



Galapagos Western, Central and Northern Islands Cruise - 11 Days (#20104)

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **15-01-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

Overview

This 11-day cruise offers an incredible journey through the western, central, and northern regions of the Galapagos Islands, visiting sites like Isabela, Fernandina, and Genovesa. It's a nature lover's dream, filled with opportunities to explore volcanic landscapes, snorkel with marine life, and encounter rare wildlife including penguins, giant tortoises, and seabirds.

Trip Highlights

Galapagos-Santa Cruz Island-Isabela Island-Fernandina Island-Santiago Island-Rabida Island-Mosquera Islet & North Seymour-Genovesa Island-South Plazas-San Cristobal Island

Detailed Itinerary



Day 01

Day 1 (Friday) : Santa Cruz Island

AM: Flight to Galapagos

Today, you will fly to the Galapagos Islands. Due to the Galapagos Government's regulations, a fee of 44 AUD must be paid for the migration control card.

Once in Santa Cruz, passengers must go through an inspection point at the airport to ensure that no foreign plants or animals are being introduced to the archipelago. Additionally, this inspection point is where passengers have to pay for the entrance to the Galapagos National Park under the following parameters:

As of September 2024, foreign passengers AUD 444 and children AUD 222 (under 12 years old).

Our guide will pick you up and carry your luggage to the bus that transports tourists to the ferries to cross the Itabaca Channel. After this, you will be taken by another bus for the first visit to Ranch Manzanillo where visitors must wear comfortable walking shoes, light clothing, a waterproof jacket, sunblock lotion, and carry a camera and repellent for the first activity. The visit to Ranch Manzanillo includes a picnic lunch and a short walk before boarding the Motor Catamaran. It is important to follow these instructions in order to accomplish this itinerary properly. Please be aware that passengers' luggage will be sent directly to the Seaman Journey yacht.

Santa Cruz offers excellent opportunities to observe the wild Galapagos Tortoises. Tracking tortoises is not the only exciting activity to be found in the highlands. There are also plenty of lava tubes, sinkholes, and craters ready to be explored. After this visit, they moved to the M/C Seaman Journey.

Meal: Dinner

Day 02

Day 2 (Saturday) : Isabela Island: Moreno Point & Fernandina Island: Mangle Point

AM: Moreno Point, Isabela Island.

Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island, between the Sierra Negra volcano and Cerro Azul volcano.

The trail runs along a Pahoehoe lava flow (solidified lava in the form of corrugated or an accordion) into a complex of coastal lagoons. Several species of birds can be found around these lakes and mangroves.

PM: Fernandina Island, Mangle Point





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Off the eastern coast of Fernandina, Mangle Point can be found. It is a superior snorkelling site and a beautiful location for riding in a panga or zodiac through a grove of mangrove trees. A hike of about 1/2 mile is possible. While you are on your ride, you are likely to see sea lions, tortoises, pelicans, rays, and too many birds to name them all.

Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 03

Day 3 (Sunday) : Isabela Island: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove

AM: Isabela Island, Urbina Bay.

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast, between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954, which caused the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out, leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place to snorkel. Urbina Bay is a path that starts off with a wet landing. The course is approximately 3200m, and is made up of sand, pumice, lava, coral and vegetation where one can observe iguana burrows. It is an ideal place to see red and blue lobsters!

In Urbina Bay, you can see Darwin's finches. Its main attraction is the land iguanas, which are larger than those in places like South Plaza Island and Galapagos. Tortoises also live in the wild; sometimes, even out of season, they are on the bottom of the islands. A large amount of vegetation can be observed such as chamomile and Rosewood, but among all these plants, the beautiful flowers of Darwin's cotton, endemic to the Galapagos Islands, stand out.

PM: Isabela Island, Tagus Cove.

Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. This was a favourite spot for pirates and whalers, and it was they who started the following tradition: the inscription of the names of boats. At the beginning of the trail, you will see a small cave where you will find inscriptions dating back to the 1800s.

Its name originated from a British warship that passed through the islands in 1814 looking for Galapagos Tortoises for food. Due to former eruptions, the substrate has a large amount of volcanic rocks of different sizes, among the most common are little balls of nearly spherical shape known as "lapilli" or petrified rain.

Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 04

Day 4 (Monday) : Fernandina Island: Espinoza Point & Vicente Roca Point

AM : Fernandina Island, Espinoza Point.





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~~Espinoza Point is a renowned location recognized for its extensive colonies of marine iguanas and as the habitat of unique species such as the flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguin, Galapagos hawk, and Galapagos snake.~~

PM: Vicente Roca Point.

