



**EIGHT DAY GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE ABOARD THE GALAPAGOS
JOURNEY III
8 Days/7 Nights from \$3,259**



The E/C Galapagos Journey III is an 88 ft. catamaran that offers stability and comfort. It accommodates 16 passengers in eight comfortable air conditioned cabins with ocean views, lower beds, and private bathrooms. On board, there are eight crew members plus one naturalist guide. The ship also features a comfortable dining room, inside/outside bars, and a sun deck.

Wetsuits can be rented on board (\$30).

ACTIVITIES: Wildlife viewing, hiking, and snorkeling.



DEPARTURE DATES: Wednesday departures throughout the year. A Sunday to Sunday version of this cruise is also available.

GROUP/PRIVATE: All services included in this tour are operated on a group basis.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Note: The route and program may vary according to National Park policies and regulations, weather conditions, seasonal changes, safety reasons and wildlife encounters.

Dry Landing: Guests step from the dinghy directly onto rocks or a dock.

Wet Landing: As the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into knee-deep water and wade ashore.

DAY 1 (Wed): Quito/Baltra/Bartolome.

The flight from Quito (via Guayaquil) to the Galapagos is approximately 2 ½ hours on a Boeing 727. Upon arrival at Baltra travelers pass through an airport inspection point to insure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands and to

pay the park entrance fee of \$100 (unless prepaid). Your guide will meet you, collect your luggage and escort you on the short bus ride to the harbor. Motorized rafts, called 'Pangas' will then transport you to the E/C Galapagos Journey III and our crew will welcome you onboard. After a safety briefing, we set sail and eat lunch, after which the first island visit is made.

Bartolome. A small barren island that is located across from Sullivan Bay just off James Island, Bartolome has two main visitors' sites. The first site offers the possibility to climb to the summit of the island, from where visitors can observe a variety of volcanic formations including lava bombs spatter and cinder cones, lava flows and lava tubes. The moon like landscape provides one of the most scenic panoramas in the archipelago. At the second site, visitors have the chance to relax on a beautiful beach, which offers great snorkeling opportunities. Multi-colored fish and occasionally penguins and sea turtles have been seen at the base of the tall pinnacle rock, which dominates Bartolome's landscape. A short walk across to Bartolome's second beach and swimming is strictly prohibited. Here visitors can see White-tipped Reef Sharks at a safe distance swimming along the shoreline. (L,D)

DAY 2 (Thu): Espinoza Point (Fernandina)/Urbina Bay (Isabela).

Espinoza Point. Just across from Tagus Cove, there is a visitor's site where some of the unique Galapagos species can be seen. Here marine iguanas unite in larger groups than on any other island as they stretch out on the sand, basking in the sun, swimming near the shore and sometimes even blocking the path at the landing dock. Among the unique species found here, is the Flightless Cormorant - a bird that due to a lack of predators had to adjust their way of survival and perfect their skills of finding food in the ocean. Their wings, tails and feet progressively adapted for swimming. Observing these birds is like witnessing evolution happening right in front of you.

Urbina Bay. Located on the western coast of Albemarle Island and at the foot of the Alcedo Volcano, this bay was uplifted from the sea in 1954. Flightless cormorants and pelicans can be found along the coast during their nesting seasons, and sea turtles and rays can be seen in the bay. The highlands are home to large and colorful land iguanas. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 (Fri): Elizabeth Bay/Moreno Point (Isabela).

Elizabeth Bay. As this is a marine visitor site, the excursion is carried out in a zodiac and so there is no landing point. Your zodiac ride starts with a visit to the Marielas islets where there is the largest and most important penguin colony in the Galapagos Islands. The excursion continues into the cove that is surrounded by red mangroves where you can admire their red roots and green leaves. It is here that you are able to observe sea turtles, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans and sea lions. Frequently visitors have been able to see Galapagos Hawks soaring overhead whilst schools of Pompano and Dorado fish swim below.

