

Wildlife Galapagos Eclipse Galapagos Cruise



Deluxe class small ship – forty eight passengers – lots of space - comprehensive itinerary – sea kayaks – regular family departures – beautiful cabins – outdoor Jacuzzi – delicious food – single and triple cabins

Explore the unique Galapagos aboard the most comfortable of small ships.

Choose from two great cruise routes taking you to outer islands.

Lots of opportunity to walk, snorkel and sea kayak on each day of your trip.

Smart Voyager certified for a sustainable and low impact experience.

Four expert guides plus a cruise director look after the 48 passengers.

This is a Pura holiday with an activity level of *low* and a comfort rating *premium*.



Your 210 foot deluxe boat, Eclipse.



"Everything was amazing - the crew was just incredible - so accommodating. Everything was perfectly organised." Andrew V.

Eclipse, cruise options

Eclipse's main start date is a Saturday. However, like all boats in the Galapagos, she now operates on a 14-night circuit so you can join her between:

Days 01 - 08 (seven nights, Espanola route)

Days 08 - 15 (seven nights, Genovesa route)

Days 01 - 15 (14 nights, full route)

Please note, 5 night cruises (days 01-06) are sometimes possible. Please call to discuss.



Isabela Island: a tiny Galapagos penguin looks on

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | North Seymour | to the Galapagos

Fly to the Galapagos early this morning, a flight of around three hours since the islands are some 600 miles offshore.

When you arrive in the islands, you pay the national park entrance fee before heading down to the dock to board your boat.

Please note: the following route is subject to change by the Galapagos National Park authorities.

Guides meet you at the airport, collect your luggage and escort you on the short bus ride to the harbour.

Small motorized rafts, called 'Pangas' take you out to the M/V Eclipse where the crew welcome you onboard.

After a safety briefing and lunch set off towards your first visit – North Seymour, an uplifted island which is home to large colonies of blue footed boobies and frigate birds.

Along the coast sea lions and marine iguanas surf on the waves. (l,d)

Day 02 | South Plaza | sea lions & iguanas

Santa Fé is one of the oldest Galapagos Islands and one of the few that is not volcanically active.

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Wildlife Galapagos

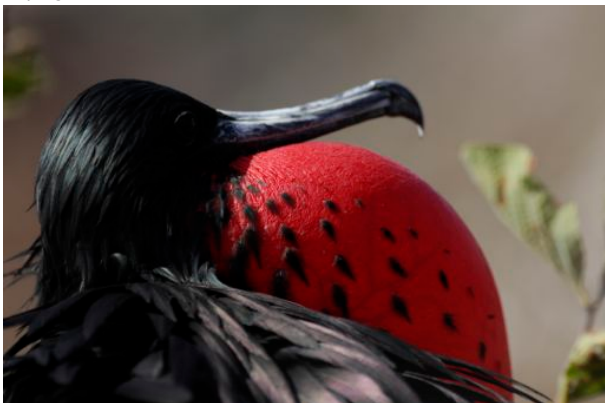
Eclipse Galapagos Cruise



Snorkel with sea turtles



Sally Lightfoot crab on lava



A frigate bird with distinctive inflated throat.



A giant tortoise on Santa Cruz Island

Get into the zodiacs (small boats) to explore the coastline around Elizabeth Bay.

First stop is a couple of small rocky outcrops where you should see penguins living alongside marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies.

Carry on in-shore to a series of mangrove rimmed lagoons. Cut off the engines as you drift in the silence of the late afternoon looking for sea turtles, sharks and penguins in this unusual setting. (b,l,d)

Day 06 | Santa Cruz | **giant tortoises**

Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station first thing today to learn about their breeding, conservation and education programs.

Walk amongst giant land tortoises in the extensive enclosures of the centre.

Meet 'Not-So-Lonesome George', long thought to be the last of the Pinta Island giant tortoise sub-species but now apparently joined by a new species mate, called Eva. See how George & Eva are getting on.

After lunch, drive up to the Santa Cruz highlands to see giant tortoises in the 'wild'.

Really this is a farmer who has created a network of trails on his land where you will usually find giant tortoises.

Interesting but probably the most crowded part of your time in the Galapagos and the most stage-managed.

