GALAPAGOSISLANDS.CRUISES · FREE GUIDE

Galapagos Cruise Planner 2027

A year of Galapagos departures, planned: seasons, US holidays, booking deadlines, trip lengths, a budget worksheet and checklists.

By local experts who have traveled the islands more than 40 times. We are not a travel agency or a cruise operator: we inform, compare and help you plan. Questions: hola@galapagosislands.cruises

1. 2027 at a glance

Month	Season	Water	Seas	Highlights
January	warm season	about 72–77 °F (22–25 °C)	usually calm	Green sea turtles mating and nesting on sandy beaches
February	warm season	about 75–79 °F (24–26 °C)	calm, with good visibility	Greater flamingos nesting on Floreana
March	peak of the warm season	about 77–80 °F (25–27 °C), the warmest of the year	calm	Waved albatross begin arriving on Española late in the month
April	warm season	about 75–79 °F (24–26 °C)	calm	Waved albatross arrive on Española and start courtship
May	transition between seasons	about 73–77 °F (23–25 °C)	mostly calm, starting to change	Blue-footed booby courtship on North Seymour and Española
June	start of the cool garúa season	about 70–75 °F (21–24 °C)	becoming choppier on open crossings	Humpback whales sometimes seen offshore (June to October)
July	cool season	about 68–73 °F (20–23 °C)	moderate swells on open crossings	Seabird activity at its peak
August	cool season	about 66–72 °F (19–22 °C)	choppy at times	Galapagos hawks courting on Española and Santiago
September	cool season	about 66–70 °F (19–21 °C), often the coolest	often the roughest month	Penguins most active around Bartolomé and the west
October	easing cool season	about 68–72 °F (20–22 °C)	moderate	Galapagos fur seals courting
November	end of the cool season	about 70–73 °F (21–23 °C)	calming	Playful sea lion pups in the water
December	start of the warm season	about 72–75 °F (22–24 °C)	calming	Giant tortoise eggs begin hatching

2. US holidays in 2027 and demand

Holiday	Date	On the water
New Year	Fri Jan 1, 2027	Peak; book 12+ months ahead
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Mon Jan 18	Long weekend
Presidents' Day	Mon Feb 15	Long weekend; warm season
Spring break	March (varies by school)	Busy; warmest water
Easter	Sun Mar 28	Busy week
Memorial Day	Mon May 31	Shoulder season
Independence Day	Sun Jul 4	Summer peak

Labor Day	Mon Sep 6	Quieter month
Thanksgiving	Thu Nov 25	Popular family week
Christmas	Sat Dec 25	Peak; book 12+ months ahead

3. Booking timeline for 2027 departures

Departure	Book by (popular dates)
Christmas–New Year 2027	Late 2026
Summer 2027 (June–August)	Fall 2026
Spring 2027	Summer–fall 2026
Quieter months	6 months ahead often works

4. Choose your trip shape

Length	Share of itineraries in our records	Best for
4 days	124 of 841	Add-on to mainland Ecuador
5 days	198	First taste; limited islands
6–7 days	118	Balance of time and cost
8 days	317	Classic loop; the most islands
11–15 days	71	Back-to-back segments

5. Budget worksheet

Line	Your figure (US$)
Cruise fare × travelers	
Park entry fee (US$200 adult / US$100 under 12)*	
TCT (US$20 per person)*	
International flights	
Mainland–islands flights	
Mainland hotel nights	
Gratuities	
Insurance and extras	
Total	

* Galapagos National Park entry fee US$200 per foreign adult and US$100 per child under 12, plus the US$20 Transit Control Card (TCT), at the time of writing; the government can change them, so confirm before you travel.

6. Documents

☐ Passport valid 6+ months after return

☐ Return or onward ticket

☐ Transit Control Card (TCT), bought at Quito or Guayaquil airport

☐ Cash for the park fee on arrival

☐ Travel insurance details

7. Packing checklist

☐ Reef-safe sunscreen and sun hat

☐ Rash guard; wetsuit for June–November

☐ Light rain shell

☐ Wet-landing sandals and trail shoes

☐ Binoculars and dry bag

☐ Motion-sickness remedy (ask your doctor)

☐ Refillable water bottle

8. Next step

Use the free tools at https://galapagosislands.cruises/galapagos-tools/ and write to **hola@galapagosislands.cruises** with your dates. Private groups: ask about charters.

Reference guide only. Fees, routes and vessel details change; confirm before you book. © 2026 galapagosislands.cruises · hola@galapagosislands.cruises · https://galapagosislands.cruises