

Galapagos Islands Cruise

Depart Hendersonville (Day 1): After pick up at your door, enjoy a nonstop flight to Quito, Ecuador from Atlanta, arriving same day. Overnight Quito JW Marriott or similar.

Quito (Day 2): After a good night's rest and leisurely start to your day with plenty of time for a Quito highlights tour. You shall be escorted to the Quito airport for your flight to Baltra airport on Santa Cruz Island, the 2nd largest of the Galapagos Islands where you can roam the small village of Puerto Ayora and visit the Charles Darwin Research Center for a look at the mammoth Galapagos Tortoises.

Galapagos Islands Cruise (Day 3): Embarkation day! After an introductory briefing onboard, on to our first stop, Las Bachas located on the northern shore of Santa Cruz, where a glorious white beach awaits along with a couple of brackish lagoons that are just a few steps away from the sea. These lagoons actually serve as the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos. Guests are welcome to enjoy swimming and snorkeling activities at this beach, too.

Galapagos Islands Cruise (Day 4): Buccaneer Cove (Santiago Island). Explore the coastline along the impressive cliffs, home to numerous marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. You can go snorkeling, take a ride on the dinghy or a glass-bottom boat. Next, Puerto Egas beach where guests get to enjoy a swim or snorkel, typically with marine turtles. Next, an easy walk gives guests an opportunity to see both land and marine birds, marine iguanas grazing upon algae beds and a colony of sea lions.

Galapagos Islands Cruise (Day 5): Rabida Island (Jervis). Option to go for a fascinating dinghy ride along shore or choose to disembark on the island's mesmerizing, red-colored beach. The walk here brings guests close to sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers, several species of Darwin's finches & American Flamingos. Next, Bartolome Island, another opportunity to snorkel from the beach or ride the glass-bottom boat. Next, you have a chance to hike the summit of the island, the viewpoint of which boasts fantastic views of the archipelago, made easier by a wooden staircase, complete with resting platforms and handrails. Explore the rugged shoreline aboard dinghies, or do both hike & boat!

Galapagos Islands Cruise (Day 6): Prince Philip Steps (Genovesa Island). The morning starts with a climb (only 90 feet/28 meters) up a flight of stairs to reach a flat and rocky plateau. Once there, check out large colonies of Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, great frigate birds and storm petrels. Those not wishing to disembark can enjoy a longer panga ride along the cliffs. In the afternoon, guests will land at beautiful Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island to enjoy some swimming and/or snorkeling. Then an excursion to take a stroll and observe hundreds of birds, mainly: frigate birds, red-footed and Nazca boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds.

Disembarkation and homeward (Days 7-8): You're not done yet! After disembarkation we visit the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a walk among the wild habitat of the Galapagos Tortoises. Then, sadly, transfer to Baltra Airport for your flight home and car service to your door.



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