

## Land & Sea: Central Galápagos

9 DAYS • 1 - 20 PEOPLE • FROM 2999 USD • NATURALIST CRUISE

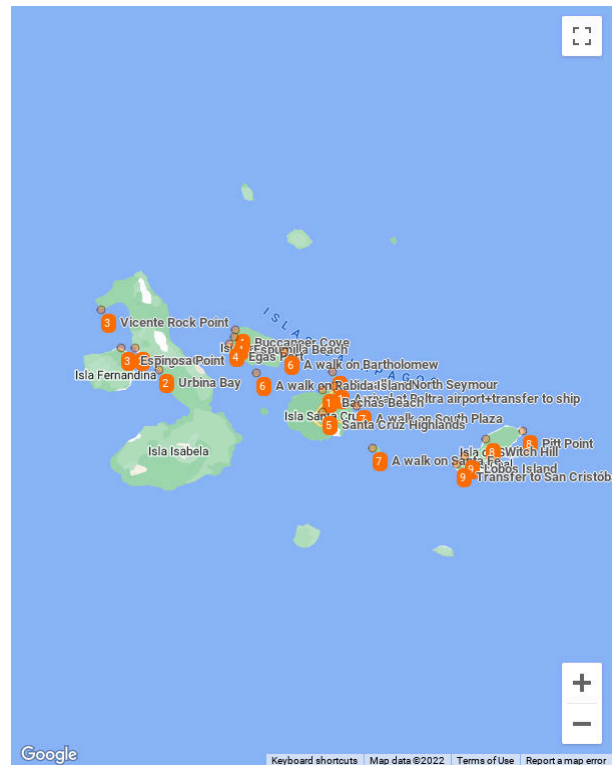
### Galapatours 'Plus' Experience

- Great value for money
- Relaxed, Cosy Feel
- English-speaking guide for all activities
- Lectures in the evening

### The Trip Highlights

#### [See trip](#)

- Scientific insights at C. Darwin Research Station
- Giant Tortoises in the wild on Santa Cruz
- Iconic views during a walk on Bartolomé



Get to know the highlights of Galápagos with this Naturalist cruise on board the beautiful Monserrat! On this Expedition Cruise, you will discover the incredible wildlife of the Galápagos Islands: During your time on Santa Cruz, you will have the chance to observe the famous [Galápagos Giant Tortoises](#) in the wild and learn more about the preservation and scientific study of these amazing animals. On Santiago, an island formerly inhabited by pirates, you will be able to enjoy hikes and dinghy rides.

### Your ship

- Modern mid range motor yacht;
- Large social spaces;
- Only 10 guests per guide;
- Wide choice of short & long itineraries.

Built in 2004 and fully refurbished in 2011, Monserrat is a charming, larger than average Galápagos cruise yacht. Because the Galápagos National Park limit the number of guests that can be taken into the park at 16 per qualified guide, Monserrat's maximum of 20 guests enjoy a more intimate experience. Her two guides mean that you will receive a more personal introduction to the wonders of Galápagos, and after a day of remarkable adventures you can enjoy cruising to your next destination in her comfortable surroundings.

### First Class accommodation

When it comes to motor yachts, size does matter. Because of her this, Monserrat is able to enjoy larger than average cabin sizes, which means you never feel crowded. Her ten delightful staterooms are all double berths and are beautifully decorated in a clean and fresh modern style. Cabins also feature 100V outlets to allow you to charge your devices while you cruise around the Galápagos islands.

All cabins have individual air conditioning, ample closet space, and thoughtful extras such as a hairdryer. You'll enjoy the luxurious bed linens and towels, and the private bathroom with complimentary high-end biodegradable toiletries and a delightful shower.

For those prone to motion sickness, Monserrat's lower deck cabins offer the most comfortable option, as the ship's movements are minimised in this location. Although below the deck line, these cabins are still light and airy thanks to larger than average porthole windows that let the equatorial sun flood in. Upper deck cabins can enjoy lovely views through the large picture windows that have been fitted.

### Wonderful social spaces

Thanks to her extra size, Monserrat boasts some of the largest communal spaces of all Galápagos cruise vessels in her class. The main saloon lounge spans the full width of the boat, and has wonderfully comfortable social couches to each side beneath the panoramic windows.

