GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - WESTERN GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE B



TRIP CODE

ECGS6D26

DEPARTURE

Select Saturdays

DURATION

6 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

INTRODUCTION

This six-day GalÃ¡pagos cruise explores the western and central islands, combining guided hikes, snorkelling and water-based activities with time to experience the region's most wildlife-rich environments. Travelling with experienced naturalist guides, guests discover volcanic coastlines, mangroves, highlands and remote bays, with daily excursions designed to offer close wildlife encounters both on land and in the water.

The itinerary includes Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina and Santiago Islands, with highlights such as snorkelling with penguins and flightless cormorants at Tagus Cove, observing large marine iguana colonies at Espinoza Point, and exploring mangrove channels at Elizabeth Bay by panga or kayak. Encounters with giant tortoises, sea lions, reef sharks, rays, flamingos and a wide variety of seabirds are common, while visits like the Santa Cruz highlands and historic sites at Buccaneer Cove add cultural and geological context to the journey.

**Itinerary valid from 1st April 2026 onwards*

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos

Welcome to Galapagos! Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, your naturalist guide will greet you and assist with the transfer to Itabaca Channel. This initial journey offers your first connection with the archipelago as you take a short ferry ride to Santa Cruz Island. Along the way, observe Baltra's arid landscape and learn about its history as a former U.S. WWII airbase. This is just the beginning of the many fascinating stories awaiting you on your adventure. PM: 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.



DAY 2: Moreno Point & Elizabeth Bay

AM: MORENO POINT Moreno Point is a magical place with extensive lava fields which look lifeless at first sight. Once inland, scattered brackish lagoons form an oasis of life where you can find flamingos, gallinules, ducks and herons. Along the shore we will look for penguins, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, oystercatchers and other shore birds. PM: ELIZABETH BAY Elizabeth Bay is a beautiful sheltered bay surrounded by large mangroves and barren lava fields. There is no trail here so you will take a dinghy tour to explore many channels, pools and coves teeming with life. This is one of the best locations in the islands to see Galapagos penguins, but don't expect to see thousands of them, as the entire population of the islands is only about 3.000 of them. Flightless cormorants also nest in the area and blue-footed boobies and pelicans often fish in these shallow and rich waters. Rays and sea turtles are also very abundant.



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DAY 3: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove

AM: URBINA BAY This place is known for the dramatic uplifting that happened here during the 1950's. A large portion of the coast was pushed up, exposing many hectares of previously submerged land. Look carefully along the trail and you will find small shells and corals, a proof that the area was underwater more than sixty years ago. The trail will give the opportunity to see land iguanas and, during certain seasons, giant tortoises. Galapagos hawks nest in the area and are often seen flying or perched on the trees. PM: TAGUS COVE Tagus Cove is steeped in history, once visited by Charles Darwin during his Galapagos exploration. A scenic trail winds through dry Palo Santo forests, where Darwin's finches and mockingbirds can be spotted. At the top, breathtaking views of Lake Darwin and Isabela's towering volcanoes await. A boat tour along the shore provides a chance to observe Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, and the elusive Galapagos martin, one of the rarest and most endangered birds in the archipelago.



DAY 4: Espinoza Point & Albermarle Point

AM: ESPINOZA POINT Located at the base of an imposing volcano (the most active in the Galapagos islands) this site is one of the jewels of the Galapagos National Park. As soon as you disembark you will be surrounded by hundreds of marine iguanas, as this is the largest colony for the species. Sea lions bask in the beaches while their pups play in tide pools. Along the shore you will see flightless cormorants, which are restricted to the western areas of the archipelago. Surrounded by cold plankton-rich waters, Punta Espinosa is home for an array of species, including herons, pelicans, oystercatchers, sea turtles, shorebird and many more. Look up in the mangroves as Galapagos hawks often perch to look for their prey. PM: ALBERMARLE POINT In the afternoon, visit Albemarle Point, where military history meets Galapagos wildlife. During WWII, the U.S. built a radar base here to monitor potential Japanese threats, and remnants of this structure remain visible today. Despite its stark, lava-covered landscape, the coastline is rich in wildlife. Some of the largest marine iguanas in the archipelago reside here, alongside Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, and various shorebirds, making this a fascinating blend of history and nature.



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DAY 5: Egas Port & Espumilla Beach

AM: EGAS PORT Puerto Egas is a fascinating destination where history and wildlife intertwine. While there is no actual port, remnants of 1960s colonization attempts still stand. The coastal trail is teeming with marine iguanas basking in the sun and sea lions resting on the rocks. Herons, oystercatchers, and shorebirds complete this thriving ecosystem. Towards the end of the trail, the grottos are home to a small colony of the elusive Galapagos fur seal. Additionally, land iguanas were reintroduced to the island in 2019 after over a century of absence. PM: ESPUMILLA BEACH / BUCCANEER COVE Espumilla Beach, on Santiago's northern coast, is a stunning one-kilometer stretch of rusty-brown sand. Surrounded by mangroves and dry forest, it hosts Galapagos hawks, finches, and mockingbirds, while flamingos and ducks may appear in the salt pan during the rainy season. Then, at Buccaneer Cove, discover a historic pirate hideout from the 17th and 18th centuries. Towering cliffs and striking rock formations create a breathtaking landscape. Although there's no trail, a dinghy ride offers a unique chance to observe wildlife and delve into the archipelago's history.



DAY 6: Depart Galapagos Island

AM: DRAGON HILL OR DAPHNE Explore one of the two remarkable sites in Galápagos: Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz, where land iguanas roam and flamingos gather at a saltwater lagoon, and Daphne Major, home to nesting seabirds and groundbreaking finch evolution research. Both offer unique, unforgettable wildlife experiences. PM: BALTRA AIRPORT (RETURN) Your Galapagos adventure comes to an end. Today, you will be transferred to Baltra Airport, where your National Park naturalist guide will assist you with final details before your flight back to mainland Ecuador. As you bid farewell to this paradise, take with you the unforgettable memories of one of the world's most extraordinary destinations.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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Accommodation	Cabin On Board A Catamaran Yacht
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Accommodation in double 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)
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.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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