PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty



PALACE TOURS

Ecogalaxy Luxury Catamaran - Route A (Tuesday - Saturday)

4 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

The EcoGalaxy is a First Class Catamaran offering fantastic year-round cruises to the Galapagos Islands. With an emphasis on comfort and sustainability, the EcoGalaxy Catamaran strives to reduce the negative impact of tourism in the area. Food is locally sourced products which support the local population, water is treated and reused to wash the boat, energy-saving lamps and faucets are used throughout, and cleaning products an toiletries are biodegradable. The experienced crew and naturalist guide also undergo frequent training programmes in customer service, conservation and wildlife to offer the highest service possible. Galapagos cruises offer fun, adventure, leisurely excursions and a great educational experience. Activities include hiking along extraordinary cliffs where seabirds nest, snorkelling with colourful marine life, panga ride to remote beaches and fantastic photo opportunities.

Topside the EcoGalaxy Eco Catamaran caters to just 16 guests in 8 cabins. Four cabins are located on the upper deck, and four are on the main deck, each with AC, private bathrooms with hot and cold water showers, hairdryer, internal telephone and safety deposit box. The upper deck cabins can be interconnected, and all cabins have the choice of either twin or matrimonial bedding. Social areas include a library, indoor lounge with entertainment area, fully stocked bar, dining room and sun deck with loungers.

GALAPAGOS ONBOARD A CRUISE

- San Cristobal: Lobos Island
- Santa Fe: Santa Fe
- South Plazas: South Plaza
- Seymour: North Seymour
- Mosquera: Mosquera
- Genovesa: Bahia Darwin
- Genovesa: El Barranco
- Santa Cruz: Highland

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

SAN CRISTOBAL

AM: ARRIBO AL AEROPUERTO DE SAN CRISTÓBAL:

Departure to the Galapagos Islands, arrival at San Cristobal airport, where our naturalist guide of the National Park will be waiting for you.

PM: LOBOS ISLAND:

Lobos island is a small islet separated from San Cristobal by a narrow channel, forming a sheltered bay where sea lion pups play in tidal pools. Despite its small size, the island is surprisingly packed with wildlife, especially with “lobos marinos”, the Spanish name for sea lions. Groups of sea lions will welcome you at the landing spot, but as you walk a few steps inland, male frigatebirds displaying their inflated red balloons will be perched on the bushes and trees. A small colony of blue footed boobies, which often nest right on the trail, will give you the opportunity to observe their famous courtship dance. Snorkel: This is a great snorkeling location as the water are usually calm and the sea lions often play with divers to show off their swimming skills. Sea turtles and rays are often seen resting in the sandy bottoms.

- **Highlights:** Galapagos sea lions, marine Iguanas, magnificent & great frigatebirds, blue-footed Boobies, San Cristobal Lava Lizards.
- **Trail:** 0,6 km / 0,4 mi
- **Meals:** Lunch, Dinner Lodging: Catamaran EcoGalaxy

DAY 2

SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND



AM: SANTA FE:

Giant Prickly -pear cactus and barren lava rocks surround the landing spot at Santa Fe, located inside one of the most beautiful bays in the Galapagos. Turquoise water and white sand beaches make this location a perfect home for a large colony of sea lions which you will see basking in the sand. Inland, look down for endemic Santa Fe land iguanas, but also look up for Galapagos hawks, which often perch at the top of the cactus looking for prey. Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds and lava lizards are also common along the trail. Snorkel: After the hike, you will have the option to kayak or snorkel in the sheltered waters inside the bay, where you can swim with sea lion pups and reef sharks. Also look for sea turtles, rays and a large variety of tropical fish including large schools of surgeonfish and parrotfish.

