

The Galapagos Island to Island



Glamping on Isabela Island and a luxury hotel on Santa Cruz, this land-based itinerary explores the Galapagos Islands in style! Including inter-island flights, trips out to various sites of interest and opportunities to hike on the islands, this itinerary is perfect for anyone wanting to explore the Galapagos while staying on-land.

Day 1: Arrive Quito (-)

You will be met on arrival at Quito Airport and transferred to your hotel in the city centre, the Casona de la Ronda, or similar. Depending on the time of your arrival, we can arrange a city tour for you – contact us for ideas.

La Casona de la Ronda

La Casona de la Ronda is a boutique hotel set in an 18th-century home in Quito's historic centre.

The rooms are beautifully made up with dark wooden furnishings and parquet floors. They feature wide windows with shutters to allow in lots of natural light, and open onto a central courtyard ringed by wooden balustrades. A cooked breakfast is served each morning in the courtyard, or in the indoor lounge/cafe area.

Day 2: Fly to the Galapagos Islands and North Seymour Island (B, L, D)

Your morning flight from Quito takes you to Baltra Island, where you will connect with the scenic 30-minute flight to Isabela Island.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

The largest of the Galapagos Islands, Isabela was formed by the joining of five volcanoes, and is a mix of remote, wild lava flows and barren landscapes, as well as lush, dense vegetation found in its highland regions.

On arrival at Isabela, transfer to Scalesia Lodge, your accommodation in the highlands, located 20 minutes' drive from Puerto Villamil, the archipelago's largest inhabited town.



Scalesia Lodge

Located nine miles from the town of Puerto Villamil, Scalesia Lodge enjoys a remote location in the highlands of Isabela Island. The concept was to give guests a back-to-nature experience whilst still offering comfortable accommodation. The main building is a modern structure, in contrast to the 16 hectares of lush forest in which it sits. It has a light dining room with huge glass walls and sitting areas where guests can relax.

The property offers 16 spacious safari-style tents, situated within the forest with a private porch. The restaurant serves delicious fresh seafood and the friendly staff are always on hand to offer drinks when you've returned from an excursion.



After lunch and check-in at the lodge, head out for your first exploration of the islands. Your afternoon tour will visit the Wetlands, located just outside of Puerto Villamil, where you can follow a walking trail through a network of swamps, lagoons and mangroves that are home to black-necked and common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails and flamingos, amongst other birds. The trail also takes you to the Tortoise Breeding Centre, which carries out important work in restoring Isabela's tortoise population.

Your tour ends with a visit to the beach at Puerto Villamil, before returning to your lodge in time for dinner.

Day 3 and 4: Isabela Island (B, L, D)

The next two days are spent exploring Isabela Island. Depending on the days you are here, you will be able to take part in two of the following three excursions:

Sierra Negra Volcano – Hike around the crater rim of the Sierra Negra Volcano, the largest basaltic caldera in the archipelago. It is a steady 20km hike, with incredible views, the chance to see seven of the Galapagos finches and evidence of the 2005 eruption.



Tintoreras Islets – Just a short distance by boat from Puerto Villamil, the Tintoreras Islets are home to a network of reefs, where white-tipped reef sharks, sea lions, turtles and Galapagos penguins can be seen. You'll have a short walk across the volcanic islet to spot boobies, herons and marine iguanas, before getting in the water to snorkel. After lunch back at the lodge, explore the wetlands and watch the sunset from Puerto Villamil.

Wall of Tears – Between 1945 and 1959 Isabela Island hosted a penal colony, where prisoners were forced to build the Wall of Tears. This 25m high wall is said to have taken the lives of many prisoners during its construction. A short walk takes you past mangroves and lagoons to the wall. Look out for Darwin finches, doves, stilts, ducks, flamingos, herons and giant tortoises along the way. After lunch at the lodge, explore the wetlands and watch the sunset from Puerto Villamil.



Day 5: Fly to Baltra, and on to Santa Cruz (B, L)

After breakfast you will be transferred back to the airport for your flight over the Galapagos to Baltra Island, from where you cross the Itabaca Channel to the island of Santa Cruz. Here you will explore the highlights of the island, starting with Los Gemelos, two large craters surrounded by a forest of high growing endemic daisies.

