

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - CENTRAL & WESTERN ISLANDS | HERMES



INTRODUCTION

Enjoy this 8-day **Galapagos Islands cruise**, visiting sites and islands such as **Balta, Santa Cruz Highlands, Dragon Hill, Chinest Hat, Prince Phillips's Steps, Darwin Bay, Puerto Egas, Tagus Cove and Buccaneer Cove.**

Explore lava tunnels, encounter giant tortoises, nesting sea turtles and witness unique volcanic formations. You will be able to snorkel with sea lions and Galapagos penguins and spot a range of diverse bird life including Red and Blue-footed bobbies, the flightless cormorant and frigate birds.

Immerse yourself in the Galapagos' wonders on this unforgettable expedition onboard the ultra luxury **Hermes**, a modern catamaran with all of the creature comforts you would expect and many bonuses such as a spa, unpacking service and a 24/7 butler.

Check out some of the other itinearies onboard the Hermes: [5 Day North West Islands Cruise](#), [4 Day Central Islands Cruise](#)

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ECVNH8AD

DEPARTURE

Selected Thursdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America



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DAY 1: Arrival to Baltra & Santa Cruz Highlands

Today, you are set to embark on an exciting journey to the Galapagos Islands. Upon your arrival at the airport, our dedicated staff will extend a warm welcome to ensure your smooth transition. Subsequently, you will be transported to the cruise ship, where you can begin your exploration of the stunning archipelago. In the afternoon, an enriching experience awaits as you explore the highlands of Santa Cruz. In the captivating setting of the Santa Cruz Highlands, you'll find yourself immersed in a unique and diverse ecosystem that showcases the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands. The highlands are renowned for their lush landscapes, mist-covered hills, and endemic flora and fauna, providing a stark contrast to the coastal environments. As you traverse the winding paths, you may encounter the iconic giant tortoises, meandering leisurely through their natural habitat. These magnificent creatures, often considered living fossils, contribute to the enchanting charm of the highlands. Observing these majestic beings in their native surroundings offers a rare glimpse into the evolutionary history of the Galapagos.



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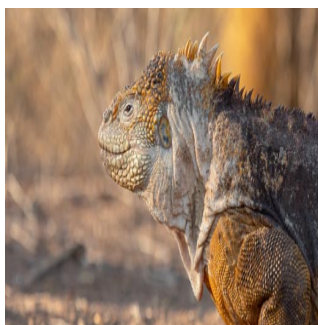
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DAY 3: Genovesa Island

Embark on a morning exploration of El Barranco, also referred to as Prince Philip's Steps, situated on Genovesa Island. This esteemed site provides a distinctive avian observation opportunity, notably featuring red-footed and Nazca boobies, along with the elusive short-eared owl. As you ascend the rocky terrain, take in the captivating behaviors of these avian inhabitants. The elevated vantage point affords panoramic views of the island's coastal expanse, enhancing the overall experience. Subsequently, in the afternoon, proceed to the renowned Darwin Bay, an immaculate white-sand beach gracefully enclosed by Genovesa Island's crescent shape. Bearing the name of Charles Darwin, this location pays homage to the island's profound natural beauty and rich biodiversity. A serene stroll along the sandy shores unveils colonies of frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls, and red-footed boobies. The option to engage in snorkeling activities in the pristine waters provides an intimate encounter with marine life, from vibrant reef fish to the playful presence of sea lions. The afternoon at Darwin Bay assures an immersive and refined exploration of the Galapagos, seamlessly blending picturesque landscapes with the contemplative observation of the islands' unique wildlife.



DAY 4: Black Turtle Cove & Las Bachas

Commence your day with a visit to the esteemed Black Turtle Cove, a secluded and tranquil mangrove lagoon nestled within Santa Cruz Island. Renowned for its pristine natural beauty and diverse marine life, this cove offers a serene exploration by panga (dinghy). Glide through the winding waterways, surrounded by mangrove forests, and observe the underwater world through the crystal-clear waters. Keep an eye out for marine turtles, golden rays, and various species of sharks that inhabit these serene waters. The morning at Black Turtle Cove promises a peaceful and contemplative encounter with the Galapagos' coastal wonders. In the afternoon you will visit las Bachas Beach on Santa Cruz Island. Enjoy a leisurely stroll, spot flamingos and crabs, and consider optional snorkeling to explore the vibrant marine life. Bachas Beach provides a tranquil escape for a delightful afternoon in the Galapagos.



