

Ecuador - Absolute Galapagos Cruise | Grand Daphne

Trip Code

ECTSABG

Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

17 Days

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Introduction

This comprehensive 17-day tour of the stunning **Galapagos Islands** sees you sailing as far afield as **Espanola**, the spectacular southernmost island of the Galapagos, past Kicker Rock to the westernmost island of Fernandina and up to the north-eastern outpost of **Genovesa**. Spectacular scenery and an incredible array of flora and fauna, both land and marine, are all waiting to be discovered as you cruise between the islands aboard the Grand Daphne. Blue and red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, vermilion flycatchers and Darwin's finches are amongst the colourful birds you are likely to spot. Be intrigued by the prehistoric-looking iguanas and lava lizards, the playful sea lions, the placid giant tortoises and the soaring albatrosses. Be mesmerised by the beautiful landscapes from mangrove wetlands to lava fields, Scalesia cloud forests, red sand beaches and picturesque coves. This will be an incredible experience that will be etched in your memory forever.

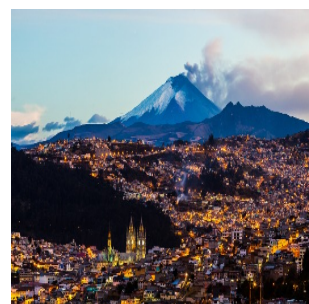
Check out some of the other itineraries on the Grand Daphne: [10 Day Ultimate Galapagos](#), [10 Day Complete Galapagos](#), [6 Day Galapagos at a Glance](#), [7 Day Galapagos Adventure: Northern Islands](#)

Itinerary

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Departure
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Duration
7 Days

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to Ecuador. A location meeting will be held in the evening at either 5 Galapagos Islands, South America or Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America Travelling with you on your cruise to the Galapagos Islands. Please check with hotel reception or check the reception notice boards for the time and place of the meeting for your trip. As today is an arrival day, you can arrive at any time as there are no activities planned until this important meeting. If you can't arrange a flight that will arrive in time, you may wish to arrive a day early so you're able to attend. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability). Quito sits at high altitude under the towering Pichincha volcano. It is a beautiful city, arguably one of the most beautiful in South America. The city stretches along the valley and is surrounded by the Andes. The Old Town of Quito is awash with history, with more than 30 churches to explore, and a number of fascinating museums. La Compania de Jesus is considered to be the most beautiful and ornate churches in the Americas. The city's oldest street, Calle La Ronda, is well worth exploring. As this trip spends very little time in Quito, we recommend you spend a few extra days before or after your trip to experience all the city has to offer. You may even wish to explore further beyond the city and visit Otavalo, Cotopaxi, the Cloud Forest or the Equatorial Monument.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Tuesdays
Departure Santa Cruz Highlands

Duration

7 Days mostly a long travel day, and your

Galapagos activities will begin after lunch.

Rise early Galapagos Islands, South America

(approximately 1 hour) for your flight to the

Galapagos Islands. Pick-up may be as early

as 4:30 am (your leader will confirm this at

the welcome meeting) and a boxed

breakfast will be provided. You will be met

in the arrivals hall of the airport by a

transfer guide (look out for 'Daphne' signs).

