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PALACE TOURS

Bonita Yacht - Route C (Wednesday - Sunday)

4 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Completely refurbished in 2019, the Superior-Class Bonita yacht offers exciting small-ship cruises in the Galapagos Islands. Accommodating just 16 passengers, comfortable cabins and social areas are spread out over 3 spacious decks. A choice of accommodation is available, including triple, double and twin cabins. Each stateroom features ample storage space, charging ports, reading lights and private en-suite bathroom. Cabins located on the main and upper deck also come with sea-views. After a full day of adventure, guests can relax in the inviting social areas, which includes the indoor lounge, dining room, library and fully-stocked bar, or enjoy the sea-breeze on the outdoor terrace or the sundeck with comfortable loungers.

Itineraries aboard the Bonita Galapagos vary from 4 - 7-nights or can be combined for the ultimate Galapagos experience. Get up close with penguins, iguanas, sea lions and flamingos as you immerse yourself into the rich landscapes and fascinating history of the Galapagos Islands. The experienced and professional naturalist guides are on hand to help create a trip of a lifetime. Adventure gear and kayaks are included, and with 8 crew members plus 1 naturalist guide, attention to detail and service is of a high standard.

Islands you will visit:

- South Plaza
- Santa Cruz
- Genovesa
- Santiago
- Bartolome
- North Seymour

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

BALTRA 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: 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, swallowtailed 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: Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Yacht Bonita

Level: 2 Dry landing and hiking

DAY 2

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

AM: BLACK TURTLE COVE

Black Turtle Cove gets its name from the abundance of green sea turtles, locally known as: “tortugas negras”. There is no landing here so you will be doing a boat tour on the dinghies, exploring shallow channels and small coves surrounded by beautiful mangrove forests. Reef sharks, sea turtles and several species of rays inhabit this beautiful area which is considered an important mating area for turtles and a nursery for several species of sharks. Herons, pelicans and boobies are also common here as they pray in schools of anchovies.

Highlights: White -tipped and black -tipped reef sharks, green sea turtles, rays, herons, blue -footed boobies, mangroves.

Level: 1 Panga Ride

PM: 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 (depending on the itinerary) and learn how these extraordinary formations were 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

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Yacht Bonita

Level: 1 Dry landing and hiking

DAY 3

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 -crowned night herons, Genovesa ground finch, Genovesa cactus finch, Galapagos mockingbirds.

Trail: 1,2 km / 0,7 mi

Level: 3 Wet landing and hiking

PM: EL BARRANCO

El Barranco is located in the southern part of Darwin Bay at Genovesa Island. The cliffs facing the sea are made of very fragile fractured lava, making it the ideal place for storm petrels to build their colonies, which attracts an important population of short -eared owls preying on 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 -crowned night herons, Genovesa ground finch, Genovesa cactus finch, Galapagos mockingbirds.

Trail: 1,2 km / 0,7 mi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Yacht Bonita

Level: 3 Wet landing and hiking

DAY 4

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 teeming 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

Level: 3 Dry landing and hiking

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 on the northern side of the island, right next to a beautiful peach - color 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: Yacht Bonita

Level: 2 Dry landing and hiking

DAY 5

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. Hiking: This place is a really great location for a walk, as it has tremendous diversity and amount of 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 Then, transfer to the airport to take your flight back to continental Ecuador.

Meals: Breakfast

Level: 1 Dry landing and hiking

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 islands does the Bonita Yacht Route C cruise visit and on which days?

> This 4-night cruise runs Wednesday to Sunday. After arriving at Baltra you visit South Plaza, then Santa Cruz (Black Turtle Cove), Genovesa (Darwin Bay), Santiago and Bartolome, and finally North Seymour before the transfer back to the airport.

What is the Bonita yacht like?

> The Bonita is a Superior-Class yacht fully refurbished in 2019 that carries just 16 passengers across three decks, looked after by 8 crew and 1 naturalist guide. Social areas include an indoor lounge, dining room, library, an outdoor terrace and a sundeck with loungers.

Which cabin types can I book on the Bonita Route C cruise?

> You can choose a King Size Cabin, a Twin Cabin or a Triple Cabin. Every cabin has a private en-suite bathroom, storage space, charging ports and reading lights, and cabins on the main and upper decks have sea views. The fare for each cabin type is shown with the departure on this page.

What does the Bonita Yacht Route C fare include and exclude?

> The fare includes airport assistance and transfers in Galapagos, your cabin, all meals on board, a bilingual naturalist guide, all visits and excursions in the itinerary, snorkel gear, kayaks, paddle boards, wetsuits, beach towels, purified

Why is Genovesa a highlight of the Bonita Route C itinerary?

> Genovesa is a favourite of birdwatchers because it hosts very large seabird colonies. At Darwin Bay you walk among boobies, gulls and frigatebirds, with sea lions, marine iguanas, night herons, lava and swallow-tailed gulls, Darwin finches and mockingbirds along the trail, and there are snorkelling spots from deep cliffs to shallow beach water.

What will I see on South Plaza on the first afternoon?

> South Plaza is a small islet packed with wildlife; its twin, North Plaza, is reserved for scientific research. Land iguanas wait under prickly-pear cactus for fallen fruit, a large sea lion colony gathers around the tide pools, and the trail leads to a cliff overlooking the sea.

What is special about Sullivan Bay on Santiago?

> At Sullivan Bay you walk across a very well preserved flow of pahoehoe lava, a type found in only a few places in the world, and look for pioneer plants, lava lizards and small birds. Penguins, pelicans and oystercatchers can be seen by the shore, and you can swim or snorkel from a coral sand beach or from the dinghies.

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

> A deposit of 20% of the cruise fare secures your cabin on the Bonita Yacht 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 Bonita Yacht 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 Bonita Yacht 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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