



**FIVE DAY GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE ABOARD THE SANTA CRUZ
5 Days/4 Nights from \$2,119**



Built exclusively for Galapagos Islands cruising, the M/V Santa Cruz accommodates 90 passengers in its 44 cabins. The ship is air conditioned throughout, and is recognized for its superb service, expert crew, and international and Ecuadorian cuisine. Each spacious cabin features twin or double beds, private bathrooms, and a safe. Four public decks offer a dining room, bar, library, sun deck, and Jacuzzi. Snorkeling equipment is provided free of charge, and wet suits can be rented for \$15 for the five days.

ACTIVITIES: Wildlife viewing, hiking, snorkeling, and glass bottom boating.



DEPARTURE DATES: Monday departures throughout the year.

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 (Mon): Baltra/Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz).

Arrival by plane to Baltra Island and transfer to the dock to board the MV Santa Cruz. Cabin assignment and introductory welcome talk. Later, lunch, and ship's boat drill.

The north shore of Santa Cruz hosts **Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill)**. Dry landing and a walk that includes a brackish water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, including stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers, sanderlings, and more. Further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western area of the archipelago. This area is a natural nesting site for land iguanas, which is constantly monitored and assisted by the Charles Darwin Research Station. The arid-zone vegetation can be a rewarding location for bird watching, where Darwin's finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, the endemic Galapagos flycatcher, and yellow warblers are regular sightings. Tonight our expedition plan will reveal the interesting sites of the day ahead. (L,D)

DAY 2 (Tue): Bartolome/Puerto Egas (Santiago).

Disembark at **Bartolome** Island (dry landing) for a hike to the summit. Great way to start the day. This is a steep climb aided by a wooden staircase; the view from the top is worth the effort. Dinghy ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock, time to enjoy the beach (wet landing) and snorkeling. Chance to snorkel next to Galapagos Penguins. There is also the possibility to ride on the glass bottom boat for great views of the underwater world. Lunch on board.

Afternoon outing at **Puerto Egas** (wet landing). This is a great location to see particularly shore birds, while land birds can be observed a little more inland. The pitch black shores are great places for watching sea birds and their foraging duties. The trail brings us to a colony of the endemic Galapagos fur seals. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon emerald green algae beds. Outstanding snorkeling and swimming from the beach before the walk. Briefing. Weather permitting, stargazing on deck. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 (Wed): Rabida/North Seymour.

Disembark at **Rabida** Island (wet landing) on a red-colored beach, due to the unusually high content of iron in the volcanic material. A gratifying stroll along the beach of this small island (1.9 sq. mi.) allows the observation of a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's Finches. Very close to the beach, hidden behind a strip of green saltbush, is a salt pond where at times Greater Flamingos migrate to. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach, both for beginners as well as for experienced snorkelers, due to the unique combination of underwater species and submarine landscapes. During navigation to our next island, we will keep our eyes open for dolphins.

Today's afternoon starts with a dry landing for a view of the coast and the interior of **North Seymour** Island, one of the few uplifted islands in Galapagos Archipelago. The trail leads guests to explore colonies of blue footed boobies, Magnificent frigate birds, and swallow-tail gulls. The sandy shore teems with Galapagos sea lions and marine iguanas. Vegetation is made up of cacti, Palo Santo trees and Salt Bushes. Expedition plan for tomorrow's outings. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 (Thu): Highlands/Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz).

A morning bus ride will take guests to the **highlands of Santa Cruz** Island for a special opportunity to view the islands' most famous reptile: the giant tortoises in their wild habitat. What a privilege to see an endangered species roving in this lush environment! The vegetation of the area includes the Scalesia Forest (an endemic giant daisy tree) and birds such as the vermilion flycatcher, will delight everyone with its scarlet feathers against an emerald green forest. Look for Darwin's finches (most of them from the tree-finch group), particularly the famous Woodpecker Finch. Lunch in a charming restaurant in the lush highlands of the island.

Charles Darwin Research Station and the rearing in captivity program for the giant tortoises. Here we witness the efforts and results of all the field work done in the name of science. Impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest and many land birds can be also seen. Then, a stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora will allow you to see how Galapaguenos live in this magical paradise. Browse in the many handcraft shops. Return aboard the MV Santa Cruz for tonight's expedition plan for next day's adventure. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 (Fri): Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal).

Disembark at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. This small attractive port is the provincial capital of the Galapagos Islands (population 4,000), along a crescent-shaped bay. Visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Center, located in a natural setting, where it allows visitors to obtain information that will help them understand more the natural history of the Galapagos, with a great emphasis on human history and conservation. Afterwards, you can stroll through Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, where souvenir shops and Internet cafes welcome world travelers who are willing to catch up with the world, and share the many wonders witnessed, before heading back to the mainland.

Transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the continent. (B)

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

PRICE PER PERSON (in U.S. Dollars)

Low Season

	Single	Double	Triple
Main Deck Twin Standard	\$3,189	\$2,119	\$1,949
Upper Deck Twin Standard	\$3,359	\$2,239	n/a
Boat Deck Twin Standard	\$3,669	\$2,449	\$2,239
Boat Deck Standard Plus Twin	\$3,829	\$2,559	n/a
Boat Deck Single Standard	\$3,669	n/a	n/a
Boat Deck Superior Twin/Double	\$3,999	\$2,669	n/a
Boat Deck Junior Suite Twin	\$4,189	\$2,789	\$2,559
Boat Deck Master Suite Double	\$4,819	\$3,219	\$2,949

High Season

	Single	Double	Triple
Main Deck Twin Standard	\$3,379	\$2,249	\$2,069

Upper Deck Twin Standard	\$3,549	\$2,369	n/a
Boat Deck Twin Standard	\$3,859	\$2,579	\$2,359
Boat Deck Standard Plus Twin	\$4,029	\$2,689	n/a
Boat Deck Single Standard	\$3,799	n/a	n/a
Boat Deck Superior Twin/Double	\$4,189	\$2,799	n/a
Boat Deck Junior Suite Twin	\$4,379	\$2,919	\$2,679
Boat Deck Master Suite Double	\$5,019	\$3,349	\$3,069

High Season: April 18-25, December 19-January 02.

NOTES:

1. The above prices are valid until January 02, 2012.
2. There is one cabin available for single use (Boat Deck Single Standard). Twin/Double cabins for single use have a surcharge of 50%.
3. Triple rates are based on one child under 12 sharing cabin with two adults paying full fare.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- South American Vacations' expert pre-departure planning services and documentation.
- Transfers in the islands, and transfers in and out from select hotels in Quito and Guayaquil to/from Galapagos on the date of the cruise.
- Accommodations on board the M/V Santa Cruz.
- All meals scheduled on board.
- Two daily excursions to the islands conducted by bi-lingual naturalist guides.
- Evening briefings and lectures.
- Snorkeling equipment.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare.
- Domestic airfare.
- Ecuadorian departure tax (Quito \$40.80, Guayaquil \$30.16).
- Hotel nights before/after the cruise.
- Fuel surcharge (\$96).
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee (\$100/\$50 child).
- Transit control card (\$10).
- Gratuities to ship crew and guides.
- Bar, gifts, and personal items.
- Travel insurance.

We will be happy to quote the cost of international and domestic 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.asp. 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 \$500 per person.

Five Day Galapagos Islands Cruise Aboard the Santa Cruz

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