

Galapagos Islands - Classic Galapagos: Central Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code
ECINSCT
Departure



Introduction

Discover the very best of the **Galapagos** on this incredible 10 day adventure. Starting with a night in the vibrant and colonial town of **Quito**, you will be awash with a vibrancy of unique Ecuadorian history, stunning Andean mountain backdrops and incredible local experiences. Once in the Galapagos you will explore the beauty of this stunning archipelago. This largely untouched paradise is an amalgam of incredible landscapes - from sandy beaches, to rocky coves and volcano-carved sea tunnels. Not only are there incredible landscapes, but a plethora of curious wildlife including **marine iguanas, sea lions, white-tipped reef sharks, rays, blue-footed boobies, Galapagos penguins and the legendary Galapagos tortoise.**

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

Itinerary

Galapagos Islands - Classic Galapagos: Central Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Tuesdays
Direct Arrival and Overnight in Quito

Duration

10 Days
On arrival at Quito's Mariscal Sucre

International Airport, you will be met and

Galapagos Islands - Ecuador, South America

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

5 pm or 6 pm when you meet others

travelling with you on your sail around the

Galapagos Islands. As today is an arrival

day, you can arrive at any time as there are

no activities planned until the welcome

meeting. 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

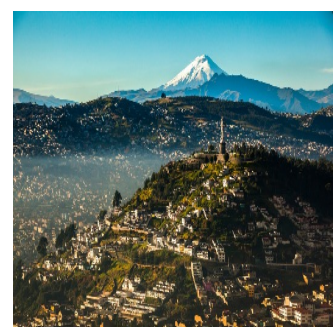
extra days before or after your trip to

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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Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Tuesdays
Departure Island and Santa Cruz

Duration

10 Days
This morning you will be transferred to the
location for your flight to the Galapagos

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

✕ Grounds. Please note the pick-up time can be
as early as 4.30 am (a boxed breakfast will

be provided), as the airport is a 1-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). 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 by a
transfer guide and will head to your vessel -

M/Y Queen Beatriz, anchored on the other
side of Isla Santa Cruz. Our guide will

accompany you on an airport bus to where
you board a public ferry for a short journey

across the Itabaca Channel. Once you reach
Santa Cruz Island, board a private vehicle

for a 45-minute drive to Puerto Ayora, the
main port of the island. Here, there will be

two dinghies to transport you and your
fellow travellers to the boat. Once on board,

cabins will be assigned and you get to meet
our crew members and get to know your

naturalist guide while enjoying a delicious
lunch. The small town of Puerto Ayora is the

economic centre of the archipelago, and
home to the Charles Darwin Research

Station. You'll take a visit after lunch on
board the boat. As well as undertaking vital

conservation work, the station also makes
for interesting exploration and offers an

opportunity to see giant tortoises. You will
also be able to observe baby tortoises and

land iguanas. Please note the Transit Card
& National Park Fees are not included in

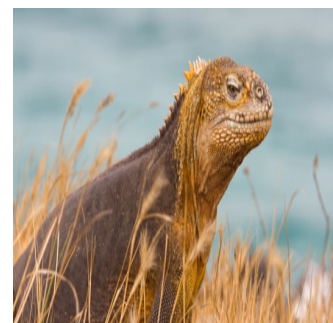
the cost of the trip as they need to be paid
locally: There is a US\$20 Galapagos Islands

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 Tuesdays

Duration

10 Days North Seymour and Isla Mosquera

Locations

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Today, take a morning excursion to North Seymour: one of the most visited islands in the Galapagos. The hiking 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 a spot of snorkelling, where you

can find a colourful variety of fish and, possibly, some white-tipped reef sharks,

rays and sea lions. After lunch, visit the small sandy Isla Mosquera: a picturesque

island located 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 in its

surrounding turquoise waters.



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Departure

Selected Tuesdays

Day 4 - Black Turtle and Cerro Dragon

Duration

10 Days

Take a panga (Zodiac boat) to Caleta

Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) - a red

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

mangrove wetland on 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 turtles, 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): 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. Estimated

travel time/distance: Caleta Tortuga Negra

to Cerro Dragon: 2 hours (12 nautical miles)

Cerro Dragon to Sombrero Chino (Chinese

hat): 1.5 hours (9 nautical miles)



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Departure

Selected Tuesdays and Sombrero Chino

Duration

10 Days

Head towards Sombrero Chino: a small islet

Location near the south-east coast of

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Santiago. The island is shaped like a

Chinese hat (Sombrero Chino) when seen

from afar, and is geologically fascinating,

with many lava tubes leading from the cone

to the coast. You'll approach Sombrero

Chino via a beautiful crescent-shaped,

sandy beach that is home to sea lions and

Sally Lightfoot crabs. Opposite Sombrero

Chino, on the rocky shoreline of nearby

Santiago, you might see some Galapagos

penguins. Follow a trail that circles the cove

and passes through colonies of sea lions and

marine iguanas. The cove also offers some

great snorkelling opportunities, hopefully

with penguins and sharks. Next stop, the

striking Isla Rabida - a tiny island sitting

roughly 5 kilometres south of Santiago.

