

# ECUADOR - CENTRAL & EASTERN ISLANDS (C) | TREASURE



## INTRODUCTION

Explore the wonders of the Galapagos Islands on the Treasure - a small expedition ship. Circumnavigate the island of Isabela and enjoy landings on Santa Cruz and Santiago. You will see a range of stunning landscapes and spot endemic wildlife that can only be found in this part of the world.

## ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival and Interpretation center

AM - Flight to Baltra Airport (GPS) Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, you will pass through an airport inspection point to insure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands. A guide will meet you, help you collect your luggage, and escort you on a short bus ride to the harbor. PM - Fausto Llerena breeding centre (Santa Cruz) Although the great majority of Galapagos visitors come here to observe and appreciate natural wonders, it is also interesting to learn how the protection and conservation of the islands are carried out. The main attractions are the National Park information center, the Van Staelen Exhibition Hall, the Breeding and Rearing Center for young tor toises, and adult Galapagos tor toises in captivity.



### TRIP CODE

ECATT7C

### DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

### DURATION

7 Days

### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos, South America



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### DAY 2: Eden Islet and Dragon hill

AM - Eden Islet El Edén is a paradisiacal tuff cone islet, just off the west coast of Santa Cruz (between Whale Bay and Dragon Hill). This morning we will disembark to the appropriately named Eden Islet. On its coast you will observe land iguanas and sea lions soaking up the sun, as well as seabirds feeding in the nearby mangrove forests. It is a perfect location for swimming activities, as the clear and calm waters will allow you to snorkel along tropical fish, rays, and two species of sharks. Alternatively, a kayak ride would be a memorable experience. PM - Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz) The visitor site at Dragon Hill has been open for visits on 1993. This site is located in northwestern Santa Cruz Island and consists of a trail that lead to a hyper-saline lagoon behind the beach, frequented by flamingos, pintail ducks and other species of birds. This site has been re populated with land iguanas from Seymour, Isabela and Santa Cruz islands. There is a short walk to the Hill, which offers a beautiful view of the bay.



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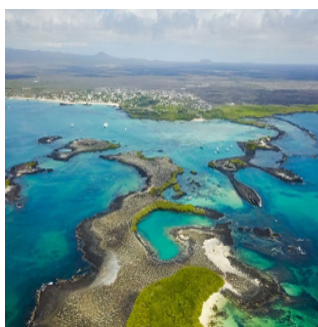
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### DAY 3: Tintoreras and Isabela island

**AM - Tintoreras (Isabela)** A delightful place to be reached by a nice zodiac ride. "Tintoreras" are small islands in front of Puerto Villamil coast. There is Heron lava on the lookout on mangrove branch, and Galapagos Penguin and sea lion often pop out on shore. White-tipped reef sharks are fairly common in the archipelago. Their name in Spanish is Tintorera, thus the name of this site as they are always found here resting in the shallow waters. **PM - Wetlands and Wall of Tears (Isabela)** Isabela Island is the largest and one of the youngest islands in the Galapagos archipelago. We land in Puer to Villamil, which has the second smallest population in Galapagos with approximately 3.000 inhabitants. First we will visit the Flamingos Lagoon; this place is the largest coastal lagoon found in Galapagos and is one of the main reproductive sites for the greater Flamingos. Afterwards we will follow a trail to the "The Wall of Tears"; from 1946 to 1959 Isabela was designated a penal colony by the Ecuadorian government. Prisoners were obligated to build a wall with enormous blocks of lava. Due to the arduous labour and harsh conditions in which the prisoners lived, this site is known as "El Muro de las Lagrimas". There are a number of interesting sites along this route, such as the cerro Orchilla, El Estero, Poza Escondida, Playa del Amor and Pozas Verdes.



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### DAY 4: Moreno point and Tagus Cove

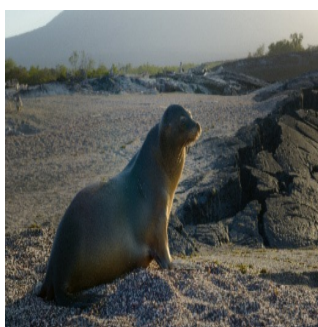
**AM - Moreno Point (Isabela)** Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island between the volcano Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcano. The trail runs along a lava flow Pahohoe (solidified lava in the form of corrugated or an accordion) into a complex of coastal lagoons, its main attraction are several species of birds which can be found around this lakes and mangroves **PM - Tagus Cove (Isabela)** Tagus Cove, a tour along the cliffs in a zodiac will give the visitors a good chance to see the Galapagos penguin, the flightless cormorant and other sea birds. From the landing dock it is about a 30 minute hike along the trail up to the top of the cliff from where you can view Darwin Lake, an uplifted ultra-saline lake saltier than the sea. You can also see several volcanoes from this location. Look carefully at the graffiti on the surrounding cliffs of the cove, it has been written by pirates, whalers and buccaneers in past centuries.



