

Galapagos Islands - Galapagos South Western Islands Cruise A | Archipel I

Trip Code
ECACA8A
Departure



Introduction

Explore the wonders of the Galapagos Islands on this 8 day cruise itinerary onboard the Archipel I, that will allow you to discover the South and Western Islands, including Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago, San Cristobal and Santa Fe. Keep an eye out for colonies of blue and red footed boobies, the flightless cormorant and spot giant tortoises in the wild.

Check out the [5 Day Western Islands Cruise](#) onboard the Archipel I

Itinerary

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Trip Code

ECACA8A

Departure

~~Start: Mondays~~ San Cristobal and Frigate

Duration

8 Days

~~Locations~~ Arrival at San Cristobal airport. Upon
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

~~Arrival at San Cristobal airport, you will~~
pass through an airport inspection point to
insure that no foreign plants or animals are
introduced to the islands. A guide will meet
you, help you collect your luggage, and
escort you on a short bus ride to the
harbour. PM - Interpretation Centre and
Frigatebird Hill (San Cristobal) The
Interpretation Centre, just outside the
provincial capital city of Puerto Baquerizo
Moreno, gives a perfect explanation of this
unique archipelago. Its attractive exhibition
is quite complete and helps you to get a
clear overview and learn what makes this
archipelago so unique. Information panels
(in English and Spanish), pictures,
documents, maquettes, and true-to-life
dioramas tell various background and
conservation stories about the islands in a
different way. A short, though often hot,
uphill trail with steps, leads from the
Interpretation Centre to the summit of
Frigatebird Hill. Four panoramic viewpoints
show Puerto Baquerizo Moreno from above,
as well as the bays on both sides of the
headland. On clear days even the distant,
offshore sculpture of Kicker Rock can be
seen! These wooded hilltops are one of the
rare places where some magnificent and
great frigatebirds form a mixed breeding
colony.



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Departure

Sept. Mondays & South Plaza

Duration

8 Days

Santa Fe Located in the southeastern part of the Galapagos, this island was formed from an uplift instead of a volcanic origin, which is why it is mostly flat. Some theories assure this could be the oldest island in the archipelago. Santa Fe is the home of several endemic species like the Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, rice rats and one of the two species of land iguanas of the islands. After disembarking in the beautiful and clear waters, you will be in contact with one of the many sea lion colonies. Along the trail, many salt bushes can be seen as well as giant prickly pear cactus, gigantism is a characteristic of oceanic islands. PM - South Plaza South Plaza is located to the east of Santa Cruz Island, and forms part of a pair of islands known as "Islas Plazas". Despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the Galapagos are found here. The Plazas land iguanas are smaller than their relatives found on other islands. There are several hybrid iguanas throughout the island; a result of crossing a marine iguana with a land iguana. They are unique and recognizable at first glance by their black/grey colour, with a land iguana's crest, but the face and tail of the marine iguana. The big population of iguanas is due to the presence of prickly pears, their favourite food. Swallow-tailed gulls nesting in the rugged cliffs are seen along with other sea birds as Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds and brown pelicans.



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Departure

Select Mondays

Day 3: North Seymour and Chinese Hat

Duration

8 Days

North Seymour Seymour is an uplifted

Location (as opposed to volcanic) island and

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Therefore is generally flat and strewn with

boulders. There are good nesting sites here

for a large population of magnificent frigate

birds. Blue-footed boobies perform their

courtship dance in the more open areas and

swallow-tailed gulls perch on the cliff edges.

Despite the tremendous surf that can pound

the outer shore, sea lions haul out onto the

beach and can be found bodysurfing. PM -

Chinese Hat is a 52 m/170 ft high volcanic

cone, forming another islet right off the

rocky coast of Santiago, where a small

colony of Galapagos penguins have settled.

Approaching Chinese Hat from the north,

you will understand the meaning of the

name. This is an excellent place to learn

more about volcanoes, lava bombs and lava

tunnels. You will arrive just in time to

witness how this barren islet is colonised by

pioneer species that have begun to sprout!

Beautiful beaches of white coral sand and

holes in the eroding lava fields are filled up

with lava sand, which enables rooting.

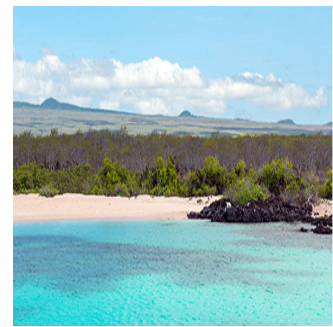
Galapagos sea lions and countless marine

iguanas contribute to fertilisation and thus

create many favourable options for

newcomers, such as saltbush and the

sesuvium carpet.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Day 1: Monday
Santa Cruz - Twin Craters and Breeding center

Duration

8 Days
Twin Craters and El Chato Reserve

(Santa Cruz) The native scalesia forest of El

Chato Tortoise Reserve is the best place to

search for Galapagos giant tortoises in their

most authentic setting! Despite the

interesting breeding centres - where you

are guaranteed to find tortoises in their

corrals - there is nothing better than to

observe them in their wild environment.

Though it can be quite moist and muddy,

your visit may turn into an adventurous

quest when they have left their favorite

pond silently. The Twin Craters are found

on either side of the road leading to Puerto

Ayora. These impressive formations are not

really volcanic craters and were formed by

magma domes, which hardened on the

outside while the lava continued flowing

inside, leaving huge and empty magma

chambers that eventually collapsed, leaving

two large holes. The craters lie within a lush

scalesia cloud forest, a high-altitude plant

species that are endemic to the Galapagos.

This area is also home to the carpenter

finch, which uses tools to search for food.

