

TEA-GGSI4n Galapagos Island Hopping 4 nights: Santa Cruz & Isabela

Itinerary

Day 1: Baltra Island - Santa Cruz Island

Arrival in the Galapagos

Today we arrive in Baltra Island, the gateway to the Galapagos. This tiny island was a military base during the Second World War and hosts the Islands' principal airport. The airport was built using the most advanced environmental techniques to reduce emissions and energy use, some of which you'll notice as you walk through the facility. This was the first ecological airport in the world.

We dive into our adventure as soon as we arrive! We enter the airport through a special VIP lounge where you will have a chance to change clothes, put on some sunscreen and get a cool drink before we transfer to the Itabaca Channel to explore its spectacular turquoise waters. We will have a chance to kayak, snorkel and stand up paddleboard (SUP), as well as encountering some of the most famous Galapagos wildlife such as blue-footed boobies, sea lions, brown pelicans, a variety of herons and white-tipped reef sharks.

There's no better introduction to the Galapagos than to get on the water as soon as possible! We will glide through beautiful red mangrove forests and along lava rock cliffs on water so clear we can see the marine life in the shallows. Oceanic (sit on top) kayaks come in doubles or singles, and life jackets are provided. A support boat will escort us throughout our water activities to ensure safety and to provide water, snacks and towels between activities.

Technical Details:

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Kayak: 1.5-2 hours depending on fauna activity and skills of kayakers

Means of Transportation: boat, kayak, stand up paddleboard and private transportation to Galapagos Magic.

From the Itabaca Channel we head up to the Santa Cruz highlands to a private reserve that borders the Galapagos National Park, where we can see the famous Giant Tortoises roaming in the wild.

After lunch we drive to our exclusive giant tortoise reserve where our tented camp is located. Perched high on a hillside overlooking the ocean, Galapagos Magic Tented Camp will be our home for the next two nights. The sounds of nature will serenade us in the evenings, and the Milky Way will be our night-light. We'll be able to feast our eyes on the mountains and forests surrounding the Camp, and enjoy the peace of having the entire hillside for us, with the exception of seasonal residents giant tortoises.

Watching the colorful sunset from Magic's western perch is the perfect segue into evening. Dinners are sumptuous three course affairs, prepared by expert chefs in an open-air kitchen in the main lodge.

Night at Galapagos Magic (Standard Tent)

Includes: English speaking guide, private transportation, guided excursion, Airport VIP services, kayaks, lunch, dinner and accommodation at Galapagos Magic.



Day 2: Navigable Tour to neighbor island

Navigable Tour to neighbor islands (shared basis activity)

Embark our motor yacht and enjoy of a daily excursion with a welcoming crew members and knowledgeable naturalist guide, and experience the remote islands in comfort and style.

Our daily excursions will take you to experience the Galapagos Islands in a safe and comfortable manner.

We can visit North Seymour and Bachas, South Plazas, Santa Fe Island or Bartolome and Sullivan Bay.

** These excursions are subject to availability and change without prior notification



Night at Galapagos Magic (Standard Tent)

Includes: breakfast, English speaking guide, private transportation, box lunch, guided excursion, dinner and accommodation at Galapagos Magic.

Day 3: Santa Cruz Island - Isabela Island

Isabela Island

Today we take an early morning speedboat to Isabela Island where we will check into our hotel. Our adventure begins with a tour of the Tintoreras, a group of small islands close to the town of Puerto Villamil. The islands are named after the white-tipped 'Tintoreras' reef sharks that swim in these calm waters. On the Tintoreras we will see almost all the archipelago's iconic wildlife: white-tipped reef sharks, sea lions, turtles, rays, penguins, and of course pelicans and blue-footed boobies. This is a Galapagos in miniature! After walking on the island, we will have a chance to snorkel in the bay. Don't be surprised if some of the penguins or sea lions jump in to play alongside you in the water!

In the afternoon we will bike the Wetlands Trail, where we can see marine iguana colonies and a number of different types of mangrove trees (all four species can be seen here) as well as enjoying the network of trails, beaches and historic sites. At the end of the trail is the 'Wall of Tears', built in the late 1940's by Second World War prisoners held at the former US base on the island. Our guide will explain the importance of the Wall, giving us a glimpse into the lives of the island's previous inhabitants. On this network of trails you will enjoy some beautiful views of the village below and have the chance to see birds, and maybe even some wild giant tortoises.



Night at Isamar Hotel (Standard Room)

Includes: breakfast, guided excursion, English speaking guide, private transportation, equipment rental, lunch, dinner and accommodation

Day 4: Isabela Island

Hiking day!