Visit some very pretty rock formations and walk through the mature vegetation of the highlands. This is likely to be the most greenery you see all week. (b,l,d)

Day 07 | Espanola | **sea birds and sea lions**

Start today with a landing on 'sea lion beach'. This is your first chance to get into the water – you can snorkel if you like but really it's just a lovely swimming beach.

All along the sand are sea lions basking in the sun.

Wander along the beach and enjoy watching them play in the surf.

Return for lunch on board and an hour or so navigation to the next landing site on the west of the island.

Mid-afternoon snorkeling excursion to the nearby bay where you might get to swim with sea lions.

Walk to the rugged cliffs of Punta Suarez to see a spectacular blow-hole.

Along the way you should see a broad spectrum of birdlife, including blue-footed boobies, Galapagos hawks and albatrosses. (b,l,d)

Day 08 | Santa Cruz | **Black Turtle Cove**

Today is a changeover day so there will be people leaving and joining the ship today.

Get up early this morning to paddle through mangroves in the dawn light.

Black Turtle Cove is a complex maze of tranquil salt-water inlets, surrounded by three different species of mangrove.

Its waters are a nursery site for sea turtles, rays and sharks as well as a nesting site for sea birds. This site is only accessible by boat. (b,l,d)

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Eclipse's Genovesa route



Some exceptional luck on a kayak trip!



Santa Cruz Island: giant tortoises size each other up.



Bartolomé Island: the view from the top of the 365 steps.

Day 09 | Rabida | snorkel with sea lions

Visit the small island of Rábida with its red volcanic rocks surrounding a beautiful red sand beach.

Walk amongst the sea lion colony and a pelican nesting site. The trail leads to a salt water lagoon where shore birds can be seen.

Rábida is one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galapagos Islands, you also have the opportunity to go kayaking.

Later, walk along the coastline of Santiago Island to see Galapagos fur seal basking in pools along the shoreline.

The water here is improbably pretty and this is one of the few places in the islands where you have a degree of freedom to wander.

Return to the beach for some great snorkeling. Here you might be swimming with Galapagos and white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, sea lions and a colourful variety of fish. (b,l,d)

Day 10 | Fernandina | marine iguanas

Land today on the youngest of the Galapagos Islands, Fernandina.

Here you walk to the jagged lava of Punta Espinosa to see marine iguanas on the rocks.

You may well need to watch where you are treading as there are lots and lots of them piled up against each other for warmth. You may see hawks and flightless cormorants. (b,l,d)

Day 11 | Isabela | explore mangroves

Start today with a walk on Isabela to see if you can see giant tortoises in the wild. You will almost certainly see land iguanas along the way.

Return to the beach to swim or snorkel directly offshore. Rays, sea turtles and sharks may be seen.

This afternoon stop off on the northern end of Isabela and the great snorkelling site of Punta Vicente Roca.

You will usually see turtles as well as all kinds of fish.

After the snorkeling go on a panga ride along the shore to see some of the Galapagos' spectacular geological rock formations up close.

You also often see Nazca boobies, pelicans, swallow-tailed gulls, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants and penguins. (b,l,d)

Day 12 | Isabela | sea birds & sea lions

Land in Urbina Bay this morning, where four miles of coastal seabed is exposed due to a dramatic uplift in 1954 when the volcano erupted.

The marine remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high, are visited after a wet landing on the beach. Return to the beach to swim or snorkel directly offshore possibly with rays, sea turtles and sharks.

For those of you less inclined to swim, you can take time to relax and read a book on the beach.

Visit to Punta Vicente Roca, an amazing geological site on Isabela Island which lies almost on the equator.

It is an outstanding example on how the Islands were formed and how the forces of change have transformed the landscape and shaped the wildlife.

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Space to relax on the upper sun deck.



High quality buffet meals served in very comfortable surroundings.



Meals may be served indoors or outdoors.



Explore the dramatic coastline in zodiacs as you look for wildlife both above and below the water. When the waters are calm enough the snorkelling is great as the walls of the tuff cones are full of colourful invertebrates and rich algae which sea turtles love to eat. (b,l,d)

Day 13 | Santa Cruz | **Chato Reserve**

Clients joining the boat today will arrive and go straight to the first excursion, El Chato Reserve, another great spot to see wild tortoises.

You may also spot some highland birds, like cattle egrets, mockingbirds, finches or flycatchers. There are several lava tunnels in the reserve, which give a good chance of spotting the barn owl.