There may also be opportunities to see the

vermillion flycatcher, a small red-breasted

bird. PM - Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre

(Santa Cruz) At this site, you can observe

tortoises that come from various islands of

the archipelago. They comply with the

captive breeding programme and then

return to repopulate the areas where their

population has been affected. The land

iguanas of Santa Cruz, Isabela and North

Seymour are also in a captive breeding

programme, as the populations in these

areas suffered from feral dogs. One of the

main attractions is the famous embalmed

Lonesome George. Estimated to have died

between 93 and 109 years of age, it is

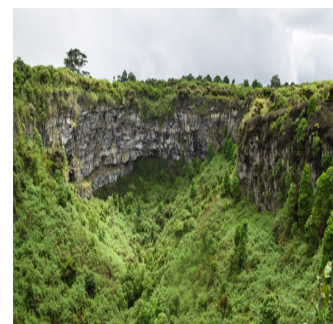
recognised as the last of its kind and a

symbol of the efforts invested to conserve

endangered species. The captive tortoises

are used to the presence of visitors, so it's a

great place to take photos with them.



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Trip Code

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Departure

Day 3: Moreno point and Urbina bay

Duration

8 Days

Location

Isabela

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

and Cerro Azul. The trail runs along a

solidified pahoehoe lava flow into a complex

of coastal lagoons. Its main attractions are

several species of birds, which are found

around the lakes and mangroves. PM -

Urbina Bay (Isabela) Urbina Bay is located

along the west coast of Isabela, between

Elizabeth Bay and Tagus Cove. It is close to

the base of the Alcedo Volcano. The

coastline has undergone a major uplift in

1954, which caused the shore to expand

three quarters of a mile out. Here you will

be able to find corals, shells, and many

other calcareous organisms exposed above

water. Urbina Bay is home to large and

colorful land iguanas and giant tortoises of

the Alcedo Volcano population. A lot of

Darwin finches can be seen as well.



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Departure

Saturday, 14th November 2025

Duration

8 Days

Location Espinoza Point (Fernandina) is the third-largest island in the Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Environment Espinoza Point has a single visitor site.

Point Espinoza, located at the northeastern

tip of the island. Marine iguanas

conglomerate in larger groups than on any

other island. They bask around in the sand,

swim near the shore and sometimes block

the way at the landing dock. Among the

unique species found here, is the flightless

cormorant. This bird had to adjust its way of

survival and perfection its skills of finding

food in the ocean. Their wings, tails and feet

progressively adapted for swimming. To see

these birds is to witness evolution

happening right in front of you. PM -

Vicente Roca Point (Isabela) Whilst having

lunch we will cross the Bolivar Channel for

the last time to Vicente Roca Point, just at

the mouth of Isabela's seahorse-shape.

While entering a dark cave below a

spectacular arch, roaring echoes of the

waves will accompany you. Just around the

corner the collapsed amphitheatre of Volcan

Ecuador offers another impressive view.

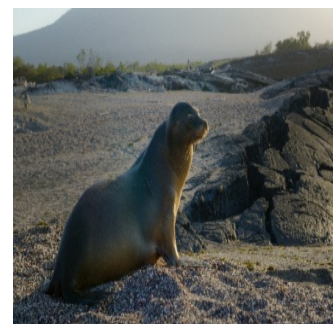
The calmer waters of the coves are well-

protected against the ocean swell and are a

fairly cold, but great place for snorkelling

amongst various species of shark, penguins,

puffer fish and even seahorses!



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Trip Code

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Departure

Depart: Monday

Duration

8 Days

Location

South America

South America

South America

South America

South America

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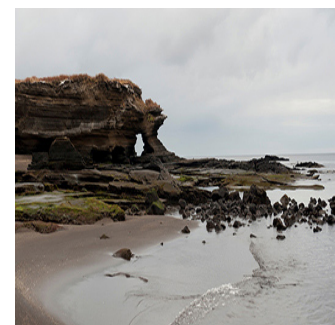
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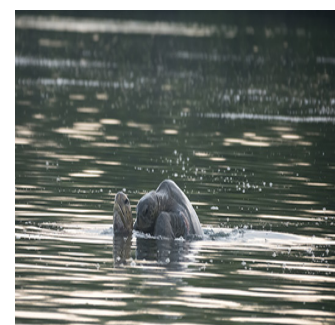


DAY 8: Black turtle cove and departure

AM - Black Turtle Cove (Santa Cruz) After breakfast, you will check out and disembark the cruise for the last time at 08:30 am.

Your last adventure is brief but enchanting, and will take place enroute to the airport.

You will explore onboard the dinghy the green landscape of Black Turtle Cove, which is mostly composed of mangrove trees that host innumerable aerial and aquatic species. Observe how the quiet emerald lagoon and surrounding shallow bays enables the easy observation of sea turtles and as well as groups of sharks. The visit ends and you will disembark at 09:00 at Baltra island, ultimately reaching Baltra airport at 09:30, where its the official end of your cruise adventure.



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Departure

Select Mondays

Duration
8 Days

Accommodation

Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America



Cabin onboard a ship

Accommodation onboard the Archipel I

Transfers in the Galapagos and airport assistance

All meals whilst on-board including snacks

All shore excursions

Guiding and lectures by Galapagos Naturalist Guide

Snorkelling equipment (mask, snorkel & fins)

Use of kayaks

Exclusions

Inclusions

International flights

Return airfares from mainland Ecuador

Visa & reciprocity fees (if applicable)

Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$ 200 per person subject to change)

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

Travel insurance

Beverages other than tea & coffee

Personal expenses such as laundry & onboard communication

Gratuities for the crew

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request. Contact us for more details.

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Please note kayak and water based 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 Departure date, currency fluctuation, seasonality & availability

Sustainability