Your transfer guide will take you on an

airport public bus for a short distance

(approximately 5 minutes), then you'll board

the public ferry and head across the Itabaca

Channel (approximately 7 minutes). All

public transport fees are included. Once you

reach Santa Cruz Island, it's time for your

first Galapagos destination - take a private

bus to the Highlands. After a short journey

(approximately 10 minutes), arrive at Los

Gemelos, which are twin sinkholes (not

volcanic craters) created by the collapse of

surface material in underground fissures

and chambers. It is surrounded by the

unique Scalesia cloud forest, so be on the

look-out for the abundant bird life including

different species of Darwin finches,

woodpeckers, warbler finches and

vermillion flycatchers. Continue into the

highlands (approximately 30 minutes) and

explore a rancho farm, where you will take

a walk and enjoy your first lunch on the

islands. The walk around (approximately 2

kilometres) reveals giant tortoises in their

natural habitat. After lunch, travel to Puerto

Ayora (approximately 45 minutes) where

your yacht Daphne and her crew will be

waiting for you. Once on board, you'll be

assigned a cabin and meet your crew and

naturalist guide. Settle in for your first night

on the islands. Please note the Transit Card

& National Park Fees are not included in

the cost of the trip as they need to be paid

locally: There is a US\$20 Galapagos Islands

transit card fee that needs to be paid at the

airport in Quito prior to departure to the

islands. All visitors must pay the Galapagos

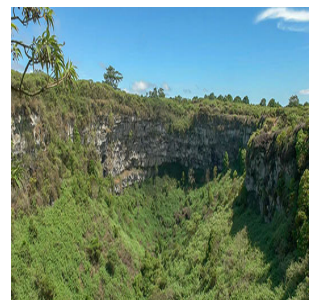
National Park fee of US \$200 upon arrival at

the airport in the Galapagos. If your trip

visits Isla Isabela, there is also port fee of

US\$10 which is to be paid locally. These

fees are to be paid in cash.



Ecuador - Absolute Galapagos Cruise | Grand Daphne

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Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

14 Days Isla Floreana

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Office Bay, home of the oldest postal system in the Americas. Take the opportunity to post a letter in the historic post office barrel from 1793 which is still used today.

Galapagos visitors can leave letters and postcards to be collected by the next passing boat. Snorkelling and a lovely panga ride are also included in this outing.

Afterwards, head ashore at Punta Cormorant where the sand is made up of fine olivine crystal (a glassy volcanic mineral that gives the beach an olive-green colour). This is the best place to see

Galapagos sea lions. Keep an eye out for pink flamingos and other waterbirds wading in the lagoons, including pintails and stilts.

The moderate 2-kilometre walk continues to a white-flour sandy beach, which is an Eastern Pacific green turtle nesting site.

Young diamond stingrays are commonly found in the shore line. Enjoy the view of the turquoise crystalline ocean. Just offshore, the famous Devil's Crown is an old eroded volcanic cone and a popular roosting site for seabirds such as boobies, pelicans and frigates. Red-billed tropicbirds can also be seen nesting in the rocky crevices. The centre of the cone is an outstanding spot and many people find this one of the best snorkelling experiences of their trip. You might see rays, sharks, sea lions and turtles.



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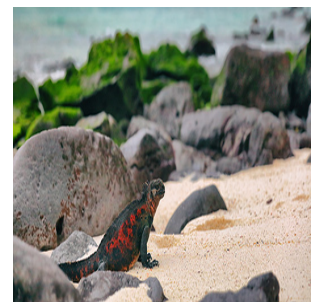
Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

7 Days
Spain as the spectacular southernmost island of the Galapagos Islands, South America

Due to its remote location, this island has a large population of endemic fauna. It is the breeding site for nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses and also home to colonies of blue-footed and masked boobies. Trails from the golden beaches, where sea lions bathe and marine iguanas make their way towards the water, lead you right through the middle of booby colonies, and Galapagos doves and mockingbirds are also often seen. Land at Punta Suarez, one of the most attractive locations in the Galapagos, home to a large and varied wildlife population. A walk along its rocky trails (approximately 3 km) takes you to a clifftop viewpoint that affords magical panoramas. Boobies line the rocky shoreline below, while frigate birds can be seen overhead. Enormous male sea lions lounge nearby, and albatross use the cliffs as their 'runway', getting airborne on the southeast winds. If you're lucky you might spot the elaborate courtship rituals performed by albatrosses before the female chooses her lifelong mate. Next, head to Gardner Bay, one of the most beautiful beaches of the Galapagos Islands. It's full of sea lions and hooded mockingbirds. Enjoy a walk (approximately 1 km) along the beach, and do some snorkelling which could be great for playing with sea lion pups and many fish. The rocks off the coast provide particularly great snorkelling, with reef sharks, turtles and many species of tropical fish (such as surgeon and angelfish). Small white-tipped reef sharks are also often spotted resting under the rocks.



