



**PALACE TOURS**  
Travel Like Royalty



**PALACE TOURS**

# Endemic Galapagos Luxury Cruise – Route B (Sunday – Sunday)

7 Nights • Luxury Experience

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# Overview

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*Onboard the Endemic Catamaran you can enjoy elegant, open social areas including a main deck interior lounge and dining area with panoramic views where delicious cuisine is served whilst enjoying the stunning island views. Also on the main deck is a lecture room where briefings are held. On the upper deck are a sun terrace and secluded social area, perfect for relaxation and wildlife observation. Alfresco dining is available on the Sky Deck, along with an exterior lounge, BBQ station and sun lounging area. The perfect place to unwind in the evening whilst enjoying a drink.*

## **Island you will visit:**

- Santa Cruz
- San Cristobal
- Española
- Santa Fe
- South Plaza
- Bartholomew
- North Seymour
- Floreana
- Santiago: Chinese Hat

# Your Itinerary

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## DAY 1

### SUNDAY: ARRIVAL TO BALTRA AND TRANSFER TO SANTA CRUZ

#### BALTRA AIRPORT – SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Dragon Hill

Upon arrival, reception and assistance at the airport, transfer from Baltra Airport to the M/C Endemic.

In the afternoon, visit to Dragon Hill will take place, which is located in the north-western part of Santa Cruz island. Here you will have the opportunity to walk into the island and view the land iguana. Be among these magnificent reptiles, that just a few decades ago were on the brink of extinction.

Moreover, at Dragon Hill you will see a flamingos' lagoon, pintail ducks and other endemic birds including flycatchers and warblers. After a short trek, amazing view awaits us up the hill. Offshore snorkeling before returning to the yacht.

**Activities:** Walk

**Type of landing:** Dry landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

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## MODAY: SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

### SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND: Kicker Rock - Witch Hill – Lobos Island

In the morning, the first spot to be visited is Kicker Rock, an impressive geological formation due to erosion. This is a nesting place of sea birds and a nice spot to take pictures while the vessels circumnavigate around the rock.

**Activities:** Circumnavigation

**Type of landing:** No landing

**Difficulty:** -----

The next attraction to see is Witch Hill, a tuff cone hill located south west from San Cristobal. This name comes from the Spanish name of the bird known in English as Vermilion Flycatcher.

A zodiac ride will take passengers into amazing rock formations along the island shore. A white sand beach and crystal-clear waters are part of this enchanted location. Fantastic opportunity for snorkeling.

**Activities:** Hike, dinghy ride, snorkeling & kayaking.

**Type of landing:** Wet landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

In the afternoon, you will be taken to Lobos Island, where a small population of blue-footed boobies, frigates, marine iguanas, and great frigate birds nesting can be observed. Snorkeling with sea lions in this calm bay is also part of the excursion.

**Activities:** Short hike (less than 0.6 mi/ 1 km), dinghy ride and/or snorkeling.

**Type of landing:** DRY landing

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate.

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## TUESDAY: ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

**ESPAÑOLA ISLAND:** Gardner Bay/ Osborn & Gardner islets – Suarez Point

Española Island will be explored today. You will have the chance to observe endemic wildlife such as the Hood-Mockingbird. This is the southernmost island in the Galapagos archipelago, and home to several wildlife species, including masked and blue-footed boobies. Spectacular views from the top of a cliff.

In the morning, after breakfast, the first attraction to be seen is Gardner Bay that provides an excellent beach for swimming. Around the small islets nearby, snorkelers will find lots of fish and sometimes turtles and sharks. The bay is also frequented by colonies of sea lions which like to swim with you.

Or visit the Osborn and Gardner islets that are amazing for underwater discovery. Snorkeling is a highlight on this visitor point.

**Activities:** Snorkeling, dinghy, ride, kayaking, short hike of (0.6 miles/ 1 KM)

**Type of landing:** Wet landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

After lunch, Point Suarez will be visited, which represents one of the most outstanding wildlife areas of the archipelago, with a long list of species found along its cliffs and sand or pebble beach.

**Activities:** Hike (1.9 mi/ 3 km)

**Type of landing:** DRY landing

**Difficulty:** Difficult

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## WEDNESDAY: SANTA FE AND SANTA CRUZ

### SANTA FE ISLAND – SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

In the morning, after breakfast, Santa Fe island will be visited, which is one of the most entertaining destinations for shore excursions in the Galapagos Islands. It has two trail choices for visitors, one of which takes you to the tallest Opuntia cactus in the Galapagos. While the other trail takes you into the highlands where land iguanas can be seen. After a long walk, the opportunity to swim in calm waters or snorkel with playful sea lions will be pretty tempting.