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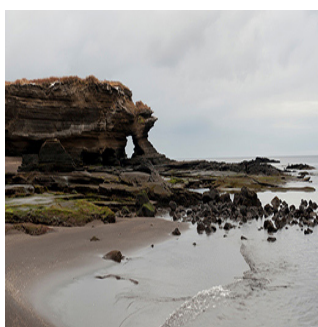
### DAY 5: Espinoza point and Vicente Rock

AM - Punta Espinoza (Fernandina) Fernandina is the third largest island in the archipelago and has a single visitor site: Punta Espinoza located at the northeastern tip of the island. Marine iguanas conglomerate in larger groups than in any other island. They bask around in the sand, swim near the shore and sometime block the way at the landing dock. Among the unique species found here, is the Flightless Cormorant. This bird had to adjust its way of survival and perfection its skills of finding food in the ocean. Their wings, tails and feet progressively adapted for swimming. To see these birds, is to witness evolution happening right in front of you. PM - Vicente Roca Point (Isabela) Whilst having lunch we will cross the Bolivar Channel for the last time to Vicente Roca Point, just at the mouth of Isabela's seahorse-shape. While entering a dark cave below a spectacular arch, roaring echoes of the waves will accompany you. Just around the corner the collapsed amphitheatre of Volcan Ecuador offers another impressive view. The calmer waters of the coves are well-protected against the ocean swell and are a fairly cold, but great place for snorkelling amongst various species of shark, penguins, puffer fish and even seahorses!



### DAY 6: Egas port and Rabida

AM - Egas Port (Santiago) Puerto Egas is a black beach is located at the west side of Santiago Island. Volcanic tuff deposits have favored the formation of this special black sand beach and this is the main attraction of the Island. This site is called Puerto Egas, because there was an attempt of company of Hector Egas, to start the exploitation of salt, which failed because the price of salt on the continent was very cheap, and did not justify its exploitation in Galapagos. The project was abandoned and they left their infrastructure. PM - Rabida Rábida Island is unique because the red color of the rocks and sand. The volcanic material in this island is very porous and external factors as rain, salt water and sea breeze have acted as an oxidizing agent. A short walk along a trail lead us to a coastal lagoon behind the beach permits the observation of land birds as nches, doves, yellow warblers and mocking birds. At the lagoon there is a colony of flamingos.



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DAY 7: Las Bachas beach and departure

AM - Las Bachas (Santa Cruz) These two small beaches are found to the West of Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches there is a small brackish water lagoon, where occasionally is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, but it has two old barges that were abandoned during the Second World War, when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategically point to protect the Panama Channel. Transfer out to Baltra Airport (GPS) Transfer to Baltra Airport (GPS) for your flight back to Guayaquil or Quito.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Accommodation     | Cabin onboard a ship   |
| Inclusions        | <div> <b>INCLUSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodation in double cabin</li> <li>Transfers in the Galapagos and airport assistance</li> <li>All meals during the cruise</li> <li>Water coffee and tea</li> <li>All excursions as per the itinerary*</li> <li>English-Speaking Naturalist guide</li> <li>Snorkelling equipment</li> </ul> </div> <div> <b>EXCLUSIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Return airfares from mainland Ecuador</li> <li>Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change)</li> <li>Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20 per person - Subject to change)</li> <li>Wet suit rental</li> <li>Alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks</li> <li>Personal expenses</li> <li>Gratuities for crew/guides</li> <li>Services not specified</li> </ul> </div> |
| Difficulty Rating | 2 (Light Adventure)  |
| Single Surcharge  | A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please <a href="#">contact us</a> for more information.  |

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|----------------------|---|
| Notes                | <p>All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.</p> <p>Please note water based activities are subject to weather conditions.</p> <p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated).</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>*Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.</p> |
| Price Dependent upon | <p>Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking.</p>   |

SUSTAINABILITY

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