This is a delightful place to relax and chat about your Monserrat cruise adventures with fellow guests, or to listen to your highly experienced naturalist guide deliver amazing briefings about the flora, fauna and geography of the Galápagos. As well as a large screen TV and DVD player, there is a small reading library and a collection of board games for you to enjoy.

This deck also plays host to the ship's bar, a small boutique and a comfortable dining room. Here you will enjoy a wide range of delicious local and international dishes, freshly prepared by the chef. Most meals are served in a relaxed buffet style, enabling you to help yourself to a selection of tasty dishes.

Outside you are spoilt, with three different sun decks available, including the larger upper solarium, with both shaded and unshaded areas. Perfect for soaking up the sun or watching the stunning Galápagos stars appear in the night sky during your Monserrat cruise.

### Fantastic choice of itineraries

Monserrat's operators have designed a great range of eight, five and four day itineraries, allowing you choose a Galápagos cruise that fits your exact needs. The expert naturalist guides are there to show you the best of the archipelago, and they will make the habitats and wildlife of these wonderful islands really come to life.

The itineraries feature an excellent mix of dry and wet landings, snorkeling, swimming and beach excursions, and both daytime and nighttime sailing, giving you ample opportunities to both explore the Galápagos and enjoy a relaxing cruise experience on board Monserrat.

### Our comments

We're so impressed by how this ship of twenty passengers feels somehow more intimate than most of the sixteen berth boats in the Galápagos cruise fleet! When you add to the mix the increased speed and stability of her bigger hull, and the tiny groups size of only 10 guests per guide, this adds up to a superb adventure cruise experience. The crew are consistently well reviewed, and we love the fresh decor and the great sense of light and space on board. With a big

choice in itineraries, call one of our Galápagos experts today and let us help you choose the perfect Monserrat cruise for you.

### Amenities

- Transfers to and from ship
- Snorkel gear (free of charge)
- 100% CO2 carbon footprint offset
- Air conditioning & private bathroom
- Single travellers can share cabin
- Wetsuits
- -15% for children  $\leq 12$
- All meals throughout the cruise
- Kayaks on board
- Standup paddle boards
- Water, Coffee, Tea & fresh juices
- English guide

## Day 1

### AM

#### **Baltra** • Arrival at Baltra airport+transfer to ship



Welcome to Galápagos! Once your flight has landed and you went through the [immigration process](#), you'll be met in the Arrivals lounge by our English-speaking guide who will take you to your transfer vehicle for the short journey to your waiting ship. [Baltra Island](#), where your arrival airport is, was used as an important Air Force base in the Second World War. This is the primary airport for the Galápagos Islands and you'll be rubbing shoulders with fellow tourists, international naturalists and conservationists, researchers and academics, and Galápagos residents alike. The airport has been built as a "green" airport, and as well as using recycled materials in its construction, it's special design keeps the buildings relatively cool without the need for any air conditioning. Once on board your [ship](#), you will be introduced to the crew and given a welcome briefing as well as an important safety drill. After this you'll be shown to your cabin. While you're served a well-deserved and delicious lunch, the captain will cast off and your adventure truly starts. Note: If you plan to spend a few days prior to the cruise in [Puerto Ayora](#) and want to do the cruise later this is no problem at all. The [transfer from Puerto Ayora to Baltra is very easy](#).

## Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Land Iguana](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)

## PM

### [Santa Cruz](#) • Bachas Beach



The name "Bachas Beach" (or "Las Bachas" in Spanish) actually comes from a mispronunciation! After the second world war, American forces stationed on [Santa Cruz](#) abandoned some of their barges there - "bachas" was the nearest some of the locals could get to pronouncing the English word, and the name has stuck. You can still see the remains of one of the floating docks the soldiers set up on one of the two beaches that make up Las Bachas Beach. This beach is covered in white coral sand, and it's a major nesting site for [Galápagos green turtles](#). There's also a lagoon just behind the sand which often hosts [flamingos](#), [ducks](#) and

migratory birds. You can also often find [marine iguanas](#) feeding on the rocky outcrops near the tide line. The main beach is perfect for swimming, being very sheltered from the ocean swells, and is a very pleasant spot to cool off and to indulge in some snorkeling.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Great Blue Heron](#)
- [Greater Flamingo](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

