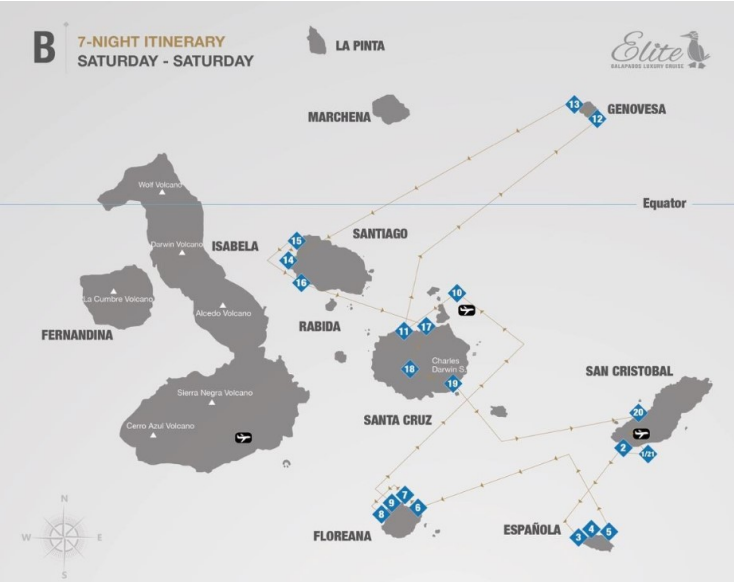




## ELITE 7-NIGHT CRUISE IN SOUTHERN & CENTRAL GALAPAGOS B

The Elite's seven-night Cruise in the Southern and Central Galapagos Islands is ideal for those looking for a wide-ranging Galapagos vacation. Excluding the islands to the west, this week-long cruise lets you experience the diverse wonders of the Galapagos while enjoying popular activities and visiting some of the archipelago's all-time favorite sites. Activities include everything from wildlife and bird-watching to snorkeling and kayaking across the blue waters of the Galapagos. Join us on the Elite's next seven-night cruise in the Southern and Central Galapagos Islands by booking your stay with us today. For shorter, 3- or 4-night cruises, please contact us.



### ITINERARY

Day 1 Saturday

Saturday AM: Arrive at San Cristobal airport where you will be transferred to the vessel.

Saturday PM: David Rodriguez Breeding Center

A visit to the David Rodriguez Breeding Center provides information about the origin and evolution of the giant tortoise and explains why the center is so vital in safeguarding the future of these incredible creatures.



Walking through the trails of the reserve, you can see baby tortoises being reared in semi-natural conditions - a brilliant demonstration of the commitment the local people have to preserving the wildlife that makes the Galapagos so special.

Day 2 Sunday

Sunday AM: Suarez Point, Española

Universally considered one of the top five visitor sites in all of Galapagos, Suarez Point is an unforgettable hike along the rocky cliffs of the oldest of the Galapagos islands. Bird life abounds: visitors can hope to glimpse Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, Red-billed Tropic Birds, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks, among others. The undisputed stars of the site, however, are the Waved Albatrosses.

These majestic birds range all over the world but only nest here on Española island. Visitors who come between January and March may not get to see many albatrosses, as they are all far away feeding, soaring over deep seas. Suarez Point is not only for birds: marine iguanas and lava lizards abound, and lucky visitors will spot a Galapagos Snake or two along the rocky trails.

Sunday PM: Gardner Bay, Gardner and Osborn Islets, Española

Gardner Bay features a wide, pristine beach populated by sea lions, crabs and mockingbirds. Bring your snorkel: you will see

some reef fish in the gentle surf off the island. If you're lucky, you'll get to swim alongside playful sea lions!

It's the perfect place to relax after the inspirational intensity of the morning visit to Suarez Point. If the weather and conditions are permitting, the visit to Gardner Bay may be combined with a snorkeling trip to Gardner Islet and/or Osborn Islet, both of which are close to the beach.