**Activities:** Hiking, snorkeling.

**Type of landing:** Dry landing

**Difficulty:** Moderate.

In the afternoon, visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, which is also known as Charles Darwin Research Station. This place has an information center, a museum, a library and a tortoise breeding station. In the tortoise breeding station, you can encounter tortoises of different subspecies, which are prepared for reintroduction to their natural habitats. The most popular inhabitant of this Station is probably the Lonesome George turtle, that already died in 2012.

**Activities:** Walk

**Type of landing:** Dry landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

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## THURSDAY: SOUTH PLAZA AND BARTHOLOMEW

### SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND – BARTHOLOMEW ISLAND

In the morning, South Plazas island is the next island to be discovered. It has unique Sesuvium plants and Opuntia cactuses scattered across the landscape which provide some of the most interesting wildlife observations available in Galapagos. Land iguanas are easily seen from the trail, frequently under the shade of cactuses, waiting for a prickly pear to fall.

**Activities:** Hike (1.5 mi/ 2.5 Km)

**Type of landing:** Dry landing

**Difficulty:** Moderate

After lunch, you will discover Bartholomew Island. Once here, you will ascend to admire the spectacular panorama of the Sullivan Bay and the famous Pinnacle Rock. The beaches at the foot of the Pinnacle Rock are excellent for snorkeling from which you can discover the marvelous underwater world, and with a little luck, you'll get to snorkel with penguins.

**Activities:** Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2mi/ 2km)

**Type of landing:** Wet landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

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## FRIDAY: FLOREANA ISLAND

### FLOREANA ISLAND: Devil 's Crown /Cormorant Point - Baroness' Lookout/ Post Office Bay

In the morning, after breakfast, the first spot to be visited is Devil 's Crown that is an underwater volcanic crater, almost covered completely by Galapagos waters. Just a small portion of the rock formation can be seen from above and it looks like a crown. The underwater world is very rich in coral reefs, abundant marine species. Birds are also part of this visitor point due to its location in open waters.

Or visit Cormorant Point where you will land on a green olivine sand beach. Following a 100 meters long path you will soon reach a lagoon with flamingos.

**Activities:** Dinghy ride, snorkeling & walk.

**Type of landing:** Wet landing

**Difficulty:** Easy/ moderate

In the afternoon, you will visit the Baroness' Lookout (Mirador de la Baronesa). This viewpoint is located on the north of Floreana Island. The way up and trail is very easy, steps are placed in this area for security. Your naturalist guide will tell the murder and mystery legend of the Baroness.

Or you will go to the Post Office Bay, which keeps the legendary post barrel that whalers historically used to post their mail in.

**Activities:** Short hike (less than 0.6mi/ 1km) & snorkeling.

**Type of landing:** Wet landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

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## SATURDAY: SANTIAGO AND NORTH SEYMOUR

### SANTIAGO ISLAND: Chinese Hat – NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

In the morning, after breakfast you will visit Chinese Hat, which is a small islet off the south coast of Santiago, with a maximum elevation of 160 feet (52 meters). Though within easy reach of Santa Cruz, Chinese Hat is typically only visited by those aboard a Galapagos Cruise.

**Activities:** hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride.

**Type of landing:** Wet landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

In the afternoon, North Seymour island will be discovered. It is located slightly to the north of Baltra. It is a low, flat island, formed by submarine lava formation uplift. Covered with low, bushy vegetation, it contains the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds in the Galapagos. There is also a large population of blue-footed boobies that perform an amusing courtship dance when nesting conditions are right.

**Activities:** Short hike, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride.

**Type of landing:** Dry landing

**Difficulty:** Moderate/ difficult

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## SUNDAY: SANTA CRUZ AND TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT

### SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Black Turtle Cove – BALTRA AIRPORT

After breakfast, enjoy the visit to Black Turtle Cove, which is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz. It is a living illustration of how mangroves alter the marine environment to create a rich and unique habitat. Three mangrove species crowd the area from the shore out into the lagoon, which reaches almost a mile inland.

As you drift through quiet waters in the zodiac, you are likely to see spotted eagle rays and diamond shaped mustard rays, which swim in a diamond formation. White-tipped reef sharks slip beneath the boat and Pacific green sea turtles come to the surface for air and to mate.

