

Ecuador - Galapagos 8 Day Eastern Islands Cruise | Monique

Trip Code
ECGGME8B
Departure



Introduction

Embark on a 8-day journey through the Southern and Eastern Galapagos Islands aboard the Monique. This itinerary includes visits to Santa Cruz, Floreana, Espanola, San Cristobal, Santa Fe, and South Plaza Islands, offering opportunities to observe diverse wildlife such as giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, marine iguanas, and sea lions. Engage in activities like hiking, snorkelling, kayaking, and dinghy rides, immersing yourself in the archipelago's unique ecosystems and stunning landscapes.

Enjoy exclusive savings when you pair your Galapagos cruise aboard the Monique with a luxury stay at [La Selva](#) Lodge in the Amazon. [Get in touch](#) for details and pricing.

Itinerary

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Departure

Selected Thursdays

Direct Arrival Galapagos Islands

Duration

8 Days

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed and

assisted at the airport, then transferred

to Santa Cruz from the M/C Monique. In

the afternoon, visit the Fausto Llerena

Breeding Center, also known as the Charles

Darwin Research Station. The center hosts

an interpretation center, museum, library,

and tortoise breeding facility, home to

various tortoise subspecies being prepared

for reintroduction. After the visit to the

Charles Darwin Research Station, we

continue to highlands of Santa Cruz, you'll

have the opportunity to see the famous

giant tortoises in the wild. So renowned are

these endemic animals that they gave the

archipelago its name. Birdwatching is also

one of the activities do to in the Santa Cruz

highlands, since this area is home of finches

and other Galapagos birds.



DAY 2: Post Office Bay & Cormorant Point

This morning, experience an island tradition

that dates back to the 18th century when

whalers used a wooden barrel to exchange

mail—a custom you can still participate in

today. Enjoy snorkeling, kayaking, or

walking and swimming through a lava

tunnel. In the afternoon visit two

contrasting beaches—one with olivine-rich

green sand, and the other a white coral

“Flour Beach” created by parrot fish over

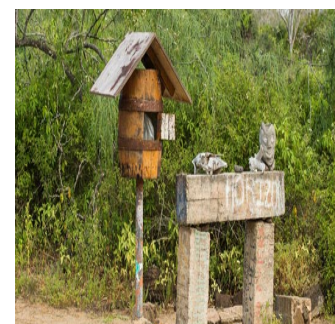
thousands of years. A saltwater lagoon

nearby is frequented by one of the

archipelago's largest populations of

Galapagos flamingos, and is home to stilts,

pintails, and flycatchers.



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Day 3 @ Punta Suarez & Gardner Bay

Duration

8 Days
Begin your day at Punta Suarez, one of the

most biologically diverse sites in the

Ecuador & Galapagos Islands.

As you follow a rugged trail

along dramatic sea cliffs, you'll pass by

large colonies of Nazca and blue-footed

boobies, boldly curious mockingbirds,

vibrantly colored marine iguanas, and —

during the right season — the world's only

population of waved albatrosses. Watch as

these majestic birds court, nest, or launch

themselves gracefully into the ocean air.

Spend the afternoon on the soft white sands

of Gardner Bay, a pristine beach where sea

lions lounge and the ocean invites you in.

Whether you choose to swim, snorkel,

kayak, or paddleboard, the surrounding

turquoise waters offer a perfect opportunity

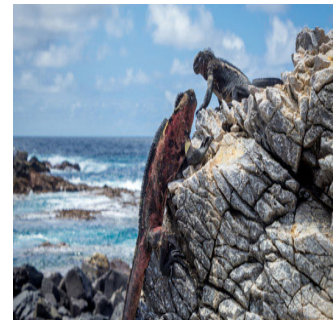
to observe marine life. Just offshore,

Gardner and Osborn Islets are home to

coral reefs teeming with tropical fish, rays,

and playful juvenile sea lions — ideal for a

vibrant snorkeling adventure.



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Departure
Selected Thursdays & San Cristobal

Duration
8 Days

Locations Start your morning with breathtaking views of Ecuador & Galapagos Islands. **Day 1 - Kicker Rock** Kicker Rock is a towering, twin-peaked volcanic formation rising from the sea. This iconic landmark is a haven for seabirds such as blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds, often seen perched on its narrow ledges. Then head to Witch Hill, a secluded bay with fine white sand and crystal-clear waters perfect for swimming or snorkeling. Its shallow saltwater lagoon offers a peaceful setting ideal for spotting marine life and enjoying views of Kicker Rock from a unique vantage point. In the afternoon, broaden your understanding of the archipelago at the San Cristobal Interpretation Center. This modern facility offers engaging exhibits that trace the Galapagos' geological beginnings, ecological richness, and complex human history over time. Learn about the unique species that call these islands home and the ongoing conservation initiatives working to protect their fragile ecosystems for generations to come.



