



**FOUR DAY GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE ABOARD THE SANTA CRUZ**  
**4 Days/3 Nights from \$1,589**



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 four days.

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



**DEPARTURE DATES:** Friday 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 (Fri): Puerto Baquerizo Moreno/Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal).**

Arrival by plane to San Cristobal Island and transfer to the MV Santa Cruz, which will be anchored at **Puerto Baquerizo Moreno**, the provincial capital of the Galapagos Islands. Cabin assignment and lunch. After lunch, introductory welcome talk and boat drill.

A dinghy ride along the shores of tuff-stone layers will bring us to **Cerro Brujo's** white coralline beach. Wet landing. The area will show us good views of seabirds like blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, herons, frigate birds, and some shore birds. Also, look for Galapagos sea lions. The beach is a great open walking area, with rewarding birdwatching. Highlights ashore include the Chatham (San Cristobal) Mockingbird, Chatham Lava Lizard; both species are endemic to this island, and seen nowhere else in Galapagos. We may also spot Yellow Warblers, Galapagos flycatchers and with luck a Vermillion flycatcher (endemic subspecies to San Cristobal). These are the same shores that Charles Darwin walked upon, back in September 1835, as San Cristobal was the first island where he set foot in the Galapagos. Back on board for a briefing on the next day's activities, followed by a cocktail offered by the Captain and dinner. (L,D)

### **DAY 2 (Sat): Punta Suarez (Espanola)/Punta Cormorant (Floreana).**

Morning outing at **Punta Suarez** (dry landing) for an exciting walk on lava/boulder terrain to visit its unique sea bird colonies, including the waved albatrosses (April-December), Nazca (masked boobies), blue-footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls, and the famous blowhole. Among its land birds, the Hood island mockingbird, and three species of Darwin's finches are common highlights. Also, look for red-green-black marine iguanas, and of course a rookery of sea lions right at the landing site. Back on board for lunch.

Disembark at **Punta Cormorant** (wet landing) at an olivine-crystal beach for an easy walk that includes a brackish water lagoon where bird species like Greater flamingos, pintail ducks, common stilts, herons, sandpipers, and others may be observed. This outing also includes a white-sand beach where sea turtles come out at night for nesting (December-May). Possibility of snorkeling from the beach, or join our Glass Bottom Boat or advanced snorkeling panga if conditions permit. Briefing and dinner. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 3 (Sun): Punta Espinoza (Fernandina)/Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela).**

This morning brings us to the youngest island, Fernandina. Disembark (dry landing) for a one-mile walk. **Punta Espinoza** has an amazing combination of barrenness with lots of wildlife. Having no introduced mammals, Fernandina has a very unique environment with the highest density of marine iguanas, sharing their island habitat with sea lions, sally-light foot crabs, and hawks. Lava terrain calls for good walking shoes. Back on board for lunch. As we sail along the Bolivar Channel, astonishing views of the Galapagos' youngest volcanoes can be seen. The nutrient-rich waters of the west can also bring surprises like encountering sea birds feeding, dolphins, and possibly whales.

In the afternoon, depending on the conditions of the ocean, we will schedule a snorkeling outing along the cliffs of partly-sunken Ecuador Volcano, in the northern tip of **Isabela Island**. Since there is no landing site at this location, we will include a coastal exploration by dinghy, where our naturalist guides will commit to explaining the dramatic geology of the area with remains of lava flows and tuff stone layers.

This is the nesting place for flightless cormorants, the only existing marine birds in the world other than penguins that have changed their condition of flying birds to diving birds. Wildlife here also includes Sea lions, Galapagos Fur seals, Galapagos Penguins, Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies and noddy terns. This area has a very rich marine life, and is seasonally visited by green sea turtles. Details about the next day's activities before dinner. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4 (Mon): Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz)/Baltra.**

Visiting the famous **Charles Darwin Research Station** will be certainly a rewarding adventure for this morning's program. It will just require a different approach, in order to accomplish all our travel plans. This outing is an optional program and an early one. We arrive at the Itabaca Channel, between the islands of Baltra and Santa Cruz and disembark at the public dock (dry landing) for a 30-minute bus ride along the highlands in route to Puerto Ayora where changes in vegetation can be witnessed. Upon arrival, we proceed to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the rearing in captivity program for the famous giant tortoises. Here we will get to understand the conservation efforts promoted by this institution, and stroll among an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest where endemic land birds can be seen. After an hour visit, return via the same route to cross the Itabaca Channel by ferry and take the bus to Baltra Island airport in time for the flight back to the continent. Guests not taking this optional excursion may stay on board for a later wake up call, and then disembark directly at Baltra Island and transfer to the airport. (B)

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

**PRICE PER PERSON** (in U.S. Dollars)

**Low Season**

	<b>Single</b>	<b>Double</b>	<b>Triple</b>
Main Deck Twin Standard	\$2,389	\$1,589	\$1,459
Upper Deck Twin Standard	\$2,519	\$1,679	n/a
Boat Deck Twin Standard	\$2,749	\$1,839	\$1,679
Boat Deck Standard Plus Twin	\$2,879	\$1,919	n/a
Boat Deck Single Standard	\$2,749	n/a	n/a
Boat Deck Superior Twin/Double	\$2,999	\$1,999	n/a
Boat Deck Junior Suite Twin	\$3,139	\$2,099	\$1,919
Boat Deck Master Suite Double	\$3,619	\$2,409	\$2,209

**High Season**

	<b>Single</b>	<b>Double</b>	<b>Triple</b>
Main Deck Twin Standard	\$2,589	\$1,719	\$1,579
Upper Deck Twin Standard	\$2,709	\$1,809	n/a
Boat Deck Twin Standard	\$2,949	\$1,969	\$1,799
Boat Deck Standard Plus Twin	\$3,069	\$2,049	n/a
Boat Deck Single Standard	\$2,879	n/a	n/a
Boat Deck Superior Twin/Double	\$3,199	\$2,129	n/a
Boat Deck Junior Suite Twin	\$3,339	\$2,229	\$2,039

Boat Deck Master Suite Double	\$3,809	\$2,539	\$2,329
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**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 of (\$72).
- 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](http://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](http://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.

Four Day Galapagos Islands Cruise Aboard the Santa Cruz

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3715 Piccadilly Street, Hollywood, FL 33021

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

Email: [info@savacations.com](mailto:info@savacations.com) • [www.savacations.com](http://www.savacations.com)