Waterfowl, including pelicans, herons and egret, all feed in the cove. This is a peaceful place that will make you feel calm.

**Activities:** dinghy ride, snorkeling.

**Type of landing:** No landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

After this last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.

Assistance and farewell at the airport.

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# Terms & Conditions

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## **Payment Policy\*:**

- At the time of booking a deposit of 20% of the total tour price
- The remaining balance is due a minimum of 65 calendar days prior to departure date

To issue final confirmation Palace tours requires 60 days prior to departure (or at time of reservation for last minute bookings) the following information for all passengers:

- Complete passenger names
- Passport numbers (& passport copy in case of children)
- Nationality
- Date of birth
- Marital Status
- Dietary or medical restrictions

Failure to provide the above information on time may result in delays and possibly passengers missing the tour completely. Palace tours will not accept responsibility or provide refunds if the above information is not provided in its entirety and on time.

## **Cancellation Policy\***

All cancellations must be done in writing. If a cancellation is received more than 125 days prior to tour departure date a Cancellation fee of 10% of the total price will be retained as cancellation fee.

If a cancellation is received between 124 days and 65 days prior to tour departure date, 20% of the total price will be forfeited.

In the case of a cancellation received less than 65 days prior to the boat departure the full amount will be retained.

\*Specific Payment and Cancellation/Reschedule policies for Christmas and New Years ´ Eve cruise dates

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## When is the best time to visit Galapagos?

Galapagos is a place that can be visited at any time. There are two seasons, and the warmest is between December and May. It is the time of year when the sky is always clear, and the sun shines strongly. If you love to dive in amazing places, the best time to visit Galapagos is from June to November. During this season the weather is a little cooler, but it gives you the chance to enjoy the best from Galapagos' famous marine reserve.

## What should we bring?

Since the islands are situated very near the Equator, we recommend that you bring lightweight clothing and of course, don't forget your swimsuits, sun lotion, and good footwear.

## How long is the flight from Ecuador to the Galapagos?

It depends from where you depart. Flights to the Galapagos leave from Quito and Guayaquil. It takes about half an hour to get from Quito to Guayaquil and roughly one and a half hours from Guayaquil to the islands.

## Are there any immunizations required/recommended?

For the Galapagos Islands there are no required or recommended immunizations. If you, however, intend to spend more time in Ecuador, especially in the jungle, immunization is highly recommended. As this changes from time to time please check with your local health office (or the Institute for Tropical Diseases) a few weeks in advance of your trip.

## Are single or triple suites available?

Most of our cruises will assign double cabins to all passengers unless you want to pay the single supplement if traveling alone. Triple cabins can also be arranged on request, depending on availability and the vessel you choose.

## What is the time zone of the Galapagos Islands?

The Galapagos Islands are 6 hours behind GMT (equivalent to USA Central Standard Time)

## Does the equatorial line cross the Galapagos Islands?

The equatorial line does pass through the Galapagos, just north of Isla Santiago. Please refer to our Itinerary page to see which itinerary passes through the equatorial line.

## What are marine currents like the Galapagos?

The Galapagos Islands waters have the Humboldt Current's influence that brings cold waters especially during the mist rainy season (cool weather) from July to December. The warm season is during the months of January to June. The southeast trade winds become weaker and the water from the Panama Basin remains warm. During this season there is more of a tropical climate with some occasional rains. "El Niño" current may cause a much greater flow of warm waters, making the surface warmer and rainfall increase.

## What is the water temperature in the Islands?

Average water temperatures in Galapagos:

January - June: 70°F - 80°F (20°C - 26°C)

July - December: 65°F - 75°F (18°C- 23°C)

## Can you snorkel in the Galapagos?

Snorkeling equipment is available on-board and is an activity on all of our Galapagos Cruises. All water sports convey a certain risk. Passengers participating in these activities do so under their own responsibility.

\*Restrictions and fees might apply, please contact us for more information.

## Special Diets:

Passengers with special dietary needs are asked to request the latest menu offered and in such cases that stated menu does not meet their needs to clearly convey their specific dietary needs. It is the responsibility of passengers with specific dietary needs to address additional requirements at least 30 days prior to the start of the cruise. Those general and specific needs not clearly conveyed cannot be met. Every reasonable effort will be made to cater to such requests within reason, subject to availability of products in Ecuador retains the right to refuse to cater such special needs.

# Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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