



Galapagos Cruise

Motor Vessel Galapagos Explorer II 5 Days Cruise



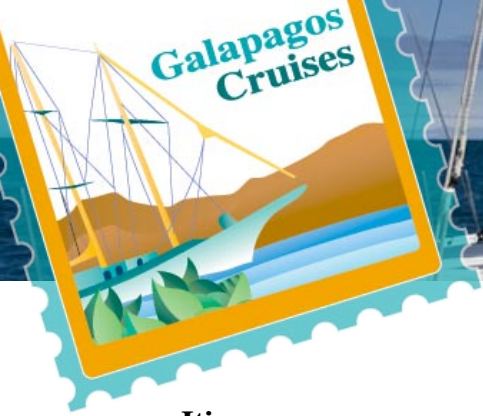
Characteristics:

One of the best and most beautiful cruise ships operated on the Galápagos Island. Galapagos Explorer II offers you a big variety of possibilities and activities. You are cordially invited to the daily lectures about the unique archipelago de Galápagos, rent one of the various reference books or videos about the islands and inform yourself about them in quiet minute in your suite. Enjoy life music in the bar or dancing in the lounge. Get spoiled by the chef de cuisine with Ecuadorian and international delicacies. Individual menu wishes will be fulfilled and for all meals you have free toss-up. Independent from the category of suite you choose, you will be surrendered by the luxury of Galapagos Explorer II. The suites feature Queen Size beds or 2 single beds. Each suite has an ample private bathroom with shower, wardrobe, TV with video and minibar. All are lovely decorated to feel like home.

Technical facts and specifications:

Type	First Class Superior Vessel
Year of Construction	1990
Length	89.35 Meters
Speed	17 knots
Capacity	up to 105 passengers
Crew	6 naturalist tour guides





Itinerary:

Saturday: Flight to Galápagos – Baltra / Island Santa Cruz – Cerro Dragon

Morning arrival on Baltra Island where you firstly will pay the National Park Entrance Fee before you will be met by your guide and be transferred to the dock to board the boat. Here you will start your cruise with your first excursion on Island Santa Cruz. You will visit Cerro Dragon. This mountain is an excellent spot for observing land lizards, wading birds and Darwin's finches. **-/L/D**

Sunday: Island Bartolomé - Island Santiago / Egas Port

Arriving at Bartolomé you will ascend a lookout point from where you can admire the spectacular panorama of the Sullivan Bay and the famous needle shaped rock, the so called Pinnacle Rock. The beaches at the foot of the Pinnacle Rock boast some fine snorkeling spots from which you can discover the marvelous underwater world with a good chance to encounter penguins or the softly gliding turtles. Today you will land at Santiago Island, also known as James, or San Salvador Island, which is the fourth largest island in the archipelago. The influences of the former salt mine workers and their imported animals are still alive on the island. The last tries to populate Santiago Island were given up forty years ago. Visit the dark sand beach with a lot of marine iguanas at Egas Port after a wet landing. After a short walk of about 2 km along the coast you will reach the cliffy lava coast with natural pools where sea lions take a bath and herons and other sea birds are as well local. Additionally you can encounter a small group of sea bears. The surrounding area is good for spotting and observing colonies of sea lions, red sally light-foot crabs, lava iguanas, Galápagos buzzards and lava herons. **B/L/D**



