

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

A remote and fascinating archipelago ready for you to explore

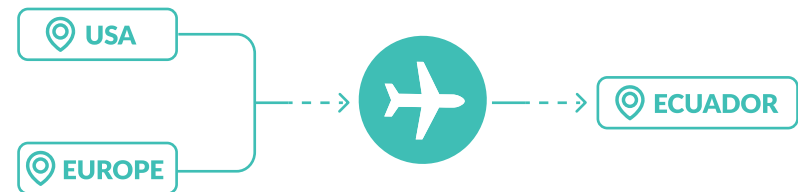


 **METRO JOURNEYS**
by Metropolitan Touring



Where are the Galapagos Islands, and how do I get there?

- The Galapagos Islands are part of **Ecuador**, located approximately **600 mi (1,000 km)** off the mainland, in **South America**.
- **19 islands** and dozens of islets make up the Galapagos. The archipelago and its Marine Reserve have a total area of 51,352 mi² (133, 000 km²) of ocean and around 3,040 mi² (7,880 km²) of land.
- **Direct flights** from the **USA** to Ecuador include **Miami, Houston, Atlanta,** and more. **Flights from Europe: Madrid, Amsterdam.**
- There are **two airports** in Galapagos you can fly to: **Seymour Airport (GPS)** on Baltra Island and **San Cristobal Airport (SCY)** on San Cristobal Island.
- Keep in mind that you'll need to spend an overnight in either Quito or Guayaquil before flying to the Galapagos. **Flights depart early in the morning.**



So, the Galapagos are a national park,
but what does that mean exactly
when planning my trip?



A Red-footed booby on Genovesa Island

- 97% of the Galapagos Islands comprises the highly protected **Galapagos National Park**. **Inhabited areas** in the Galapagos only represent **3%** of the entire archipelago.
- When you visit the Galapagos National Park, you will see species in their natural habitats.
- When exploring the Galapagos National Park, visitors must be accompanied by **certified naturalist guides**.
- Whether traveling on an expedition yacht or a smaller “day tour”-style vessel, **Park rules are in place to preserve the integrity and natural beauty of the Galapagos' unique ecosystems.**



Galapagos Marine Iguanas



Panga ride along Santiago Island

When is the best time to go and how long should I stay?

- Because the Galapagos archipelago straddles the Equatorial Line; a **perfect year-round destination**.
- **As there are only two seasons in the Galapagos, Dry and Hot.** So one can enjoy the islands and view fascinating species any time of the year!
- To adequately explore and enjoy the Galapagos, visitors should **plan to spend at least 4 nights**.

365 Days - Anytime is the best time

 <p>December</p>	 <p>June</p>
 <p>March</p>	 <p>October</p>
 <p>HOT SEASON December through May 74 °F - 88 °F 23 °C - 31 °C</p>	 <p>DRY SEASON June through November 67 °F - 74 °F 19 °C - 23 °C</p>

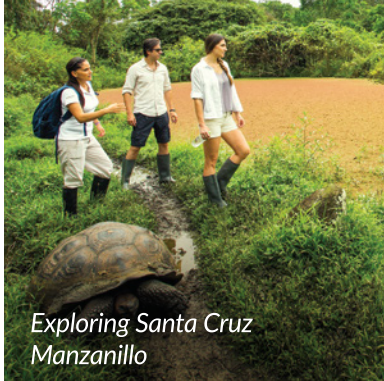
Should I hop on a cruise or stay at a hotel?

Expedition Yacht:



- Expedition vessels offer more than twice as much access to exclusive visitor sites in the **Galapagos National Park**.
- Multiple park-approved activities include **hiking, snorkeling, paddleboarding, swimming, kayaking, and glass-bottom boat rides**.
- The **guest-space ratio (GSR) is 28**. This means ample space for guests to relax, socialize, and enjoy amenities without feeling crowded.
- Each vessel has its own **medical officer** available **24/7** to provide immediate help and coordinate further medical actions.

Expedition Hotel:



- Day tours to nearby islands pair land exploration with opportunities for swimming and snorkeling.
- Visitors have flexibility and on-site activity options.
- Land-based options offer time to enjoy the hotel facilities and interact with local people and culture.
- Available activities include kayaking, paddleboarding, snorkeling, hiking, biking, and scuba diving (some require an additional fee).

Pro tip: To make the most of your visit to the Galapagos, consider spending a few days at a land-based hotel before or after an expedition cruise.





Galapagos Land Iguana

Brief Steps for Choosing the Best Itinerary for Your Galapagos Cruise Package

- **Step 1:** Given the size of the Galapagos and the distance between each island, traveling through the entire archipelago is impossible. So, ask your destination expert about the must-see islands to plan the minimum number of days you need to include them in your itinerary.

