PALACE TOURS
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PALACE TOURS

Elite Galapagos Luxury Cruise - 4 Nights, Itinerary D (Tuesday to Saturday)

4 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

This 4-night Itinerary D sails Tuesday to Saturday aboard the M/C Elite and visits Santa Cruz, Genovesa, Santiago and San Cristobal. Fares start at US$6,190 per person in a double cabin, with departures listed below through 2027. Ideal if you want balcony suites and a whirlpool on a boat small enough to reach the western islands.

The M/C Elite is a 16-guest twin-hull catamaran built for the Galapagos, with nine suites spread over the main and upper decks. Every Golden Suite has a private panoramic balcony, a king bed that converts to twins, and a full en-suite bathroom, so the cabin is a place you actually want to spend time in between landings. A single cabin on the upper deck suits solo travellers who would rather not pay a double supplement.

Life on board centres on three decks: a main-deck lounge and dining room with 180-degree windows, an upper-deck covered terrace and open sun terrace, and a sky deck with al-fresco dining, an outdoor cocktail bar and a whirlpool. The catamaran hull gives a noticeably steadier ride than a single-hull yacht of the same size, which matters on the longer western crossings to Isabela and Fernandina.

Two licensed Galapagos National Park naturalist guides lead every excursion in small groups of eight. Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, snorkelling gear and wetsuits are on board and included.

Islands you will visit

- Santa Cruz
- Genovesa
- Santiago
- San Cristobal

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Morning: Baltra Airport

Arrival to Baltra airport and transfer to the vessel.

Afternoon: Santa Cruz - Bachas Beach

Bachas Beach is a beautiful white-sand beach on which the remnants of a rusted barge, thought to have been abandoned by the Americans during WWI, can be seen. It is a popular nesting site for turtles, so if you go for a snorkel, you might find yourself sharing the water with these wonderful creatures. The beach is also full of vibrant Sally Lightfoot and hermit crabs, and elegant pink flamingos that frequent the saltwater pond located just behind the beach.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, snorkeling

Difficulty: Easy

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 2

GENOVESA ISLAND



Morning: Genovesa - Prince Philip's Steps / El Barranco

El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps, is a rocky stairway that will lead you past a colony of Nazca and red-footed boobies leads up to a plateau of dried lava. Continuing through the thin Palo Santo forest and looking out over the plain, visitors are often treated to sites of storm petrels launching out over the ocean. A dinghy ride or kayaking boarding along the edge of the cliffs provides a good chance to see the elusive Galapagos fur seals nestled on the rocks, and snorkeling is a great activity if you fancy a dip with a variety of shark species.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayak

Difficulty: Moderate

Afternoon: Genovesa - Darwin Bay

Darwin Bay has a small sand and coral beach that provides the perfect spot for snorkeling, kayaking or paddle boarding in calm, sheltered waters in the company of hammerhead sharks, rays and a plethora of colorful reef fish. Onshore, a short trail leads along a tidal lagoon and mangroves, home to a variety of land bird species, including Nazca and red-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. The trail culminates at a viewpoint that offers a stunning view overlooking the cliffs and the bay below.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayak

Difficulty: Moderate

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner



DAY 3

SANTIAGO ISLAND

Morning: Santiago - Espumilla Beach / Buccaneer Cove

Espumilla beach, located on the northern coast of Santiago island, is an exquisite white sand beach, whose name refers to the meringue-like trails of foam left by the lapping of the waves. Sally Lightfoot crabs are in abundance here and as a result, it is common to see predatory birds such as hawks, herons and pelicans. This idyllic location is perfect for snorkeling or kayaking boarding amongst a raft of marine life, including species of octopus, eels and sharks. Buccaneer Cove has an interesting history as it is where sailors, buccaneers and whalers frequently anchored their vessels in search for food and water. In more recent times it has become an important nesting site for turtles and is also popular with sea lions. A dinghy ride along the eroded shoreline provides views of intriguing rock formations that provide excellent ledges for boobies, pelicans and gulls.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayak

Difficulty: Moderate

Afternoon: Egas Port

Egas Port was once the site of a salt mine, but now this impressive black sand beach is an excellent location for snorkeling and observing shorebirds, Sally Lightfoot crabs and marine iguanas. A stroll along the wide trails inland leads you past tidal pools and rocky volcanic formations known as grottoes where it is possible to spot fur seals enjoying a spot of shade.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, snorkeling

Difficulty: Easy

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 4

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND



Morning: Black Turtle Cove

The first visit of the day is 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 a shallow lake which reaches almost a mile inland. As you drift through quiet waters in the dinghy 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 dinghy and Pacific green sea turtles come to the surface for air and to mate. Waterfowl, including pelicans, herons and egrets, all feed in the cove. It's a peaceful place where visitors often have up-close encounters with Galapagos wildlife, often making it a highlight of the trip!