In the afternoon, there will be the chance to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station again, or simply relax on the boat or explore Puerto Ayora. (b,l,d)

Day 14 | Genovesa | **sea birds & sea lions**

The morning starts with a panga ride along the cliffs to disembark at Prince Philip's Steps (dry landing) for a steep climb (90 feet) and then a flat walk to the other side of this small island.

Here you will see large colonies of masked boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels. Anchor at Darwin Bay in Tower Island.

After lunch (wet landing), take an easy stroll observing thousands of bird life, mainly frigate birds, red footed and masked boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds.

If you wish you can continue walking over sharp lava and uneven terrain, or just go back to the beach to enjoy swimming and snorkeling at this beautiful natural harbor.

Those most adventurous can snorkel along the cliffs or ride sea kayaks. (b,l,d)

Day 15 | travel | **Pinnacle Rock**

Wake up at the small, barren outcrop of Isla Bartolomé. Walk up to the top of the island on a wooden walkway for beautiful views across the islands.

Head back down the hill to snorkel around the base of Pinnacle Rock. The visibility here is amongst the best of the week and you might be lucky enough to swim with penguins and sharks.

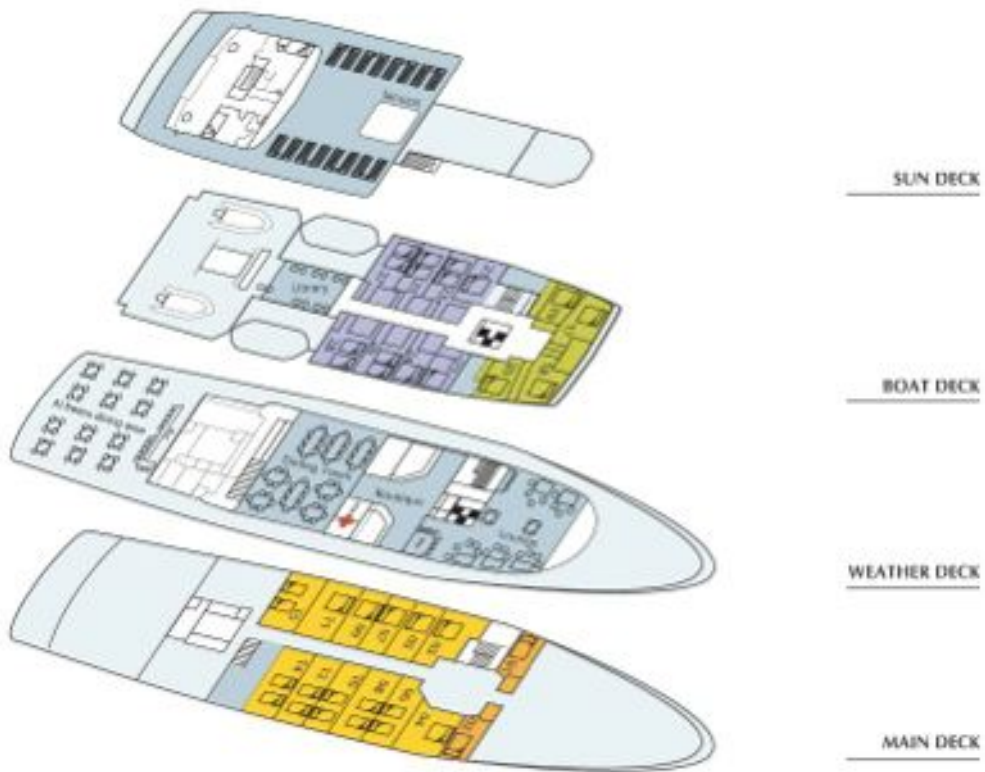
Sail back to Baltra to complete your journey around the islands as you fly back to the mainland. (b)

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Holiday Information

Pura's opinion

Eclipse is arguably the most luxurious way to experience the Galapagos.

Very comfortable cabins, lots of space, great crew and guides and only 48 passengers.

Delicious food is a feature with buffet at all meals and a barbeque on deck every Tuesday.

They have sea kayaks, wet suits and snorkel gear on board, all of which are included for your use.

They also have star-gazing, whale watching and even, wait for it, towel folding lessons.

