

Elite Catamaran

Galapagos Cruise Expedition Itinerary D: 5 Days – 4 Nights



Launched in June 2019, the Galapagos Elite is the newest and most luxurious mega catamaran cruising the pristine waters of the Galapagos Islands. Designed to redefine luxury travel, this sleek twin-hulled vessel accommodates up to 16 guests, providing a smooth and safe journey through one of the world's most biodiverse archipelagos. With spacious, modern suites and impeccable service, the Elite promises an unforgettable experience as you explore the unique wildlife and stunning landscapes that make the Galapagos so famous.

Each suite on the Elite is designed for maximum comfort and relaxation, featuring convertible beds (either king-size or twin), large panoramic windows, and private outdoor balconies that offer breathtaking ocean views. After a day spent snorkeling, hiking, or wildlife watching, guests can unwind in these well-appointed accommodations or enjoy the ship's ample social spaces. The catamaran boasts an expansive passenger lounge with 180-degree views, a semi-covered sky deck, and an al fresco dining area, all blending indoor and outdoor spaces to create a seamless connection with the surrounding environment.



The Galapagos Elite goes beyond luxury accommodations with expertly crafted itineraries and exceptional service. Guests can choose from 4-, 5-, and 8-day programs exploring the archipelago's western, central, and eastern islands. Accompanied by certified bilingual guides, travelers will embark on daily excursions to experience the islands' diverse wildlife and landscapes. With a professional crew, top-notch chefs offering delicious meals, and state-of-the-art safety equipment, the Elite ensures an extraordinary and secure adventure in this one-of-a-kind destination.

Accommodations



Location

- Main Deck
 - ✓ Golden Premium Suites: 2 front view suites (bow)
 - ✓ Golden Suites: 2 suites
- Upper Deck
 - ✓ Golden Suites: 4 suites / 1 Golden suite connects with a Single cabin
 - ✓ Single Cabin: 1 Single cabin
- Sizes (including balcony)
 - ✓ Golden Premium Suites: 37 mt²/ 399 ft² approx.
 - ✓ Golden Suites: 35 mt²/ 376 ft² approx.
 - ✓ Single cabin: 19 mt²/ 204.5 ft² approx.

Technical Features and Specifications

- Operations start: July 2019
- Type: Motor catamaran
- Category: Luxury
- Length: 37.5 mt / 123.03 ft
- Beam: 13.5 mt / 44.29 ft



- Draft to Baseline: 1.90 mt / 6.23 ft
- Crew: 10 crewmembers + Cruise Service Officer + Guide
- Capacity: 16 passengers
- Speed: 12 knots
- Propulsion: 2 x Marine Generator Drive Engines – 500 HP each

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 – Tuesday: Baltra Island: Baltra Airport // Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Research Station

Day 2 – Wednesday: Genovesa Island: Prince Philip's Steps – El Barranco – Darwin Bay

Day 3 – Thursday: Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Buccaneer Cove / Egas Port

Day 4 – Friday: Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach / Twin Craters and the Highlands

Day 5 – Saturday: San Cristobal Island: Lobos Island / San Cristobal Airport

ITINERARY MAP



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 – Tuesday: Baltra Island: Baltra Airport // Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Research Station



Your Galapagos adventure begins with your arrival at Baltra Airport. After touching down, you'll be greeted and transferred to Santa Cruz Island, where your first stop is the Charles Darwin Research Station. This iconic institution is not only a hub of vital conservation work but also the home of the Galapagos tortoise breeding program. Here, you'll get up close with these enormous, gentle giants, learning about their critical role in the islands' ecosystems and the efforts to protect them for future generations. It's a photographer's dream, so don't forget your camera!

Walking through the station, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the conservation efforts that have helped preserve the unique flora and fauna of the Galapagos. It's the perfect way to kick off your adventure, setting the stage for the incredible wildlife encounters that await you in the days ahead.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 – Wednesday: Genovesa Island: Prince Philip's Steps – El Barranco – Darwin Bay



Your day begins with an adventure to Genovesa Island. Start at Prince Philip's Steps, a steep and rocky stairway that leads to a plateau of dried lava and Palo Santo trees. As you make your way up, you'll be surrounded by Nazca and red-footed boobies, storm petrels, and the occasional Galapagos fur seal nestled among the rocks. The views from the top are spectacular, and a panga ride or kayak along the cliffs offers a unique opportunity to spot marine life and seabirds.

In the afternoon, you'll visit Darwin Bay, where a coral beach and calm waters await. This is the perfect spot for snorkeling, paddleboarding, or kayaking among hammerhead sharks, rays, and colorful reef fish. A short trail leads you through mangroves, with stops to observe red-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. End your walk at a breathtaking viewpoint that offers a panoramic view of the bay's dramatic cliffs.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 – Thursday: Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Buccaneer Cove / Egas Port



Today, you'll explore the beautiful Espumilla Beach on Santiago Island. Its soft white sands and waves create a meringue-like foam, a delightful sight as you stroll along the shore. Sally Lightfoot crabs scuttle across the sand, drawing the attention of pelicans, herons, and other predators. Espumilla is also a prime spot for snorkeling, kayaking, or paddleboarding among a variety of marine life, including sharks, eels, and octopus. Buccaneer Cove adds a historical twist to your day, once frequented by pirates and whalers in search of fresh supplies.

In the afternoon, visit Egas Port, where black sand beaches and volcanic formations dominate the landscape. This is another excellent snorkeling location, but it's also perfect for exploring on foot. A walk along the rocky coastline will lead you past grottos and tide pools where fur seals lounge in the shade. The rich history and rugged beauty of this area make it a memorable stop.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 – Friday: Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach / Twin Craters and the Highlands



In the morning, visit the lovely Bachas Beach on Santa Cruz Island. This beach is known for its white sand, vibrant Sally Lightfoot crabs, and the rusted remains of an old World War II barge, adding a bit of history to your exploration. Snorkeling here offers a chance to swim alongside sea turtles in the crystal-clear waters. The nearby saltwater lagoon is often visited by flamingos, adding a splash of color to the serene surroundings.

In the afternoon, head to the highlands of Santa Cruz to visit the Twin Craters. These impressive, nearly identical craters were formed by the collapse of lava chambers and offer a stunning contrast to the island's coastal landscape. Take a trail around the rims to enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding Scalesia forest, home to a variety of bird species like Vermilion Flycatchers, Darwin's finches, and the elusive short-eared owl.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 – Saturday: San Cristobal Island: Lobos Island / San Cristobal Airport



Your final morning brings you to Lobos Island, aptly named for the sea lions that populate its shores. Here, you'll have the opportunity to snorkel in the calm, clear waters alongside these playful creatures, as well as spot green sea turtles and rays gliding beneath the surface. On land, you can explore trails leading to nesting sites for blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds, making it a perfect spot for birdwatching.

After this last adventure, it's time to say goodbye to the Galapagos as you make your way to San Cristobal Airport for your departure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Included in the price

- All meals, as indicated in the itinerary
- All excursions
- Transfers in the islands
- Bilingual National Park guide
- Use of snorkeling equipment/wetsuit

Not included in the price

- Flights between mainland Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands (Quito–Galapagos–Quito)
- Entrance fee to Galapagos National Park (USD 200 per person)
- Galapagos Immigration Control Card (USD 20 per person)
- Alcoholic and bottled drinks
- Tips & gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Travel/medical insurance (highly recommended)