Day 3 Monday

Monday AM: Floreana - Cormorant Point / Devil's Crown

Cormorant Point features two contrasting beaches: one with olive-green sand due to the high content of olivine crystals, and another with pure white sand (commonly known as 'Flour Beach') derived from pulverized coral.

The saltwater pond is a must-see as it is frequented by one of the archipelago's largest populations of Galapagos flamingos as well as other shorebirds such as stilts, white-cheeked pintails and large-billed flycatchers.

Afterward, guests will take a zodiac ride to Devil's Crown, an underwater volcanic crater that is almost completely submerged - in fact, just a small portion of the rock formation can be seen from above, and it looks like a crown. Snorkelers will discover a vast underwater world full of coral reefs and a myriad of marine species. Birds are also part of this visitor point due to its location in open waters.



Monday PM: Post Office Bay / The Baroness' Lookout

Long before the Galapagos Islands were a bucket-list travel destination, it was a common stop for grand wooden seafaring vessels such as whalers. The sailors placed a barrel a short way from a sheltered bay on Floreana Island and used it to drop off and receive letters from home.

Today, the yachts that serve the Galapagos are proud to continue this tradition: drop off letters and postcards in the barrel, and some other traveler will deliver them for you! Once you've flipped through the letters to see if there are any for your neck of the woods, you can enjoy some sun and sand on the small beach where passengers embark and disembark from the landing craft.

The Baroness' Lookout

In the early 1930's, Floreana Island was home to Eloise Wehrborn de Wagner-Bosquet, a beautiful young Austrian woman, and her two lovers. Calling herself "the Baroness of Galapagos," she quickly became an international sensation. She disappeared in 1934, a case which remains unsolved to this day.

The visit to the site includes a short panga ride - look for sea life like rays and turtles. There are red mangroves along the shore: these mangroves are crucial to the island ecosystem. Once on land, a dusty trail winds steadily upwards. The lookout point itself is a rocky hill of rugged volcanic rock, and there is indeed

a good view from there, a reward for those who scramble to the top. A short walk away are the ruins of an old biological station, which were likely used in 1934 when some passing filmmakers made a short film starring the Baroness herself.

Day 4 Tuesday

Tuesday AM: Mosquera

Located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour, Mosquera is one of a number of tiny islets in the Galapagos. Sandy and rocky, it is not home to much in the way of vegetation, but it is very popular with sea lions and birds, including gulls. You can also expect to see marine iguanas sunning themselves on the rocks and colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs scuttling about in the tidal pools.

Shorebirds are fond of the island: look for them trotting along the beach. There is some good snorkeling around Mosquera and dive shops in Puerto Ayora sell day trips there.

After our early morning visit, passengers will get ready and then be taken to Baltra Airport, crossing the highlands of Santa Cruz Island by car. Our airport personnel will assist passengers with the check in process. Farewell and boarding the flight back to mainland Ecuador.

Tuesday PM: Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz

Bachas beach is one of the more beautiful ones in all of



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Galapagos - and that's really saying something. It is a long stretch of pristine white sand where sea lions lounge and crabs scuttle back and forth. It was used by the Americans during World War Two: "Bachas" is actually a version of the word "barges," which were once landed here.

Sea turtles nest in some of the sand dunes here, and your guides will ask you to stay clear of the marked areas so as not to disturb the eggs.

A short distance away are two salty lagoons where flamingos are frequently seen. There is no real hike here: only the warm, sandy beach. After a stroll along the sand and a refreshing dip, some of our guests like to do some easy snorkeling in the gentle surf.

#### Day 5 Wednesday

#### Wednesday AM: Genovesa - Prince Philip's Steps / El Barranco

Genovesa Island is famous for bird life and neither of its two visitor sites disappoint. Genovesa is the remnant of a once-mighty volcanic crater, and the island still has a distinctive crescent shape. The body of water formed by the crescent is called Darwin Bay, in spite of the fact that Charles Darwin did not ever visit this particular island. There are no large land animals on Genovesa: not even tortoises or land iguanas.