With single, double and triple cabins the Eclipse can accommodate all sorts of travel parties in suitable rooms without charging huge single supplements.

There are around 20 family departures per year which means that there may be children on board, usually over 10 years old.

If there are enough children then one of the guides gets allocated to them throughout as well as the program of special activities.

If there are only a couple of children then they come on the adult land excursions though the program of on board events is still run for them.

Accommodation

All have private bathroom with hot shower and are fully air-conditioned. All are outside with lower beds. All can be configured as twin or kingsize double. All have wardrobes.

The four deluxe cabins are on the Boat Deck, have desk, fully stocked mini bar and even a bathtub. Cabins 19 & 20 can be set up as triples with a double and a full single bed. They are approximately 210sq feet.

The eight superior cabins are on the Boat Deck. These have one picture window so are very light and airy.

The 12 standard cabins are on the Main Deck. These are basically the same size as the superiors but have two or three portholes instead of picture windows.

Both superior and standard cabins are +/- 170sq feet.

The two single cabins are also on the Main Deck, each with one porthole. These are 110sq feet.

There is a well-equipped lounge for relaxation and for the nightly briefings and occasional live music.

There is a really quite elegant indoor dining room and an al fresco dining area on the Weather Deck. There is also a well-stocked library for quiet study and reading.

One of the most popular areas on board the Eclipse is the observation/sun deck, ideal for stargazing, whale watching, relaxing in the jacuzzi or on the comfortable sun loungers.

Stability

Being a larger ship she is really quite stable in the water. However, there is bound to be some movement and this will be most noticeable July - October and in the more exposed waters of the southern tip of Isabela.

Eclipse boat specification

Length on deck: 64m/210ft

Boat width (beam): 12.5m/41ft

Average speed: 11 knots

Crew: 31 plus up to 4 guides

How active?

In the Galapagos, wildlife viewing is the main activity. There is some gentle walking and snorkeling.

Conditions underfoot in the Galapagos can sometimes be rough as the islands are volcanic. You should therefore be prepared for some walking over uneven terrain. You can always opt out of excursions.

How responsible?

Eclipse has been Smart Voyager certified since 2007 which is to say that it has passed and maintains rigorous environmental and sustainability protocols.

It is the Smart Voyager programme which is endorsed by the Galapagos Conservation Trust to be a useful means of checking your boat's sustainability credentials.

When should I go?

In the Galapagos, wildlife viewing is excellent year round. Weather and sea conditions do vary somewhat through the year: September is the coolest and choppiest-sea month. From October onwards the weather warms up and the waters calm down until the hottest, calmest-sea month of February.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on **+44 1273 676712** between 9am and 6.30pm GMT weekdays.

How do I book?

We need to check availability for Galapagos boats before taking your booking. Once you have the proposal and decide you would like to go ahead then please call in with the following:

- Full names, address, contact telephone numbers & email, deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best (the balance of your holiday is due 60 days prior to travel).

Prices & departures

Saturdays	Standard us\$5,660pp Single us\$5,860pp Superior us\$6,210pp Deluxe us\$6,660pp
Price includes	7 night Galapagos cruise with all meals, excursions and guiding while on board. Snorkel equipment, wet suit hire and kayaking are included. Fuel surcharge of us\$260
Not included	Galapagos park entrance fee of us\$110; flights to the Galapagos; personal expenses; tips. Entrance fees and fuel tax subject to change at short notice.

Prices per person based on two sharing.

Prices quoted in US dollars but payment is made in pounds sterling at a rate set at time of payment. Please reconfirm prices at time of booking.

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A year in the Galapagos

January

Beginning of the rainy season. Land birds start nesting, generally after the first rain. On Hood (Española) Island adult marine iguanas become brightly colored (green/red/black). The green sea turtles arrive at beaches to lay eggs. Land iguanas mate on Isabela Island. Both water and air temperatures rise and stay warm until June. Ideal time for snorkeling.

February

On Floreana Island flamingos start nesting in greater numbers. Marine iguanas nest on Santa Cruz Island. Peak nesting season for the Galapagos dove. Breeding season begins for black-tailed pintail ducks. End of nesting season for Nazca (masked) boobies on Hood islands. The highest water temperature reaches 25C (77F) temperatures remain high until April. Penguins move from Bartolomé Island to follow the cool waters back to the west.

