MONIQUE
· CATAMARAN ·

A GALAPAGOS ISLANDS / MONIQUE LUXURY YACHT

Brief itinerary and visitor sites

7-Night Cruise / Thursday-Thursday

			Walking	Snorkeling	Kayaking / Stand-up paddleboarding	Dinghy ride
DAY 1 THURSDAY	1	Arrival to Baltra Airport				
	2 3 PM	Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz Island / ● Daphne Major Islet	◆	◆		
DAY 2 FRIDAY	4 AM	Rabida Island	◆	◆	◆	◆
	5 PM	Chinese Hat, off Santiago Island	◆	◆	◆	◆
DAY 3 SATURDAY	6 AM	Vicente Roca Point, Isabela Island		◆		◆
	7 PM	Espinoza Point, Fernandina Island	◆	◆		◆
DAY 4 SUNDAY	8 AM	Moreno Point, Isabela Island	◆	◆		◆
	9 PM	Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island			◆	◆
DAY 5 MONDAY	10 AM	Urbina Bay, Isabela Island	◆	◆		
	11 PM	Tagus Cove, Isabela Island	◆	◆	◆	◆
DAY 6 TUESDAY	12 AM	Espumilla Beach, Santiago Island	◆	◆	◆	◆
	13 PM	Buccaneer Cove, Santiago Island		◆	◆	◆
DAY 7 WEDNESDAY	14 AM	North Seymour Island	◆	◆		◆
	15 PM	Mosquera Islet	◆	◆		
DAY 8 THURSDAY	16 AM	Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island	◆			
	17	Transfer to Baltra Airport				

● Circumnavigation

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A 7-NIGHT CRUISE THURSDAY - THURSDAY

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M/C Monique

Itinerary A

7-Night Cruise

Thursday – Thursday

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

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

Thursday
AM – Baltra Airport
Upon landing, guests will be welcomed and assisted at the airport before being transferred to the M/C Monique.

PM – Las Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz Island
In the afternoon, you'll explore Las Bachas, a stunning white-sand beach along the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. It's a great spot for a relaxing walk or gentle snorkeling. This beach is a nesting site for sea turtles, and you may spot a rusted pontoon—an old-World War II remnant. The name "Bachas" is derived from a mispronunciation of "barges," referring to the two partially sunken vessels in the area.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling
Difficulty: Easy

PM – Daphne Major Islet
After visiting Las Bachas, the vessel will circumnavigate Daphne Major Islet, a treeless volcanic cone formed from compacted ash. This small yet significant islet serves as an important nesting site for Nazca boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, and blue-footed boobies. As you navigate its rugged perimeter, you'll witness a landscape that has inspired remarkable studies on natural selection and evolution.

Activities and Excursions: Circumnavigation
Difficulty: Easy

(-, L, D)

Friday
AM – Rabida Island
This morning's visit takes you to Rabida Island, which is renowned for its unique red sand beach. The island is home to striking cactus groves and dramatic rocky landscapes, along with native dry-zone vegetation and endemic species. A walk along the beach might reveal brown pelican nests and occasionally flamingos in a nearby saltwater lagoon.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Kayaking/Stand-up paddleboarding, Dinghy ride.
Difficulty: Moderate

PM – Chinese Hat (off Santiago Island)
In the afternoon, you will visit Chinese Hat, a small islet off the south coast of Santiago, with a maximum elevation of 160 feet (52 meters). Though within easy reach of Santa Cruz, Chinese Hat is typically only visited by those aboard a Galapagos Cruise.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Kayaking/Stand-up paddleboarding, Dinghy ride.
Difficulty: Easy

(B, L, D)

Saturday
AM – Vicente Roca Point (Isabela Island)
Only accessible by dinghy, this expansive bay on Isabela's northwest coast features two coves that attract a variety of nesting birds, including blue-footed and Nazca boobies, storm petrels, and Brown Noddies. The nutrient-rich waters make this a premier snorkeling spot, where whales, dolphins, sea lions, and marine birds can often be seen feeding.

Activities and Excursions: Snorkeling, Dinghy ride
Difficulty: Moderate

PM – Espinoza Point (Fernandina Island)
As one of the most pristine islands in the archipelago, Fernandina has never had a foreign species invade. It is also the most active island and farthest west. Espinoza point is the only visitor site on the entire island. Here you can see marine iguanas, Galapagos hawks and enjoy a walking and snorkeling activity at one of the most natural, unspoiled sites in the entire world.