● Day 2

— AM



## [Isabela](#) • Tagus Cove



Tagus Cove is a sheltered deep-water bay on the western coast of [Isabela Island](#), overlooking [Fernandina](#) Island. This natural anchorage has been a popular destination for ships since the 1800s, and when you come ashore you can see ancient graffiti left by whalers and buccaneers. A steep (but thankfully short) hiking trail then takes you up to the salt water Darwin Lake, formed inside a volcanic cone. How did salt water get all the way up here? Scientists think tsunamis caused by eruptions or landslides on Fernandina may have deposited seawater originally, and then evaporation has made it even more salty over time. From Darwin Lake, a series of 160 steps takes you to a stunning viewpoint where you will not only enjoy amazing views over the Galápagos, but may also see some unique wildlife, such as [Galápagos Hawks](#), [Vermilion Flycatchers](#), and species of [Darwin's Finches](#). Your panga ride along the shoreline back to your ship gives a great opportunity to see [Galápagos Flightless Cormorants](#), [Galápagos Penguins](#), [Galápagos Martins](#), and the friendly [Galápagos Sea Lions](#).

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Vermilion Flycatcher](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Martin](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)

- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Penguin](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Flightless Cormorant](#)

PM

**Isabela** • Urbina Bay



Urbina Bay is one of the youngest features in the [Galápagos](#). It was mainly formed in 1954, when a sudden uplift of the land raised the seabed by over 5 metres, and pushed the coastline over 1 km further away. This has resulted in the astonishing site of heads of coral stranded far from the water. Exposed to the air and elements, the coral heads are rapidly deteriorating and are one of the sights of the Galápagos that won't be around for much longer. Once ashore, a long hiking trail will take you away from the beach and into the island's arid zone. In this habitat, you are likely to see wild [Galápagos Giant Tortoises](#) and [Galápagos Land Iguanas](#). As the trail circles back towards the shore line you'll come across colonies of the unique [Galápagos Flightless Cormorant](#). This is a pleasant area for snorkeling, and as you enter and leave the water you might do so watched by some [Galápagos Penguins](#), who have a colony nearby. This is also one of the best sites to see [Galápagos Marine Iguanas](#) feeding underwater.

**Wildlife you might see**



Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Land Iguana](#)
- [Galapagos Penguin](#)
- [Great Blue Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Yellow-crowned Night Heron](#)
- [Vermilion Flycatcher](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Giant Tortoise](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Flightless Cormorant](#)

## Day 3

AM

### [Fernandina](#) • Espinosa Point



[Fernandina Island](#) has never been colonised by any non-native species, and this makes it one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. Coupled with its young age (Fernandina was only formed a few hundred thousand years ago) this makes a visit to this Galápagos island very special indeed. At Espinosa Point on the northeastern shore of Fernandina the vista is dominated by "La Cumbre", the volcano whose lava fields formed the island. A visit to Espinosa Point is high on many people's list thanks to the number of iconic unique Galápagos species you will see here. As well as the noisy and fun-loving [Galápagos Sea Lions](#), Espinosa Point is a great place to see [Marine Iguanas](#), the wonderful [Galápagos Penguins](#) and the unique and endangered [Galápagos Flightless Cormorant](#). If you are very lucky and keep your eyes skyward you may also catch sight of a [Galápagos Hawk](#) circling overhead looking for its next meal.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Penguin](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)
- [Flightless Cormorant](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)

### PM

[Isabela](#) • Vicente Rock Point



Galapatours clients regularly rate Vicente Rock Point as one of the [best snorkeling and SCUBA diving sites](#) in Galápagos, or perhaps even in the world! There is no landing here, and snorkeling is done directly from the boats. The scenery around the Point is stunning - the remains of two ancient volcanoes made this formation, and the cliffs and caves around the bay provide an amazing backdrop. The bay is well sheltered from ocean swells, making it ideal for snorkelers of any experience. The cold-water currents bring a rich stock of food to these waters, and the bay around Vicente Rock Point is often home to feeding frenzies, with groups of [whales, dolphins, Galápagos Sea Lions](#), tuna, [Blue-footed Boobies](#) and other marine birds all feeding together, making for spectacular sights. Many [boats](#) also take visitors on a panga ride along the shore, offering the chance to explore some of the caves and to encounter some of the other species such as [Galápagos Flightless Cormorants](#) and a small colony of [Galápagos Fur Seals](#).

