

ECUADOR - CENTRAL & WESTERN ISLAND CRUISE (A) | EMINENCE



INTRODUCTION

This seven-night itinerary explores the western and central Galapagos, visiting islands such as Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago, Bartholomew and North Seymour. Across guided walks, snorkelling and coastal excursions, you'll encounter giant tortoises, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, penguins, reef sharks and other iconic species, while visits to key conservation centres offer insight into the long-term protection of the archipelago.

Your voyage is hosted aboard Eminence, a modern expedition catamaran designed for comfortable small-group cruising. The vessel features spacious suites, some with private terraces, generous outdoor and social areas, a spa, gym, infrared sauna and an al fresco dining space. With easy access to kayaks, paddleboards and snorkelling gear, plus thoughtful sustainability systems integrated throughout the ship, Eminence provides a refined and well-equipped base for exploring the Galapagos.

Combine your Galapagos cruise on the Eminence with a stay at the premium [La Selva Lodge](#) in the Amazon for an exclusive saving. [Contact us](#) for more information and pricing!

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ECGGE8A
DEPARTURE
Select Saturdays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands


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DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos Islands

Upon arrival, reception and assistance at the airport, followed by transfer to M/C Eminence. In the afternoon, visit to the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, located at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island. This important conservation site offers a close look at the work being done to protect the iconic Galapagos giant tortoise. During the visit, guests can observe tortoises at different stages of development, from young hatchlings to fully grown adults, while learning about breeding and repopulation efforts across the archipelago. It is also an excellent introduction to the fragile ecosystems of the islands and the long-term commitment required to preserve them.



DAY 2: Isabela Island

In the morning, guests arrive at Isabela Island, the largest island in the Galapagos. The first excursion takes place at Tintoreras, a group of small lava islets just off the coast. This site is known for its calm waters, volcanic scenery, and remarkable wildlife. Along the trail, marine iguanas often rest on the black rocks, while sea lions and Galapagos penguins are frequently seen nearby. Snorkeling here may reveal white tipped reef sharks resting in shallow channels, which gave this site its name. The morning continues with a visit to Sierra Negra Volcano, whose immense caldera opens onto one of the most impressive volcanic landscapes in the archipelago. In the afternoon, visit to the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center, where conservation programs support several giant tortoise populations native to Isabela Island. During the visit, guests can observe tortoises in different stages of growth and learn more about the protection efforts that help preserve these emblematic reptiles. This stop offers valuable insight into the ecological importance of Isabela and the ongoing work carried out to protect its endemic species.



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DAY 3: Moreno Point & Elizabeth Bay

In the morning, visit to Moreno Point, located on the western side of Isabela Island. This visitor site is defined by expansive lava fields created by past volcanic activity. A walk across the dark terrain leads to a series of inland lagoons where flamingos, gallinules, and pintail ducks may be seen. The contrast between the dry lava landscape and the life that gathers around the water makes this visit especially striking. Marine iguanas are commonly found warming themselves on the rocks, and the nearby shoreline may also reveal turtles and rays. In the afternoon, discover Elizabeth Bay by dinghy ride. There is no landing at this visitor site, allowing the experience to unfold entirely from the water. Surrounded by red mangroves and quiet channels, the bay offers excellent opportunities to observe wildlife in a serene setting. Guests may spot Galapagos penguins, sea turtles, rays, pelicans, and flightless cormorants as the dinghy moves through one of the most peaceful marine habitats in the western islands.



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DAY 4: Espinoza Point & Vicente Roca Point

In the morning, visit to Espinoza Point on Fernandina Island, one of the most untouched ecosystems in the Galapagos. The lava shoreline is home to one of the largest colonies of marine iguanas in the archipelago, often seen gathered in large numbers across the rocks. Sea lions rest near the coast, Sally Lightfoot crabs add bright color to the black lava, and flightless cormorants can often be observed along the shore. The surrounding scenery is raw and dramatic, offering one of the most distinctive landscapes of the voyage. In the afternoon, continue to Vicente Roca Point, on the northwestern coast of Isabela Island. This spectacular area is known for its cliffs, deep blue waters, and abundant marine life. The nutrient rich waters make this one of the most rewarding places for snorkeling, with chances to see sea turtles, rays, penguins, and other species moving through the bay. The towering rock formations complete a setting that feels both remote and extraordinary.