Introduced species were eradicated in 1971,

meaning that the native wildlife has now

been returned to a state of isolation.

Additionally, volcanic activity here has

produced vivid colours, not least the red

sand beaches and scarlet cliffs. From the

shore, the trail leads through to what is one

of the finest lagoons in the Galapagos for

flamingo spotting. Rabida is also a

wonderful place to spot nesting pelicans,

pintail ducks, marine iguanas and sea lions.

There is an opportunity for snorkelling in a

cove full of sea stars, damsels, gobies and

surgeon fish. Estimated travel

time/distance: Sombrero Chino to Isla

Rabida: 1 hour (7 nautical miles) Isla Rabida

to Bachas Beach: 1 hour (7 nautical miles)



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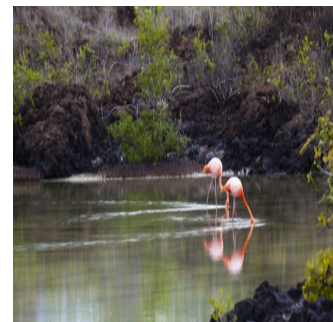
Departure

Selected Tuesdays:
Departure Punta Carrion and Bachas Beach

Duration

10 Days

Take an early morning excursion to Las Bachas, which was so named after the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America because abandoned by the American Navy here in the 1940s. The sandy beaches of Las Bachas on the north shore of Santa Cruz are a nesting site for the Pacific green turtle, and home to marine iguanas. 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 to the beach is home to flamingo and whimbrel and great blue herons, so keep a look out. In the afternoon, visit Punta Carrion, located in north-eastern Santa Cruz. This is a shallow and protected cove, ideal for snorkelling. Wildlife is plentiful, so look around for blue-footed boobies, Galapagos herons and great blue herons, and underwater, swim among rays and white-tipped reef sharks.



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Departure

Selected Tuesdays
Departure Isla Isabela and Las Tintoreras

Duration

10 Days
Wake up on the south Coast of Isla Isabela,

the largest island of the Galapagos

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Galapagos Island 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. This southern coast of

Isabela's 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 long walk on

a gravel path through aa ('ah-ah') lava flow

and see plenty of marine iguanas. Locally,

the white sharks are known as 'tintoreras',

hence the name of this spectacular site. In

the afternoon, take a leisurely walk through

a coastal lagoon, where you might see some

flamingos. This mangrove-lined path leads

to Isabela's Giant Tortoise Breeding Center

(Arnoldo Tupiza) where you'll observe giant

tortoises in all stages of development. Here

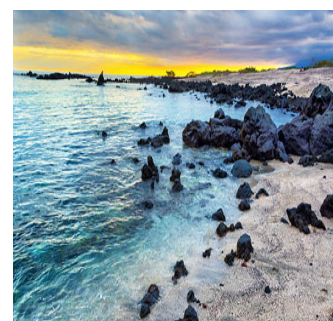
you can see the five sub species of tortoises

from Isabela, some of which are bred in

captivity. You will then have the choice of

optional swimming at the beach or heading

out for some shopping in Puerto Villamil.



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Departure

Selected Tuesdays
Depart 08:00 AM Bay and Punta

Duration

10 Days

Locations

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Course, from natural wonders and wildlife.

Enjoy a panga ride around the bay to see

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 also 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 a great place to see

Galapagos sea lions.



Galapagos Islands - Classic Galapagos: Central Southern Islands | Grand Queen Beatriz

Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Tuesdays
 Depart from Isla Santa Cruz and Quito

Duration

10 Days to mainland Ecuador from the

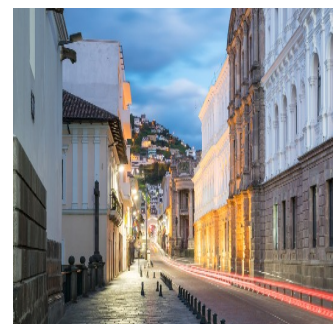
Galapagos Islands depart mid-morning, so
 Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America
 an early start is necessary to make the most

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.



DAY 10: Depart 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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 Selected Tuesdays
 Duration
 10 Days
 Locations
 Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night pre and 1 night post group hotel in Quito with 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 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

- 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
 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