

Elite Catamaran

Galapagos Cruise Expedition Itinerary B: 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



- 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 – Saturday:** San Cristobal Island: San Cristobal Airport – David Rodriguez Breeding Center
- Day 2 – Sunday:** Española Island: Suarez Point – Gardner Bay – Gardner Islet – Osborn Islet
- Day 3 – Monday:** Floreana Island: Cormorant Point – Champion Islet – Post Office Bay – The Baroness' Lookout
- Day 4 – Tuesday:** Baltra Island: Mosquera Islet // Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Research Station
- Day 5 – Wednesday:** Genovesa Island: Prince Philip's Steps – El Barranco – Darwin Bay
- Day 6 – Thursday:** Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Buccaneer Cove / Egas Port
- Day 7 – Friday:** Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach / Twin Craters and the Highlands
- Day 8 – Saturday:** San Cristobal Island: Lobos Island / San Cristobal Airport

ITINERARY MAP



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 – Saturday: San Cristobal Island: San Cristobal Airport – David Rodriguez Breeding Center



Arrive at San Cristobal Airport and begin your Galapagos adventure with a visit to the David Rodriguez Breeding Center. This center is vital in safeguarding the future of the Galapagos' iconic giant tortoises, providing insight into their evolution and the conservation efforts in place. As you walk through the trails, you'll see baby tortoises being raised in semi-natural conditions, a testament to the dedication to preserving the wildlife of these unique islands.

Explore the center's lush surroundings while learning about the island's commitment to the conservation of its incredible wildlife. After this enlightening experience, you'll head back to your catamaran to settle in for the evening and enjoy your first Galapagos sunset.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 – Sunday: Española Island: Suarez Point – Gardner Bay – Gardner Islet – Osborn Islet



Start your day at Suarez Point on Española Island, where the rich diversity of wildlife will leave you in awe. Follow a circular trail to observe the nesting sites of Nazca and blue-footed boobies, and look out for the magnificent waved albatross, which launches itself dramatically from the cliffs. The island is also home to unique red and green marine iguanas and features stunning blowholes that can shoot water up to 25 meters in the air, creating perfect photo opportunities.

In the afternoon, relax on the pristine white sands of Gardner Bay, where playful sea lions lounge in the sun. Kayaking or paddleboarding in the calm waters gives you a close-up view of the waved albatrosses and sea life. Later, take a short panga ride to Gardner and Osborn Islets for snorkeling, where you can swim among young sea lions and colorful tropical fish, making for an unforgettable underwater experience.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 – Monday: Floreana Island: Cormorant Point – Champion Islet – Post Office Bay – The Baroness' Lookout



Your morning begins at Cormorant Point on Floreana Island, home to two contrasting beaches: one with green-tinted sand due to olivine crystals and another white "flour beach" made of pulverized coral. The saltwater lagoon nearby is frequented by flamingos and other shorebirds, making it a birdwatcher's paradise. Afterward, head to Champion Islet for a snorkeling adventure among diverse marine life, including vibrant fish and playful sea lions.

In the afternoon, visit the historic Post Office Bay, where you can participate in a centuries-old mailing tradition started by British whalers. The beach here offers excellent opportunities for snorkeling and kayaking, while a short trail leads you to The Baroness' Lookout. This volcanic rock formation, named after a mysterious baroness, offers panoramic views of the surrounding mangroves and coastline.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 – Tuesday: Baltra Island: Mosquera Islet // Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Research Station



Start your day with a visit to Mosquera Islet, a flat, sandy islet located between Baltra and North Seymour. This small, tranquil spot is home to a large population of sea lions, shorebirds, and the striking Sally Lightfoot crabs that cling to the rocks. With no fixed trails, you're free to explore this stunning spot on foot, or head into the waters for some snorkeling, where you may encounter turtles, rays, and even sharks.

In the afternoon, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island. This iconic center is crucial in preserving the archipelago's ecosystems, especially through its Galapagos tortoise breeding program. Wander through the station to learn about ongoing conservation efforts and get an up-close view of the giant tortoises. It's the perfect spot to snap some unforgettable photos!

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 – Wednesday: Genovesa Island: Prince Philip's Steps – El Barranco – Darwin Bay



This morning, visit El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps, a rocky stairway leading to a plateau covered in dried lava. Here, you'll encounter Nazca and red-footed boobies, storm petrels, and Galapagos fur seals resting on the cliffs. The surrounding waters are great for kayaking or paddleboarding, giving you a closer view of the cliffs and the wildlife nestled along the edges.

In the afternoon, head to Darwin Bay, a beautiful sand and coral beach. This sheltered area is ideal for snorkeling, kayaking, or paddleboarding among hammerhead sharks, rays, and reef fish. A short trail inland leads you through a tidal lagoon and mangroves, where you'll encounter a variety of land birds, culminating in a viewpoint overlooking the bay's stunning cliffs.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 – Thursday: Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Buccaneer Cove / Egas Port



In the morning, visit Espumilla Beach, a white sand beach on the northern coast of Santiago Island. Its name, meaning "meringue," refers to the foam left by the waves. The beach is teeming with Sally Lightfoot crabs, which attract predatory birds like hawks and herons. Espumilla's waters are perfect for snorkeling or kayaking, where you may spot octopus, eels, and even sharks. Next, head to Buccaneer Cove, an area once frequented by sailors and pirates, now a vital nesting site for turtles.

In the afternoon, visit Egas Port, known for its black sand beach and excellent snorkeling. A walk inland takes you past tidal pools and volcanic grottoes, where Galapagos fur seals often seek shade. Keep an eye out for marine iguanas basking on the rocks and shorebirds foraging along the water's edge.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 – Friday: Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach / Twin Craters and the Highlands



Spend your morning at Bachas Beach on Santa Cruz Island, a gorgeous white sand beach that's a popular nesting site for sea turtles. As you explore the beach, you'll encounter Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, and even flamingos that frequent the nearby saltwater lagoon. Snorkeling here offers the chance to swim alongside sea turtles in the gentle surf.

In the afternoon, visit the Twin Craters and the highlands of Santa Cruz. The craters are formed from collapsed lava chambers and are surrounded by lush vegetation. As you hike along the rims, you'll take in the stunning beauty of the surrounding Scalesia forests. Birdwatchers will enjoy spotting species like Vermilion Flycatchers and Darwin finches.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 – Saturday: San Cristobal Island: Lobos Island / San Cristobal Airport



Your final adventure takes you to Lobos Island, a small islet home to playful sea lions and nesting blue-footed boobies and frigate birds. Snorkeling in the calm waters offers the chance to swim alongside these curious sea creatures, as well as green turtles and rays. It's a peaceful and memorable end to your Galapagos journey.

In the afternoon, you'll return to San Cristobal Airport for your flight home, taking with you memories of the incredible wildlife and landscapes that make the Galapagos so special.

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)