PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty



PALACE TOURS

Ecogalaxy Luxury Catamaran - Route C (Thursday - Tuesday)

5 Nights • Luxury Experience

www.palacetours.com travel@palacetours.com 786-408-0610

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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:

- Santa Cruz: Bachas Beach
- Santiago: Sullivan Bay
- Bartolome: Bartolome
- Santa Cruz: Highland
- Santa Cruz: Charles Darwin Station
- Floreana: Cormorant Point / Devil Crown
- Floreana: Post Office Bay
- Española: Suarez Point
- Española: Garnerd Bay / Islote Gardner/Osborn Islot
- San Cristobal: Interpretation Cente

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

AM: BALTRA AIRPORT:

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

PM: BACHAS:

Bachas gets its name from the remains of two large barges (mispronounced by locals as “bachas”) left by the Americans during WWII. At low tide you can still see the iron skeletons of the barges buried in the white sand. From November till May, this place is also one of the most important sea turtle nesting grounds in the entire Galapagos islands. There are also several small saltwater lagoons where we often see flamingoes, herons and other aquatic birds. Snorkel: After the walk, you will have the option to swim or snorkel from the beach. The area is rich in some of the most common fish species of the Galapagos, but you can also find white-tipped reef sharks and rays.

- **Highlights:** American flamingoes, white cheeked pintails, sandpipers, lava gulls, blue footed boobies.
- **Trail:** 1,6 km / 1 mi
- **Meals:** Lunch, Dinner
- **Lodging:** Catamaran EcoGalaxy

DAY 2

BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND



AM: SULLIVAN BAY:

This hike is a journey into understanding the birth of these volcanic islands. You will walk in a very well preserved flow of Pahoehoe lava, which will give you endless opportunities to see the delicate textures of these type of lavas which only appear in a few places throughout the world. At first sight the barren landscape looks completely deprived of life, but look carefully for pioneer plants, lava lizards and small birds. By the shore, you can find penguins, pelicans and oystercatchers. Snorkel: You will have the option to swim or snorkel from a coral sand beach or from the dinghies. Getting underwater is like traveling to another world: if the land is almost lifeless, the sea is teaming with life, including large schools of fish, Galapagos penguins, reef sharks, turtles and rays.

- **Highlights:** Pahoehoe lava, Galapagos penguins, oystercatchers, Galapagos hawks.
- **Trail:** 2,2 km / 1,4 mi

PM: BARTOLOME:

Bartolome is one of the most iconic places in the Galapagos and one of the few where you can see penguins without going to the remote areas of western Isabela and Fernandina. You will get great views of Pinnacle Rock, located in the northern side of the island, right next to a beautiful peachcolor sand beach. The hike to the top of the island is fantastic and will offer you incredible views of lunar landscapes with scattered volcanic cones. Many islands are visible from this outlook, as well as the bay of Sullivan and the Pinnacle rock. Snorkel: You will have the option to swim or snorkel from the beach. This area holds a well-deserved reputation of being one of the best snorkeling places in the Galapagos, not only because it's clear and calm water, but also because of the presence of penguins, which are relatively easy to find while snorkeling, along with an incredible diversity of fish, colorful invertebrates, sea lions, turtles, rays and reef sharks.

- **Highlights:** Galapagos penguins, volcanic landscapes, Pinnacle rock, blue- footed boobies, herons, sea lions, sharks.
- **Trail:** 1,5 km / 0,9 mi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Lodging:** Catamaran EcoGalaxy



DAY 3

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

PM: CHARLES DARWIN STATION:

The Charles Darwin Station is a nonprofit organization which has been working for decades together with the Galapagos National Park to preserve the biodiversity of these unique islands. During this visit you will learn about the projects that both institutions carry together to protect the native species and eradicate the invasive ones which are threatening the Galapagos environment. One of the most important and emblematic projects has been reproducing giant tortoises in captivity. The visit is mostly outdoors in a beautiful dry native forest with giant cactus and many other interesting native plants. It is also a fantastic place to find several endemic Darwin finches, as well as flycatchers and mockingbirds.

- **Highlights:** Galapagos giant tortoise & land iguanas breeding program, Darwin finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, Galapagos flycatchers, yellow warblers.
- **Trail:** 2 km / 1,2 mi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Lodging:** Catamaran EcoGalaxy

DAY 4

FLOREANA ISLAND



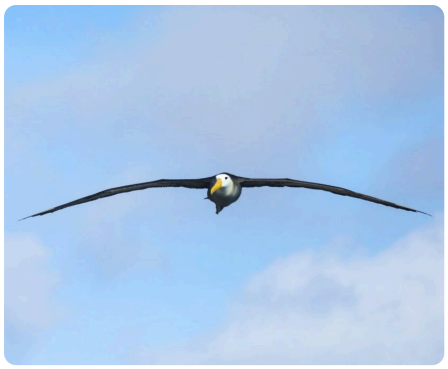
AM: CORMORANT POINT / DEVIL´S CROWN:

Punta Cormorant is located in the north of Floreana and it is known for its large coastal lagoon with American flamingoes, white -cheeked pintails, black -necked stilts and other shorebirds. There is a beautiful white sand beach which is an important nesting ground for green sea turtles where we can also see rays and reef sharks. In the last years, a small groups of blue footed boobies have started to breed right by the trail. This is also a great trail to look at endemic plants. Snorkel: It will be done at Devil's Crown, a heavily eroded little volcano right by Floreana island. This is considered by many as one of the best snorkeling sites in the entire archipelago as the current funnels plankton through the Crown, attracting huge schools of snapper, Creole fish parrot fish, angelfish, reef sharks, sea turtles, rays and a phenomenal amount of marine life.