One of the most impressive and spectacular places in the enchanted Galapagos Islands, with high cliffs and tuffstone, ash, and lava formations giving this area a majestic touch, is Punta Vicente Roca. Located on the northwestern coast of the island, it comprises two distinct islets. This large bay boasts spectacular marine life.

Here, you can see seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola-mola or sunfish. This bay is a great place for practicing Panga Rides and Snorkeling.

You can also find penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, boobies, and sea lions. Additionally, you can snorkel and observe sea turtles, stingrays, and pufferfishes.

Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 05

Day 5 (Tuesday) : Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach & Puerto Egas

AM: Santiago Island, Espumilla Beach.

Espumilla Beach is located on the northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay. During the last occurrence of the El Niño phenomenon, one of the two lagoons at this site underwent a process of sedimentation, thus causing the disappearance of a representative colony of flamingos. The main attractions are the palo santo forest and the nesting of baby turtles.

PM: Puerto Egas, Santiago Island.

Its black beach is located on the west side of the island and is the main attraction of the island. Its volcanic tuff deposits have favoured the formation of this special black sand beach.

This site is called Puerto Egas, because there was an attempt to start the exploitation of salt, which failed because the price of salt on the continent was very low, and did not justify its exploitation in Galapagos. The project and the infrastructure were left abandoned.

Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 06

Day 6 (Wednesday) : Rabida Island & Chinese Hat



AM: Rabida Island.

Rábida Island is unique due to the red colour that colours all rocks and sand. The volcanic material on this island is very porous and external factors such as rain, salty water, and sea breeze have acted as oxidising agents.

A short walk along a trail leads you to a coastal lagoon behind the beach, which allows you to observe land birds such as finches, doves, yellow warblers, and mockingbirds. At the lagoon, there is a colony of flamingos.

PM: Chinese Hat – Sombrero Chino

This is a small islet located just off the southeastern tip of Santiago Island. It is a recent volcanic cone, shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from the north. On the west, you can see lava formations, formed under the sea and raised upwards, which is why coral heads are found on the lava.

This is an excellent visit for interpretation of geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows. The landscape is covered by sea lion colonies, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins.

Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 07

Day 7 (Thursday) : Santa Cruz Island: Black Turtle Cove & Bartolome Island

AM: Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island

A dinghy ride to Black Turtle Cove, located on the north coast of Santa Cruz, just west of Baltra, offers a window into a quiet hideaway of the Galapagos.

Once in the cove, the boat continues with the engines off and begins to explore the mangrove-protected cove.

Sea turtles feed and mate in the calm waters, and three species of sharks are found here: the black-tip shark, the white-tip shark, and the Galapagos shark.

Groups of spotted rays are also often seen, as well as egrets and herons.

PM: Bartolome Island

Bartolome Island is situated across Sullivan Bay. It has an altitude of 114 meters, from where we can observe one of the most beautiful sceneries of the Galapagos Islands such as Volcanic cones, lunar-like craters, lava fields, and the famous Toba-formed pinnacle eroded by the sea. There is very little vegetation on this island.

It has two breathtaking beaches where marine turtles exist and at the base of the pinnacle, a tiny colony of Galapagos penguins.



Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 08**Day 8 (Friday) : Mosquera Islet & North Seymour**

AM: Mosquera Islet

Located between North Seymour and Baltra, Mosquera Islet is one of the smallest islands in the Galápagos. It is of volcanic origin, formed by geological uplift, has no visible crater, and its terrain is very flat.

One of the most striking features of Mosquera is the contrast of colors. A beautiful beach of white sand, transparent turquoise waters, lush green vegetation, and jet-black lava rocks. Landscape photography is highly recommended here, especially in the golden light conditions of early morning or at sunset.

PM: North Seymour

North Seymour is a raised island (rather than volcanic). Therefore, it is generally flat and filled with rocks. There are good nesting sites here for a large population of magnificent frigatebirds. 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 body-surfing.

Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 09**Day 9 (Saturday) : Genovesa Island: El Barranco & Darwin Bay**

AM: Genovesa, Island El Barranco – The Cliff

The visitor site of El Barranco is located in the southern part of Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island. The trail is on volcanic rock, consists of 1.5 km, and can be done in about 2 hours. The youngest area of the island, from a geological point of view, lies in this area.

The cliff is located in the south and is composed of very fragile lava. The natural erosion in these lava flows has become the ideal place for nesting Storm Petrels. You can see two species of petrels that nest in cavities and holes in the lava.

One of its main predators is the short-eared owl. The red-footed booby nests only in the outer islands of the archipelago: Punta Pitt, Gardner (Floreana), Wolf, Darwin, and Genovesa. Also present on this island is the masked booby. During the “panga rides” along the cliffs, fur sea lions and several species of seabirds can be seen.