Unlike other islands, Genovesa never had a problem with destructive introduced animals like feral cats or goats, which has allowed bird life to thrive unmolested on the island for

millennia.

In the morning, you will visit the Prince Philip's Steps site. Getting to the visitor site from the landing area is tricky and involves a bit of climbing skill, but once you're up, Prince Philip's Steps is a visitor favorite. There is a magnificent view from the upraised plateau, especially on a clear day. An easy trail winds through a low, scrubby forest and ends up at a rocky ravine of sorts, where lucky visitors will spot the rarely-seen Short-eared Owl. Visitors may also see Red-footed Boobys, gulls, or other birds nesting or visiting the site.

#### Wednesday PM: Genovesa - Darwin Bay

The Darwin Bay visitor site is on the interior side of the crescent-shaped island, protected from wind and currents. It is a wide, sandy beach with a short trail that leads off to one side of the beach and up into some rocky formations. There are many bird species here: visitors can expect to see Blue-footed Boobys, Frigate Birds, Lava Gulls, Herons, Swallow-tailed gulls and more. It is one of the few visitor sites in the islands where you can see Red-footed Boobys. There are some tidal pools off the trail: lucky visitors may spot a ray or some fish trapped there until the tide returns.

Following the visit, guests will get to snorkel in the sheltered waters of the bay. Although deep water currents can sometimes cause the water to be chilly or cloudy, the crescent shape of the island protects the bay from strong winds. The bluffs along the side of the bay drop sharply into the water, which means that snorkelers can stay close to shore but still have deeper water off to one side. Lucky snorkelers might see sharks, rays, sea lions,



sea turtles and dazzling reef fish including parrotfish, wrasses, king angelfish and damselfish.

Day 6 Thursday

Thursday AM: Santiago - Espumilla Beach / Buccaneer Cove

Back in the days of the great sailing ships, the Galapagos Islands were well known as a place where a traveling ship could stock up on food and water. Among the visitors were pirates, and the sheltered bay now known as Buccaneer Cove was a favorite place for them to repair their ships.

Your visit includes a panga ride along the coast, where guests will see some interesting rock formations as well as several species of nesting birds including gulls, boobys and pelicans. The formations, eroded into the colorful red rock, are quite striking. You may get to see not only sea lions but also their more reclusive cousins, the Galapagos Fur Sea Lion.

The panga ride is followed by a visit to unforgettable Playa Espumilla ("Foamy Beach" in English). The beach, known for reddish sand, is a favorite among guests: long, pristine and beautiful, it is home to a colony of sea lions as well as countless crabs and marine iguanas. It is possible to do some light snorkeling off of the beach.

Thursday PM: Egas Port

The human history of the Galapagos Islands is often as

interesting as the natural history, and a good example is Port Egas. Decades ago, an Ecuadorian named Hector Egas tried to make his fortune mining salt on Santiago Island. It worked for a while, but in the end the enterprise failed. Port Egas bears the name of this intrepid entrepreneur, and there are still some remnants of the old salt mine facilities here if you know where to look.

Puerto Egas is a superb visitor site even without its history. The trail is a loop which goes through some low trees before swinging around along the coast. Along the inland part of the trail, look for finches and a medium-sized black bird: this is the Smooth-Billed Ani, an introduced species which somehow arrived in Galapagos at some point in the 1960's. On the coastal portion of the trail, you can expect to see numerous sea lions, marine iguanas, and shore birds. The coast is rocky due to its volcanic formation, but easy enough to walk along.

Look in the shallow tidal pools: you never know what might have gotten stranded in there when the tide went out, and you might spot a stingray or an octopus in addition to the small fish usually found there.

Day 7 Friday

Friday AM: Black Turtle Cove

The first visit of the day is to Black Turtle Cove, which is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz. It is a living illustration of how mangroves alter the marine environment to create a rich and unique habitat. Three mangrove species crowd the area from the



shore out into a shallow lake which reaches almost a mile inland.