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Fur Seal](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Robin](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)



- [Sunfish](#)
- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Flightless Cormorant](#)
- [Whales & Dolphins](#)
- [Galapagos Penguin](#)
- [Red-lipped Batfish](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

Day 4

AM

[Santiago](#) • Egas Port



Puerto Egas (Port Egas) is a sheltered landing site at the southern end of [James Bay](#) on the northwestern coast of [Santiago](#). This landing site is the trailhead for two hiking paths. The first trail runs along the coast to visit the so-called "Fur Seal Grottos". The [Galápagos Fur Seals](#) like to seek shade from the equatorial sun, and they prefer rocky shores with caves or other nooks and crannies in which they can keep cool. The grottos here are perfect for them, and the tidal pools are also popular with [Galápagos Marine Iguanas](#) who can be seen feeding in and around them.



The second trail from Egas Port heads inland to the "Salt Mine Volcano". This hike is just under 2 miles long and takes you to the rim of a salt mine crater. This "mine" is actually a small volcanic cone that is filled with a salt water lagoon that dries up in the dry season. At several points in the 20th century individuals or companies attempted to mine salt from it, but without commercial success. The name of your landing site is after the owner of the last company to try salt mining here, Hector Egas. The lagoon is often home to [Galápagos flamingos](#) and other birds, and the wonderful [Galápagos Hawk](#) can often be seen circling above this area.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Yellow-crowned Night Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Vermilion Flycatcher](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [American Oystercatcher](#)
- [Blue-footed Booby](#)
- [Great Blue Heron](#)
- [Greater Flamingo](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)
- [White-cheeked Pintail](#)
- [Galapagos Fur Seal](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Swallow-Tailed Gull](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Gull](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)

PM

**Santiago** • Buccaneer Cove



Sited on the northwest coast of [Santiago Island](#), Buccaneer Cove wasn't named as a romantic fancy, but because it actually was used extensively by pirates, privateers, buccaneers and whalers to set anchor and head ashore. Of all the Galápagos Islands, Santiago was most frequently used as a stop over as it provided easy access to fresh water, wood, and meat. Used since the 1600s as a staging point, the easy-to-catch [Giant Tortoises](#) that lived here became a useful source of protein for the sailors. There was a more strenuous journey required up to the highlands in search of water, but the sheltered cove made this a better location than some of the more open coast elsewhere. Today the steep cliffs above the cove are filled with nesting seabirds, wheeling in the air above the deep red sands of the beach. This is a good site for snorkeling or to stroll along the beach drinking in the sights and sounds of the Galápagos, and you will often find yourself sharing the sand and rocks with sea lions or [Galápagos Fur Seals](#).

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Fur Seal](#)
- [Yellow-crowned Night Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)

- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Gull](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Great Blue Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)

## **Santiago** • Espumilla Beach



Espumilla Beach is located at the northern end of [James Bay](#), a large bay on the northwestern coast of [Santiago](#). This is a pretty beach that is fringed with lush green forests. The beach itself is home to [marine iguanas](#) who feed among the rocks at either end of the beach, and it is a good place to snorkel, with visitors often reporting sightings of [sharks](#), [rays](#) and octopus. This is also a nesting site for Galápagos [green turtles](#). There is an inland hiking trail here that takes visitors past a seasonal lagoon that's often bright green thanks to the algae in the water. Here you can find [Galápagos flamingos](#) and [pin-tail ducks](#). The trail then loops through the arid zone, where you can see further bird species including [Galápagos Hawks](#) that often circle overhead.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [American Oystercatcher](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Yellow-crowned Night Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Vermilion Flycatcher](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Great Blue Heron](#)
- [Greater Flamingo](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)
- [White-cheeked Pintail](#)