- **Highlights:** Giant cactus, Santa Fe bay, Galapagos sea lions, Santa Fe land iguanas, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos doves, reef sharks.
- **Trail:** 0,8 km / 0,5 m

PM: PLAZAS:

Of the two twin islands, only South Plazas is allowed to be visited, while North plazas is kept exclusively for scientific research. This is a small islet, but it packs an impressive amount of wildlife. Right after you land you will see Galapagos land iguanas waiting under prickly -pear cactus feed on their fruits. A large colony of sea lions will give you the opportunity to see playful pups enjoying the tide pools, but also large grumpy males defending their territories. The trail will take you to a cliff where you can observe many sea birds, such as frigatebirds, red -billed tropicbirds, boobies, swallow -tailed gulls and pelicans. A reddish succulent vegetation with scattered cactus covers most of the islands like a carpet, giving this island a unique personality.

- **Highlights:** Galapagos land iguanas, sea lions, tropicbirds, pelicans, boobies, Galapagos shearwaters, swallow -tailed gulls.
- **Trail:** 1,4 km / 0,8 mi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Lodging: Catamaran EcoGalaxy



DAY 3

NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

AM: SEYMOUR:

This island is home for large colonies of both magnificent and great frigatebirds and you can see them displaying their red balloons to attract a female. Blue-footed boobies nest in the ground and perform their famous dance in the open areas, while swallow-tailed gulls perch on the cliff edges. Land iguanas are common inland while their marine cousins bask in the rocks by the sea, close to sea lions, which often like to body surf in the waves. Snorkel: This place is a really great snorkeling location, as it has tremendous diversity and amount of fish, but also sea lions, sharks, eels, turtles, rays and many more.

- **Highlights:** Galapagos sea lions, blue footed boobies, magnificent & great frigatebirds, land & marine iguanas, swallow-tailed gulls, shearwaters, Darwin finches.
- **Trail:** 1,4 km / 0,8 mi

PM: MOSQUERA:

Mosquera is mostly a barren sand bar with some rocky areas and scattered salt-resistant plants. You can walk along the beach and enjoy seeing playful sea lion pups surfing the waves and having a great time in the tide pools. Look for endemic lava gulls which are often seen flying over the beach in the search of food. Snorkel: If the waves are not too big you can snorkel at the northern tip of the island or at one of the small beaches in the sheltered side.

- **Highlights:** Galapagos sea lions, lava gulls, oystercatchers, shorebirds,
- **Trail:** There is no trail, but you can walk along a sandy area of 0,6 km / 0,4mi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Lodging: Catamaran EcoGalaxy

DAY 4

GENOVESA ISLAND



AM: DARWIN BAY:

Genovesa is a favorite island for birdwatchers as it is home for very large colonies of seabirds. From the minute you set foot at the beach you will be amazed by the noise of hundreds of boobies, gulls and frigatebirds flying over your heads, perched in the bushes or nesting on the sandy terrain. The trail is an ultimate wildlife experience as there are animals everywhere; sea lions and marine iguanas near the sea; night herons, lava & swallow tailed gulls, Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds and many more species inland. Snorkel: The bay offers several places to snorkel; from deep waters along the cliffs across the bay, to shallow waters by the beach. In either case, there are many fish to see and great chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions.

- **Highlights:** Nesting great frigatebirds, red footed & Nazca boobies, Galapagos sea lions, lava & swallow -tailed gulls, yellow -crown night herons, Genovesa ground finch, Genovesa cactus finch, Galapagos mockingbirds.
- **Trail:** 1,2 km / 0,7 mi

PM: EL BARRANCO:

El Barranco is located in the southern part of Darwin Bay at Genovesa Island. The cliffs face the sea are made of very fragile fractured lava, making it the ideal place for storm petrel to build their colonies, which attracts an important population of short -eared owls preying of the nesting birds. Red footed and Nazca boobies are abundant along the trail. At the base of the cliffs you can see Galapagos fur seals resting in shaded areas, as well as several species of seabirds. Snorkel: You can snorkel along the cliffs where there are many fish and great chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions.

