ECUADOR - 8 DAY NORTHEAST ITINERARY (C+A) | GALAXY STELLA



TRIP CODE

ECGASA8

DEPARTURE

Selected Wednesdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

INTRODUCTION

This itinerary takes you across a broad sweep of the northeastern and southern Galapagos, introducing you to islands that each offer something different. Your first days bring you to North Seymour, Santa Fe and South Plaza, where active seabird colonies, sea lions and land iguanas create an immediate sense of how varied the wildlife can be from island to island.

You then travel to Genovesa, a remote caldera island filled with nesting birds and excellent snorkelling opportunities, before returning to Santa Cruz for time in the highlands among giant tortoises and a relaxed visit to Bachas Beach. The journey continues through San Cristobal, EspaÃ±ola and Floreana, combining dramatic coastal walks, calm bays and sites with longâ□□standing natural and human history.

Across the week, you'll experience a balanced mix of walking, wildlife viewing and time in the water, with each stop adding a new layer to your understanding of the archipelago. It's a wellâ□□rounded route for travellers wanting variety, strong wildlife encounters and a clear sense of how different the islands can be.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos Islands

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. This afternoon visit North Seymour Island, a paradise for bird watchers, with large colonies of magnificent and great frigatebirds inflating their red throat pouches in an impressive courtship display. On the ground, blue-footed boobies perform their famous mating dance, while swallow-tailed gulls perch on cliffs overlooking the sea. Inland, land iguanas have thrived thanks to conservation efforts, while marine iguanas bask on the rocks near playful sea lions body surfing the waves.



DAY 2: Santa Fe & South Plaza

Santa Fe Island, nestled in one of the most stunning bays in the Galapagos, boasts towering prickly-pear cacti and ancient lava formations. Its white-sand beach and turquoise waters are home to a large sea lion colony basking under the sun. As you follow the trail, look for the endemic Santa Fe land iguana and, if lucky, a Galapagos hawk perched atop a cactus scanning for prey. Along the way, Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds, and lava lizards are commonly seen, making this hike a true wildlife experience. In the afternoon, enjoy a visit to South Plazas island which is teeming with wildlife. Upon landing, ll find land iguanas lounging beneath Opuntia cacti, waiting for fallen fruit. A large sea lion colony dominates the shore, where playful pups explore tide pools while massive bulls defend their territory. The trail leads to a dramatic cliffside, offering breathtaking ocean views where frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, and swallow-tailed gulls soar. A blanket of reddish succulents covering the island adds to its striking beauty.



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DAY 3: Darwin Bay & Genovesa

Located in the southern part of Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island, El Barranco is a wildlife sanctuary. Its fragile lava cliffs provide shelter for storm petrels and a remarkable population of short-eared owls. Along the trail, red-footed and Nazca boobies nest on the volcanic rock. At the base of the cliffs, Galapagos fur seals rest in shaded areas, while seabirds soar above this breathtaking landscape, making El Barranco an unforgettable destination for nature lovers. This afternoon you will visit Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island, a breathtaking sight for birdwatchers. As you step onto the beach, you'll be amazed by the presence of hundreds of boobies, gulls, and frigatebirds soaring, nesting in bushes, or resting on the sand. Along the shore, sea lions and marine iguanas blend into the scenery, while inland you may spot night herons, swallow-tailed gulls, Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, and mockingbirds. This immersive experience brings you face-to-face with a thriving ecosystem.



DAY 4: Santa Cruz Highlands & Bachas Beach

Enjoy a scenic journey into the lush highlands of Santa Cruz. Walk through a reserve where you may spot giant tortoises—some weighing over 600 pounds—grazing peacefully. Observe endemic birds such as finches and flycatchers. If included in your itinerary, explore a lava tunnel, a fascinating remnant of the volcanic forces that shaped these islands. After, we will go to the beach known as Bachas, located north of Santa Cruz Island. Here we can snorkel or take a relaxing walk on the beach. For this, we will make a wet landing, in which we will jump from the panga to the shore of the beach. Again, we recommend disembarking barefoot and wearing light walking shoes for the rest of the journey. The saltwater lagoon behind the beach often has great blue herons and small birds. Both beaches are nesting areas for green sea turtles.



