



Introduction

Admire the rugged landscapes of the remote **Galapagos Islands** and their incredible array of wildlife as you sail around the central islands. Visit the Galapaguero of **Cerro Colorado** to learn about the Galapagos giant tortoises and explore the spectacular volcanic island of **Bartolom ** with its spatter cones, lava flows, penguins and lava lizards. See iconic **Pinnacle Rock** and **Sugarloaf Volcano** and visit idyllic **Espumilla Beach**, a nesting site for marine turtles. Galapagos penguins, marine iguanas, sea lions, Sally Lightfoot crabs, blue-footed boobies, Darwin's finches, Galapagos hawks, pelicans and a host of other species are waiting to be discovered on this amazing Galapagos adventure.

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](#), [10 Day Central Eastern Islands](#), [10 Day Southern Islands](#)

Itinerary

Ecuador - Central Islands Encounter | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGEC

Departure

Selected Saturdays

Departure Date

Duration

6 Days

On arrival at Quito's Mariscal Sucre

International Airport you will be met and

transferred to your hotel. The remainder of

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
Day 2: Quito to San Cristobal Island

Duration

6 Days
This morning you will be transferred to the

location 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). You

will be met in the arrival hall of the airport

by the National Park Guide, and transferred

to your catamaran 'M/Y Queen Beatriz'. 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

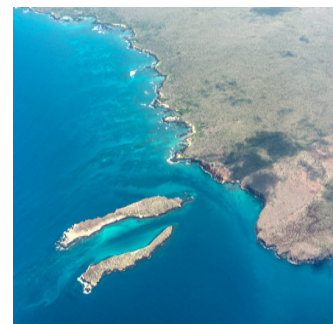
\$200 upon arrival at the airport in the

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

Day 4: Española Beach and Buccaneer's

Duration

6 Days

Locations you will visit some wonderful places.

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Espeñana Beach on the northern coast of

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

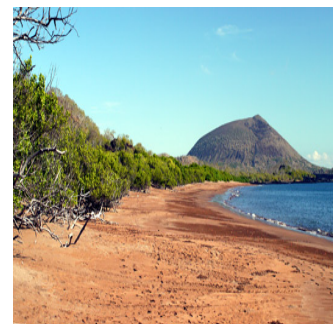
amazing tidal pools formed from ancient

lava flow and home to sponges, snails,

hermit crabs, barnacles and fish.

Snorkelling with the seals always offers the

possibility of thrilling encounters.



Ecuador - Central Islands Encounter | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGEC

Departure

Selected Saturdays

Days: Santa Cruz Island - Quito

Duration

6 Days to mainland Ecuador from the

Galapagos Islands depart mid-morning, so
an early start is necessary to make the most

of today's visit to 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 may also see baby

tortoises and land iguanas. This will be your

final excursion before you head to the

airport. Upon arrival at Mariscal Sucre

International Airport, enjoy an included

transfer to your hotel. Choose whether to

join your fellow travellers for an optional

dinner this evening. Upon arrival in Quito

Airport you will be transferred back to your

hotel for an overnight stay.



DAY 6: Quito

Your 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

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Trip Code
ECTSGEC
Departure
Selected Saturdays
Duration
6 Days
Locations
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night pre and 1 night post accommodation at group hotel in Quito including 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 onboard

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 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