Activities: Walking, Snorkeling, Dinghy ride
Difficulty: Easy / Moderate

(B, L, D)

Sunday
AM – Moreno Point (Isabela Island)
Moreno point is located on the west coast of Isabela Island and although it appears a barren lava flow at first, a walk along one of the trails soon reveals a multitude of beautiful green lagoons and mangroves and is a fantastic place to see penguins, blue herons and flamingos.

Meanwhile, a dinghy ride or snorkel along the rocky shoreline is a wonderful way to spot green sea turtles and white-tip sharks.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Dinghy Ride
Difficulty: Moderate

PM – Elizabeth Bay (Isabela Island)
This visitor site is visited by dinghy only as the park authorities have no authorized landing in order to protect the island. While in the dinghy you can appreciate a large abundance of marine life that can be seen in the clear waters.

Activities and Excursions: Kayaking/Stand-up paddleboarding, Dinghy Ride
Difficulty: Easy

(B, L, D)

Monday
AM – Urbina Bay (Isabela Island)
Millions of years ago, Urbina Bay was once laying on the ocean floor. Volcanic uplifts caused it to rise and now it is occupied by sea lions, land iguanas and flightless cormorants. It is a great place to enjoy some free time on the beach or the guide may suggest a walk.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling
Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

PM – Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)
If you like historic remnants, then you will enjoy finding what was left behind by pirates and sailors in the 1800s. This site was one of their preferred pit stops while traveling the seas. The walking here will provide incredible views of the cove and on the other side the mangrove forest where the last 35 pairs of Mangrove finches thrive.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Kayaking/Stand-up paddleboarding, Dinghy ride
Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

(B, L, D)

Tuesday
AM – Espumilla Beach (Santiago Island)

Espumilla Beach, located on the northern coast of Santiago Island, is an exquisite white sand beach whose name refers to the meringue-like trails of foam left by the lapping of the waves and is a popular place for marine iguanas. Sally Lightfoot crabs are abundant here, attracting predatory birds such as hawks, herons, and pelicans.

With an abundance of marine life including octopi, moray eel, and shark, snorkeling is recommended and available.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Kayaking/Stand-up paddleboarding, Dinghy ride
Difficulty: Moderate

PM – Buccaneer Cove (Santiago Island)

Located just north of James Bay, Buccaneer Cove was once a safe haven for sailors, buccaneers, and whalers during the 17th and 18th centuries, who anchored their vessels here to stash loot, collect fresh water, and capture giant tortoises for food.

Today, this dramatic site of red cliffs and eroded rock formations attracts wildlife rather than ships. The cove's steep walls provide nesting ledges for blue-footed and Nazca boobies, pelicans, and gulls, while sea lions and fur seals rest along the shore. It is also an important nesting site for sea turtles. A dinghy ride offers close-up views of the impressive coastline and abundant birdlife, while snorkeling, kayaking, or paddleboarding reveal a rich variety of marine species beneath the surface.

Activities and Excursions: Snorkeling, Dinghy Ride, Kayaking / paddleboarding
Difficulty: Moderate

(B, L, D)

Wednesday
AM – North Seymour Island

Named after British naval officer Lord Hugh Seymour, this small island is covered in low-lying vegetation and teems with birdlife.

You'll encounter blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, and a substantial colony of magnificent frigatebirds, with males displaying their vibrant red throat pouches to attract mates.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling, Dinghy Ride

Difficulty: Easy

PM – Mosquera Islet

Positioned between Baltra and North Seymour, Mosquera is a flat, sandy islet without a designated trail, allowing for free exploration.

It's known for its thriving sea lion colony, shorebirds, and colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs.

The surrounding reefs make for excellent snorkeling, with chances to spot rays, turtles, and reef sharks.

Activities and Excursions: Walking, Snorkeling
Difficulty: Moderate

(B, L, D)

Thursday
AM - Charles Darwin Research Station

Visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, also known as the Charles Darwin Research Station. The center hosts an interpretation center, museum, library, and tortoise breeding facility, home to various tortoise subspecies being prepared for reintroduction.

Activities and Excursions: Walking

Difficulty: Easy

(B, -, -)

After your last visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.

Assistance and farewell at the airport.

End of cruise

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