

Galapagos Islands - Hidden Jewels of the Western Islands

Trip Code
ECGASI6B
Departure



Introduction

The western islands of the Galapagos archipelago is an unmatched experience, traveling through one of the most pristine and environmentally diverse locations of the world. A remarkable route that highlights the magnificent natural beauties and raw power of nature is unveiled every day. You can tell you're going to have an amazing day the instant you wake up because of the boat's soft rolling. You go on daily excursions with knowledgeable naturalists to discover the distinctive landscapes of the islands and get up close and personal with its recognizable and unique animals. Every moment presents an opportunity to commune with nature in its most pristine form, whether you're snorkeling with playful sea lions in what feels like a never-ending aquarium, trekking through volcanic terrain, or taking in the rich marine life while exploring in pangas along the coast. Keep an eye out for giant tortoises, land and marine iguanas, as well as the small finches that bring the living history of these islands to life.

*Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.

PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. [Contact us](#) for more information.

Itinerary

Galapagos Islands - Hidden Jewels of the Western Islands

Trip Code

ECGASI6B

Departure

Selected Saturdays Highlands

Duration

6 Days the adventure begins with your flight

to the Galapagos Island. Upon arrival, our

dedicated crew will receive you at the

airport, give you a warm welcome and then

transport you to the cruise ship. En route,

visit the highland forests of Santa Cruz,

where you'll search for Galapagos Giant

tortoises in their natural habitat. This area

offers the best opportunity in the Galapagos

to observe these gentle giants, some

reaching over 300 kg (600 pounds!), as they

graze and rest by freshwater ponds. The

highlands are also a haven for a diverse

range of birds rarely found in the lowlands,

including finches (tree, woodpecker, and

vegetarian finches), flycatchers, and various

species of water birds. Depending on the

itinerary, you may explore a lava tunnel and

gain insights into how these extraordinary

formations were shaped by ancient volcanic

eruptions.



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Departure

Selected Saturdays
Departure: Puna Moreno & Elizabeth bay

Duration

6 Days

Moreno Point is a magical place with

Location
lava fields which look lifeless at

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

First sight. Once inland, scattered brackish

lagoons form oasis of life where you can find

flamingoes, gallinules, ducks and herons.

Along the shore we will look for penguins,

marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, blue-

footed boobies, sea lions, oystercatchers

and other shore birds. You will have the

opportunity to snorkel with see sea turtles,

cormorants and many species of fish. Look

carefully in the long seaweeds and you

might find a sea horse. In the afternoon visit

Elizabeth Bay, a beautiful sheltered bay

surrounded by large mangroves and barren

lava fields. There is no trail here so you will

take a dinghy tour to explore many

channels, pools and coves teeming with life.

This is one of the best locations in the

islands to see Galapagos penguins, but don't

expect to see thousands of them, as the

entire population of the islands is only about

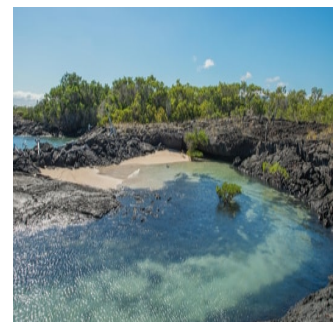
3.000 of them. Flightless cormorants also

nest in the area and blue-footed boobies and

pelicans often fish in these shallow and rich

waters. Rays and sea turtles are also very

abundant.



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Departure

Selected Saturdays & Tagus Cove

Duration

6 Days on a morning expedition to Urbina

Bay, a place known for the dramatic

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

uplifting that happened here during the

1950's. A large portion of the coast was

pushed up, exposing many hectares of

previously submerged land. Look carefully

along the trail and you will find small shells

and corals, a proof that the area was

underwater more than sixty years ago. The

trail will give the opportunity to see land

iguanas and, during certain seasons, giant

tortoises. Galapagos hawks nest in the area

and are often seen flying or perched on the

trees. This afternoon, hike Tagus cove, one

of the places Charles Darwin visited during

his exploration of the Galapagos islands. A

trail will take you through a dry Palo Santo

forests where you can see Darwin finches

and mockingbirds. You will get great views

of Darwin's lake and the large volcanos of

northern Isabela. A boat tour along the

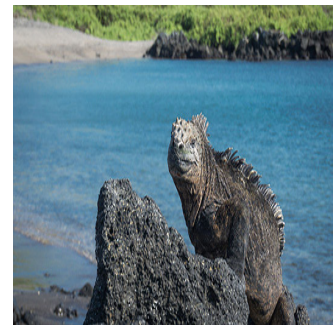
shore will give you chances to see penguins,

cormorants, marine iguanas and a very

unique species: the Galapagos martin, a

small endemic bird which is one of the most

endangered species on the island.



