



M/C Monique

Itinerary D

4-Night Cruise

Sunday – Thursday

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

(B: breakfast / L: lunch / D: dinner)

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Sunday

AM: San Cristobal Airport Arrival

Upon arrival, reception and assistance at the airport, transfer from San Cristobal Airport to the M/C Monique.

PM: Interpretation Center

In the afternoon, broaden your understanding of the archipelago at the San Cristobal Interpretation Center. This modern facility offers engaging exhibits that trace the Galapagos' geological beginnings, ecological richness, and complex human history over time. Learn about the unique species that call these islands home and the ongoing conservation initiatives working to protect their fragile ecosystems for generations to come.

Activities and Excursions: Walking

Difficulty: Easy

(B, L, D)

Monday – Santa Fe & South Plaza Islands

AM: Santa Fe Island

Begin your morning by landing on Santa Fe, one of the oldest islands in the Galapagos, known for its towering forests of Opuntia cacti and distinctive pale-yellow land iguanas. Hike along scenic trails that lead you across the island's arid landscape or into the highlands where these endemic iguanas bask under the sun. After your walk, cool off in the calm, crystal-clear waters of the bay — ideal for swimming or snorkeling alongside playful sea lions, rays, and colorful reef fish.

Activities: Walking, Snorkeling



Difficulty: Moderate

PM: South Plaza Island

In the afternoon, explore the compact yet incredibly diverse South Plaza Island. Its vivid red and green Sesuvium ground cover contrasts dramatically with the island's black lava and towering prickly pear cacti. Here, you can often see swallow-tailed gulls, tropicbirds, and other seabirds nesting or riding the thermals above the crashing waves.

Activities: Walking

Difficulty: Easy

(B, L, D)

Tuesday – Darwin Bay & El Barranco (Genovesa Island)

AM: Darwin Bay

Disembark on the white coral beach of Darwin Bay, the only sandy landing site within Genovesa's volcanic caldera. During breeding season, male frigatebirds inflate their striking red throat pouches in elaborate mating displays while red-footed boobies perch on the mangrove branches.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Dinghy ride, Kayaking

Difficulty: Moderate

PM: El Barranco (Prince Philip's Steps)

In the afternoon visit, El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps, a rocky stairway that leads past a colony of Nazca and red-footed boobies up to a plateau of dried lava. Continuing through the thin Palo Santo Forest and looking out over the plain, visitors are often treated to sites of storm petrels launching out over the ocean.

A dinghy ride or kayaking along the edge of the cliffs provides a good chance to see the elusive Galapagos fur seals nestled on the rocks, and snorkeling is a great activity if you fancy a dip with a variety of shark species.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Dinghy ride, Kayaking

Difficulty: Moderate

(B, L, D)

Wednesday – Chinese Hat & Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)

AM: Chinese Hat

This scenic islet off the coast of Santiago Island is known for its striking lava formations.



With a maximum elevation of just 160 feet (52 meters) and within easy reach of Santa Cruz, Chinese Hat is typically only visited by those aboard a Galapagos Cruise, and is renowned as one of the best snorkeling spots in the archipelago.

Activities: walking, Snorkeling, Kayaking, Dinghy ride.

Difficulty: Easy

PM: Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)

In the afternoon you'll head to Dragon Hill, located in the northwestern region of Santa Cruz Island. This visit offers guests the chance to explore the island on foot and observe the remarkable land iguanas—once nearly extinct, now thriving once again.

You'll also encounter a saltwater lagoon home to flamingos, pintail ducks, and a variety of endemic bird species such as flycatchers and warblers. A brief hike leads to a stunning viewpoint at the top of the hill. Before returning to the yacht, enjoy some offshore snorkeling in the surrounding waters.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling

Difficulty: Moderate

(B, L, D)

Thursday – Black Turtle Cove & Departure

AM: Black Turtle Cove (Santa Cruz Island)

After breakfast, you'll explore Black Turtle Cove, located along the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. This site vividly demonstrates how mangroves shape the marine ecosystem, forming a vibrant and unique habitat. Three different species of mangroves extend from the shore deep into the water, stretching nearly a mile inland.

While gliding silently through the calm waters aboard a dinghy, you may spot spotted eagle rays and mustard rays gracefully swimming in formation. Keep an eye out for white-tipped reef sharks gliding beneath the surface and Pacific green sea turtles surfacing to breathe or mate. The area is also a haven for waterfowl, such as pelicans, herons, and egrets, all drawn by the cove's rich feeding grounds.

Activities and Excursions: Dinghy ride

Difficulty: Easy

After this last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.

Assistance and farewell at the airport.

(B,-,-)

End of cruise



* Itineraries are subject to change without prior notice due to weather conditions, National Park regulations, emergencies on board or any unforeseen circumstances.