



**PALACE TOURS**  
Travel Like Royalty



PALACE TOURS

# Natural Paradise Yacht: Route D (Saturday – Tuesday)

3 Nights • Luxury Experience

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# Overview

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*The Natural Paradise Luxury Yacht offers travelers a variety of accommodation options that suit everyone's needs, while always offering the best quality in the overall experience.*

*Travelers can pick from 9 different spacious and comfortable cabins that include suites with balconies overlooking the ocean, junior suites, and staterooms, all featuring large bathrooms, air-conditioning, and luxury amenities.*

## Islands you will visit:

- Santa Cruz
- Genovesa
- Santiago

# Your Itinerary

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## DAY 1

### SATURDAY: ARRIVAL TO BALTRA

AM: Arrival to Baltra Airport and Transfer to the boat.

PM: Santa Cruz: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

“Fausto Llerena” Tortoise Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.

Highlights: Giant tortoises in captivity

Possible Activities: Walking

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Easy

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## SUNDAY: GENOVESA ISLAND

AM: El Barranco

Also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, El Barranco's steep, rocky paths leads up to a high cliff-face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to palo santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves.

Highlights: Red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves

Possible Activities: Hiking (0.9 miles/2 km)

Type of Landing: Dry, difficult landing

Difficulty: Moderate

PM: Darwin Bay

This white sand coral beach heads a half mile trail (0.75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can be spotted here. Further down the path are tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view off a cliff.

Highlights: Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, mangroves, coral pebbles beach, snorkeling: rays, colorful reef fish and hammerhead sharks

Possible Activities: Hiking (0.9 miles/1.5 km), snorkeling, kayaking & dinghy ride

Type of Landing: Wet landing.

Difficulty: Easy / moderate

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## MONDAY: SANTIAGO ISLAND

AM: Espumilla Beach

Espumilla Beach is a popular place for marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs. The crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey. With an abundance of marine life including octopi, moray eels, and sharks, snorkeling is highly recommended.

Highlights: Snorkeling

Possible Activities: Snorkeling and swimming

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy

Buccaneer Cove

Buccaneer Cove is a testament to the fact that Santiago Island was once a refuge for British buccaneers. These pirates would anchor in the protected bay to make repairs and stock up on tortoise meat among other things. The steep cliffs, where hundreds of seabirds perch in front of the dark red sand beach, are a magnificent site.

Highlights: Sea birds, historical site, snorkeling, rock formations

Possible Activities: Short walk along the beach (less than 0.6 miles/1 km)

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy

PM: Egas Port

Also known as James Bay, Egas Port is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to a coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

Highlights: Fur sea lions, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and “grottos”, Galapagos hawk, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

Possible Activities: Snorkeling, hiking (1.2 miles/2 km)

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy / moderate

## SATURDAY: SANTA CRUZ AND TRANSFER TO BALTRA

AM: Santa Cruz, Bachas Beach

Located on the north shore of Santa Cruz, Las Bachas is a swimming beach. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest off the beach.

Highlights: World War II remnants

**Animals:** Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles

Type of Landing: Wet

Difficulty: Easy

After this tour, transfer to Baltra Airport

# 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 copy
- 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 125 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.

\*Christmas & New Year: special conditions apply. Please contact us for details.

# 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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