Monday: Island Fernandina / Espinoza Point - Isabela Island / Vicente Roca Point

In the morning you will visit Fernandina Island which is not only the westernmost but also the youngest and most pristine Island found in Galapagos. The last eruption of the volcano La Cumbre in 2005 created huge interesting fields of lava. Punta Espinoza, one of Fernandina's visit points, is situated within a fascinating lava scenery with Lava-Cactuses and on the surface of the lava growing mangroves. Beside this unique scenery you will come in contact with numerous animals here. The highlights are sea lions, penguins, the flightless cormorant (especially in spring and summer) and one of the biggest iguana colonies of Galápagos. Do not miss a snorkeling trip during which you have the possibility to explore the beautiful underwater world. This afternoon will lead you to the largest island of the archipelago, Island Isabela. With a surface of 4588 sq.km the isle engages more than the half of the land area of whole Galápagos. Located at the 'mouth' of the head of the sea horse, which forms the northern part of the Isabela, is Punta Vicente Roca, an interesting rock formation. Here the remnants of an ancient volcano form two turquoise coves with a bay well protected from the ocean swells. With good luck you can observe penguins in the deep blue sea. Masked and blue-footed boobies and pelicans sit perched along the point and the sheer cliffs, while flightless cormorants inhabit the shoreline. **B/L/D**

Tuesday: North Seymour Island - Island Santa Cruz / Highlands

After a dry landing, you will have a short walk along the coast of the northernmost island of Seymour. Guests will encounter swallow tailed gulls, sea lions and cliff crabs. This site is also known for being a major nesting colony of blue footed boobies, and the largest colony of the magnificent frigate bird, a species different to the great frigate bird. You can also spot both endemic species of iguanas, the marine iguanas and land iguanas. You will enjoy this relaxing hike around the nesting sites. In the afternoon you will visit the highlands of Santa Cruz. The lush landscape there is a welcome contrast to the arid scenery of the smaller, lower islands. On your way you will cross the different zones of vegetation, from the dry lower region full of cactuses to the woods of scalesia in the highlands. Points of interest are the famed lava tunnels, a fun and geologically informative visit. During a visit of a hacienda in the highlands you can observe the Galapagos giant tortoises in their natural habitat. **B/L/D**



Wednesday: Choice between Lobreria Beach, Lobos Island, Lagoon of Junco or Interpretation Center San Cristóbal – flight back to mainland

After a short walk you will arrive at a small white beach, called La Lobrería. On its shore you cannot only encounter a lot of sea birds, so for example the frigate or blue footed booby, but also the local sea lion colonies and marine iguanas. The beach is a perfect place for fascinating landscape pictures because of the unusual colour of the plants as they near the beach.

Today you can visit Lobos Island, which is located in front of San Cristobal Island. It is a seasonal nesting location for the blue footed booby and frigate birds. You also should enjoy swimming and snorkelling with sea lions in this calm bay.

The Lagoon of Junco is located on Island San Cristóbal. It is the only resource of fresh water on the whole island. Here you can observe various birds like frigate birds or Darwin finks.

At the port of Baquerizo Moreno, which is the capital of the province Galápagos, you will visit the Interpretation Center. The Center will give you a good impression of the history of the Galápagos Islands. Arround midday you will fly back to the mainland of Ecuador. Enjoy the last view back to the enchanting islands; a unique paradise with its fascinating nature. **B**





Prices per person 2009:

5 days / 4 nights
Saturday to Wednesday

Renaissance Suite Explorer/ Erickson USD 2,795.-	De Luxe Suite Erickson USD 2,615.-	Premium Suite Marco Polo USD 2,270.	Classic Suite Magellan/Columbus USD 2,060.-
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Fuel surcharge per person: USD 104.-
Single cabins on request + depends on availability
Discount for children under 12 years: 50 %
Discount for children under 12 years on Christmas and New Year: 75 %

Included in the price:

All transfers in Galapagos, 4 days cruise on board of the GALAPAGOS EXPLORER in double accommodation with all facilities, English speaking naturalist guide, purified water free to drink.

Not included in the price:

flights mainland to/from Galápagos (e.g. Quito – Galapagos – Quito USD 414 .- per person), entrance fee to Galapagos National Park USD 100.- per Person, migration card USD 10.- per person, beverages, tips, personal items, insurance.

NB Itinerary is subject to change without previous notice, due to weather conditions, operational matters, National Park Authorities advice, or Captain’s decision for passengers security