & Isabela Island

This morning's visit takes you to Rábida Island, which is renowned for its unique red sand beach. The island is home to striking cactus groves and dramatic rocky landscapes, along with native dry-zone vegetation and endemic species. A walk along the beach might reveal brown pelican nests and occasionally flamingos in a nearby saltwater lagoon. Located on the northern tip of Isabela Island, Punta Albemarle is home to a large mangrove that is ideal for dinghy exploration, thanks to its mesmerizing network of channels and creeks. Nearby, you'll find the remains of a WWII-era American radar base. The site offers excellent wildlife viewing, including marine birds, the largest marine iguanas in the Galapagos, and many flightless cormorants.



DAY 3: Vicente Roca Point & Tagus Cove

This morning visit Vicente Roca Point, an expansive bay on Isabela's northwest coast featuring two coves that attract a variety of nesting birds, including blue-footed and Nazca boobies, storm petrels, and Brown Noddies. The nutrient-rich waters make this a premier snorkeling spot, where whales, dolphins, sea lions, and marine birds can often be seen feeding. In the afternoon, take a dinghy ride along the cliffs of Tagus Cove for a chance to observe Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, and other seabirds. After landing, a 30-minute hike leads to panoramic views of Darwin Lake—a large saltwater lagoon—and surrounding volcanic peaks.



DAY 4: Ezpinoza Point & Urbina Bay

Espinoza Point showcases Fernandina Island's stark lava fields dotted with Lava Cacti and mangroves that grow atop hardened lava flows. Highlights include colonies of sea lions, penguins, flightless cormorants (especially active in spring and summer), and one of the largest concentrations of marine iguanas in the archipelago. In the afternoon, explore Urbina Bay, renowned for its upraised coral beds and vivid land iguanas. The area is rich in wildlife—giant tortoises, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, penguins, and marine iguanas are all commonly seen.



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DAY 5: Puerto Egas and Bucaneer's cove



Once the site of a salt mine, this black-sand beach now serves as a prime location for spotting shorebirds, marine iguanas, and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Inland, a walk that takes visitors past tidal pools and beautiful volcanic formations may offer views of fur seals lounging in shaded grottoes. In the afternoon you will visit Buccaneer Cove, a key nesting area for sea turtles and frequented by sea lions. A dinghy ride reveals stunning eroded cliffs that host nesting boobies, pelicans, and gulls.

DAY 6: Bartholomew & Sullivan Bay



Bartholomew is best known for Pinnacle Rock, a striking volcanic cone that soars out of the water. A trail leads to the island’s summit, where breathtaking views of the surrounding lava terrain and the iconic rock await. The northern beach, a sea turtle nesting site, is perfect for snorkeling with reef sharks, penguins, and eagle rays. Located next to Pinnacle Rock, the beaches at Sullivan Bay offer outstanding snorkeling, and lucky visitors might find themselves swimming alongside penguins. This northern beach is also a key nesting ground for green sea turtles.

DAY 7: North Seymour and Mosquera Islet



Named after British naval officer Lord Hugh Seymour, this small island is covered in low-lying vegetation and teems with birdlife. You’ll encounter blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, and a substantial colony of magnificent frigatebirds, with males displaying their vibrant red throat pouches to attract mates. Positioned between Baltra and North Seymour, Mosquera is a flat, sandy islet without a designated trail, allowing for free exploration. It’s known for its thriving sea lion colony, shorebirds, and colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs. The surrounding reefs make for excellent snorkeling, with chances to spot rays, turtles, and reef sharks.

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DAY 8: Charles Darwin Centre & Departure

This morning visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, also known as the Charles Darwin Research Station. The center hosts an interpretation center, museum, library, and tortoise breeding facility, home to various tortoise subspecies being prepared for reintroduction. After your last visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board Catamaran
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

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Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure)
Single Surcharge	**Single Stateroom is not available for solo passengers.** Single Stateroom accommodates additional travelers 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.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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