- **Highlights:** American flamingo, blue -footed booby, frigatebirds, tropicbirds, Galapagos shearwaters, sea lions, sea turtle nesting site, finches, shorebirds, coral -sand beach.
- **Trail:** 1,6 km / 1 mi

PM: POST OFFICE BAY Floreana is famous for the tales of German settlers and the baroness during the late 1920's and 30 's. Assassinations, disappearances and other unsolved mysteries are the ingredients of this fascinating story. Post office bay was often used by whalers to anchor their ships and go up to the highlands to get freshwater and tortoises. Most boats visiting the Galapagos had to came to this place sooner or later, so a system of mail was established more than 200 years ago: a barrel near the beach became the way to leave messages to other ships and also to the outside world. This mail system is still in use and will allow you to send postcards from the Galapagos to the outside world. Aside from a small beautiful beach and a lava tunnel, the area is great for dinghy tours to look for sea lions, green sea turtles, shorebirds, small sharks and, with some luck, Galapagos penguins. Snorkel: There is great snorkel from the beach, as you can see lots of sea turtles, rays, great diversity of fish and, if you are really lucky, Galapagos penguin,

- **Highlights:** Sea Lions, sea turtles, finches, shorebirds, marine iguanas, penguins.
- **Trail:** 0,7 m / 0,4 mi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Lodging:** Catamaran EcoGalaxy



DAY 5

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

AM: SUAREZ POINT:

This rocky trail is one the most amazing nature walks you can do in the Galapagos islands. From the moment you set foot on the island and all the way along the trail the amount and diversity of fauna is truly amazing. Sea lions and marine iguanas will be the first ones welcoming us, followed by large colonies of sea birds, including Nazca and Blue-footed boobies, gulls and tropicbirds. At the end of the trail we will visit a colony of waved albatross (April to January), the largest bird in the islands and one of the most interesting because of its powerful flight and elaborate courtship. Waved albatross only nest at Española, so this is the only place where you will see them at close range.

- **Highlights:** Sea lions, Waved Albatross, Galapagos hawks, Española mockingbirds, Darwin finches, marine iguanas, Nazca & Blue-footed Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Swallow-tailed gulls, herons, lava lizards, herons.
- **Trail:** 1,7 km / 1,1 mi

PM: GARDNER BAY Gardner beach is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and interesting beaches to visit in the Galapagos. Its fine coral sand and turquoise water give it a totally tropical appearance, which contrasts with the presence of sea lions basking in the beach. You will have the opportunity to walk along the beach and learn about the biology of sea lions and other endemic species, such as the Española mockingbird, marine iguanas and Galapagos hawks. Snorkel: There are several great snorkeling places at Gardner bay. It is a fantastic site to swim with sea lions, reef sharks, rays and many species of fish, including; Angelfish, Parrotfish, Damselfish, Surgeonfish and many others.

- **Highlights:** Coral sand beach, sea lions, Galapagos hawks, Española mockingbirds, Darwin finches, marine iguanas.
- **Trail:** 0,8 km / 0,5 mi
- **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Lodging: Catamaran EcoGalaxy

DAY 6

SAN CRISTOBAL



AM: INTERPRETATION CENTER:

Located in the outskirts of Puerto Baquerizo, this center is dedicated to the history of human presence in the Galapagos. Since the times of the early Spanish explorers to the present times, including illustrious visitors such as Charles Darwin, this permanent exhibition will take you through the dangers and struggles of the first settlers trying to survive the harsh Galapagos environment.

- **Highlights:** Endemic plants, exhibition on human history
- **Trail:** 0,2 km / 650 ft 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.

What is the route of the EcoGalaxy Route C cruise from Thursday to Tuesday?

> This 5-night catamaran cruise begins at Baltra with an afternoon at Bachas beach on Santa Cruz, then visits Sullivan Bay and Bartolome, the Santa Cruz highlands and Charles Darwin Station, Floreana (Cormorant Point, Devil's Crown and Post Office Bay), Espanola (Suarez Point and Gardner Bay) and ends at the Interpretation Center on San Cristobal.

What is the EcoGalaxy catamaran like?

> 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 cabin options are there on the EcoGalaxy Route C cruise?

> 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 does the EcoGalaxy Route C fare include?

> 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 towels, purified water, coffee, tea and soft drinks. Not included are the flight to and from Galapagos, the National Park entrance fee, the transit card, other beverages, tips, local taxes and travel insurance.

Does the EcoGalaxy Route C cruise start and end at the same airport?

> No. The cruise begins at Baltra airport, where a naturalist guide meets you, and ends on San Cristobal after the Interpretation Center visit, with a transfer to the airport for your flight to continental Ecuador. Book your Galapagos flight into Baltra and out of San Cristobal; flights are not included in the fare.

What can I see at Bachas beach on the first day?

> Bachas is named after the remains of two barges left during the Second World War, whose iron skeletons can still be seen at low tide. From November to May it is one of the most important sea turtle nesting beaches in Galapagos, and small saltwater lagoons often host flamingos and herons. You can swim or snorkel from the beach after the walk.

Which Espanola sites are included on EcoGalaxy Route C?

> Day 5 is spent on Espanola, with Suarez Point in the morning and Gardner Bay later in the day. Suarez Point is one of the finest nature walks in Galapagos, with sea lions, marine iguanas, boobies, gulls, tropicbirds and a waved albatross colony present from April to January.

What is the Interpretation Center on San Cristobal?

> Located on the outskirts of Puerto Baquerizo, the Interpretation Center tells the story of human presence in Galapagos, from early Spanish explorers and visitors such as Charles Darwin to the struggles of the first settlers. It is a short 0.2 km trail with endemic plants and is the final visit before your flight home.

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

> A deposit of 20% of the cruise fare secures your cabin on the EcoGalaxy Route C 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 C 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 C 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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