PM: Darwin Bay

This bay originated when the crater of this island collapsed below sea level. The wet landing is on a beautiful white coral sandy beach. This island is a favorite destination for birdwatchers, allowing the observation of several species including: red-footed boobies, masked boobies, wandering tattlers, lava gulls, whimbrels, yellow-crowned and black-crowned lava herons, and yellow warblers.

Continuing on the trail, visitors gradually climb to the edge of the cliff, where they can see Red-Foots nesting in the Mangrove trees below. Birdwatching opportunities include sightings of sharp-beaked finches, large cactus and ground finches, Galapagos doves, and swallow-tailed gulls. At the end of the trail, at the cliff's edge, an incredible view of the island and the many birds living there can be observed.

Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 10

Day 10 (Sunday) : South Plazas & Santa Fe

AM: Plazas, Santa Cruz

Plazas is located to the east of Santa Cruz Island and forms part of two 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.

Throughout the island, there are several hybrid iguanas, a result of crossing a male marine iguana and a female land iguana. They are unique, recognisable at first glance by their black/gray colour, with a land iguana's crest, but face and tail of the marine iguana. The large population of iguanas is due to the presence of tunas, their favourite food. Swallow-tailed gulls nesting in the rugged cliffs are seen along with other seabirds such as Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds, and brown pelicans.

PM: 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. There are some theories which suggest this could be the oldest island in the Archipelago. Santa Fe is home to a number of endemic species like the Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, rice rats, and one of the two species of land iguanas on 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 cacti: gigantism is a characteristic of oceanic islands. There are great possibilities for snorkelling with playful sea lions and tropical fish.



Meal: Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

Day 11

Day 11 (Monday) : San Cristobal Island: David Rodriguez Land Tortoise Breeding Centre

AM: David Rodriguez Land Tortoise Breeding Centre.

In 2002, the Galapagos National Park Service undertook the programme for the breeding and care of tortoises in captivity, establishing for this purpose the Tortoise Breeding Centre at that time with the name of Jacinto Gordillo. In 2016, it changed its name to the Tortoise Breeding Centre with the name of "David Rodriguez," in recognition of the 39 years of service to the Institution of the park ranger.

The David Rodriguez Tortoise Breeding Centre is located in the southeast of San Cristobal, 22.5 km from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Access is by land; the bus trip takes approximately 40 minutes and is located in the vicinity of Cerro Colorado. This breeding centre has been built to improve the population status of giant tortoises, *Chelonoides chathamensis* of San Cristóbal Island in an environment with conditions similar to their natural state, and in this way, promote the tourist development of San Cristóbal.

After the visit, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.

Meal: Breakfast

Inclusions

- Airport assistance (Quito or Guayaquil, if flights are booked through GGTS)
- Transfers in Galapagos
- Accommodation on board in double cabin
- All meals during the cruise
- Naturalist Bilingual Guide level III
- All visits and excursions according to the itinerary
- Snorkel Gear(mask, tube and fins)
- Kayaks
- Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea

Exclusions



- Round trip flight to/from Galapagos
- Galapagos National Park Entrance fee AUD 444 p/p
Galapagos Ingala card AUD 44 p/p
- Tips
- Local Taxes
- Travel Insurance
- Meals and services not mentioned above
- Alcoholic drinks and soft drinks
- Extras and personal expenses

Note

Accommodation

Accommodation onboard the ship.

Highlights

Conservation and education at Tortoise Breeding Centre.

Snorkeling and observing endemic species.

Birdwatching and observing nesting sites.

Geological interpretation and observing sea lion colonies.

Historical exploration and observing volcanic formations.

Travel Tips

Pay attention to the meeting details provided upon arrival in Galapagos.

Wear comfortable clothing suitable for hot weather. Remember that Galapagos has a humid climate and its ambient temperature is above 22 degrees Celsius.

Take your identity card or passport with you, especially on your transfers in and out of the Galapagos Islands.

Remember that traveling by cruise ship can cause seasickness, we recommend that you take sea sickness pills with you.

These can only be taken once a day.

Be aware of the environmental impact and follow the national park's rules on conservation and respect for nature.

Weather Preparedness

It is advisable to bring a windbreaker jacket for when you want to enjoy the best view of the Galapagos Islands in our open air area.

Fitness Requirements

Within our excursions or water activities the effort is minimal compared to the great experience you will have in the





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Rates are based on 3 star hotels, in case of upgrade please let us know enable quote accordingly.

All prices are indicative and starting from prices. Final price will be available based on availability and dates of travel.

Program Touring / Guide

Private touring

Periodic Departure

01 Jan, 2025 to 31 Dec, 2025

3 Star

AUD 21,309 P P twin share

AVAILABLE