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Departure

Selected Saturdays: Santa Cruz, Santa Fe Point & Albermarle Point

Duration

6 Days

Located at the base of an imposing volcano

(the most active in the Galapagos islands)

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

Espinosa point is one of the jewels of the

Galapagos National Park. As soon as you

disembark you will be surrounded by

hundreds of marine iguanas, as this is the

largest colony for the species. Sea lions

bask in the beaches while their pups play in

tide pools. Along the shore you will see

flightless cormorants, which are restricted

to the western areas of the archipelago.

Surrounded by cold plankton-rich waters,

Punta Espinosa is home for an array of

species, including herons, pelicans,

oystercatchers, sea turtles, shorebird and

many more. Look up in the mangroves as

Galapagos hawks often perch to look for

their prey. In the afternoon, explore

Albermarle Point, a destination renowned

for its abundant wildlife and historical

significance. During World War II, the

Americans constructed a radar base to

detect the presence of Japanese warships

approaching the Galapagos. Remnants of

this radar are still visible today. Despite the

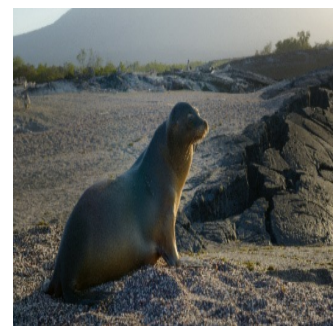
barren landscape surrounded by vast lava

fields, the coastal areas boast some of the

largest marine iguanas in the islands, along

with Galapagos penguins, flightless

cormorants, and various shorebirds.



Galapagos Islands - Hidden Jewels of the Western Islands

Trip Code

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Departure

Selected Saturdays
DAY 5: Puerto Egas Port & Espumilla Beach

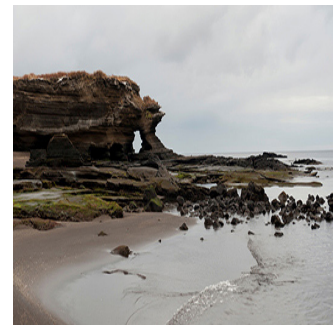
Duration

6 Days

Location

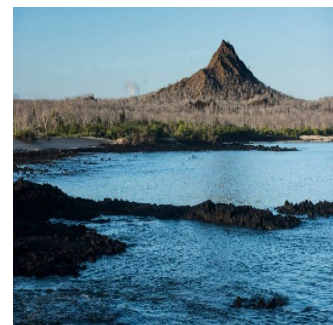
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

Contrary to its name, Puerto Egas lacks an actual port, yet you may encounter remnants of past attempts to colonize the island in the 1960s. The trail winds along the coastline, teeming with wildlife, from marine iguanas basking in the sun to Galapagos sea lions, herons, oystercatchers, and numerous shorebirds. The trail culminates in an area known as "the grottos," hosting a small colony of the endemic Galapagos fur seal—more elusive up close than its relative. Notably, land iguanas were reintroduced to the area in 2019 after being extinct from Santiago for over a century, so keep a keen eye out for these impressive reptiles. Espumilla beach is a stunning 1km (0.6 mi) stretch of beach with rust-colored sand situated on the northern coast of Santa Cruz. Encircled by expansive mangrove trees and a captivating native dry forest, this locale serves as the habitat for Galapagos hawks, along with a diverse array of finches, mockingbirds, and doves. Be sure to explore the salt pan, especially during the rainy season when you might encounter flamingos and ducks.



DAY 6: Dragon Hill & Departure

Located in the northern coast of Santa Cruz, Dragon hill gets its name from the land iguanas that inhabit this area, the only location in the whole island of Santa Cruz where you can see this large species of reptiles. Thanks to a very successful breeding program, this population of land iguanas, which was in the brink of extinction during the 70's and 80's, has rapidly recovered. There is also a small salt water lagoon where we can often see flamingoes, ducks, stilts, sandpipers and other shorebirds. After the visit, bid farewell to your guide and fellow travelers before being transferred to the airport in anticipation of your flight back to the mainland.



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Duration

6 Days

Locations & Details

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

Accommodation



Cabin On Board A Catamaran Yacht

INCLUSIONS

Accommodation in double cabin

Transfers in the Galapagos and airport assistance

All meals during the cruise

Water coffee and tea & soft drink

All excursions as per the itinerary*

English-Speaking Naturalist guide

Snorkelling equipment

Kayak & Paddle board equipment

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

Return airfares from mainland Ecuador

Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change)

Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20 per person - Subject to change)

Wet suit rental

Alcoholic drinks

Personal expenses

Gratuities for crew/guides

Services 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.

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Please note kayak activities are subject to weather conditions.

Notes

Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated)

Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time

*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