



# INTRODUCTION

The northern and central islands of the Galapagos archipelago is like stepping back in time, 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**

#### TRIP CODE

ECGASR6C

#### **DEPARTURE**

Selected Thursdays

#### DURATION

6 Days

### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador





### DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos Islands

Today, your adventure commences with a flight to the Galapagos Islands. Upon arrival, our dedicated crew will warmly welcome you at the airport and transfer you to the awaiting cruise ship. In the afternoon, explore Black Turtle Cove, named after the plentiful green sea turtles, locally referred to as "Tortugas Negras." Enjoy a delightful boat tour aboard the dinghies, embarking on a tranquil exploration of shallow channels, small coves, and the picturesque mangrove forests that envelop the area.



#### DAY 2: Rabida & Chinese Hat.

This morning, explore Rabida Island, renowned for its distinctive reddish lava rocks enriched with iron, giving it a unique appearance in the Galapagos. The beach, characterized by its unusual red hue, is home to a small sea lion colony. If fortunate, you may stumble upon a petite saltwater lagoon inhabited by ducks, stilts, and flamingoes. The trail leads inland, providing stunning views of the beach and lagoon. Look out for Darwin finches, flycatchers, and mockingbirds. Along the coastal cliffs, observe Nazca and blue-footed boobies, brown noddies, herons, and two species of sea lions: the Galapagos and fur seals. Additionally, seize the opportunity for a snorkeling adventure from the beach, exploring a protected rocky area teeming with fish, sea lions, and reef sharks. The vertical walls serve as a natural canvas showcasing an impressive variety of small invertebrates. Chinese Hat, named for its perfectly symmetrical volcanic cone shape, stands as a small islet separated from Santiago by a narrow channel, creating one of the most picturesque bays in the Galapagos. The striking contrast of the blue-turquoise water, coral sand beaches, and dark lava rocks infuses a true tropical charm into the surroundings, enhancing the breathtaking sight of penguins leisurely resting on the rocks. Follow the trail along the shore, guiding you through a charming sea lion colony.



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### DAY 3: North Seymour & Mosquera Islet

This morning, explore Seymour Island, a haven for bird enthusiasts where vast colonies of magnificent and great frigatebirds proudly display their striking red gular pouches to attract mates. Blue-footed boobies find their nesting grounds on the ground, engaging in their renowned courtship dance in open areas. Meanwhile, swallow-tailed gulls frequently perch on the cliff edges. Inland, land iguanas, whose numbers have been successfully restored through a conservation program, are a common sight. Along the rocky shores by the sea, their marine counterparts bask, not far from the playful sea lions often seen body surfing in the waves. In the afternoon, explore Mosquera Islet, primarily a barren sandbar featuring rocky areas and scattered salt-resistant plants. This location provides an incredible opportunity to observe playful sea lion pups surfing the waves and frolicking in the tide pools. As you stroll along the beach, be on the lookout for the endemic lava gulls, frequently spotted flying overhead in search of food.



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## DAY 4: Sullivan Bay & Bartolome

Strolling through Sullivan Bay unveils an extraordinary exploration into the volcanic roots of the Galapagos Islands. Your hike traverses a pristine Pahoehoe lava flow, offering abundant opportunities to marvel at the intricate textures of this unique lava formation. Although the landscape may initially seem barren and devoid of life, a closer examination reveals the tenacity of pioneer plants, the quick movements of lava lizards, and the presence of small birds. Along the shoreline, the lively presence of penguins, pelicans, and oystercatchers introduces a vibrant contrast to the otherwise stark environment. Bartolome Island stands out as one of the most iconic destinations in the Galapagos, celebrated for its easily accessible penguin population and the stunning Pinnacle Rock. The beach adjacent to the rock is adorned with peach-colored sand, enhancing the surreal beauty of the surroundings. Embarking on a hike to the island's summit promises panoramic views of lunar-like landscapes punctuated by volcanic cones, a myriad of islands, Sullivan Bay, and, naturally, the towering presence of Pinnacle Rock.





DAY 5: Marchena

Embark on a exploration of Marchena, a secluded island in the Galapagos archipelago known for its unique volcanic landscapes. This less-visited destination offers a serene environment where visitors can observe diverse flora and fauna in their natural habitats. The itinerary includes a thoughtful exploration of the island's shores, providing an opportunity to appreciate the subtle beauty and inherent tranquility of Marchena. Join us for a subdued and contemplative experience, gaining insight into the untouched aspects of the Galapagos ecosystem.



DAY 6: Interpretation Center and Departure

Nestled on the outskirts of Puerto Baquerizo, the Interpretation Center stands as a comprehensive repository of the human history woven into the fabric of the Galapagos Islands. Its exhibitions meticulously trace the narratives of early Spanish explorers to the contemporary era, spotlighting influential figures like Charles Darwin. Through vivid displays, the center vividly portrays the myriad challenges and perils confronted by the initial settlers as they grappled with survival in the rugged Galapagos environment. After your visit to the Interpretation Center, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to continental Ecuador, marking the conclusion of your Galapagos journey.



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# **INCLUSIONS & DETAILS**

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/quides Services not specified

#### **Difficulty Rating** 2 (Light Adventure)

Notes

#### A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to **Single Surcharge** 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

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.

Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and **Price Dependent upon** availability at time of booking.

# **SUSTAINABILITY**

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