ECUADOR - WESTERN GALAPAGOS CRUISE 6 DAY ITINERARY C | SEA STAR



TRIP CODE
ECRGS6DC
DEPARTURE
Selected Thursdays
DURATION
6 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

INTRODUCTION

This 6-day cruise combines active exploration with close-up wildlife encounters across six Galapagos islands. Guests snorkel in clear waters with penguins, sea turtles, rays, sea lions and tropical fish. Then hike volcanic trails with panoramic views like at Sierra Negra and Moreno Point to observe rare species like flightless cormorants and lava lizards. Visits to tortoise and marine iguana habitats offer insight into conservation efforts. Sometimes an adventure to cruise along waterways in pangas to observe close up with out disturbing the wildlife. Birdwatching highlights include Galapagos penguins, frigatebirds displaying their throat sac, flamingos, Darwin's finches, Galapagos hawks and blue-footed boobies with their unique courtship displays to each other. T**his itinerary blends human history along with the rich natural history and biodiversity below the water and on these incredible islands.**

Want to explore more of these magnificent Galapagos Islands? You can combine this cruise itinerary onboard the **Galapagos Sea Star** with either the **Northern Galapagos Cruise 5 Day Itinerary** or the **Southern Galapagos Cruise 6 Day Itinerary** to the start or end of this current itinerary.*
(* *Subject to scheduling & availability. Please Contact Us for full information*)

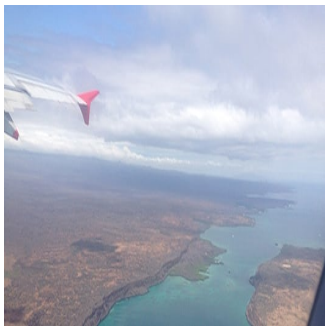
ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrival Baltra Airport & Santa Cruz Island

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Sea Star staff member and brought into a private bus to start your adventure in Galapagos. Please note: Your first excursion in the Galapagos will be after being picked up at the airport upon arrival to the islands, before boarding the cruise. It is essential for you to arrive in the Galapagos wearing comfortable clothes, good closed-toe shoes suitable for an excursion, a long-brimmed hat, sun lotion, sunglasses, and to ensure you have your camera handy. In the afternoon you will visit “Fausto Llerena” Tortoise Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.



DAY 2: Isabela Island

In the morning you will visit Tintoreras Islet, located a short distance from Puerto Villamil, is home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tip reef sharks, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches surrounded by mangroves is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully. Afterwards, a visit to the Sierra Negra Volcano, which is the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos with a diameter of 6.2 miles (10 km). The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to seven species of finches and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005. In the afternoon you will visit the Wetlands of Isabela Island are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. They consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path through the swamps.



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DAY 3: Isabela Island

In the morning you will visit Moreno Point is located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles. In the afternoon you will visit Elizabeth Bay. Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets, which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkelling and viewing schools of colourful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.



DAY 4: Fernandina & Isabela Islands

In the morning you will visit Espinoza Point. Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinoza Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you will reach the island’s highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk. In the afternoon you will visit Tagus Cove on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views.



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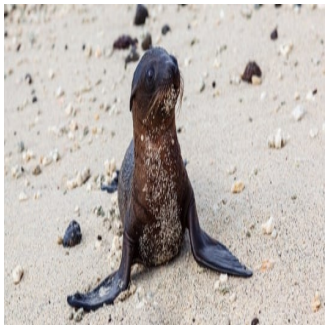
DAY 5: Santiago Island

In the morning you will either visit Espumilla Beach or Buccaneer Cove depending on conditions and site regulations. In Espumilla Beach marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkelling is highly recommended as you could come face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish. Buccaneer Cove is a testament to the fact that Santiago Island was once a refuge for British buccaneers. These pirates would anchor in the protected bay to make repairs and stock up on tortoise meat among other things. The steep cliffs, where hundreds of seabirds perch in front of the dark red sand beach, are a magnificent site. In the afternoon you will visit Egas Port, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur seals bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkelling site.



DAY 6: San Cristobal Island & Airport Departure

In the morning you will visit take an excursion to Lobos Island which means “Sea Lion Island” just off from San Cristobal Island. This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, playful, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkelling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies. After this final visit, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport in time for your flight back to the mainland. Please note: Itineraries are generally stable but may change due to weather, wildlife, safety, park regulations, guest abilities, or operational needs. Not all listed activities on each visitor point may be completed. Your guide and captain will always aim to choose the best possible itinerary.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Accommodation in your chosen cabin onboard the Galapagos Sea Star All meals and excursions while onboard the ship Group transfers in the islands English Speaking National Park Guide Use of snorkelling equipment/wetsuit Use of underwater camera Free Airport Assistance* Hotel night in Quito or Guayaquil (the day before the cruise)* A free transfer to Galapagos Flights* *Applies only when purchasing roundtrip Galapagos/mainland airfare from the cruise operator **EXCLUSIONS** Roundtrip airfare to/from Galapagos Alcoholic drinks Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (US$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD$20 per person - Subject to change) Travel/Medical insurance Gratuities Personal Expenses
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
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. * 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.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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