

ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS 8 DAY CRUISE B (2026)



INTRODUCTION

Explore the breath taking Northwestern Galapagos Islands on an 8-day cruise aboard the Galaxy Yacht, where you'll encounter diverse wildlife, volcanic landscapes, and pristine marine ecosystems. Snorkel with sea lions and turtles, hike among giant tortoises and land iguanas, and witness spectacular birdlife, from blue-footed boobies to Galapagos hawks. With expert guides and immersive excursions, this itinerary offers an unforgettable adventure through one of the world's most unique natural wonders.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ECGA8DB

DEPARTURE

Selected Wednesdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador & Galapagos Islands



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DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos Islands

Embark on an unforgettable adventure to the Galapagos Islands, starting with your arrival at Baltra airport. Our expert naturalist guide from the National Park will eagerly await your arrival to introduce you to the wonders ahead. Whether you're commencing your exploration from Baltra or Puerto Ayora, a comfortable bus ride will usher you into the verdant embrace of the highlands. En route, we'll pause at a reserve, where you'll step into lush highland forests to seek out Galapagos Giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Witness these gentle titans - some weighing more than 300 kg / 600 pounds - as they graze and recline in tranquil freshwater ponds. These highlands are also a sanctuary for many bird species seldom found in the lowlands, such as finches (tree, woodpecker, and vegetarian), flycatchers, and numerous waterbirds. Depending on your itinerary, you'll also visit a lava tunnel. Here, you'll delve into the fascinating geological history of the Galapagos, understanding how ancient volcanic eruptions crafted these extraordinary formations.



DAY 2: Tintoreras & Isabela Island

Start your morning on Isabela Island, embarking on a unique adventure at Tintoreras, a cluster of small isles teeming with wildlife. Sail through crystal-clear waters and discover a vibrant underwater world inhabited by white-tipped sharks, colorful tropical fish, and starfish. The hike will take you through landscapes and breathtaking views, where you'll learn about volcanic geology and the endemic flora and fauna. In the afternoon, explore the wetlands of Isabela Island, a vital ecosystem for the biodiversity of the Galapagos. These trails take you through mangroves, saline lagoons, and beaches, where you can spot flamingos, blue-billed ducks, and other aquatic birds. Conclude the day at the Interpretation Center, discovering the natural and human history of the islands, their conservation, and the ongoing efforts to protect this World Heritage Site.



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DAY 3: Moreno Point & Mangle Point

Begin your day at the seemingly barren yet enchanting landscape of Moreno Point, a vast tableau of lava fields that unfolds into a tapestry of life. As you venture inland, discover brackish lagoons acting as life's oasis, teeming with flamingos, gallinules, ducks, and herons. Along the coastline, keep an eye out for the playful penguins, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, oystercatchers, and a chorus of other shorebirds. Spend the afternoon at Mangle Point on the pristine Fernandina Island, one of the Galapagos's most untouched and ecologically pure islands. This location offers a spectacular mangrove ecosystem, a haven for wildlife. As your boat gently navigates through the clear waters, observe the intricate mangrove roots where marine turtles and rays often hide. The calm and shallow waters make this an ideal spot for snorkeling, offering a chance to swim alongside sea turtles, various species of rays, and abundant tropical fish. Mangle Point presents a unique opportunity to witness the symbiosis between the mangrove forests and the marine environment, offering a serene and intimate experience with nature.



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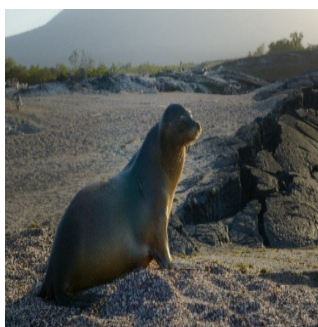
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During your day at Espinoza Point, located at the base of an imposing volcano - the most active in the Galapagos islands. This site, one of the crown jewels of the Galapagos National Park, presents a unique spectacle right from the moment you step ashore. Hundreds of marine iguanas, forming the largest colony of the species, greet you upon arrival. Sea lions lounge on the beaches, their pups playfully exploring the tide pools. Along the shore, catch sight of flightless cormorants, a species confined to the western areas of the archipelago. Blessed with cold, plankton-rich waters, Punta Espinosa is a sanctuary for diverse species, including herons, pelicans, oystercatchers, sea turtles, shorebirds, and more. Also, keep an eye on the mangroves where Galapagos hawks often perch, scanning for prey. In the afternoon, we visit the historical Tagus Cove, a site Charles Darwin once explored during his travels around the Galapagos islands. Traverse the arid Palo Santo forests, where Darwin finches and mockingbirds make their home, and take in the panoramic views of Darwin's Lake and the towering volcanoes of northern Isabela. A boat tour along the shore offers chances to observe penguins, cormorants, marine iguanas, and the rare Galapagos martin - an endemic, petite bird considered one of the most endangered species on the island.



