

Ecuador - Classic Central Eastern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code
ECTSGCEI
Departure



Introduction

Set sail aboard the **Grand Queen Beatriz** on this incredible 10-day tour of the **Central-Eastern Galapagos Islands**. Witness the spectacular volcanic landscapes of **Bartolom ** with its spatter cones and lava flows as you look out for Galapagos penguins and lava lizards. Explore **Espumilla Beach**, a nesting site for marine turtles and visit the old pirate haunt of Buccaneer Cove. See the sea lions on the black sand beach of **Puerto Egas** and the nesting sites of magnificent frigatebirds and blue-footed boobies on **North Seymour**. Snorkel with sea lions and turtles, see Galapagos giant tortoises in their natural habitat and learn the history of the abandoned barges at **Las Bachas**. This is an incredible voyage of discovery.

Check out some of the other cruise itineraries on the Grand Queen Beatriz: [10 Day Central Southern Islands](#), [6 Day Southern Islands](#), [7 Day Southern Islands](#), [6 Day Central Islands](#), [10 Day Southern Islands](#)

Itinerary

Ecuador - Classic Central Eastern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGCEI

Departure

Selected Saturdays

Duration

00 Days at Quito's Mariscal Sucre

International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America the day will be at your leisure. A welcome

meeting will be held in the evening at either 5pm or 6 pm 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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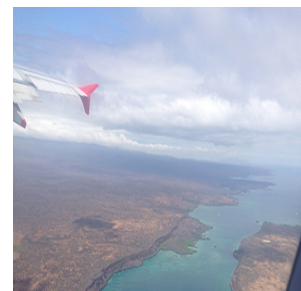
Departure

Selected Saturdays
Departure: Quito - Santa Cruz

Duration

10 Days
This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. Please note the pick-up time will usually be as early as 4:30 am (a boxed

breakfast will be provided), as the airport is a one-hour drive away and you must allow for delays and check-in times. (Your tour leader will confirm this time with you at the Welcome Meeting on Day 1). The flight to the Galapagos will make one stop in Guayaquil to pick up other passengers. (Total flight time is about 3.5 hours). On arrival in the Galapagos, you will be met in the arrival hall of the airport (look out for 'Grand Queen Beatriz' signs) by a transfer guide and transferred to our catamaran - 'M.Y. Grand Queen Beatriz', anchored on the other side of Santa Cruz Island. Our transfer guide will take you on a short trip via airport bus to board a public ferry across the Itabaca Channel to Santa Cruz Island. Once you reach the Island, you will board a private bus to Puerto Ayora, the main port of the island. Here, there will be two dinghies to transport you and your fellow travellers to the 'MY. Grand Queen Beatriz'. Once on board, cabins will be assigned and there will be a welcome briefing and safety drill. You will then get to meet our crew members and get to know your naturalist guide while enjoying a delicious lunch. (Please note that all transportation costs are included). This afternoon you will travel into the interior of the island to visit the highlands site of 'Galapaguera of Cerro Colorado' (Red Hill) where the national park has established a breeding program and information centre for tortoises. Here, we will be able to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat and learn all about their origin, evolution and their threatened future. 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

Selected Saturdays

Duration

10 Days Isla Bartolomé - Bahia Sullivan

Locations

Isla Bartolomé (Bartolomé Island) is one of the most spectacular volcanic landscapes in the Galapagos, full of parasitic spatter

cones, lava flows, Galapagos penguins and lava lizards. It is a relatively new island in the archipelago and traces of its volcanic past can be seen everywhere, as evidenced by the amazing lunar-like landscape. The Pinnacle Rock is one of the most

photographed sites in the Galapagos - an abrupt jag of rock protruding from the earth like a tooth, while nearby two golden bays back onto each other. You can hike to the top of a once-active volcano here (360 wooden steps), and enjoy superb views across to Sullivan Bay, on nearby Santiago Island. If you are in luck you might catch a glance of the Galapagos Hawk here. You also have the opportunity to go snorkelling with plenty of tropical fish, starfish, white-tipped reef sharks, rays and hopefully

penguins. On Santiago's eastern coast sits Bahia Sullivan, also known as James Island. Here you walk on Pahoe-Hoe lava, from an eruption that occurred in 1897, and witness the colonisation of plant species since the last eruption. Hopefully see some marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, sea lions, finches, turtles, sharks and penguins. On a walk, your guide will explain the geological history of the islands.



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Departure

~~Selected Saturdays~~ - Espumilla -

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Duration

10 Days

Today you will visit some wonderful places.

Locations
Espumilla Beach, on the northern coast of

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Santiago Island in James Bay, is one of the

most idyllic locations in the Galapagos

Islands and is an important nesting site for

marine turtles. With large waves, it is also

often a favourite amongst beach lovers.

Potentially we will see Galapagos hawks up

close, ghost crabs, blue-footed boobies

(often plunging for fish) and brown pelicans.

