

LifeBird Galapagos Cruise Tour July 6-15, 2025

The Galapagos Islands offer a remarkable experience for birding and close-up wildlife sightings. The archipelago boasts an unparalleled variety of fauna and flora, including endemic species like Darwin's finches, Galapagos Penguin, Lava Gull, Galapagos Dove, and Galapagos Hawk. Other notable bird species include Waved Albatross, Red-footed



and **Blue-footed Boobies**, Swallowtail Gull, Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds.



These two maps show the combined route of this tour.



We will embark on an outstanding nine-day birding and general wildlife tour aboard a luxurious 16-passenger yacht. The yacht is beautiful and equipped with all private air-conditioned cabins above deck, all with windows and no bunk beds. As we cruise through the eastern islands of the Galapagos, we plan to make our longer passages at night while we sleep so we can wake up in the morning to a new island to explore. During our exploration, we will hike the islands and observe birds and other wildlife close up. Also, there will be opportunities for snorkeling on beautiful reefs.

Detailed Itinerary

July 6: Arrivals at Quito Airport and overnight at a hotel near the airport.

July 7: Early morning flight to Baltra Island in the Galapagos. Our naturalist guide will be there to meet us at the airport and escort us to our yacht, Solaris. We'll spend the next nine days and eight nights on the yacht with many excursions to the islands. This afternoon, we'll head out to the Highlands of Santa Cruz Island, where we will hope to witness the magnificent **Giant Tortoises** roaming in their natural habitat. We'll also be looking for our first endemic finches among the Scalesia trees.



July 8: In the morning, we will visit the island of North Seymour, where there are **Blue-footed booby**, Swallowtail Gull, Great and Magnificent Frigatebird nesting colonies. We should be able to witness our first courtship dance of the iconic Blue-footed Booby.



In the afternoon, after a beautiful lunch, we will have an adventure to Mosquera, which is a lovely small white sand island that has the largest concentration of Galapagos Sea Lions in the archipelago.

July 9: We will have completed a nighttime passage to the Island of Genovesa, known as “Bird Island.” it is a small volcanic island on the northern outer edges of the Galapagos that hosts a massive seabird colony. During our visit, we will explore Darwin Bay, formed from a collapsed volcano. The center of the bay features a beautiful lake nestled within an eroded crater. We may find Galapagos Dove, Lava Gull, Wandering Tattler and several endemic finches. In the afternoon, we will embark on an excursion to El Barranco, a path famously taken by Prince Philip. The path leads through a bustling seabird colony and up the cliff, offering a breathtaking view. It is an ideal location to observe Short-eared Owls as they hunt for storm-petrels. Additionally, this area boasts the best concentration of Red-footed Booby in the Galapagos.



July 10: We will be visiting South Plaza, known for its “Galapagos Dragons,” or **Galapagos Land Iguana**, a large population is on this small island. Along the way, we will look for Galapagos Petrel, Elliot’s and Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel, Brown Noddy, **Swallowtail Gulls** and **Red-billed Tropicbirds**. Later in the day, we will visit the island of Santa Fe, home to many endemic species, such as the Galapagos Penguins, Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos Mockingbird, and several species of finches. It is also an ideal spot to observe or swim with sea lions.



July 11: On this day, we will be visiting San Cristobal. In the morning, we will visit Witch Hill, a lovely crescent-shaped natural beach with soft, powdery sand home to Sally Lightfoot crabs, sea lions, and, of course, seabirds. During the afternoon, we will visit Colorado Hill and the Galapagos Giant Tortoise breeding center. The trails here are good for San Cristobal Mockingbird, Galapagos Flycatcher and more finches.

July 12, This day will be devoted to exploring the phenomenal Island of Espanola, where we will walk along beaches and rocky pathways among nesting bird colonies, targeting the incredible **Waved Albatross**, which should entertain us with its unique courtship display

dances. There are also large numbers of Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies nesting.





July 13: On this day, we'll explore Floreana Island. This will be an opportunity to look for **Galapagos Penguins** from our dinghy rides and **American Flamingos** in the island's lagoon. There is a beautiful reef called "Devil's Crown" where we can snorkel and see beautiful tropical fish and sea lions. In the afternoon, we will visit the "Post Office" bay, where you can drop a postcard in a barrel and see if another visitor brings it back to you from the States. This is how mail was delivered by sailors on whaling ships in the 18th century and still is working today.

July 14: We begin with a trip to Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island, where we'll get to witness some breathtaking lava formations that are reminiscent of the moon's surface. Later in the day, we'll head to Bartholomew - a small volcanic islet perfect for snorkeling.



July 15: We will be paying a visit to the Black Turtle Cay early in the morning, which is a popular nesting site for green turtles. Keep an eye out for sharks and rays, which are often spotted in the area. The dingy ride through the mangroves may give you views of **Striated Herons**.



In the afternoon, we will transfer to Balta Airport for our flights back to Quito. From Quito, you can connect to your international flights home, or we can assist you in reserving another night in a hotel near the airport if you would rather not take an overnight flight home.

PRICE

**\$8200 PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
(SOME SINGLE ROOMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE)**

INCLUDED IN PRICE

All accommodations and meals aboard the yacht, Solaris, for 9 days and 8 nights.

Naturalist Guide and all island excursions mentioned in the itinerary.

Hotel for the first night in Quito with airport transfers.

Domestic roundtrip flights from Quito to Galapagos with airport transfers.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

International airfare to and from Quito (UIO airport code) and airport taxes.

Galapagos Island National Park Fee of \$200.

Tips to guide and boat crew.

Travel insurance (We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. If you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.)

Additional hotel nights or extras offered (Laundry, spa, phone calls, etc.)

Alcoholic beverages and sodas. Any other expense or extras not listed as included above.

Wetsuit rentals of \$50 (mask, fins and snorkel are included).

POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL NOTES

- *A first payment of \$2000 will be required for holding your space on this tour.*
- *Ninety (90) days before arrival (5/5/25) the balance due payment is required.*
- *If you have a cancellation of the trip before 90 days an administrative fee of \$50 is required and attempts to recover deposits will be made by LifeBird Tours. But please consider these refunds will depend on individual hotel and agent policies.*
- *If you have a cancellation of the trip between 90 to 60 days there is a 20% penalty fee. But please consider these refunds will depend on individual hotel and agent policies.*
- *Less than 60 days before arrival all monies will be forfeited. No refunds will be made if you leave the trip for any reason, whether voluntary or involuntary. No refunds will be made for services not utilized.*