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Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

7 Days off any early morning doziness with a

trip to Islen Dormido (Kicker Rock). This

basaltic crag rises 150 metres above the

water and is divided into two parts by a

narrow channel. Cruise around kicker rock

as nesting seabirds flank the boat,

tropicbirds soar overhead and sea lions

loungue by the water. Next, spend some time

snorkelling at Cerro Brujo, providing

opportunities to see Galapagos sharks and

sea turtles. Or perhaps enjoy the beautiful

beach with a leisurely walk to photograph

the interesting sea lions who can often be

seen at this location. Later, sail to Puerto

Baquerizo Moreno on the island of San

Cristobal. Some passengers will be leaving

and others joining the group today, so you

have some free time to explore the town of

San Cristobal. In the afternoon you will visit

the San Cristobal Interpretation Centre,

which brings the history and geography of

the archipelago to life, from its volcanic

origins to the present day. If there's time,

your guide may be able to organise an

optional visit to the highlands of San

Cristobal, for a chance to see giant tortoises

in the wild. The price of this optional

activity depends on the number of

passengers attending. Relaxing on the

beach is a great option for those who don't

wish to partake in this excursion.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Sailed on Tuesdays - Isla Plaza Sur

Duration

17 Days

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

offers a dense concentration of wildlife, and

is a fantastic place to see many of the stars

of the Galapagos in one relatively small

area. Expect to see Galapagos hawks, land

iguanas, a variety of finches, Galapagos

mockingbirds, sea lions, marine turtles,

frigatebirds, Galapagos doves and lava

lizards. This stunning island boasts one of

the most attractive coves in the whole

archipelago. The jade-green waters are

ideal for snorkelling. Take a hike along the

coast into the Opuntia forest (approximately

1.5 hours). From here you can see Santa

Fe's trees - the largest in the Galapagos -

along with a forest of giant cacti and palo

santo trees. The trail can be a little rocky,

so mind your step. Once back at the beach,

you'll have time for a snorkel. Playful sea

lion pups and fluorescent fish make for nice

company. Afterwards, continue to Plaza Sur

(South Plaza), a small, picturesque island.

Take a walk (approximately 1.5 hours),

getting close to sea lions and passing one of

the Galapagos' largest land iguana

populations which rest among cacti,

volcanic landscapes dotted with brightly

coloured sea-purslanes. The southern cliffs

are great for spotting tropicbirds and

swallow-tailed gulls, as well as 'the

Gentlemen's Club' - a gathering of male sea

lions. Today there may be an extra stop

along the way to Plaza Sur to restock the

provisions for the boat. Later tonight, set

sail for Isla Genovesa.



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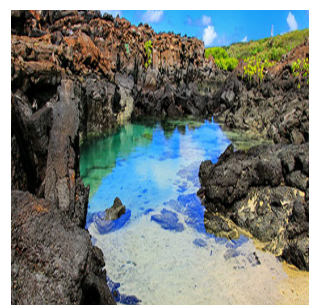
Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

7 Days
The action is
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

overnight sail, reach Isla Genovesa, Galapago's north-eastern outpost. It's Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America often spotted in the waters around beautiful Genovesa. These varied landscapes are a twitcher's paradise, with all three kinds of boobies, including the rare red-footed booby, and numerous other species such as tropicbirds and frigate birds. Next, Bahia Darwin (Darwin Beach) is another superb site with large breeding colonies of seabirds and frigates and other birds such as lava herons, swallow-tailed gulls, mockingbirds and, hopefully, vampire finches. Enjoy a moderate walk (approximately 2.5 hours) that passes tide pools, sea lions and diamond stingrays. This walk involves sand and some rocky sections. The steep Prince Philip's Steps lead you to the heart of the seabird rookeries, with birds overhead and nesting among the cliffs. Look out for storm petrels on the island's rocky plains; Genovesa is the only place in the world where these birds can be seen flying during the day. Afterwards, perhaps cool off with a snorkel. The island's magnificent marine life makes for spectacular snorkelling - you might encounter manta rays, sharks, turtles and moray eels, plus many species of fish. Later tonight, depart Isla Genovesa for Isla Santiago.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Tuesdays - Isla Santa Cruz

Duration

07 Days

San Diego Island's eastern coast sits

Bahia Sullivan, also known as James Island.