All of our itineraries last the minimum recommended of 5 days, enough time to experience each piece of the archipelago without feeling rushed.

- **Step 2:** The Galapagos Islands are one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in the world and have some of the highest levels of endemism.

That's why we always recommend that our guests take the time to consider which animals they want to see when choosing their itinerary.

Be sure to check out our full **Big 15** list of iconic Galapagos species!

Some itineraries include seeing: the flightless cormorant, red-footed boobies, the Galapagos albatross, the Santa Fe land iguana.

- **Step 3:** One of the main reasons going on Galapagos tours is so appealing is simply due to the geological distinctiveness of each island.

The **landscapes** our guests will experience on each itinerary are so diverse that you can encounter red-colored beaches and volcanic terrain in just one journey.

📍 Our Top 5 Islands to visit in Galapagos:

Bartolome

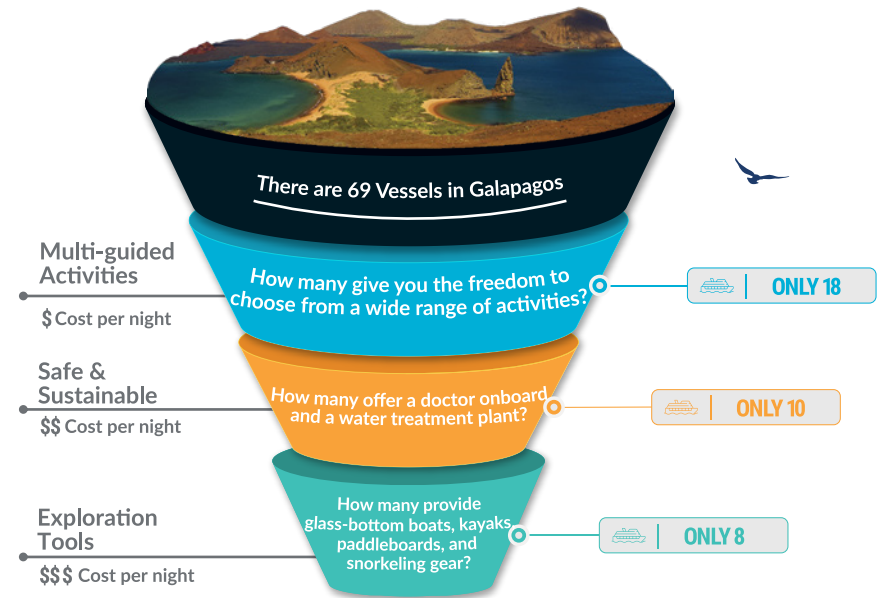
Española

Fernandina

Genovesa

North Seymour

- **Step 4:** Choose the best Galapagos cruise based on your interests; it is the one that best fits your needs!



AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE FILTERED OUT ALL OF THE ABOVE ACCORDING TO YOUR PREFERENCES, WOULD YOU CHOOSE...

- 1 A local company that's trusted by major international travel agents, whereby your contributions help foster the development of the destination itself?
or
an international company that potentially has no direct stake in the destination itself?
- 2 An itinerary with greater island and wildlife coverage that necessitates a minimum of 5 days?
or
a shorter option that offers less opportunities to see the iconic wildlife, such as a 3-night Galapagos itinerary?
- 3 An Expedition Cruise that focuses on guided excursions, scientific lectures and exploratory activities?
or
a vessel that spends more time on leisurely activities in addition to its guided excursions?
- 4 A company that offers its guests a greater number of islands and a higher number of BIG15 iconic wildlife?

If you chose any of the first options for 1, 2 and 3, and find 4 to be important, then definitely consider our vessels below:



Yacht La Pinta



Yacht Isabela II

Regardless of which itinerary you choose, rest assured that **all of them** offer an **excellent balance** between **activities** and **wildlife**.

Once you've considered these steps, you should have a pretty solid idea of which Galapagos tour is best for you!

Why is Metrojourneys by Metropolitan Touring your best option?



Whale watching in the Galapagos Islands

- **Our Team:** We are a local company designing experiences for travelers . We carefully hand-pick each of our team members and make sure they experience the destinations and products we offer.
- **Our Products:** With over **70 years of experience** and **54 years operating** in the **Galapagos Islands**, we are proud to offer unforgettable journeys, ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety. We promote social and environmentally responsible travel.
- We believe intricate planning and providing all the information prior to traveling can make all the difference, which is why we scrutinize the details throughout every step of the way.

We've been leading the way for over **70 years**. You are in good hands.



Excursions in the Galapagos National Park

METROJOURNEYS

by Metropolitan Touring



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