It is also well known for its palo santo forest

and some extraordinary lava formations.

You will also visit Caleta Bucanero

(Buccaneer Cove), a natural monument of

rocks caused by sea erosion. This cove was

used by pirates to careen their ships. It is a

place of local legends and stories! It is also

where Darwin camped for nine days while

making his study of the islands and their

wildlife. If conditions are favourable, you

can enjoy some further snorkelling. Puerto

Egas is a black sand beach located on the

west side of James Bay and northwest of

Santiago Island. South of the beach is

Sugarloaf Volcano, which has deposits of

volcanic tuff. This site is named Puerto

Egas, after Hector Egas who last attempted

to mine salt here. The walk along the beach

offers hundreds of marine iguanas and

Galapagos sea lions. You will also see

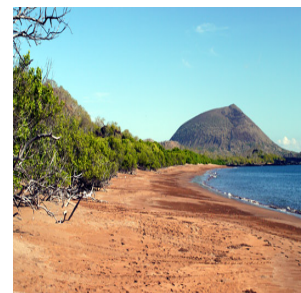
amazing tidal pools formed from ancient

lava flow and home to sponges, snails,

hermit crabs, barnacles and fish.

Snorkelling with the seals always offers the

possibility of thrilling encounters.



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Departure

Selected Saturdays
Selected Saturdays - Charles Darwin

Duration

10 Days

Locations
Today you will visit Santa Cruz, the second largest island in the Galapagos. The small town of Puerto Ayora is the economic centre of the archipelago, and home to the Charles Darwin Research Station. 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 will also observe baby tortoises and land iguanas. Afterward you

will head up into the highlands for a total change of scenery. Beginning at the coast you'll travel across Santa Cruz through the agricultural region and into the misty

forests with the journey taking about 45 mins. This is a lush humid zone containing miconia bushes, scalesia and inactive

volcanic cones. Santa Cruz has more endemic plants than any of the other islands and you are likely to see Galapagos giant tortoises in their natural habitat and

perhaps even the bright red feathers of a vermilion flycatcher! Today there will be some passengers leaving the tour and some new passengers joining.



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Trip Code

ECTSGCEI

Departure

Selected Saturdays

Selected Saturdays - Isla Mosquera

Duration

10 Days

Location

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Today you will take a morning excursion to

Isla North Seymour (North Seymour Island)

which is one of the most visited islands in

the Galapagos. The trail on North Seymour

crosses inland through the island and then

explores the rocky coast. Along the way the

trail passes colonies of blue footed boobies

and frigate birds. The magnificent frigate

bird, a large black bird with a long

wingspan, and a hooked beak, is extremely

fast and has excellent vision. Frigate birds

are known for the large red pouch on their

necks. During mating season the males

throw back their heads, inflate the pouch

(sometimes to the size of a soccer ball), and

shake trying to capture the attention of

female frigates. Boobies and frigates have

an interesting relationship. Sharing the

same nesting area on North Seymour, blue-

footed boobies nest on the ground making

their nests from the twigs of the palo santos

trees, while the frigate birds nests just

above them in the saltbushes. Your walk is

followed by snorkelling where you will find

a great variety of fish and possibly white-

tipped reef sharks, rays and sea lions. After

lunch you will visit the small sandy island of

Mosquera, a relaxing, picturesque stop

situated between Baltra and North

Seymour. Along the rocks and in the tide

pool, Sally Lightfoot crabs (red lava crabs)

scamper back and forth, skipping across

small pools of water in search of food. These

crabs with their bright red shell tops and

blue under shells are stunning against the

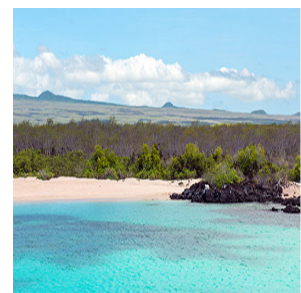
black lava. The island also has a very large

colony of sea lions as well as a sizeable

resident brown pelican population.

Depending on the tides and visibility, you

may have a chance to go snorkelling here.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Saturdays
Selected Saturdays - Cerro Dragon

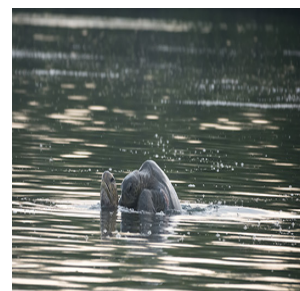
Duration

10 Days you will take a morning excursion on

Locations a 'panga' to Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) - a red mangrove wetland on Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America the north shore of Isla Santa Cruz. You will

paddle among the cove's peaceful waters, for your first taste of the underwater riches of this region - it's a wonderful place to see green turtle and is a nursery for golden cow-nose rays, eagle rays and Galapagos sharks. There is also abundant birdlife, such as the yellow warbler and lava heron. This is also a breeding area for turtles, so it is not uncommon to see them mating. In the afternoon, cruise over for a walk on Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) this afternoon - one of the best places to see land iguanas in the islands. From our dry landing we walk to a brackish lagoon frequented by lagoon birds including stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers, sanderlings and occasionally 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 a rewarding location for birdwatching with Darwin's finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, the endemic Galapagos flycatcher and yellow warblers all regulars here. The path can be challenging but you will be well-rewarded with a spectacular view of the bay!