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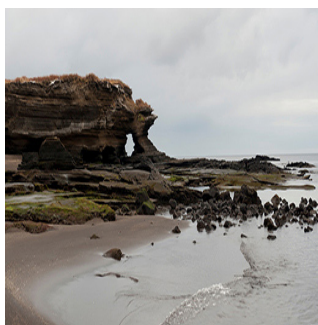
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DAY 5: Egas Port & Chinese Hat

Despite its misleading name, there isn't a traditional "port" at Puerto Egas, yet some remnants of past attempts to colonize the island during the 1960s can still be seen. The trail here follows the coastline, an area rich in wildlife. You will see marine iguanas basking in the sun everywhere you turn, along with Galapagos sea lions, herons, oystercatchers, and many shorebirds. Towards the trail's end, you'll encounter "the grottos," home to a small colony of the elusive endemic Galapagos fur seal, much more challenging to spot than its cousin. As recently as 2019, land iguanas were reintroduced to the area, so keep an eye out for these impressive reptiles, which had been extinct from Santiago for over a century. Welcome to the perfectly symmetrical volcanic cone of Chinese Hat! Separated from Santiago by a slender channel, this idyllic islet is framed by turquoise waters, coral sand beaches, and dark lava rocks – an unexpected haven for penguins. A shore trail brings you up close to a small colony of sea lions.



DAY 6: Black Turtle Cove & Dragon Hill

Black Turtle Cove gets its name from the abundance of green sea turtles, locally known as: "tortugas negras". There is no landing here so you will be doing a boat tour on the dinghies, exploring shallow channels and small coves surrounded by beautiful mangrove forests. Reef sharks, sea turtles and several species of rays inhabit this beautiful area which is considered an important mating area for turtles and a nursery for several species of sharks. Herons, pelicans and boobies are also common here as they prey in schools of anchovies. 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 on the brink of extinction during the 70's and 80's, has rapidly recovered.



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DAY 7: Santa Fe & South Plaza

Lead in the day with the stark beauty of Santa Fe, where the towering figures of giant Prickly-pear cacti strikingly contrast the rugged landscape of lava rocks. Tucked within one of the Galapagos' most breathtaking bays, Santa Fe's turquoise waters, and white-sand beaches form an inviting residence for a sizable colony of sea lions you'll find lounging about. As you venture inland, remember to look down to spot the endemic Santa Fe land iguanas, but also glance upward to catch sight of the Galapagos hawks perched atop cacti, keeping a keen eye out for prey. You'll likely encounter Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds, and lively lava lizards along the trail. Your afternoon destination is South Plazas, one of a twin pair of islands where the northern sibling is reserved exclusively for scientific research. Though petite in size, this islet brims with a fantastic array of wildlife. Upon landing, Galapagos land iguanas will welcome you from beneath prickly-pear cacti, eagerly awaiting their fruit. Sea lions populate the island in large numbers, allowing you to observe their fascinating social dynamics, from playful pups splashing in tide pools to formidable males protecting their territories. Your trail eventually leads you to a cliff, a vantage point to observe a myriad of seabirds, including frigatebirds, red-billed tropicbirds, boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, and pelicans. A verdant carpet of reddish succulent vegetation dotted with scattered cacti blankets the island, giving South Plazas a genuinely unique personality.



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DAY 8: Bachas Beach & Departure

Bachas derives its name from the remnants of two large barges, mispronounced as “bachas” by locals, left behind by the Americans during WWII. At low tide, the iron skeletons of these barges can still be seen buried in the white sand. From November to May, this site becomes one of the most important sea turtle nesting grounds in the Galápagos Islands. Additionally, several small saltwater lagoons in the area are home to flamingos, herons, and other aquatic birds. Following your last expedition, you will be transferred to Baltra Airport in time for your outbound flight to the mainland.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board Yacht
Inclusions	<div> INCLUSIONS <p> Airport assistance Transfers in the Galapagos Islands Accommodation in cabin, according to your booking All meals while on board Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea Naturalist Bilingual Guide (English-Spanish) All visits, excursions and activities according to the itinerary* Snorkelling gear (mask, tube and fins) Use of kayaks and paddle boards in authorized places Wetsuits Beach towels </p> </div> <div> EXCLUSIONS <p> International & internal flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Personal expenses Tips and gratuities 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 </p> </div>
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share.</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Currency fluctuation, seasonality and availability at time of booking.

SUSTAINABILITY

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