Moreno Point. This visitor site has a low-lying rocky shoreline surrounded by black and red mangrove lagoons, and abundant shore birds. It offers close views of volcanoes Alcedo, Sierra Negra, and Cerro Azul. It has a desolate and pristine landscape of impressively immense black lava flows and an extraordinary and unusual arid-zone vegetation. Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds, penguins, cormorants, brown pelicans and blue-footed boobies can be seen. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 (Sat): Devils Crown/Punta Cormorant/Post Office Bay (Floreana).

Devils Crown and Punta Cormorant. Considered one of the most outstanding marine sites of the Galapagos Islands, Devil's Crown is a half-submerged volcanic cone and is a great place for snorkeling. At Punta Cormorant, there is a greenish beach, due to the accumulation of olivine crystal mineral. Sea lions swim and play around while you enjoy a good snorkel. The trail leads to a sandy white beach which is a nesting area for Green Turtles. Stingrays and White-tipped reef sharks swim where waves crash, and are visible from the shore. There is also a flamingo lagoon.

Post Office Bay. This site is home to a wooden barrel, historically placed there in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship. Ever since then, the barrel has been used by mariners and tourists as a sort of postal service. Whalers and Galapagos residents used to leave their mail inside it, waiting for the captain of any boat headed to where the mail was addressed to deliver it, why not try it out to see if it still works?! What's more, apart from being the location of the Post Office Barrel, this site was also the landing area for some of the first colonists to the Galapagos Islands. Very close-by is a pleasant swimming beach. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 (Sun): Highlands of Santa Cruz/Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz).

Highlands of Santa Cruz. Our first stop is at Los Gemelos (the twins), which area pair of craters approximately 30m deep and located on either side of the road from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. Volcanic action underneath the ground made the magna chambers empty causing the above ground to cave in, creating several craters, of which Los Gemelos are the largest. However, our main time in the Santa Cruz highlands will be spent at the Tortoise Reserve, where a number of the endemic Santa Cruz subspecies of Giant Tortoise, "Geochelone elephantopus porteri", wander freely. The Highlands, are also home to Scalesia, Miconia, and Pampa vegetation zones. Birds in this area include several species of finch, the vermilion flycatcher, Galápagos rail, Galapagos Dove, and paint-billed cake. We also may have the opportunity to visit the spectacular lava tubes on the island.

Charles Darwin Research Station. The Charles Darwin Research Station is based at Santa Cruz. Visitors are encouraged to donate to this organization, which carries out investigations and advises the Ecuadorian government and travel agencies on minimizing the impact of tourism on the islands. It contains a national-park information center and a museum. The station is also a tortoise breeding and rearing center, where tortoises of different subspecies are prepared to be

reintroduced back to their natural habitat. (None of the US\$100 park fee goes toward the research station). (B,L,D)

DAY 6 (Mon): Punta Suarez/Gardner Bay (Española).

Punta Suarez is the best visitor site on Española island. Visitors can follow a trail of lava rocks where blue-footed boobies have made their nests and a variety of iguanas bask in the sun. The trail continues towards the colony of waved albatross (one of the Galapagos most spectacular seabirds) well worth visiting being as this site is home to the only colony of waved albatrosses in the Galapagos. Just beyond the colony is a blowhole where if you sit long enough you can watch seabirds performing their aerial acrobatic moves and their less graceful attempts to land and take off.

Gardner Bay. Española is the southernmost island of the archipelago and being somewhat outlying, it has a high portion of endemic fauna. The beautiful white-sand beach of Gardner Bay, located at the eastern coast, provides an excellent beach for swimming and snorkelling. You will also enjoy the company of the overly curious Hood mockingbirds which are endemic to this island. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 (Tue): Santa Fe/South Plazas.

Santa Fe is one of the most entertaining destinations for shore excursions in the Galapagos Islands. It has two trail choices for visitors, one of which takes you to the tallest Opuntia cactus in the Galapagos. While the other trail takes you into the highlands where land iguanas can be seen. After a long walk, the opportunity to swim in calm waters or snorkel with playful sea lions will be pretty tempting.

