Itinerary

11 Day Wonders of the Galapagos Cruise

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Arrive Quito, Ecuador

Welcome to Quito, the vibrant capital of Ecuador! Upon your arrival at Quito's international airport, you will be warmly greeted by a representative who will assist with your transfer to your hotel. Along the way, you'll catch glimpses of this charming city nestled high in the Andes, renowned for its rich history and stunning colonial architecture.

Once you've checked in, take some time to relax and unwind after your journey. Whether you choose to rest in the comfort of your hotel or step outside to explore the local area, the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace. Quito's welcoming atmosphere and scenic surroundings are the perfect introduction to your upcoming adventures. Prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey starting tomorrow!

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT: Ikala Quito Hotel, Quito or similar

Day 2: Quito: City Tour & Middle of the World

After enjoying a delicious breakfast, embark on a guided tour of Quito, a city steeped in history and culture. As a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, Quito's historic centre offers a treasure trove of architectural and cultural wonders. Wander through its cobblestone streets, admire the stunning colonial-era buildings, and visit some of its most iconic landmarks, such as the Basilica del Voto Nacional, a Gothic masterpiece, and the ornate San Francisco Church, and the beautiful La Compañía de Jesús Church, renowned for its ornate gold interior. Along the way, your guide will share fascinating stories about the city's history and its blend of indigenous and Spanish influences.

In the afternoon, journey to the Middle of the World monument (La Mitad del Mundo), located just north of the city. Here, you can stand with one foot in each hemisphere at the equatorial line, an experience that perfectly combines science, history, and fun. Learn about the cultural and geographical significance of this location, and don't forget to take memorable photos to mark the occasion. You may also explore the nearby museum to discover more about the local traditions and scientific experiments related to the equator.

Return to your hotel in the evening to relax and reflect on a day filled with incredible experiences. Prepare for the adventures that await in the days ahead.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Ikala Quito Hotel, Quito or similar

Day 3: Quito ~ Galápagos Islands: Santa Cruz Island

Start your day with breakfast before transferring to the airport for your flight to the enchanting Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by a representative who will assist with your transfer to the cruise ship that will be your home for the next few days. After checking into your cabin, attend a welcome briefing where the crew will provide an overview of the cruise itinerary and important information to ensure you make the most of your journey through this extraordinary archipelago. Take some time to settle in and prepare for the incredible adventure ahead.

This afternoon, your Galápagos adventure begins with a visit to the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Here, the scenery transitions from arid lowlands to a vibrant green landscape. Walk through volcanic craters, explore fascinating lava tunnels, and encounter wild giant tortoises roaming freely in their natural habitat. The Highlands offer an incredible opportunity to experience the island's unique geology and biodiversity up close, setting the tone for the extraordinary journey ahead.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: M/Y Galaxy Orion

Day 4: Galápagos Islands: Isabela Island – Tintoreras & Wetlands

Start your day with a visit to Tintoreras, a cluster of islets just off Isabela Island. This area is known for its calm turquoise waters and the abundance of marine life, including white-tip reef sharks, marine iguanas, and Galápagos penguins. A short trail offers stunning views of the bay and lava formations.

Explore the Wetlands, a network of lagoons, mangroves, and swamps teeming with birdlife, including flamingos and stilts. Continue to the Interpretation Centre, where you'll learn about Isabela’s history, geology, and conservation efforts. This visit provides a deeper appreciation for the island’s unique ecosystem.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: M/Y Galaxy Orion

Day 5: Galápagos Islands: Isabela Island – Moreno Point & Elizabeth Bay

Discover Moreno Point, a striking landscape of lava flows interspersed with lagoons. This area is a haven for birdwatchers, offering frequent sightings of flamingos, pintail ducks, and herons. The surrounding volcanic terrain and panoramic views create a surreal atmosphere.