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DAY 5: Egas Port & Espumilla Beach

In the morning, guests visit Egas Port on Santiago Island. This historic site combines a rugged coastline with rich wildlife activity. A coastal walk passes lava formations, tide pools, and shorelines where marine iguanas, sea lions, and several bird species can be seen. At the end of the trail lies the well-known fur seal grotto, where Galapagos fur seals often rest in shaded lava crevices close to the sea. The area offers a memorable blend of geology, wildlife, and coastal scenery. In the afternoon, exploration continues at Buccaneer Cove and Espumilla Beach, located along the northern coast of Santiago. Buccaneer Cove was once used as a refuge by pirates and sailors, and today it stands out for its cliffs and rock formations shaped by the ocean. The nearby beach at Espumilla offers a softer landscape of sand, mangroves, and coastal vegetation, where sea turtles may nest seasonally. Depending on conditions, this visit may include snorkeling, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, or a dinghy ride along the coast.



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DAY 6: Bartolome Island

In the morning, visit to Bartholomew Island, one of the most iconic landscapes in the Galapagos. A wooden stairway leads to a viewpoint with sweeping views over Pinnacle Rock, surrounding bays, and lava formations shaped by volcanic activity. From the summit, guests can appreciate the striking colors and textures of the islands from above. The beach below also offers the chance for snorkeling in clear waters, where tropical fish and, on occasion, Galapagos penguins may be seen. In the afternoon, visit to Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island. This site is known for its extensive lava field, formed during a relatively recent volcanic eruption. A walk across the hardened surface reveals textures, patterns, and formations that show the volcanic origin of the archipelago in a vivid way. Even in this stark environment, pioneering plants have started to grow, creating a fascinating contrast between fresh lava and new life.



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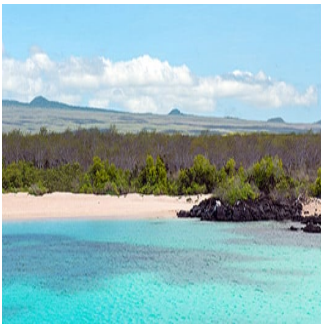
DAY 7: Chinese Hat & Dragon Hill

In the morning, explore Chinese Hat, a small islet off the coast of Santiago Island. Its name comes from its distinctive cone shape, and the area is known for its beautiful volcanic scenery and rich marine life. A short walk leads across lava formations and along the shoreline, where marine iguanas and sea lions are often present. The surrounding waters are ideal for snorkeling, with good chances to see colorful fish, penguins, and other marine species. In the afternoon, the yacht sails to Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz Island. This visitor site features a trail that passes through a dry landscape of cacti and palo santo trees, then continues inland toward lagoons where flamingos and other birds may be seen. Dragon Hill is also one of the key places to observe Galapagos land iguanas, which have been successfully reintroduced to the area through conservation efforts. The walk ends with beautiful views over the coastline and nearby islands.



DAY 8: Disembarkation

In the morning, visit to North Seymour, one of the most important nesting sites for seabirds in the Galapagos. The trail crosses a low, flat landscape where blue footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds can often be seen at close range. During the breeding season, male frigatebirds inflate their red throat pouches in a striking courtship display. Sea lions rest along the coast, while marine iguanas and shorebirds can also be spotted throughout the walk. This final excursion offers a memorable closing to the journey.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board a Catamaran
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Inclusions	INCLUSIONS Transfers in the Galapagos Airport reception and assistance Accommodation on board the Catamaran Guided expeditions according to the itinerary Top bilingual National Park guide (English/Spanish) (2 guides if more than 12 passengers) Cruise Service Officer Wifi Onboard Activity daily briefing All meals and snacks Soft drinks and juices Captain’s welcome and farewell cocktail Use of sea kayaks and paddle-boards Expedition gear (wetsuits and fins, water container, snorkel and mask, expedition binoculars) Yoga mats Kettlebells and dumbbells Stargazing laser pointer One free beer or wine per guest per day
	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 Micro SD Card 4K
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

TRIP CODE

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DEPARTURE

Select Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

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