South Plazas Island. One of a pair of small uplifted islands a short distance from the east coast of Santa Cruz, South Plaza has unique Sesuvium plants and Opuntia cactuses scattered across the landscape which provide some of the most interesting wildlife observations available in Galapagos. Land iguanas are easily seen from the trail, frequently under the shade of cactuses, waiting for a prickly pear to fall. Swallow-tailed gulls, along with various other sea birds, use the rising air to glide effortlessly over the escarpment and the protected rocky seashore is prime habitat for a large colony of noisy sea lions. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 (Wed): North Seymour/Baltra/Quito.

North Seymour. Located slightly to the north of Baltra, North Seymour is a low, flat island, formed as a result of sub-marine lava uplift. Covered with low, bushy vegetation, it contains the largest colony of magnificent frigatebirds in the Galapagos. There is also a large population of blue-footed boobies that perform an amusing courtship dance when nesting conditions are right. The dance consists of the birds taking big goofy strides, slowly picking-up high their blue feet, wings spread whilst whistling and honking – it really is one of the highlights of this island.

After your visit to North Seymour, a bus transfer to Baltra airport is provided allowing you to catch your flight back to Quito or Guayaquil and your final destination. (B)

B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

PRICE PER PERSON (in U.S. Dollars)

	Single	Double	Triple
Standard Cabins	\$5,689	\$3,259	n/a

The above prices are valid until December 31, 2010.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- South American Vacations' expert pre-departure planning services and documentation.
- Transfers in the islands between the airport and dock on the date of the cruise.
- Accommodations on board the E/C Galapagos Journey III.
- All meals scheduled on board.
- Two daily excursions to the islands conducted by bi-lingual naturalist guides.
- Evening briefings and lectures.
- Use of snorkeling equipment.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare.
- Domestic airfare.
- Ecuadorian departure tax (Quito \$44.30, Guayaquil \$27.75).
- Hotel nights before/after the cruise.
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee (\$100).
- Transit control card (\$10).
- Gratuities to ship crew and guides.
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Gifts and personal items.
- Travel insurance.

We will be happy to quote the cost of airfare, hotels, land services, and travel insurance, and to make these arrangements for you.

IGTOA'S TRAVELER FUNDING PROGRAM

South American Vacations is an active member of IGTOA (International Galapagos Tour Operators Association). In support of IGTOA's Traveler Funding Program, we contribute \$50 for each passenger that we send to the Galapagos Islands. You'll travel knowing that you support the lasting protection of Galapagos Islands.

Sixty percent of the funding of this program goes directly to the Charles Darwin Foundation for science, conservation, and education. Their work, carried out through the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galapagos National Park, is vital to the preservation of the islands. You can visit their web site to learn more

www.darwinfoundation.org. The remainder goes toward IGTOA's mission of creating a model of responsible and sustainable tourism.

PASSPORT/VISA: U.S., Australian, Canadian, and EU citizens only require a passport valid for at least six months from date of entry and return ticket for stays of up to 90 days. Citizens of other countries are advised to contact the Ecuadorian embassy in their country before traveling.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: In order to protect your travel investment from unforeseen circumstances that may arise before or during your trip, we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance. We offer **Access America's Classic Comprehensive** and other plans. The Benefits, Coverage Limits, and rates are summarized on our website at www.savacations.com/insurance. Call your travel counselor if you have any questions or to purchase a plan.

TO BOOK THIS TRIP: Call or email us to confirm the availability of a cabin on this ship for your desired dates of travel. Once we have confirmed availability, you will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$1,100 per person.

Eight Day Galapagos Islands Cruise Aboard the Galapagos Journey III

3715 Piccadilly Street, Hollywood, FL 33021

Phone: 954-966-2374 • Fax: 954-966-2560 • Toll Free: 888-268-9753

Email: info@savacations.com • www.savacations.com