As you drift through quiet waters in the zodiac, you are likely to see spotted eagle rays and diamond-shaped mustard rays, which swim in a diamond formation. White-tipped reef sharks slip beneath the boat and Pacific green sea turtles come to the surface for air and to mate. Waterfowl, including pelicans, herons and egrets, all feed in the cove. It's a peaceful place where visitors often have up-close encounters with Galapagos wildlife, often making it a highlight of the trip!

Friday PM: Highlands and Charles Darwin Research Station

On the highlands of Santa Cruz, you'll have the opportunity to see the famous giant tortoises in the wild. So renowned are these endemic animals that they gave the archipelago its name. Birdwatching is also one of the activities to do in the Santa Cruz highlands, since this area is home of finches and other Galapagos birds.

After the visit to the highlands, we continue on to a visit of the famous Charles Darwin Research Station that provides guests with a unique opportunity to find out about the vital work that is being carried out to preserve the archipelago's ecosystems.

The Research Center is also home to a significant breeding program for Galapagos tortoises, whose numbers have been in decline since the 1970's.

These captivating reptiles are very accustomed to humans, so be sure to bring your camera for some close-ups.

Day 8 Saturday

Saturday AM: Lobos Island, off San Cristobal

Isla Lobos, or "Sea Lion Island," is a long, thin island not far off the coast of San Cristobal Island. As the name implies, it is home to a healthy colony of sea lions. There is a trail on the island, and visitors can see different species of birds, including Boobys of both the Blue-footed and Nazca varieties. There are marina iguanas and lava lizards on the island as well.

In addition to the hike on the islet, the calm channel between Lobos Island and San Cristobal is one of the better snorkeling spots in the islands, as it is usually calm and the sea lions often frolic with visitors.

After our early morning visit, passengers will get ready and then be taken to San Cristobal Airport. Our airport personnel will assist passengers with the check in process. Farewell and boarding the flight back to mainland Ecuador.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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## YOUR SHIP: ELITE

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>Elite</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Luxury Catamaran</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>35 m</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>2019</b>

The Galapagos Elite Luxury Catamaran began operating on June 15th, 2019. When the Elite reached the azure waters of the Galapagos Islands as the newest mega-catamaran in the storied archipelago, it reinvented luxury, class and the entire Galapagos travel experience. A sleek, twin-hulled vessel that provides its guests with a steady and safe cruise, the design of the Elite allows for more space per guest on board, including integrated social areas that blend indoor and outdoor designs and experiences. All Suites on the Galapagos Elite luxury catamaran are spacious, comfortable, and well-appointed: the perfect place to relax and recharge after a day spent exploring the islands. Each suite has panoramic windows providing guests with sweeping ocean views, a private outdoor balcony, as well as a frosted glass wall in the restroom of each suite, bathing it in natural light. All beds are convertible, allowing them to be configured with two twin beds or one king-size bed. Our professional cuisine specialists aboard the Galapagos Elite prepare three delicious, nutritious meals per day: breakfast and lunch are served buffet-style, with a more elegant sit-down dinner served in the al fresco dining area on the partially covered sky deck. Special dietary needs are never a problem

and kids' meals are available, including kosher food (barbers). Guests of all ages enjoy the spacious, semi-covered sky deck, the al fresco dining area, and the cozy bar-salon while aboard the Elite, and its interior passenger lounge features a 180-degree panoramic view from its main deck. The Elite, a private luxury catamaran in the Galapagos, offers enviable itineraries with visits to the best visitor sites the Galapagos islands and Galapagos waters have to offer. Within the archipelago, we have long and short itineraries covering the Western, Central and Eastern islands. Needless to say, the Galapagos Elite luxury catamaran features state-of-the-art navigation systems and safety equipment; safety and reliability are essential parts of any Galapagos luxury

experience.

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