



## Itinerary

### 9 Day Experience the Galapagos Islands Cruise

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### Day 1: Arrive Quito, Ecuador

Welcome to Quito, the vibrant capital of Ecuador! Upon your arrival at Quito's international airport, you will be warmly greeted by a representative who will assist with your transfer to your hotel. Along the way, you'll catch glimpses of this charming city nestled high in the Andes, renowned for its rich history and stunning colonial architecture.

Once you've checked in, take some time to relax and unwind after your journey. Whether you choose to rest in the comfort of your hotel or step outside to explore the local area, the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace. Quito's welcoming atmosphere and scenic surroundings are the perfect introduction to your upcoming adventures. Prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey starting tomorrow!

**MEALS:** Nil

**OVERNIGHT:** Sheraton Hotel, Quito or similar

#### Day 2: Quito: City Tour & Middle of the World

After enjoying a delicious breakfast, embark on a guided tour of Quito, a city steeped in history and culture. As a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, Quito's historic centre offers a treasure trove of architectural and cultural wonders. Wander through its cobblestone streets, admire the stunning colonial-era buildings, and visit some of its most iconic landmarks, such as the Basilica del Voto Nacional, a Gothic masterpiece, and the ornate San Francisco Church, and the beautiful La Compañía de Jesús Church, renowned for its ornate gold interior. Along the way, your guide will share fascinating stories about the city's history and its blend of indigenous and Spanish influences.

In the afternoon, journey to the Middle of the World monument (La Mitad del Mundo), located just north of the city. Here, you can stand with one foot in each hemisphere at the equatorial line, an experience that perfectly combines science, history, and fun. Learn about the cultural and geographical significance of this location, and don't forget to take memorable photos to mark the occasion. You may also explore the nearby museum to discover more about the local traditions and scientific experiments related to the equator.

Return to your hotel in the evening to relax and reflect on a day filled with incredible experiences. Prepare for the adventures that await in the days ahead.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Sheraton Hotel, Quito or similar

### Day 3: Quito ~ Galápagos Islands: Santa Cruz Island: Highlands

Start your day with breakfast before transferring to the airport for your flight to the enchanting Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by a representative who will assist with your transfer to the cruise ship that will be your home for the next few days. After checking into your cabin, attend a welcome briefing where the crew will provide an overview of the cruise itinerary and important information to ensure you make the most of your journey through this extraordinary archipelago. Take some time to settle in and prepare for the incredible adventure ahead.

This afternoon, your Galápagos adventure begins with a visit to the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Here, the scenery transitions from arid lowlands to a vibrant green landscape. Walk through volcanic craters, explore fascinating lava tunnels, and encounter wild giant tortoises roaming freely in their natural habitat. The Highlands offer an incredible opportunity to experience the island's unique geology and biodiversity up close, setting the tone for the extraordinary journey ahead.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** M/Y Galaxy

### Day 4: Isabela Island: Tintoreras & Wetlands & Interpretation Centre

Start your day with a visit to Tintoreras, a group of volcanic islets near Puerto Villamil. See white-tipped reef sharks, marine iguanas, and blue-footed boobies, and snorkel in crystal-clear waters teeming with marine life.

In the afternoon, explore Isabela's Wetlands, a network of lagoons and mangroves home to birds such as flamingos. Visit the Interpretation Centre to learn about the island's volcanic history, conservation projects, and local culture.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** M/Y Galaxy

### Day 5: Isabela Island: Moreno Point ~ Fernandina Island: Mangle Point

Marvel at Moreno Point's dramatic volcanic landscapes with clear lagoons surrounded by mangroves. Spot wildlife such as flamingos and herons as you explore this unique environment. Later, travel to Fernandina Island, considered one of the most pristine ecosystems in the Galápagos. Snorkel at Mangle Point or explore its coast, where you may encounter sea lions, turtles, and colourful fish.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** M/Y Galaxy

### Day 6: Fernandina Island: Espinoza Point ~ Isabela Island: Tagus Cove

Visit Espinoza Point on Fernandina Island, home to marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, and playful sea lions. Walk along the rugged coastline, enjoying the stunning views.

In the afternoon, return to Isabela Island to explore Tagus Cove. Hike to a viewpoint overlooking Darwin Lake and volcanic landscapes, or snorkel to observe penguins, marine life, and vibrant fish.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** M/Y Galaxy

### Day 7: Santiago Island: Egas Port ~ Chinese Hat

Spend the morning exploring Egas Port on Santiago Island, where you'll find black sand beaches, tidal pools, and abundant wildlife such as fur seals and seabirds.

In the afternoon, visit Chinese Hat, a small volcanic islet. Snorkel in turquoise waters or enjoy a nature walk to see sea lions, marine iguanas, and colourful marine life.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** M/Y Galaxy

### Day 8: Santa Cruz Island: Black Turtle Cove ~ Quito

End your Galápagos adventure with a visit to Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island. Glide through peaceful mangroves by panga, spotting sea turtles, rays, and reef sharks.

Afterwards, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, you can utilise the hotel's airport shuttle to transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to relax, explore the city, or indulge in some last-minute shopping. This is your chance to soak up the charm of Quito one final time before concluding your adventure.

Enjoy a restful evening as you prepare for your onward journey the following day.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Wyndham Airport (Club Level), Quito or similar

### Day 9: Depart Quito

Start your final day with breakfast at your hotel before checking out. Transfer to the airport will utilise the hotel's airport shuttle.

As you leave, reflect on the incredible memories you've created during your time in Ecuador—from exploring the historic streets and landmarks of Quito to marvelling at the extraordinary wildlife and breathtaking landscapes of the Galápagos Islands.

Take with you not only photos and souvenirs but also the stories of your adventures, the wonders of nature you've witnessed, and the cultural experiences you've embraced.

Safe travels, and we hope to welcome you back to Ecuador for more unforgettable experiences in the future!

**MEALS:** Breakfast