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

(approximately 1 hour), which was created

by an eruption that occurred in 1897, and

witness the plants that have grown on the

site since that last eruption. With some luck

you might see some marine iguanas, Sally

Lightfoot crabs, sea lions, finches, turtles,

sharks and penguins. During your walk,

your guide will recount the geological

history of the islands. Then travel to Cerro

Dragon (Dragon Hill): one of the best places

to see land iguanas in the islands. From our

dry landing, walk to a brackish, lagoon

spotting lagoon birds such as stilts, pintail

ducks, sandpipers, sanderlings and

flamingos. Further inland, the trail offers a

beautiful view of the bay and the western

area of the archipelago. This area is a

nesting site for land iguanas, which is

constantly monitored and assisted by the

Charles Darwin Research Station. The arid-

zone vegetation makes for an ideal place to

see Darwin's finches, Galapagos

mockingbirds, the endemic Galapagos

flycatcher and yellow warblers. The path

can be challenging but it will be worth it for

a spectacular view of the bay.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

7 Days Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle

Cove) Zodiac. This red mangrove

Wetland is located on the north shore of Isla

Santa Cruz. Cruise through this peaceful

cove and look out for mating green turtles,

as well as golden cow-nose rays, eagle rays

and Galapagos sharks. Head to Las Bachas,

where the soft sand made of decomposed

coral is a nesting site for the Pacific green

turtle. Marine iguanas are also commonly

spotted along the beach. The rocks make for

excellent snorkelling and are populated by

Sally Lightfoot crabs which are plentiful on

the island. A saltwater lagoon just near the

beach is home to flamingo and whimbrel -

you might also see a great blue heron.

Remnants of a floating pier, a testimony to

the US presence in the Galapagos during

World War II, can also be seen. Please note

that today there will be some downtime

spent on Le Grande Daphne, as the guide

will be escorting other passengers to and

from the airport.



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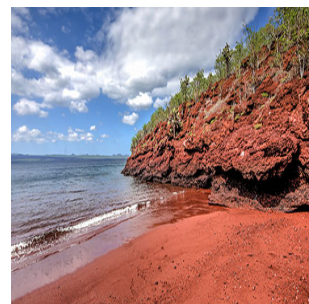
Selected Tuesdays - Isla Isabela

Duration

17 Days you will sail from Las Bachas to Isla Isabela known for its spectacular red sand beaches, caused by the high iron content of the sand which rusts to form the unusual shade.

Follow a trail from the shore along to a lagoon which is one of the best spots in the Galapagos to view flamingos. Keep an eye out for nesting pelicans, pintail ducks, marine iguanas and sea lions - all are commonly sighted on the island. Check out a vast opuntia cactus forest, hinting at the previous habitation of land iguanas, Galapagos hawks, mockingbirds, doves, finches and lava lizards. You may like to take the chance to go snorkelling and seek out sea stars, damsels, gobbies and surgeon fish. In the afternoon, head to Albemarle on the northeast side of Isabela Island.

Covered in mangroves, the bay is home to sea turtles, sea lions, penguins and flightless cormorants who feed on the algae and fish here. Take a walk inland and discover the remains of an old radar base from World War II and pass by pahoehoe and lava formations. Another fantastic location for snorkelling, you may like to have a look beneath the water's surface in search of sea turtles and flightless cormorants.



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Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

7 Days

Location

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

used to collect tortoises for their travels.

Enjoy a short visit here (approximately 2 hours), perhaps snorkelling or checking out the graffiti on the walls (the oldest of which is from 1836). Witness flightless

cormorants, blue-footed boobies, a variety of waterfowl and the most northerly

penguins in the world. You will walk to a

lookout point for a stunning view of the

north of Isabela Island and Volcan Wolf

(Wolf Volcano). Today you will also visit

Bahia Urbina on the west of Isabela Island,

Urbina Bay has a wide variety of plant life

which changes depending on the season.