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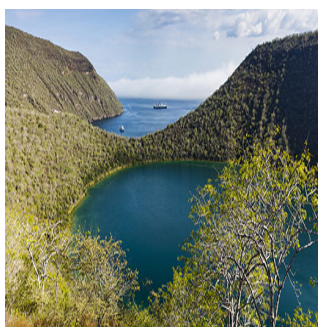
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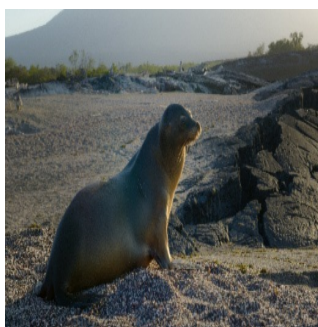
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America





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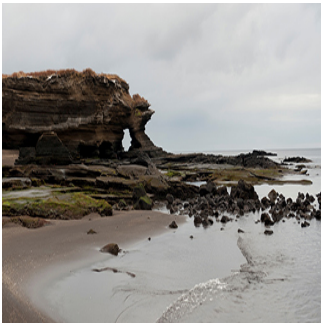
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DAY 7: Puerto Egas & Playa Espumilla

Commence your day with a visit to Puerto Egas, located on Santiago Island. This morning exploration promises a captivating journey through a unique blend of volcanic landscapes and coastal wonders. Walk along the dark volcanic shoreline, observing the fascinating interplay between the marine and terrestrial environments. Keep an eye out for fur seals, marine iguanas, and a variety of shorebirds that inhabit the area. The tidal pools along the coastline offer a glimpse into the underwater world, showcasing marine life such as colorful fish and sea urchins. The morning at Puerto Egas provides an enriching experience, illustrating the resilience and adaptability of the Galapagos' diverse ecosystems. Later in the afternoon, venture to Playa Espumilla, a pristine sandy beach nestled on Santiago Island. This idyllic location offers a serene retreat surrounded by mangroves and lush vegetation. Take a leisurely stroll along the shoreline, enjoying the tranquility and observing the marine and birdlife that frequent the area. Playa Espumilla is also known for its historical relevance, with remnants of a salt mine providing insight into the island's past. The afternoon at Playa Espumilla promises a peaceful and reflective experience, allowing you to appreciate the natural beauty and historical significance of this secluded Galapagos destination.



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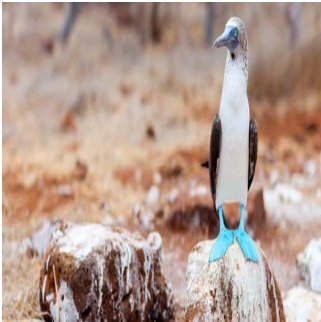
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DAY 8: North Seymour Island & Departure

Embark on a morning excursion to North Seymour Island. Explore well-maintained trails, observing frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, land iguanas, and sea lions. Encounter unique wildlife behaviors and appreciate the island's distinctive flora, including endemic Palo Santo trees. This brief but immersive experience promises a captivating introduction to the diverse ecosystem of the Galapagos. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to Baltra Airport, marking the conclusion of your Galapagos expedition. Our dedicated staff will ensure a smooth transition, providing assistance with your luggage and transportation to the airport. Reflect on the enriching experiences and captivating moments as you bid farewell to the extraordinary landscapes and wildlife of the Galapagos Islands.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Suite on board a Yacht
Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation in selected cabin Fuel Surcharge All activities and excursions as depicted in the itineraries in company of an English speaking naturalist guide Snorkelling equipment Kayak Wetsuits Stand up Paddle Board Internet All meals on board Purified water, tea, coffee Non - alcoholic beverages Selected menu premium wines, beer, and cocktails Laundry service Mini bar consumption Butler service <p>EXCLUSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air ticket to and from Galapagos Gratuities to guides and crew Personals expenses Alcoholic drinks not included in menu selection Travel insurance International Airfare Visa if applicable Anything not mentioned on the itinerary Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee* (US\$200 from Aug 2024, price subject to change) Galapagos Control Transit \$20* (price subject to change)
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

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