Activities and Excursions: Dinghy ride

Difficulty: Easy

Afternoon: Highlands and Charles Darwin Research Station

On the highlands of Santa Cruz, you'll have the opportunity to see the famous giant tortoises in the wild. So renowned are these endemic animals that they gave the archipelago its name. Birdwatching is also one of the activities do to in the Santa Cruz highlands, since this area is home of finches and other Galapagos birds. After the visit to the highlands, we continue to the famous Charles Darwin Research Station that provides guests with a unique opportunity to find out about the vital work that is being carried out to preserve the archipelago's ecosystems. The Research Center is also home to a significant breeding program for Galapagos tortoises, whose numbers have been in decline since the 1970's. These captivating reptiles are very accustomed to humans, so be sure to bring your camera for some close-ups.

Activities and Excursions: Walking

Difficulty: Easy

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner



DAY 5

SAN CRISTOBAL

Morning: Lobos Island, off San Cristobal

Accessed by dinghy, Lobos Island gets its name from the herds of sea lions that have made their home here. Snorkeling in the calm clear water provides a unique opportunity to see these inquisitive and playful animals up close and it is also common to be accompanied by green turtles and rays as well. Inland, there is a trail where you can expect to encounter nesting sites for blue-footed boobies and frigates.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

Difficulty: Moderate

San Cristobal Airport Depart from San Cristobal airport.

Meals on board: breakfast

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Jun 1, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Jun 15, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Jun 29, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Jul 13, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Aug 10, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Aug 24, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Oct 5, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Oct 19, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Nov 2, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Nov 16, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Nov 30, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**
Dec 14, 2027	Golden Suites	—	**$6,550**

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/Elite-Cruise-4-Nights-Itinerary-D-Luxury-Catamaran for the latest information.

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.

Which islands does the Elite Itinerary D visit?

> The 4-night Itinerary D visits Santa Cruz, Genovesa, Santiago and San Cristobal, sailing Tuesday to Saturday. See the day-by-day tab for the landing sites and activities on each day.

What is included in the M/C Elite fare?

> Accommodation in your suite, all meals and snacks on board, soft drinks, guided excursions with licensed National Park naturalists, snorkelling equipment and wetsuits, kayaks and paddle boards, Galapagos airport transfers and a welcome and farewell cocktail. Flights to the islands, the Galapagos National Park fee and transit card, alcoholic drinks and gratuities are extra.

Are the Elite rates shown the current published rates?

> Yes. The dates and per-person double-occupancy fares on this page are refreshed from the vessel's live inventory. Seasonal promotions on individual departures are applied when you enquire, so ask us for the best current fare on your preferred date.

What kind of boat is the M/C Elite, and what are the Golden Suites like?

> The M/C Elite is a 16-guest twin-hull catamaran built for the Galapagos, with nine suites on the main and upper decks. Each Golden Suite has a private panoramic balcony, a king bed that converts to twins and a full en-suite

Which airports do I fly into and out of for Elite Itinerary D?

> You arrive at Baltra airport on Tuesday morning and are transferred to the yacht, and you fly out from San Cristobal airport on Saturday after the morning visit to Lobos Island. Transfers between the airports and the yacht are included, but the round-trip flights to the Galapagos are not, so book flights into Baltra and out of San Cristobal.

What wildlife can we expect to see on the 4-night Itinerary D?

> Highlights include turtles, Sally Lightfoot crabs and flamingos at Bachas Beach; Nazca and red-footed boobies and fur seals at Genovesa; marine life on Santiago; rays, white-tipped reef sharks and green sea turtles in Black Turtle Cove; and sea lions, blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds at Lobos Island off San Cristobal.

What extra costs should I budget for on the M/C Elite?

> Beyond the cruise fare, plan for the round-trip flight to the Galapagos, the Galapagos National Park entrance fee (100 dollars) and the Transit Control Card (20 dollars), both subject to change. Gratuities for guides and crew, travel and health insurance, and personal items such as your own mask and snorkel are also not included.

How much is the deposit and when is the balance due for Elite Itinerary D?

> A deposit of 25% secures your suite, and the balance is due 65 days before departure. Fares start from USD 6,550 per person in a double cabin, and the exact fare for each Tuesday departure, from 22 September 2026 through 14 December 2027, is shown on this page.

How do I ask a question or book the Elite Galapagos cruise Itinerary D?

> The Tuesday departures listed on this page are bookable directly online: pick your date and suite and follow the booking steps. For questions, 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.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

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