

Ecuador - Galapagos at a Glance: Southern Islands | Grand Daphne

Trip Code

ECTSGAG

Departure

Select Tuesdays

Duration

6 Days

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Introduction

Discover the wonders of the **Galapagos Islands** as you cruise around the southern islands aboard the Grand Daphne. The archipelago abounds with incredible wildlife, many of the species endemic to these isolated islands. From pink flamingos in the lagoons of **Floreana Island**, to Darwin's finches and giant tortoises in the highlands of **Santa Cruz**, to the largest breeding site of waved albatrosses in the world on **Isla Espanola** - the wildlife is mesmerising. Explore the beautiful beach of **Gardner Bay** and snorkel in the centre of the eroded volcanic cone known as Devil's Crown - one of the best snorkel sites of the Galapagos.

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

Itinerary

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Days: Tuesdays

Duration

6 Days

Location: Quito

Location: Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

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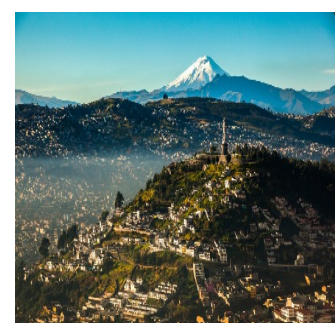
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Departure

Select: Tuesdays

Day 02: Tuesday Santa Cruz Highlands

Duration

6 Days

This morning we transfer to Quito Airport

for our early morning flight to the

Ecuador Galapagos Islands, South America

Galapagos Islands. Be prepared for an early

start as this could mean leaving the hotel as

early as 4:30 am (a boxed breakfast will be

provided). On arrival in the Galapagos, we

collect our luggage and meet our local

guide in the arrivals hall. We then head to

the Highlands of Santa Cruz for our first

Galapagos adventure. Beginning at the

coast we travel across Santa Cruz through

the agricultural region and into the misty

forests where we can see the unique

scalesia cloud forest, dome-shaped giant

tortoises in the wild, different species of

Darwin finches and possibly the world

famous woodpecker and warbler finches, as

well as vermilion flycatchers. Today we will

enjoy lunch in the highlands. This afternoon

we travel to Puerto Ayora, where we are

then transferred to our boat, the Daphne.

Once on board, we'll be assigned our cabins

and meet the crew members. 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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Discover the quirky maritime history of Post

Office Bay, home of the oldest postal system

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

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

Day of: Tuesdays

Duration

6 Days

Locations: the spectacular southernmost

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Island of the Galapagos. 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

cliff-top 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

Day 5: Tuesdays Cristobal

Duration

6 Days

As flights to the mainland from Galapagos

Departure mid-morning, it is an early start for

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

For most mornings on the islands. Depending

on the time of our flight, our time spent on

this final excursion could be limited. Kicker

Rock (Leon Dormido) is the magnificent

basalt remains of a crater in the middle of

the sea, the shape resembling a sleeping

lion. The rock rises 150 metres above the

surface and is divided into two parts by a

narrow channel. Cruise through the channel

as nesting seabirds flank the boat,

tropicbirds soar overhead, marine iguanas

swim about and sea lions lounge on the

water. Snorkelling from the panga gives you

the chance to see Galapagos sharks, sea

turtles and an incredible biodiversity of

invertebrates on the wall. You might even

spot a hammerhead shark. This is your final

excursion before you return to the airport in

San Cristobal 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 6: 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

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Duration
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Locations

Cabin on board ship & hotel

INCLUSIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

- 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)
- Transfers in Galapagos to/from vessel
- Round trip flight to/from Galapagos
- Accommodation on board Grand Daphne in selected 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
- 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.

- 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.

Notes

- All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
- Please note kayaking and 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