● Day 5

— AM



## North Seymour • A walk on North Seymour



North Seymour was formed at the same time as neighboring [Baltra Island](#), and by the same process - an uplifting of undersea lava. This small, flat island has hiking trails throughout, allowing you to explore the arid landscape and to meet the seabirds that call North Seymour home. North Seymour was the site of one of the earliest conservation experiments in the Galápagos. In 1934 a group of [Galápagos Land Iguanas](#) were moved there by Captain Hancock. They have since thrived, and there are now well over 2,500 of them on the island and more than 3,000 on the neighbouring Baltra island. The biggest attraction of North Seymour is its large colony of [Blue-Footed Boobies](#) and its [Frigatebirds](#). These popular Galápagos species are often found together because the Frigatebirds rely on the Boobies' fishing prowess. The Frigatebirds actively steal the Boobies catch to feed themselves! There is also a population of [Marine Iguanas](#) and [Galápagos Sea Lions](#) are frequently spotted. The snorkeling here is also very good, with plenty of marine life to see including [rays](#) and [reef sharks](#).

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Swallow-Tailed Gull](#)

- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Galapagos Land Iguana](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

PM

## [Santa Cruz](#) • Santa Cruz Highlands



[Santa Cruz](#) is the only island on the Galápagos that allows you to travel through every habitat type that exists in the archipelago. This makes the journey north from the coast up into the highlands a fantastic opportunity to experience the breadth of life that exists on these islands. Your bus journey starts from [Puerto Ayora](#) on the coast and you slowly start to climb through the agricultural zone where open fields begin to give way to lush, green, mist-covered forests. This is a marked contrast to many of the islands which are at much lower elevation and much more arid. This rich verdant landscape is predominantly made up of dense Scalesia forest. Your expert Galapatours guide will stop several times along the route to allow you to explore various different sites. Among the stops will be a [Giant Tortoise](#) reserve, and also a visit to the famous lava tubes. Over half a mile long, a walk through these natural volcanic features is eerie and

unforgettable. Also along the way you will stop for refreshments, and you'll be able to try locally-grown Galápagos coffee - we think it's among the best we've ever tasted!

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Barn Owl](#)
- [Vermilion Flycatcher](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Giant Tortoise](#)
- [Galapagos Red Bat](#)
- [Galapagos Racer Snake](#)
- [Galapagos Rail](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Short-eared Owl](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)

● Day 6

— AM



## [Rábida](#) • A walk on Rabida Island



Rabida is a small, steeply-sloped island with red-sand shores, and was originally called Jervis. Despite its small size, Rabida has one of the highest concentrations of volcanic features in the Galápagos, and it's thanks to the iron-rich lava deposits that its sands and soils are so red. After a wet landing on the northern coast you will often see [Galápagos Sea Lions](#) and [marine iguanas](#) around the beach, especially near the sheltered caves in hot weather. Just behind the beach is a nesting site for [brown pelicans](#), who use the saltbush as cover. Rabida is one of the best spots in the archipelago to observe pelicans. Sometimes [flamingos](#) can also be seen in the lagoon here. There is a short hiking trail that leads further inland through Opuntias where there are good opportunities to see land birds like [Darwin's finches](#), [Galápagos Doves](#) and [Galápagos Mockingbirds](#). After your trip inland you can then have a relaxing swim and enjoy some snorkeling, which is very good in the clear waters off the beach. While you swim, you'll be able to see [Blue-Footed Boobies](#) taking off over your head from their cliff-top roosts.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)



- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

PM

## [Bartholomew](#) • A walk on Bartholomew



Bartholomew (known as Bartolomé locally) is the most popular excursion for [Galápagos visitors](#), and its iconic scenery is the most photographed in the whole archipelago. To start your walk on this island you will land in the small bay opposite the famous Pinnacle Rock. You then start the climb to the 375ft peak of Bartholomew. You'll travel along a half mile trail that includes a series of wooden steps that have been built by the National Park Service to protect the ground here from erosion caused by tourists hiking to the summit. When you arrive at the top of island the spectacular views will have made your efforts worthwhile. Your Galapatours expert guide will point out all the landmarks you will see from here - Pinnacle Rock itself, jutting skywards. The huge black lava flows of [Sullivan Bay](#). The islands of [Daphne Major](#) and [Daphne Minor](#). On the way back down, you will be able to recognise the different volcanic formations evident on the island, such as tuff cones and volcanic spatter. You'll also see some remarkable examples of the

Galápagos' ability to highlight the adaptation of species. For example the bushes that all look dead are actually very much alive, with leaves covered with special grey hairs that help to reflect the harsh sun and reduce moisture loss for the plants. Back at the beach there is excellent snorkeling, thanks to the underwater caves and rocks in the area. You will see various [sharks](#), [rays](#) and tropical fish. You may also see [Galápagos Penguins](#) swimming with you!

