

Ecuador - Galapagos Adventure: Northern Islands | Grand Daphne

Trip Code

ECTSGAN

Departure

Select Fridays

Duration

7 Days

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Introduction

This sailing trip aboard the Grand Daphne takes you through the remote northern islands of the **Galapagos archipelago**, barely changed since the time of Darwin's visit. Encounter an incredible array of wildlife and stunning scenery as you sail between the islands of **San Cristobal, Santa Fe**, the north-eastern outpost of **Genovesa, Santiago, Rabida and Santa Cruz**. Walk through Opuntia forests, climb Prince Philip's Steps to encounter large seabird rookeries, discover flamingo lagoons and pelican nesting sites, and explore the red sand beach of Rabida and the mangrove wetlands of Black Turtle Cove. This is an action-packed itinerary that introduces you to the fascinating and varied wildlife of the Galapagos on land and in the water.

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

Itinerary

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at under 5pm or 6pm when you meet others

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

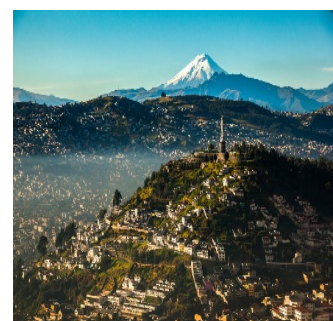
extra days before or after your trip to

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

~~Depart: Friday~~ **Depart: Friday** Isla San Cristobal

Duration

~~7 Days~~ **7 Days** is mostly a long travel day, and your

~~Galapagos~~ **Galapagos** activities will begin after lunch.

~~Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America~~ **Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America**

~~Rise early and transfer to the airport~~ **Rise early and transfer to the airport**

(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. On arrival in the

Galapagos we are met in the arrivals hall

and then transferred to our boat, the

Daphne. Once on board we'll be assigned

our cabins, meet the crew members and get

to know our naturalist guide and fellow

travellers over a delicious lunch. We visit

the San Cristobal Interpretation Center. The

centre brings the history and geography of

the archipelago to life, from its volcanic

origins to the present day. The human

history exhibit offers an insight into the

discovery and colonisation of the Galapagos

and the issue of problems the islands face

today is also explored. This is a great place

to get a complete overview of the

Galapagos. This afternoon, you will have the

option to head to Galapaguera (Highlands)

of San Cristobal to view the Giant Tortoises

in a protected area. This will be your only

opportunity on this trip to see these

magnificent creatures. Your guide will

organise this excursion for you and it will

take about 2 hours. Depending on the

number of passengers wanting to take part

in this, the shared cost is approximately

US\$120 and paid locally to the guide. 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

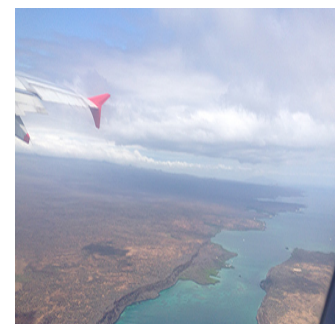
must pay the Galapagos National Park fee of

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



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Departure

~~Sept 3: Friday~~ Santa Fe - Isla Plaza Sur

Duration

7 Days

~~Island~~ Santa Fe is home to more sea lions, and

~~these ones~~ are very eager for swimming

~~Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America~~

~~Summers. It's a lovely place to 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

Day of: Friday

Duration

7 Days

Locations: Galapagos Islands, South America

Equatorially words the voyage. Dolphins are

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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Departure

Start: Friday

Day 5: Isla Santa Cruz - Isla Santa Cruz

Duration

7 Days

On Santa Cruz Island's eastern coast sits

Barra Sullivan, also known as James Island.

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Here you'll take a walk along a path of lava

(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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Departure

Depart: Friday, 15 Nov 2024
 Arrive: Friday, 15 Nov 2024

Duration

7 Days

As flights to the mainland from Galapagos depart in mid-morning, it's an early start for your last morning on the 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.

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DAY 7: 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.

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Inclusions & Details

Accommodation Cabin on board ship & hotel

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INCLUSIONS

- Locations
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America
- 2 nights group hotel in Quito with breakfast
 - Arrival Transfer in Quito (must have flight arrival plans confirmed 30 days prior)
 - Transfers in Galapagos to/from the ship
 - 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

Inclusions

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 (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
- 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 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