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DAY 5: Kicker Rock & Lobos Island

León Dormido, also known as Kicker Rock, is one of the most iconic rock formations in the Galapagos. Located off the coast of San Cristóbal, this towering islet with sheer cliffs offers an unparalleled setting for diving and snorkeling. Dive into crystal-clear waters and swim alongside hammerhead sharks, sea turtles, and majestic manta rays. The marine life here is abundant, with schools of tropical fish and sea lions exploring the reefs. For those seeking adventure and a deep connection with the Galapagos' underwater world, this is an experience not to be missed. This afternoon you will visit Lobos Island, a small islet near San Cristóbal offering an unforgettable wildlife experience. Upon landing, groups of sea lions will greet you as they play in tidal pools. Walking inland, you'll spot frigatebirds perched in bushes, displaying their inflated red pouches, while blue-footed boobies nest along the trail, performing their iconic courtship dance. In the calm waters, snorkeling provides an incredible opportunity to swim with playful sea lions, while sea turtles and rays rest on the sandy bottom.



DAY 6: Suarez Point & Gardner Bay

Embark on an adventure to Suarez Point, one of the Galapagos' greatest natural wonders. This rocky trail is a haven for wildlife lovers, featuring an incredible array of species. Upon arrival, sea lions and marine iguanas welcome you as the first hosts of this nature spectacle. As you explore further, witness a vibrant mosaic of seabird colonies, from blue-footed and Nazca boobies to graceful frigatebirds and tropicbirds. The highlight of this journey is meeting the waved albatross, the island's largest bird, impressing visitors with its powerful flight and intricate courtship display (present from April to January). This afternoon embark on a excursion to Gardner Bay, located on Española Island. This site boasts one of the most stunning beaches in the Galapagos. Its soft coral sand and crystal-clear waters create a paradise-like setting, perfect for relaxation and exploration. As you stroll along the shore, spot curious Española mockingbirds, marine iguanas basking in the sun, and Galapagos hawks soaring overhead in search of prey. This natural sanctuary is also home to playful sea lions, making for an unforgettable wildlife experience in a pristine, breathtaking environment.



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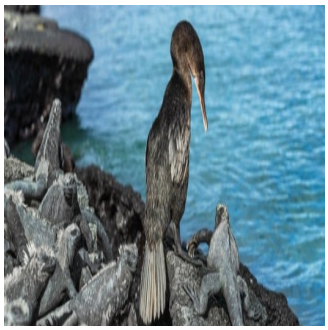
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DAY 7: Cormorant Point & Post Office Bay

Located in northern Floreana, Punta Cormorant is a paradise for nature lovers. Its coastal lagoon hosts flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and black-necked stilts, while its white sand beach is a crucial nesting site for green sea turtles. In recent years, blue-footed boobies have started nesting along the trail. This is also a great site for spotting endemic plants. For snorkeling, Devil's Crown is a heavily eroded volcanic formation which offers an unparalleled experience, attracting reef sharks, rays, sea turtles, and massive schools of tropical fish. This afternoon, step into the past at Post Office Bay on Floreana, where sailors established a barrel-based mail system in the 1700s, still in use today. Beyond its historic charm, the bay was a key stop for whalers seeking freshwater and tortoises. This site also boasts a scenic beach, and incredible wildlife, including sea lions, green sea turtles, reef sharks, and, if luck is on your side, the elusive Galapagos penguin.



DAY 8: Charles Darwin Station & Departure

This morning explore the Charles Darwin Research Station, a center dedicated to wildlife conservation and research. Witness breeding programs helping restore giant tortoise populations, learn about projects tackling invasive species, and see conservationists working to protect the fragile Galapagos ecosystem. After this activity you will be transferred to the airport where you will board your departure flight from the Galapagos.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board the Yacht

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Airport assistance Transfers in Galapagos Accommodation in double cabin All meals during the cruise One Naturalist Bilingual Guide All visits and excursions according to the itinerary Snorkel Gear (mask, tube and fins) Kayaks, paddle boards Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea Wetsuits Soft Drinks Galapagos airport Vip Lounge Jacuzzi, Fire Pit, BBQ zone **EXCLUSIONS** International flights Alcoholic drinks Tips and gratuities Personal expenses Travel insurance (highly recommended) Additional services not indicated 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	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. Kayaking and water based activities are subject to weather conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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