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Penguin](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Great Blue Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Yellow-crowned Night Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Gull](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

● Day 7

— AM

## South Plaza • A walk on South Plaza



Whilst her twin, North Plaza, is closed to visitors, South Plaza is one of the best visitor sites in the Galápagos thanks to the large number of species present on her small area. The Plazas were formed as the result of a geological uplift, and because this was uneven they both have cliffs on their south sides and low lying shores on their northern coasts. The most noticeable (and noisiest) of South Plaza's residents are her [Galápagos Sea Lions](#), who have a large colony here. Less obvious are her [land iguanas](#) (the smallest in the islands), many [marine iguanas](#) and large numbers and varieties of seabirds. Inland is a mix of scrubby vegetation and giant opuntia cactus forest, providing food for the iguanas. As you follow the circular hiking trail you will come to the summit of the cliffs here where you'll be among countless nesting seabirds.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Swallow-Tailed Gull](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Land Iguana](#)



- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Great Blue Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Red-Billed Tropicbird](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Gull](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

PM

## [Santa Fe](#) • A walk on Santa Fe



Santa Fe is a small, flat island right in the center of the Galápagos archipelago, and is thought to be one of the oldest volcanoes here. Dating of the rocks below the water estimates they were formed almost 4 million years ago. Santa Fe had its own breed of [Giant Tortoise](#) that became extinct at some point in the 1800s due to being hunted for meat. There are two species that are unique to the island still present here - the Santa Fe [Land Iguana](#), and the Santa Fe [Rice Rat](#). There is one visitor site on Santa Fe, and you will have a panga ride to a wet landing on the beach at Barrington Bay on the island's north coast. From here there are two hiking trails. One is a short loop close to the beach that takes you into an Opuntia forest filled with these massive cactus. This is the best opportunity to see the Santa Fe land iguanas and also other species such



as [Galápagos Hawks](#). The second trail is a tougher proposition as it climbs quite steeply to the top of a cliff from where you will enjoy stunning views over the island's unspoilt interior. Back on the beach you can join the [Galápagos Sea Lions](#) who often play in the waves and you can enjoy some wonderful snorkeling in the clear blue-green waters here.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Rice Rat](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Belted Kingfisher](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Land Iguana](#)
- [Galapagos Hawk](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)

● Day 8

— AM

## [San Cristóbal](#) • Pitt Point



Pitt Point, or Punta Pitt, is at the far eastern edge of [San Cristobal](#). Following a wet landing directly onto the beach you'll be welcomed by the friendly and noisy barking of the local colony of [Galápagos Sea Lions](#)! This is actually a bachelor colony of males who haven't held a breeding territory, and they can sometimes be the worse for wear if they have been fighting on one of the breeding beaches elsewhere. After the noise of the beach, a quieter path takes us up the cliffs to a breeding site used by all 3 resident species of booby - the [Blue-Footed](#), [Red-Footed](#) and [Nazca Boobies](#). Nowhere else in the Galápagos do all three species nest side-by-side like this. As well as this unique booby colony you can also see [Galápagos Frigatebirds](#) and [petrels](#). In addition to the wonderful bird life, the view down to the beach and across the island from this high vantage point make the climb worth it. The hiking trail lets you get a close look at the Saltbush and other tough shrubs that manage to survive in this sometimes eerie volcanic landscape. [Your Galapatours guide](#) will be able to explain in detail how hardy plants such as these colonise the lava fields all over the Galápagos.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Belted Kingfisher](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)

- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Red-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

