



# *Galapagos Cruise*

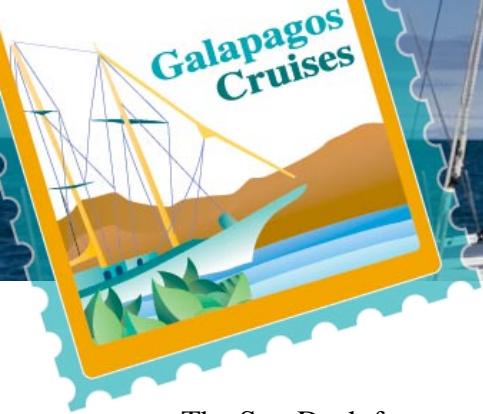
Motor Vessel Santa Cruz - 5 Days Cruise



## **Characteristics:**

The 46 cabin Motor Vessel Santa Cruz, built exclusively for Galápagos Islands cruising was completely renovated in 1998, having been redesigned and refurbished inside and out. The Santa Cruz has gained worldwide recognition for its excellent standards, including superb service, expert crew, the most knowledgeable multilingual naturalist/guides and menus that feature the very best international cuisine and celebrated Ecuadorian dishes. Its capacity is for ninety guests. The Expedition Team consists of a Chief Naturalist and five SC Naturalists. All will delight guests with diverse natural history explanations, superb on-deck talks, and eye-catching lectures regarding natural history issues. Their multimedia presentations and recaps will complement the day's activities. Together with the Captain, they will plan the day's program. They are masters of Galápagos' knowledge. Soon enough, the SC Naturalist will become the highlight of your voyage. At night, when pitch-dark starry skies are seen, stargazing is an amazing nocturnal activity. The southern skies are beautifully arranged with exuberant constellations.

On the Boat Deck, there are two master suites with double beds (plus a sofa bed for a child) and a private balcony, and two junior suites with twin beds (plus a sofa bed for a child). Four Superior-Class cabins have twin or double beds, that together with the remaining Standard Cabins on the Upper and Main decks offer a variety of accommodations, all meeting the same high standard for comfort and style. Family guests have ample choice among single, double, triple and quad accommodations.



The Sun Deck features a bar and Jacuzzi, along with the observation platform for dolphin and whale watching. The dining room, lounge and bar are elegantly appointed, as is the well-stocked library/reading room. As an alternative to snorkeling, the glass-bottom boat offers another opportunity to observe the marine life. The entire ship is air-conditioned. A carefully planned itinerary includes the Galápagos' main highlights plus a flexible program allowing guests to enjoy several alternatives for their daily activities. In essence, an expedition to the best National Park, aboard the only ship exclusively built for exploring the Galápagos.

#### Technical facts and specifications:

Type	First class Motor Yacht
Year of Construction	1979
Year of reconstruction:	1998
Length	237 ft (72 Meters)
Beam:	39 ft (12 Meters)
Speed	13 knots
Electricity:	110 V
Crew	46 Plus 6 Naturalist guides
Facilities	90 Passenger in 48 double cabins with Private Bathroom with hot/cold water / comfort Equipment-Air Conditioning throughout / al fresco dining area / bar lounge / sun deck / library / boutique and souvenir shop / infirmary





## Itinerary:

### Monday: 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. In the afternoon you will visit Cerro Dragon. This mountain is an excellent spot for observing land lizards, wading birds and Darwin's finches. -/L/D

### Tuesday: 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. In the afternoon 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

### Wednesday: Rábida Island - North Seymour Island

Today you will make an excursion to the small volcano island Rábida with its dark red beach. A small path there leads you to the little lagoon, which is often visited by flamingos. On your way to this lagoon you will pass nesting pelicans and other sea birds. The beach of Rábida Island is considered as one of the most beautiful places to go snorkeling. Because of a huge richness of fishes you can also observe a lot of



sea lions there. 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. **B/L/D**

#### **Thursday: Island Santa Cruz / Highlands – Charles Darwin Station**

In the morning 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. During a visit of a hacienda in the highlands you can observe the Galapagos giant tortoises in their natural habitat. You will have lunch in a nice restaurant in the highlands. The Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park offices are based on Santa Cruz Island. The station encompasses an information centre, a museum, a library and the tortoise breeding station as well. Here you will have an opportunity to visit some of the best scientists of the Galapagos. Park rangers and park managers among others, who make huge efforts to preserve this Unesco World Heritage Site, conduct the conservation of the islands. In the tortoise breeding and rearing centre you can encounter tortoises of different subspecies, which are prepared for reintroduction to their natural habitats. The most popular inhabitant of this island is probably Lonesome George. He is the only survivor of his specific turtle species. In the past all approaches to find a partner for him failed. But in July 2008 the scientists found a carved nest wit nine eggs from a female tortoise. Three of them could be saved and now accordingly to strict instructions they are incubated synthetically. **B/L/D**

