

South America - Complete Galapagos | Grand Daphne

Trip Code

ECTSCG

Departure

Wednesdays

Duration

10 Days

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

Introduction

This 10-day cruise of the Galapagos Islands introduces you to the natural wonders, spectacular scenery, rich history and incredible flora and fauna of this remote group of islands. Snorkel around the underwater volcano known as Devil's Crown, witness the huge albatross colonies of Espanola, the southernmost island of the Galapagos and search for red-footed boobies on Genovesa Island. Hike through Opuntia forests, Scalesia cloud forest and across volcanic landscapes, encountering fascinating and colourful creatures every step of the way. Every day will be an incredible adventure of discovery.

Check out some of the other itineraries on the Grand Daphne: [10 Day Ultimate Galapagos](#), [17 Day Absolute Galapagos](#), [6 Day Galapagos at a Glance](#), [7 Day Galapagos Adventure: Northern Islands](#)

Itinerary

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Tuesday

Duration

10 Days

Location

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

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

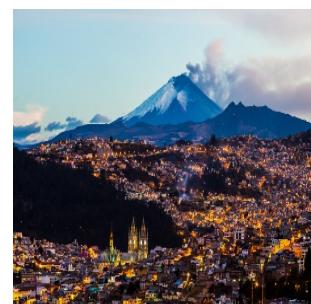
extra days before or after your trip to

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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Departure

Tuesday - Santa Cruz Islands

Duration

10 Days mostly a long travel day, and your

Galapagos activities will begin after lunch.

Rise early Galapagos Islands

(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.



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Departure

Tuesdays

Duration

10 Days Isla Floreana

Locations

Discover the Galapagos islands history of Post

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

Tuesdays

Duration

50 Days

Spain

Islands

Because of 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

Tuesdays San Cristobal

Duration

10 Days off any early morning doziness with a

trip to Islen Dormido (Kicker Rock). This

basaltic cañon 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

lounge 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

Tuesdays Santa Fe - Isla Plaza Sur

Duration

10 Days

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

Santa Fe is home to more sea lions, and the sea lions are very eager for swimming. In Ecuador, Galapagos Islands take a dip, 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

Tuesdays Isla Genovesa

Duration

After Days overnight sail, reach Isla Genovesa,

The location is the Galapagos' north-eastern outpost. It's

located in the Pacific Ocean, about 1000 miles from the

Equator, in the Galapagos Islands.

Isla 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

Tuesdays - Isla Santa Cruz

Duration

06 Days - Isla Santa Cruz

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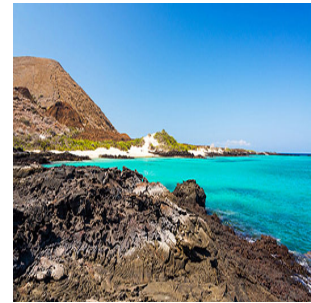
06 Days - Isla Santa Cruz

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Departure

Tuesdays - Quito - Santa Cruz - Baltra - Quito

Duration

16 Days to the mainland from Galapagos

Departure mid-morning, it's an early start for

you later, no Galapagos Islands. Depending

on the time of your flight, your time spent

on this final excursion may be limited.

Explore Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle

Cove) on a panga. This red mangrove

wetland is located on the north shore of Isla

Santa Cruz. You will paddle along this

peaceful cove to experience its many

underwater riches. It's a breeding area for

green turtles, so you might catch sight of

them mating. There is also abundant bird

life, such as the yellow warbler and lava

heron. It is also a nursery for golden cow-

nose rays, eagle rays and Galapagos sharks.

This is your final excursion before you

return to the airport in Baltra for your flight

back to Quito. The flight will stop over in

Guayaquil to drop off and/or pick up

passengers. Arrive at Quito Airport

(approximately 4 pm) where you will be

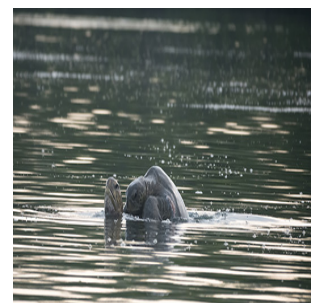
transferred back to your hotel for an

overnight stay. Your local representative

may stop by at your hotel this evening to get

your feedback on your Galapagos

experience.



DAY 10: Quito

Your Galapagos adventure comes to an end

after breakfast this morning. There are no

activities planned for the final day, and you

are free to depart the accommodation at any

time. There are many fascinating things to

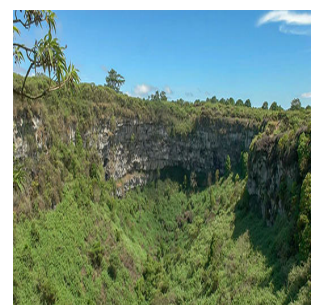
do in and around Quito, so please speak to

your 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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Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights group hotel in Quito
- Arrival Transfer in Quito (must have flight arrival plans confirmed 30 days prior)
- Transfers in Galapagos
- Accommodation on board Grand Daphne in double cabin
- All meals during the cruise
- Guiding by Galapagos National Park Certified Guide
- All visits and excursions/landings according to the itinerary*
- Snorkel Gear (mask, tube and fins)
- Kayaks
- Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea

EXCLUSIONS

- Inclusions
- Local Taxes
 - Round trip flight to/from Galapagos
 - 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 (USD 20,00 per person - Subject to change)
 - Passport & Visa Expenses
 - Travel Insurance
 - Alcoholic & soft drinks
 - Additional visits
 - Additional meals
 - Excess baggage charges
 - Telecommunications charges (Wi-Fi is not available on the boat at all whilst in the Galapagos Islands)
 - 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. The proceeds of these funds go directly to ongoing preservation, conservation and management of the islands. These additional costs **must be paid in cash.**
- When booking, please make sure that your name is spelt correctly, and that you book using the name in your passport (particularly if you are recently married). If you are issued a new passport with a different number between the time that you book and the time you travel, please take both the old and new passports with you.
- All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
- Please note kayak 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