- **Highlights:** Nesting great frigatebirds, red footed & Nazca boobies, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos fur seals, lava & swallow -tailed gulls, yellow -crown night herons, Genovesa ground finch, Genovesa cactus finch, Galapagos mockingbirds.
- **Trail:** 1,2 km / 0,7 mi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Lodging: Catamaran EcoGalaxy



DAY 5

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

AM: HIGHLANDS:

Either if you do this visit starting from Baltra or from Puerto Ayora, a bus will take you to the highlands stopping along the way at one of the reserves to visit the lush highland forests where you will look for Galapagos Giant tortoises in their natural environment. This is the best place in the Galapagos to see these gentle giants (reaching over 300 kg / 600 pounds!) casually grazing and resting in freshwater ponds. This is also home for a great diversity of birds rarely found at the lowlands, including finches (tree, woodpecker and vegetarian finches), flycatchers and several species of water birds. You will visit a lava tunnel (depend on the itinerary) and learn how these extraordinary formations where created by ancient volcanic eruptions.

- **Highlights:** Giant tortoises, Darwin finches, barn owls, white -cheeked pintails, Galapagos flycatchers, Lava tunnels.
- **Trail:** 1 -1,5 km / 0,6 -0,9 mi Then, transfer to the airport to take your flight back to continental Ecuador.
- **Meals:** Breakfast

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

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

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the best time to visit Galapagos?

> Galapagos is a place that can be visited at any time. There are two season, 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 addressed 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.

What is the itinerary of the EcoGalaxy Route A cruise from Tuesday to Saturday?

> This 4-night cruise starts at San Cristobal airport with an afternoon at Lobos Island, then visits Santa Fe and South Plaza, North Seymour and Mosquera, Genovesa (Darwin Bay and El Barranco), and finishes with a morning in the Santa Cruz highlands.

What is the EcoGalaxy catamaran like on Route A?

> The EcoGalaxy is a First Class catamaran carrying just 16 guests in 8 cabins, four on the upper deck and four on the main deck. It is run with a sustainability focus: locally sourced food, treated and reused water, energy-saving lamps and faucets, and biodegradable cleaning products and toiletries.

What cabins can I choose on EcoGalaxy Route A?

> Cabins are offered as King Size, Twin or Triple, and each can be set up with twin or matrimonial bedding. All have air conditioning, a private bathroom with hot and cold showers, a hairdryer, internal telephone and safety deposit box. Upper deck cabins can be interconnected, which suits families or friends travelling together.

What is included in the EcoGalaxy Route A cruise fare?

> Included are airport assistance and transfers in Galapagos, your cabin, all meals during the cruise, a bilingual naturalist guide, all visits and excursions in the itinerary, snorkel gear, kayaks, paddle boards, wetsuits, beach

Which airport do I fly into for the EcoGalaxy Route A cruise?

> Route A begins at San Cristobal airport, where a National Park naturalist guide meets you, and the first visit is Lobos Island that afternoon. The cruise ends in Santa Cruz, so check your return airport with us before buying Galapagos flights, which are not included in the fare.

What wildlife lives on Lobos Island and Santa Fe?

> Lobos Island, named after the Spanish word for sea lions, has sea lion pups in sheltered tidal pools and male frigatebirds displaying their red pouches. Santa Fe, in one of the most beautiful bays in Galapagos, is home to the endemic Santa Fe land iguana, Galapagos hawks, a large sea lion colony, and offers kayaking or snorkelling in the bay.

Why is North Seymour worth visiting on this route?

> North Seymour hosts large colonies of magnificent and great frigatebirds, and blue-footed boobies perform their courtship dance in the open areas. Land iguanas live inland, marine iguanas and sea lions line the shore, and the snorkelling offers fish, sharks, eels, turtles and rays.

What deposit is needed to reserve the EcoGalaxy Route A cruise and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 20% of the cruise fare secures your cabin on the EcoGalaxy Route A cruise. The remaining balance is due 65 days before departure. Galapagos flights, park entrance fee and transit card are separate from the cruise fare, so plan for those costs as well.

How do I ask a question or book the EcoGalaxy Route A cruise?

> You can email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. When departures for the EcoGalaxy Route A cruise are listed on this page they can be booked directly from the departure list, and the exact fare for each departure is shown there. If no date suits you yet, send us your preferred travel month and cabin type and we will check availability for you.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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