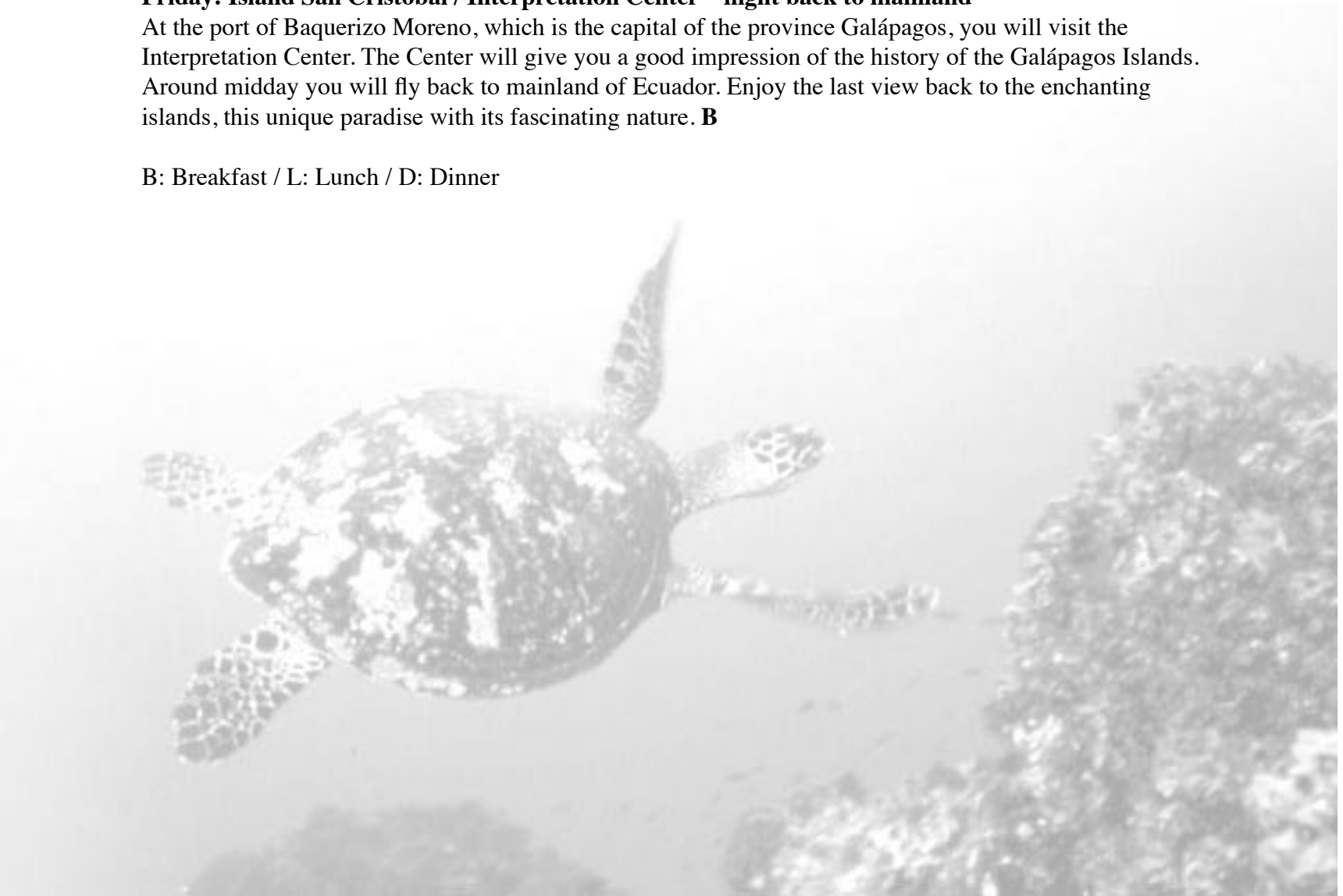




**Friday: Island San Cristóbal / Interpretation Center – flight back to mainland**

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. Around midday you will fly back to mainland of Ecuador. Enjoy the last view back to the enchanting islands, this unique paradise with its fascinating nature. **B**

B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner





**Prices per person 2009:**

Boat Deck Master Suite Double USD 3,029.-	Boat Deck Junior Suite Twin USD 2,630.-	Boat Deck Superior Twin / Double USD 2,511.-	Boat Deck Single Standard USD 3,473.-
Boat Deck Standard Plus Twin USD 2,408.-	Boat Deck Twin Standard USD 2,304.-	Upper Deck Twin Standard USD 2,107.-	Main Deck Twin Standard USD 2,000.-

Fuel surcharge per person: USD 72.-

Single supplement: 100 %

Discount for children under 12 years: 25%

Eastern, Christmas and New Year surcharge of USD 130.- per adult and USD 100.- per child (under 12 years)

**Included in the price:**

All transfers in Galapagos, cruise on board of the SANTA CRUZ in double accommodation with all facilities, 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.