

Elite Catamaran

Galapagos Cruise Expedition Itinerary A: 8 Days – 7 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



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 – Saturday: San Cristobal Island: San Cristobal Airport – El Junco Lagoon



Upon arrival at San Cristobal Airport, your Galapagos adventure begins! In the afternoon, you'll visit El Junco Lagoon, a stunning crater lake nestled in the highlands of San Cristobal. As you walk up the rocky trail surrounded by lush vegetation, you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the island. The lagoon is a favorite spot for frigate birds, which often swoop down to bathe in its crystal-clear waters, adding to the magical atmosphere.

After soaking in the views and observing the rich wildlife, you'll head back to your yacht for a relaxing evening, ready to continue your exploration of the Galapagos archipelago.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 – Sunday: North Seymour Island / Santa Cruz Island: Dragon Hill



Start your morning on North Seymour Island, home to a vibrant array of birdlife. As you walk through the bushy vegetation, you'll encounter blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, and an impressive colony of frigate birds. The males' bright red chests, puffed up in hopes of attracting a mate, are a sight to behold. Keep an eye out for land iguanas and playful sea lions as well.

In the afternoon, head to Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz Island, aptly named for its large population of land iguanas. As you explore the rocky coastline and cactus-strewn forests, you'll see these prehistoric-looking creatures basking in the sun. The surrounding waters are perfect for snorkeling, where vibrant coral reefs attract a wide variety of colorful fish.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 – Monday: Isabela Island: Tintoreras – Sierra Negra Volcano – Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center – Isabela Wetlands



Your morning starts with a visit to Las Tintoreras, a chain of small islets off the coast of Isabela Island. These dark lava formations are home to a variety of wildlife, making them an ideal spot for water activities like snorkeling, kayaking, and paddleboarding. Expect close encounters with turtles, sea lions, and even penguins as you explore these unique habitats.

In the afternoon, you'll hike up the active Sierra Negra Volcano, home to the world's second-largest caldera. The panoramic views from the top are incredible, offering vistas of the island's other volcanoes. You'll also visit the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center, where two species of giant tortoises are bred to help protect their population. Afterward, stroll through the lush Isabela Wetlands, home to flamingos, stilts, and a variety of migratory birds.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 – Tuesday: Isabela Island: Moreno Point – Urbina Bay



This morning, explore Moreno Point on Isabela Island, a seemingly barren lava field that reveals hidden green lagoons and mangroves as you walk along the trails. This is a fantastic spot for wildlife viewing, with penguins, blue herons, and flamingos frequenting the area. A panga ride or snorkeling session along the rocky shoreline offers opportunities to see green sea turtles and white-tip sharks.

In the afternoon, visit Urbina Bay, a fascinating geological site formed by a volcanic uplift in 1954. As you stroll along the coral-strewn shores, you'll encounter giant land iguanas, Galapagos hawks, and giant tortoises. The waters here are also excellent for snorkeling, with turtles, rays, and tropical fish making their home along the bay's coastline.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 – Wednesday: Fernandina Island: Espinoza Point / Isabela Island: Vicente Roca Point



Start your day at Espinoza Point on Fernandina Island, the youngest island in the Galapagos. This natural paradise is perfect for snorkeling and swimming, where you can observe marine iguanas feeding underwater and colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs crawling across the rocks. On land, explore the walking trails through mangroves and striking black lava formations, home to basking marine iguanas and playful sea lions.

In the afternoon, sail to Vicente Roca Point on Isabela Island, a large bay accessible only by panga. The cooler waters here make it a hotspot for marine life, and snorkeling will reveal whales, dolphins, sea lions, and an array of seabirds, including blue-footed and Nazca boobies.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 – Thursday: Rabida Island / Bartholomew Island



Your morning takes you to Rabida Island, known for its distinctive red sand beach and volcanic cliffs. A panga ride along the shore gives you the chance to spot blue-footed boobies and other seabirds, while the surrounding waters are perfect for snorkeling, where you may encounter white-tipped sharks, rays, and sea lions. Inland, Rabida is a birdwatcher's paradise, home to all nine species of Darwin's finches.

In the afternoon, visit Bartholomew Island and hike up to the summit for panoramic views of Pinnacle Rock and the surrounding lava flows. This is a perfect spot for photography, and the northern beach is a great place to snorkel, with frequent sightings of penguins, spotted eagle rays, and reef sharks.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 – Friday: San Cristobal Island: Kicker Rock – Witch Hill / Giant Tortoises' Reserve



In the morning, explore Kicker Rock, a striking rock formation off San Cristobal Island. Whether you see it as a boot or a sleeping lion, this iconic landmark is sure to impress. Later, head to Witch Hill, a scenic white sand beach offering fantastic snorkeling and birdwatching opportunities. The calm waters are perfect for spotting sea turtles and rays.

In the afternoon, visit the Giant Tortoises' Reserve on San Cristobal Island, where you'll embark on a 5-kilometer hike to see these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. With a population of over 6,000 tortoises, you're bound to encounter several of these gentle giants along with other endemic species such as lava lizards and mockingbirds.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 – Saturday: San Cristobal Island: San Cristobal Interpretation Center – San Cristobal Airport



On your final morning, visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Center, where you'll learn about the natural history, human history, and conservation efforts of the Galapagos Islands. The exhibits provide fascinating insights into the challenges and successes of preserving this unique ecosystem. After exploring the center, you can take a short trail to a viewpoint with stunning ocean vistas.

In the afternoon, it's time to bid farewell to the Galapagos as you head 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)