From Los Gemelos, you continue to the Tortoise Reserve and the lava tunnels, spectacular geological formations caused by lava flow.

After lunch at a restaurant in the highlands you will reach Puerto Ayora, the main hub of the Galapagos Islands. In the only pedestrianised neighbourhood, Punta Estrada, you will check-in at Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel, where the rest of the day is free for you to relax.

Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel

Located on the southern coast of Santa Cruz, near Puerto Ayora town, Finch Bay is an award-winning property and the most upmarket option in the Galapagos. The hotel has direct access to the public beach or, if you'd prefer, there is a lovely freshwater pool.

The hotel restaurant serves delicious fresh seafood and organic vegetables from the hotel gardens. There is also a bar and lounge where you can relax with a cocktail. Rooms are light and airy with comfortable furnishings.



Days 6-8: Santa Cruz (B, L)

The next three days are spent exploring Santa Cruz. Depending on the date of your visit, you will have the opportunity to join two of the following four excursions, in addition to a Santa Cruz coastal exploration and Charles Darwin Research Station visit. The excursions are taken on Finch Bay's own yacht, the Sea Lion.

North Seymour –Head to North Seymour Island where you will have a one-mile hike to see land and marine iguanas, Nazca and blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, sea lions and fur seals. You then visit Las Bachas on the northern coast of Santa Cruz, a stunning white beach with small brackish lagoons, home to various waders, such as plovers, stilts and flamingos, as well as Sally Lightfoot crabs and hermit crabs.



Santa Fe – Visit Santa Fe, one of the oldest volcanoes in the archipelago. It is a small island with a wet landing where you will usually expect to see many sea lions basking on the beach. From the beach, you will follow the trail to see the massive cactus and land iguanas that reside here, also keeping a lookout for boobies, pelicans and the Galapagos hawk. There will also be time to visit a snorkelling site and enjoy lunch onboard the yacht.

Bartolome – Off the east coast of Santiago Island is Bartolome, home to the Galapagos Island's most iconic site – Pinnacle Rock. Here you will climb the stairs to the top of Bartolome for incredible views of the islands and Pinnacle Rock. Heading back down there will be time to swim with inquisitive Galapagos penguins and sea lions. En route back to Santa Cruz, search for the whales and dolphins that are often seen frolicking in this stretch of water.



South Plaza – En route to South Plaza you will stop at Carrion Point. Here the turquoise waters and sheltered lagoon are perfect for snorkelling to see a variety of tropical fish, rays and white-tip reef sharks. At South Plaza follow the trail on land where you will likely spot sea lions, marine and land iguanas, as well as many nesting sea birds. The island has forests of prickly pear cactus and large areas of Sesuvium, a succulent that is green/yellow in the wet season and bright red in the summer months.

Santa Cruz coastal exploration, Charles Darwin Research Station – In addition to two of the above trips you will explore Santa Cruz further on a coastal walk and a tour of the Charles Darwin Research Station. The two-kilometre hike from Finch Bay along the coast passes pristine forests, beaches where turtles nest, and mangroves where you can swim, snorkel or kayak. Following the coastal walk, you take a short yacht ride back to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, hidden away in a forest of prickly-pear cacti. Here you can learn about the giant tortoise breeding programme.

Day 9 – Fly back to Quito (B)

Time to wave goodbye to the Galapagos as you fly back from Baltra to Quito. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel, where the rest of the day is free for you to explore.

Overnight at the Casona de la Ronda.

Day 10: Departure (B)

You will be transferred to the airport in time for your onward flight.

Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is **£3,770 per person**, based on two travellers in shared twin accommodation. For more information, or to enquire about a tailor-made holiday incorporating part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).*

Includes:

- Accommodation (twin basis) as outlined in itinerary
- Meals as described
- Naturalist guides on excursions
- Entrance fees to all sights mentioned in itinerary
- Airport transfers
- Return flights from the mainland to the Galapagos, and return flights within the Galapagos

Excludes:

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Galapagos National Park admission fee (\$100 per person)
- Transit Control Card for Galapagos (\$20 per person)
- Visas
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Drinks