You will be able to observe the beautiful

color of the plants which attracts many

different insects. The site also features a

short trek inland, where giant tortoises can

be spotted amongst the bushes in their

natural habitat. You may also see land

iguanas which often nest in the middle of

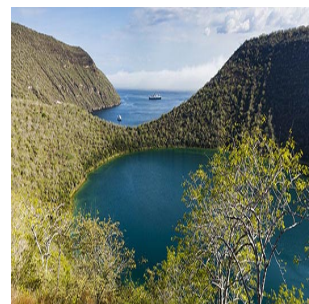
the trail where their distinctive, textured

and yellowish skin can be observed from up

close. Flycatchers, Darwin's finches and

mockingbirds are common on the ground

and in the trees.



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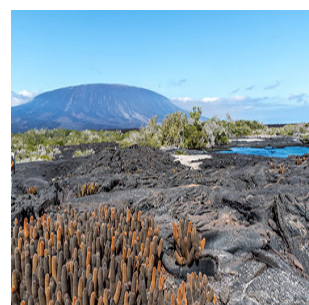
Selected Tuesdays - Isla Fernandina - Isla Isabela

Duration

7 Days visit Punta Espinosa that is a narrow ledge of lava and sand extending from the base of La Cumbre, South America Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America walk around the beautiful peninsula, which boasts such wildlife and plant life as lava cacti, marine iguanas, barking sea lions, tiny penguins and Sally Lightfoot crabs.

Keep a lookout for that marvelous

Galapagos predator hunting from the treetops: the Galapagos hawk. Top-notch snorkeling opportunities await in the clear waters, and turtles and sea lions can be seen swimming around and feeding on the shore. This is also a great spot to see flightless cormorants drying their atrophied wings on the rocks. In the afternoon head to Punta Vicente Roca, this site allowed for panga rides to observe the abundant wildlife and offers one of the best snorkeling spots of the Archipelago. The snorkeling "route" takes us along the cliffs and offers the not so common chance of exploring two shallow underwater caves. The primitive and unaggressive bullhead shark, known locally as the Port Jackson shark, is often seen here sharing its space with red-lipped batfish, frogfishes, Pacific seahorses, the endemic Camotillo, schools of barracuda and brown-striped snappers. Sponges, corals, and other marine invertebrates are also abundant in the area.



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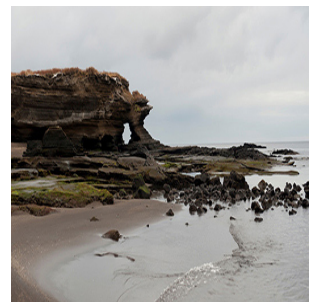
ECTSABG

Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Duration

7 Days morning to Puerto Egas, a black-sand beach on the west side of James Bay, Northwest of Isla Santa Fe, South America in Ecuador, Galapagos Islands. Take a stroll along the beach with the native marine iguanas, pelicans, finches, mockingbirds, oystercatchers, Galapagos sea lions and Galapagos fur seals. You can see the amazing tidal pools, formed from ancient lava flow, providing a home for sponges, snails, hermit crabs, barnacles and fish. You might also end up snorkelling with a Galapagos fur seal - they're always looking for a friend! In the afternoon travel to the northwest side of Santiago Island where you'll find Caleta Bucanero, named after the pirates and buccaneers who once found shelter in the bay. Here you'll have the chance to go snorkelling and take a dinghy ride to look for blue-footed boobies, pelicans and nocturnal seagulls nesting in the cliffs.