PM

## [San Cristóbal](#) • Witch Hill



The brilliant white coral sand beach at Witch Hill ("Brujo Hill") is, in our opinion, one of the very best in the Galápagos. The hill itself is the remains of a volcanic "tuff cone" - one made up of compacted volcanic ash and debris. This was one of the first sites where Charles Darwin made landfall on his famous journey here on HMS Beagle. This is a wonderful place to see many Galápagos species, both in the sea and on the land and in the air. Among the creatures you are likely to see on a visit to Brujo Hill are [Galápagos Sea Lions](#), [marine iguanas](#), [pelicans](#), and [Galápagos Blue-Footed Boobies](#). It's possible to walk right along the beach at a leisurely pace, taking in everything around you. We really recommend you snorkel here, and if you do you'll be

rewarded with likely sightings of [Galápagos rays](#), [green sea turtles](#), sponge coral and a wide range of beautiful fish. If you aren't a swimmer, then a panga ride will still let you see plenty of wildlife thanks to the crystal clear waters off this stunning beach.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)
- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Galapagos Shearwater](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Heron](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [American Oystercatcher](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)

● Day 9

— AM



## [San Cristóbal](#) • Lobos Island



Lobos Island is named after the colony of [Galápagos Sea Lions](#) that live here, but they aren't the only native Galápagos species that calls this narrow island home. You can see [Galápagos Fur Seals](#) basking here, and there is a nesting colony of [Blue-Footed Boobies](#) that come to Lobos each year to raise their chicks. There are one or two short hiking trails that lead into the center of the island, and this is always a peaceful place to visit. [Galapatours visitors](#) tell us it's one of their favorite visitor sites to just sit and soak up the Galápagos atmosphere. Back on the beach, the swimming and snorkeling is wonderful, and thanks to the island's position close to the main shore of [San Cristobal](#), the channel between them is sheltered and the turquoise water is crystal clear. This is a Galapatours favorite spot, so speak to one of our [Galápagos specialists](#) if you want help choosing an itinerary that includes a visit to this special place.

### Wildlife you might see

Please be aware that wildlife sightings are never guaranteed and depend on seasons.

- [Darwin's Finches](#)
- [Belted Kingfisher](#)
- [Galapagos Fur Seal](#)
- [Galapagos Sea Lion](#)
- [Galapagos Marine Iguana](#)
- [Nazca Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Dove](#)
- [Brown Pelican](#)

- [Galapagos Petrel](#)
- [Blue-Footed Booby](#)
- [Galapagos Sting Rays](#)
- [Galapagos Frigatebirds](#)
- [Galapagos Mockingbird](#)
- [Red-lipped Batfish](#)
- [Galapagos Green Turtle](#)
- [Galapagos Lava Lizard](#)

PM

**[San Cristóbal](#)** • Transfer to San Cristóbal airport



It's sadly time to make the very short trip to the airport for your flight back to the Ecuador mainland. Your Galapatours guide, who will have been with you throughout [your adventure](#), will accompany you back to the departures area, giving you one final chance to tap into their excellent local knowledge and unrivalled experience. Note: If want to spend some time in Galápagos after your cruise, please let us know. This is no problem at all and the [transfer from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno to the airport and back couldn't be easier](#).

What is included

- ✓ All meals onboard (International and Ecuadorian Cuisine). Almost all dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice - please ask us about your needs.
- ✓ Snorkeling sessions - whenever possible and allowed by the National Park.
- ✓ Extensive Zodiac Rides to explore the shorelines and mangrove forests from close up.
- ✓ All transport to and from the ship: Pick-up by your guide directly from the airport (if you arrive at the first day) and drop-off by your guide directly to the airport (if you leave on the last day).
- ✓ English-speaking naturalist guides with you at all times during the excursions.
- ✓ Briefings in the evening, during which your guide will explain what you can expect from your next day.
- ✓ Lectures in the evenings about a variety of topics, including Geology, Marine Biology, Natural History, Human History, and more.
- ✓ Entry costs to museums, research stations, breeding stations, etc.
- ✓ We offset 100% of all CO2 emissions caused by your trip, including all transport, your cruise and your flights (should you choose to book them through us). Carbon offset is achieved through a Gold Standard Climate Protection Project. [Learn more](<https://www.galapatours.com/about-us#sustainability>)

### What is not included

- ✗ Galápagos National Park Fee: 100USD, payable in cash upon arrival at the airport in Galápagos (please see our FAQ)
- ✗ INGALA Luggage Check Fee at the airport on the mainland: 20USD (please see our FAQ)
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages onboard (please see our FAQ)
- ✗ Bottled soft drinks onboard (Coke, Sprite etc.)
- ✗ Tips & Gratuities for your Guide and Crew (please see our FAQ)
- ✗ Travel Health Insurance