Volcanic eruptions created all the Galapagos Islands, and you will have a chance to see this geologic process first-hand as we explore Isabela, one of the archipelago's youngest and most volcanically active islands.

We have the whole day to explore the Isabela highlands, and we start by hiking up to the crater of the massive Sierra Negra volcano, and then onward to the rim of the Volcan Chico. This fascinating walk usually begins with some morning fog and drizzle, which sometimes persists in the shadow of the volcano, adding to its mysterious character. Despite the drizzle, we may see Galapagos Hawks, finches, flycatchers and Short Eared Owls en route.

When we reach the rim of the Sierra Negra crater, the second largest in the world after the Ngorongoro in Tanzania, we will see the reward for our efforts. The crater is so large, and the views so expansive, photos can't do it justice, but bring your binoculars and camera anyway! Later, as we head towards Volcan Chico, we may get the feeling we are walking on Mars due to the alien landscape. And while the land appears to be utterly desolate, a closer look will reveal small lizards scurrying about among the rocks. From the crater's rim, we will enjoy more amazing views along with lava tubes and fumaroles.

After Volcan Chico and its extreme landscape, we will be able to relax in the shade of a lovely "jaboncillo" tree, and enjoy our box lunch while taking in the spectacular and expansive views over the central and northern parts of the island. In the distance, we will be able to see Fernandina, Pinzon and Santa Cruz Islands. We then head back down to complete our day of hiking (16 kilometers / 9.94 miles in total) and relax on the beaches of Puerto Villamil.



Night at Isamar Hotel (Standard Room)

Includes: breakfast, guided excursion, English speaking guide, private transportation, lunch, dinner and accommodation

Day 5: Isabela Island - Santa Cruz Island - Baltra Island

Departure day

Today we take an early morning speedboat back to Santa Cruz and then transfer by land to Baltra for our onward journey or flight back home.



Includes: breakfast, English speaking guide and private transportation.

hotels

Galapagos Magic

Hotel Galapagos Magic
Galapagos, galapagos, Ecuador

Galapagos Magic is a million miles from the world's hustle and bustle. Set in the highlands of Santa Cruz (and away from the waterfront crowds), this totally unique property surprises and delights. All six safari tents have gorgeous views, and guests are surrounded by nature as they sleep. Galapagos Magic is a place to relax, walk the beautiful mountainside, turn your gaze to the beautiful heavens and to admire nature. Giant tortoises call Galapagos Magic their home much of the year, and guests might see a handful slowly moving through the grounds or many dozens dotting the meadow.

Sunsets from Galapagos Magic are, well, magic! Enjoying the last light of day with a cocktail on the meadow deck is a relaxing pastime, as is sharing stories of the days' adventures in front of the open-air main lodge's crackling fire. Magic serves sumptuous, three course dinners. The chefs use their culinary skills in the open kitchen to turn local ingredients into creative and elegant dishes. An after dinner stroll to the 'Lava Lounge' for a nightcap is the perfect way to end the day.

Capacity – 20 people
4 elevated tree houses
6 raised, walk-in tents
Hot water
Wireless Internet
Laundry service



ISAMAR

Hotel Isamar
Isabela Island, galapagos, Ecuador

IsaMar Hotel is idyllically located on Isabela's beautiful white sand beachfront. Its setting gives guests sweeping views of Pacific waves, swaying palm trees and boats bobbing on the water. The beautiful Galapagos retreat is walking distance to the tortoise breeding center, the flamingo lagoon, water activities and to the sandy streets of town where guests will find bakeries, restaurants and bars.

IsaMar's rooms are the perfect base for exploring Isabela's wonders. Hearty meals are available to keep visitors going on hikes and water activities, and outdoor social areas are ideal for taking a siesta, reading a book or stargazing late into the evenings.

IsaMar features:

- Beachfront location
- Capacity – 10 rooms in five blocks
- Full service restaurant and bar
- Outdoor social areas
- WiFi
- safe box
- hot and cold water
- air conditioning
- hair dryer
- night stand
- night light
- sofa
- one queen bed and one twin bed
- bathroom amenities.



Included: Accommodation, All meals, AirportVIP services on arrival, Transfers& ground transportation, Boat excursionswith snorkeling on a sharing basis, Speed boat transfer on a sharing basis,Kayak, SUP and snorkeling equipment, English-speaking naturalist guide,Activities and visits detailed in the itinerary

Not Included: Flights (all flights from mainland Ecuador tothe Galapagos Islands can be arranged upon request), Galapagos National Parkentrance fee (US \$100 per adult/\$50 per child under 12), tourist transit card(US \$20 per person), Beverages, Laundry service, Insurance (prior to yourjourney please ensure your travel insurance is valid in your country oforigin), Gratuities

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