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Departure

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Selected Islands

Duration

17 Days

Location in Bartolome Island, a spectacular

volcanic landscape full of swells, South America

lava flows, and home to Galapagos penguins

and lava lizards. Put on your walking shoes

and climb up 360 wooden steps to the

summit, where an amazing view of Pinnacle

Rock awaits. This is one of the most

photographed sights in the Galapagos - an

abrupt jag of rock protruding from the earth

like a tooth, providing a focal point for two

nearby bays. Hike to the top of a once-active

volcano and enjoy superb views across to

Bahia Sullivan on nearby Isla Santiago. If

you're in luck, you might catch a glimpse of

the Galapagos hawk. There's also the

chance to go snorkelling among the

colourful marine life. In the afternoon,

travel to the small island of Sombrero

Chino, found on the southeast side of

Santiago Island. With lovely sandy beaches

and a striking volcanic landscape, this is a

fantastic place to take a hike and look out

for the sea lions and penguins that rest

here, and snorkel in search of reef sharks

and sea turtles.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Tuesday Seymour - Isla Santa

Duration

17 Days

Locations this morning in North Seymour, one of the most visited islands of the Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Galapagos. First up is a walk around the island to spot some blue-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. Boobies and frigates have an interesting relationship, sharing the same nesting area on North Seymour. Blue-footed boobies nest on the ground while the frigate birds nest just above them in the saltbushes. As you walk, look out for land iguanas, marine iguanas, Galapagos sea lions and the endemic incense tree. After the walk, cool off and go snorkelling and encounter a great variety of fish and perhaps some white-tipped reef sharks, rays and sea lions. Later in the day, travel to Isla Santa Cruz, the second largest island in the Galapagos. Pay a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station in the small town of Puerto Ayora. As well as undertaking vital conservation work, the station also makes for interesting exploration and offers the best opportunities for close encounters with giant tortoises. You may also see baby tortoises and land iguanas.



DAY 16: Baltra - Quito

Flights to the mainland from Galapagos depart mid-morning, so it's an early start for your last morning on the islands. You will visit the Santa Cruz Highlands for a second time. Travel through the agricultural region and into the misty forests where you can see the unique Scalesia cloud forest and experience seeing the dome-shaped giant tortoises in the wild once again. Take in the serene atmosphere of the highlands and it's wildlife and then it's time to bid farewell to the archipelago and head to the airport for your mid-morning flight back to Quito for the last night of the tour. This flight takes approximately 2.5 hours with a transit in Guayaquil. Upon arrival at Quito Airport, at about 4pm, you'll be transferred back to your hotel for an overnight stay. A local Intrepid representative might stop by the hotel this evening to get your feedback on the trip.



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Duration

17 Days Quito

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

day so we are able to depart our

accommodation at any time. If you have not

spent time here before, we recommend you

stay on a few days as there are many

fascinating things to do in and around

Quito, such as the Cotopaxi volcano, the

Cloud Forest, hot springs, the Equatorial

Monument or perhaps city tour of the

fascinating Old Town. Please speak to our

customer service representative about any

optional activities that might be of interest.

They can also assist you in booking a

departure transfer to the airport.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship & hotel

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INCLUSIONS

- 1 night pre and 1 night post cruise group hotel in Quito including breakfast
- Arrival Transfer in Quito (must have flight arrival plans confirmed 30 days prior)
- Group transfers in Galapagos
- Round trip flight to/from Galapagos (from Quito with group)
- Accommodation on board Grand Daphne in chosen cabin
- All meals during the cruise
- Guiding by Galapagos National Park Certified English Speaking Guide
- All visits and excursions/landings according to the itinerary*
- Snorkel Gear (mask, tube and fins)
- Kayaks
- Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea

EXCLUSIONS

- Local Taxes
- Any other airfares unless otherwise specified in the itinerary
- Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (US\$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change)
- Galapagos Ingala card (US\$20 per person - Subject to change)
- Passport & Visa Expenses
- Travel Insurance
- Alcoholic & soft drinks
- Additional visits
- Additional meals
- Excess baggage charges
- Telecommunications charges
- Wetsuit Hire
- Personal expenses and tips
- Items 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

- Before checking in on a flight from Quito to the Galapagos there is a US\$20 transit fee that must be paid. On arrival in the Galapagos you must pay a US\$200 national park entrance fee per person from August 2024.

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Please note kayaking and other water based activities are subject to weather conditions.

* 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.

Sustainability