March

Height of the rainy season (this does not mean it rains everyday). Sporadic tropical rains, intense sun and hot climate. Air temperature can reach up to 30C (86F) high humidity. Warm waters excellent for snorkelers. Penguins still active in the water next to tropical fish! Deep surge from the northern currents on some shores, wet landings at places like Puerto Egas, Gardner Bay, Bartolomé can sometimes be a challenge. Marine iguanas nest on Fernandina. March 21st, the beginning of the summer equinox signals the arrival of the waved albatross to Española. Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela) can be an amazing site.

April

Massive arrival of waved albatrosses at Española, amazing courtship starts. Eggs of green sea turtles begin to hatch. Eggs of land iguanas hatch on Isabela. End of hatching season for the giant tortoises. While the rains have ended, the islands continue to be quite green. Good visibility in the water for snorkelers.

May

North Seymour's blue-footed boobies begin their courtship. Sea turtles are still hatching on Gardner Bay, Punta Cormorant and Puerto Egas. Most of marine iguanas' eggs hatch from nests on Santa Cruz. Palo santo trees begin to shed their foliage. Waved albatross on Española start laying their eggs. Ban-rumped storm petrels begin their first nesting period.

June

Beginning of the cold (garúa) season. Giant tortoises migrate to the lowlands on Santa Cruz island for the nesting season. South east trade winds return. Currents become a bit stronger. Seas pick up in surge and wave action. Male frigatebirds show off their red pouches on North Seymour. Southern migrating birds stop in the Galapagos on their journey north. Some groups of Humpback whales migrate up to equatorial latitudes along the coast of Ecuador reach Galapagos.

July

Sea bird communities are very active (breeding), specially the Blue footed boobies on Española. Flightless cormorants perform beautiful courtship rituals and nesting activities on Fernandina. American oystercatchers nest along the shores of Puerto Egas

(Santiago Island). Lava lizards initiate mating rituals until November. Cetaceans (whales & dolphins) are more likely to be observed, specially off the western coast of Isabela. Great month to see the four stages of nesting in Blue footed boobies: eggs, chicks, juveniles and sub-adults. Water temperature around 21C (68F).

August

Galapagos hawks court on Española and Santiago. Nazca (masked) boobies and Swallow-tailed gulls nest on Genovesa Island. The temperature of the ocean drops to 18C (64F), this varies according to the geographic zones among the islands. Migrant shore birds start to arrive. Giant tortoises return to the highlands of Santa Cruz. Oceans are quite choppy, currents at the strongest levels, surge can be expected along the shores that face west or south. Popping season of sea lions has started. Western and central islands are common places for such sightings.

September

The air temperature reaches its lowest levels (19C-66F). Galapagos Penguins active around Bartolomé. Snorkelers can swim with penguins active at the surface or torpedo-like while underwater. Sea lions are very active. Females have reached estrus stage, and so harem-gathering males are constantly barking and fighting. Shore fighting is common. Most intense sea lion activity on western and central islands. Most species of sea birds remain quite active at their nesting sites.

October

Lava herons start nesting until March. The Galapagos Fur Sea lions begin their mating period. Blue footed boobies raise chicks all over Española and Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela). Giant tortoises are still laying eggs. Days are not always sunny. Garúa can be expected in most locations, except the western islands where most days have a misty start but after few hours of daylight it burns off. Sunrises in the west can be quite beautiful as the garúa covers only certain locations of the western volcanoes. Summits are clear, but low-lying fog covers the shoreline.

November

Popping of sea lions continues. Sea lions are sexually active on the eastern part of the archipelago. Breeding season for the brown noddies. Some species of jellyfish can be seen around the islands. The Genus Physalia is commonly seen floating around Gardner and Tortuga Islets. Some can also be seen stranded on the shores of Flour Beach (Floreana). Band-rumped storm petrels begin their second nesting period. Seas are calm. South east trade winds decrease, generally great weather. Water temperatures rising and good visibility for snorkelers. Sea lion pups (specially at Champion Islet) play aqua-aerobics next to snorkelers. Most pups here are curious enough to nibble at fins of snorkelers.

December

Giant tortoise eggs begin to hatch. Green sea turtles display their mating behavior. The rainy season begins, all of the plants of the dry zone produce leaves. Galapagos becomes "green". The first young waved albatrosses fledge. Great weather.

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