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Departure

Selected Thursdays
Depart Santa Fe & South Plaza

Duration

8 Days
Begin your morning by landing on Santa Fe,

Location one of the oldest islands in the Galapagos,

Ecuador & Galapagos Islands known for its towering forests of Opuntia

cacti and distinctive pale-yellow land

iguanas. Hike along scenic trails that lead

you across the island's arid landscape or

into the highlands where these endemic

iguanas bask under the sun. After your

walk, cool off in the calm, crystal-clear

waters of the bay — ideal for swimming or

snorkeling alongside playful sea lions, rays,

and colorful reef fish. In the afternoon,

explore the compact yet incredibly diverse

South Plaza Island. Its vivid red and green

Sesuvium ground cover contrasts

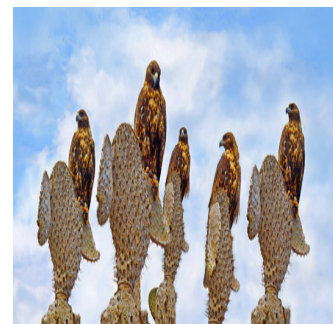
dramatically with the island's black lava and

towering prickly pear cacti. Here, you can

often see swallow-tailed gulls, tropicbirds,

and other seabirds nesting or riding the

thermals above the crashing waves.



DAY 6: Genovesa Island

This morning you will disembark on the white coral beach of Darwin Bay, the only sandy landing site within Genovesa's volcanic caldera. During breeding season, male frigatebirds inflate their striking red throat pouches in elaborate mating displays while red-footed boobies perch on the mangrove branches. In the afternoon visit, El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps, a rocky stairway that leads past a colony of Nazca and red-footed boobies up to a plateau of dried lava. Continuing through the thin Palo Santo Forest and looking out over the plain, visitors are often treated to sites of storm petrels launching out over the ocean. A dinghy ride or kayaking along the edge of the cliffs provides a good chance to see the elusive Galapagos fur seals nestled on the rocks, and snorkeling is a great activity if you fancy a dip with a variety of shark species.



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8 Days

This morning visit Chinese Hat, a scenic

spot on the coast of Santiago Island is

known for its stunning lava formations. With

a maximum elevation of just 160 feet (52

meters) and within easy reach of Santa

Cruz, Chinese Hat is typically only visited by

those aboard a Galapagos Cruise, and is

renowned as one of the best snorkeling

spots in the archipelago. In the afternoon

you'll head to Dragon Hill, located in the

northwestern region of Santa Cruz Island.

This visit offers guests the chance to

explore the island on foot and observe the

remarkable land iguanas—once nearly

extinct, now thriving once again. You'll also

encounter a saltwater lagoon home to

flamingos, pintail ducks, and a variety of

endemic bird species such as flycatchers

and warblers. A brief hike leads to a

stunning viewpoint at the top of the hill.

Before returning to the yacht, enjoy some

offshore snorkeling in the surrounding

waters.



DAY 8: Black Turtle Cove & Departure

After breakfast, you'll explore Black Turtle

Cove, located along the northern coast of

Santa Cruz Island. This site vividly

demonstrates how mangroves shape the

marine ecosystem, forming a vibrant and

unique habitat. Three different species of

mangroves extend from the shore deep into

the water, stretching nearly a mile inland.

While gliding silently through the calm

waters aboard a dinghy, you may spot

spotted eagle rays and mustard rays

gracefully swimming in formation. Keep an

eye out for white-tipped reef sharks gliding

beneath the surface and Pacific green sea

turtles surfacing to breathe or mate. The

area is also a haven for waterfowl, such as

pelicans, herons, and egrets, all drawn by

the cove's rich feeding grounds. After this

last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your

return flight to mainland Ecuador.



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Duration

8 Days

Locations & Details
Ecuador & Galapagos Islands

Accommodation Cabin On Board Catamaran

INCLUSIONS

Transfers in the Galapagos Islands
 Airport reception and assistance on the islands
 Guided expeditions according to the itinerary
 Top bilingual National Park guide (English-Spanish)
 Accommodation in cabin, according to your booking
 Cruise Service Officer
 Wi-Fi on board
 Activity daily briefing
 All meals and snacks while on board
 Soft drinks and juices
 One glass of wine or local beer per guest per night
 Captain's welcome and farewell cocktail
 Use of sea kayaks and paddle boards in authorized places
 Expedition gear (wet suits and fins, water container, and mask and snorkel)
 Yoga mats
 Kettlebells and dumbbells
 Stargazing laser pointer

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

International & internal flights
 Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
 Travel insurance
 Personal expenses
 Tips and gratuities for guide and crew
 Beverages other than specified
 Local taxes
 Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (USD\$200 per person, subject to change)
 Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person, subject to change)
 Any items not mentioned as included

Difficulty Rating

2 (Light Adventure)

Single Surcharge

Single Stateroom is not available for solo passengers. Single Stateroom accommodates additional travelers who are part of odd-numbered groups and families. A single supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please [contact us](#) for more information. Prices are based on per person, twin share.

Notes

Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
 All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Price Dependent upon

* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations. Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Sustainability