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Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Saturdays Sombbrero Chino

Duration

10 Days

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Sombbrero Chino is a small islet located near

the south-east coast of Santiago. It's shaped

like a Chinese hat (Sombbrero Chino) when

seen from afar, and is geologically

fascinating, with many lava tubes leading

from the cone to the coast. We approach

Sombbrero Chino via a beautiful crescent-

shaped, sandy beach that is home to sea

lions and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Opposite

Sombbrero Chino, on the rocky shoreline of

nearby Santiago, Galapagos penguins are

often seen. We follow a trail that circles the

cove and passes through a sea lion colony

and innumerable marine iguanas. The cove

also offers some great snorkelling

opportunities, hopefully with penguins and

sharks. Isla Rabida, also known as Jervis

Island, is a tiny island sitting roughly five

kilometres south of Santiago and is one of

the most striking of the archipelago.

Introduced species were eradicated in 1971,

meaning that the indigenous wildlife has

now been returned to a state of splendid

isolation. Additionally, volcanic activity here

has produced vivid, fantastical colours, not

least the beaches of red sand and cliffs of

scarlet. From the shore, the trail leads

through to what is one of the finest lagoons

in the Galapagos for viewing flamingos.

Rabida is also a wonderful place to spot

nesting pelicans. Elsewhere, pintail ducks,

marine iguanas and sea lions are all

present. There is an opportunity for

snorkelling in a place where sea stars,

damsels, gobbies and surgeon fish are

numerous.



Ecuador - Classic Central Eastern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGCEI

Departure

Selected Saturdays Baltra - Quito

Duration

10 Days to the mainland from Galapagos

Locations

Depart mid morning, it is an early start for

our last morning on the islands. Depending

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

on the time of our flight, our time spent on

this final excursion could be limited. As you

will be leaving the boat this morning, please

remember that if you have enjoyed the

services provided by your guide and crew, a

tip would be very much appreciated by

them. As a guideline we recommend each

passenger consider US\$15 per day for the

crew and US\$10 per day for your guide. You

can leave tips in envelopes that are placed

in your cabin on the last day of your

journey. Today you will take an early

morning excursion to Las Bachas, which

was so named after the barges abandoned

by the American Navy here in the 1940s.

The sandy, white beaches of Las Bachas on

the north shore of Santa Cruz Island are a

nesting site for the Pacific green turtle, and

marine iguanas are also commonly seen.

The sand here is particularly white and soft

as it is made of decomposed coral. The

rocks provide great snorkelling and are the

perfect habitat for the Sally Lightfoot crabs,

which are plentiful on the island. A

saltwater lagoon near the beach is home to

flamingo and whimbrel, and look out too for

great blue herons. This is your final

excursion before you return to the airport in

Baltra for your flight back to Quito. The

flight will stopover in Guayaquil to drop

off/pick up new passengers. Upon arrival in

Quito Airport (approx. 4pm) you will be

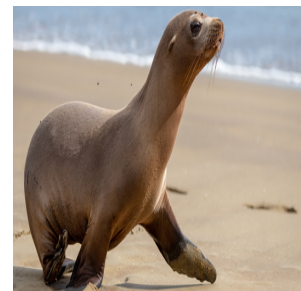
transferred back to your hotel for an

overnight stay. Our local representative may

stop by at your hotel this evening to get

your feedback on your Galapagos

experience.



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Departure

Selected Saturdays

Duration

10 Days Galapagos adventure will come to an

end today after breakfast. There are no

activities planned for the final day so you

are able to depart the accommodation at

any time. There are many fascinating things

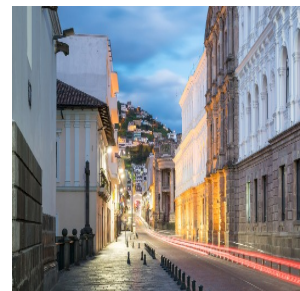
to do in and around Quito, so please speak

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

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night Pre & Post at the group hotel in Quito with breakfast
- Arrival Transfer in Quito (must have flight arrival plans confirmed 30 days prior)
- Transfers in Galapagos
- Round trip flight to/from Galapagos
- Accommodation on board Grand Queen Beatriz 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
- Wetsuit Hire
- Personal expenses and tips
- Items not specified

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

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Trip Code

ECTSGCEI

Departure

Selected Saturdays

Single Surcharge

Duration

10 Days

Locations
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Notes

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.

- 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