

## **Ecuador** - Galapagos Encounter Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code  
ECTSGES  
Departure



### Introduction

Set sail aboard the Grand Queen Beatriz to discover the highlights of the **Galapagos** as you cruise around the southern islands of **Santa Cruz, Isabela and Floreana**. Encounter some of the species that inspired Darwin's Theory of Evolution including Darwin's finches, land and marine iguanas, pink flamingos and lava lizards. Walk across lava flows, snorkel at Devil's Crown, encounter reef sharks at **Las Tintoreras** and sea lions at **Punta Cormorant**. Explore the volcanically active **Isabela Island, Arnolda Tupiza Tortoise Breeding Centre**, historic **Post Office Bay** and visit the majestic giant tortoises in the highlands. This 6-day tour is an incredible introduction to the Galapagos archipelago, one of nature's most impressive wonders.

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

### Itinerary

## **Ecuador** - Galapagos Encounter Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGES

Departure

Select: Saturdays

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.



## **Ecuador** - Galapagos Encounter Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGES

Departure

Day 1: Saturday Punta Carrion

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). On arrival in the Galapagos you will be met in the arrivals hall and then transferred to your catamaran, M.C. Queen Beatriz, anchored a short distance away in Baltra Island. Once on board you'll be assigned your cabins, meet the crew members and have a welcome briefing and safety drill before getting to know your naturalist guide and fellow travellers over a delicious lunch.

Your first stop in the afternoon will be Punta Carrión, located on the eastern side of the Itabaca channel that separates the islands of Baltra and Santa Cruz. This is a shallow and protected cove, ideal for your first snorkel and swim in the Galapagos! From a boat ride, wildlife is plentiful - keep your eyes peeled for occasional sightings of blue-footed boobies, Galapagos herons, great blue herons and underwater swim among rays and white-tipped reef sharks. Tonight, enjoy a welcome cocktail and crew presentation on board. 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.



## **Ecuador** - Galapagos Encounter Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGES

Departure

Start: Saturdays Las Tintoreras - Tortoise

Duration

6 Days

Today you will wake up on the south Coast  
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America of  
Isabela (Santa Fe) island, the largest of

The Galapagos Archipelago. Isabela was  
formed by five giant volcanic craters, all of  
which are still considered active. The island  
is located in one of the youngest geological  
areas in the world, having been formed less  
than 1 million years ago. Please note that  
there's a US\$10 fee to be paid upon landing  
on Isabela Island. This southern coast of  
turquoise blue waters has the largest area  
of beaches in the Galapagos. You will visit  
Las Tintoreras, where from the viewing  
walkway you can look down into this narrow  
channel to see a colony of white-tipped reef  
sharks swimming and sleeping, and the  
occasional playful sea lion among them!

Blue-footed boobies and penguins, marine  
iguanas and crabs also make their home  
here. Enjoy a nice long walk on a gravel  
path through 'Ahh-ahh' lava flow and see  
plenty of marine iguanas. The natives of the  
islands call white sharks 'tintoreras', hence  
the name of this spectacular site. In the  
afternoon we visit the Arnaldo Tupiza  
Tortoise breeding center. We have a  
leisurely walk through a coastal lagoon,  
where you might see Flamingos. This  
mangrove-lined path leads to Isabela's Giant  
Tortoise Breeding Center (Arnaldo Tupiza)  
where you'll observe giant tortoises in all  
stages of development. Here you can see  
the five sub species of tortoises from Isabela  
Island, some of which are bred in captivity.

You will then have the choice for optional  
swimming at the beach or out for some  
shopping in Puerto Villamil.



## **Ecuador** - Galapagos Encounter Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGES

Departure

~~Sat 1st - Saturdays~~ - Post Office Bay - Devil's

~~Duration~~

6 Days

~~The island of Floreana is a highlight of any Ecuador Galapagos Islands, South America Galapagos cruise, rich in natural wonders~~

and wildlife. Enjoy a panga ride around the loberia to observe marine iguanas, sea lions and crabs before taking a leisurely walk to Post Office Bay, where 18th century whalers used a barrel as an unofficial mail drop. This custom continues to this day with visitors to the Galapagos - post one of your own, or see if there are any you could deliver back home! You will also have the chance to go snorkelling with sea turtles. Today is also one of your finest opportunities to see pink flamingos and other water birds wading in the lagoons, including pintails and stilts.

Just offshore, the 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 snorkelling spot, perhaps the most remarkable in the entire archipelago, full of sea lions and colourful fish. You will go ashore at Punta Cormorant where the sand is made up of fine olivine crystals, a glassy volcanic mineral, giving the beach an olive-green colour. It is the best place to see Galapagos sea lions.



## **Ecuador** - Galapagos Encounter Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

ECTSGES

Departure

Day 1: Saturday

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

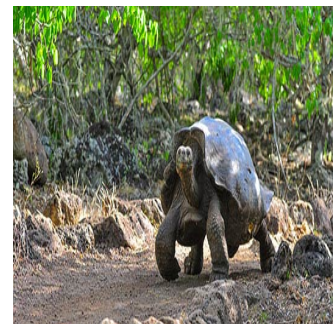
transfer to your hotel. Choose whether to

join your fellow travellers for an optional

dinner this evening. Upon arrival in Quito

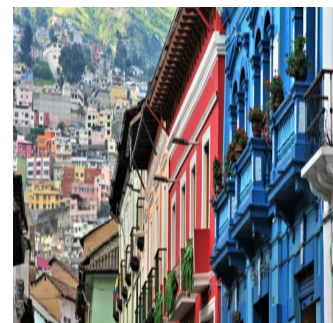
Airport you will be transferred back to your

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

**Ecuador** - Galapagos Encounter Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code  
ECTSGES  
Departure  
Select Saturdays  
Duration  
6 Days  
Locations  
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

## INCLUSIONS

- 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)
- Round trip flight to/from Galapagos
- Transfers in Galapagos
- Accommodation on board Grand Queen Beatriz in chosen 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

- 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)
- Galápagos 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  
Single Surcharge

2 (light adventure)  
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