Head to Elizabeth Bay, where you’ll navigate serene mangrove channels. Keep an eye out for sea turtles, rays, and even Galápagos hawks. The quiet beauty of this area highlights the importance of preserving these delicate ecosystems.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: M/Y Galaxy Orion

Day 6: Galápagos Islands: Fernandina & Isabela Islands ~ Mangle Point & Urbina Bay

Visit Mangle Point, located on Fernandina Island. This pristine site offers excellent snorkelling, where you may encounter sea lions, marine iguanas, and vibrant fish. The surrounding waters are rich in marine biodiversity, providing an unforgettable underwater experience.

Travel to Urbina Bay on Isabela Island, known for its dramatic geological uplift. Walk through a coastal trail where you'll see giant tortoises and colourful land iguanas amidst lush vegetation. This area also offers spectacular views of the surrounding volcanoes.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: M/Y Galaxy Orion

Day 7: Galápagos Islands: Isabela & Fernandina Islands ~ Tagus Cove & Espinoza Point

Begin your day at Tagus Cove, a historic anchorage site for whalers and pirates. Hike up a trail to a viewpoint overlooking Darwin Lake, a saltwater lagoon surrounded by volcanic cliffs. The cove also offers opportunities for kayaking and snorkelling, where you might spot rays, turtles, and penguins.

Visit Espinoza Point on Fernandina Island, one of the most untouched islands in the archipelago. The area is home to flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, and vibrant Sally Lightfoot crabs. The volcanic landscape here is otherworldly, providing a stark contrast to the lush ecosystems of other islands.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: M/Y Galaxy Orion

Day 8: Galápagos Islands: Santiago Island ~ Egas Point & Buccaneer Cove

Explore Egas Point, known for its black sand beaches and striking tidal pools. This coastal area is rich in marine life, including sea lions, marine iguanas, and shorebirds. The unique geological formations here create a dramatic backdrop for your exploration.

Discover Espumilla Beach, a golden sand beach popular with nesting sea turtles. Then, visit Buccaneer Cove, a historic hideout for pirates. The cliffs and rock formations are striking, and the area is teeming with seabirds. Both sites offer excellent opportunities for swimming and snorkelling.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: M/Y Galaxy Orion

Day 9: Galápagos Islands: Genovesa Island ~ El Barranco & Darwin Bay

Visit El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps, on Genovesa Island. This steep trail leads to a plateau rich in birdlife, including red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, and Nazca boobies. The dramatic cliffs provide breathtaking views of the ocean.

Head to Darwin Bay, a scenic cove surrounded by cliffs and coral sand beaches. This area is a sanctuary for nesting birds and offers snorkelling opportunities where you may spot reef sharks, rays, and colourful fish.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: M/Y Galaxy Orion

Day 10: Galápagos Islands: North Seymour Island

Conclude your Galápagos journey with a visit to North Seymour Island, renowned for its abundant wildlife. Observe the courtship displays of blue-footed boobies, the nesting habits of frigatebirds with their vibrant red throat pouches, and playful sea lions along the rocky shore. The island's walking trails provide an excellent opportunity to see the unique species that make the Galápagos so special.

After your exploration, bid farewell to the Galápagos and prepare for your departure, carrying with you unforgettable memories of this remarkable archipelago.

Afterwards, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, you can utilise the hotels airport shuttle to transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to relax, explore the city, or indulge in some last-minute shopping. This is your chance to soak up the charm of Quito one final time before concluding your adventure.

Enjoy a restful evening as you prepare for your onward journey the following day.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Wyndham Airport (Deluxe Room), Quito or similar

Day 11: Depart Quito

Start your final day with breakfast at your hotel before checking out. Transfer to the airport will utilise the hotels airport shuttle.

As you leave, reflect on the incredible memories you've created during your time in Ecuador—from exploring the historic streets and landmarks of Quito to marvelling at the extraordinary wildlife and breathtaking landscapes of the Galápagos Islands.

Take with you not only photos and souvenirs but also the stories of your adventures, the wonders of nature you've witnessed, and the cultural experiences you've embraced.

Safe travels, and we hope to welcome you back to Ecuador for more unforgettable experiences in the future!

MEALS: Breakfast