

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS ITINERARY A+B

First day

AM. Baltra (AIRPORT)

PM. Santa Cruz Highlands

Take the bus in Puerto Ayora, the upper part of Santa Cruz Island is characterized by green vegetation, which contrasts with the dry vegetation that are typical of the smaller islands. The dominant vegetation is the Scalesia, which are trees that yield lush green appearance.

You can also find the lava tunnels, with distances of more than a mile long that are underground, walking through them will give you a unique experience, this place is inhabited by giant turtles found in the wild.

Important aspects: Lava tunnels, wild giant tortoises, endemic vegetation and land birds

Activities: Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)

Tipo de Desembarco: Desembarco seco

Difficulty: Moderate hike



Second day

AM. Rabida (Jervis).

The Rabida Island is one of the most colorful and varied volcanic island in the archipelago, it has a great dive site. Its famous brown sand beach and spectacular viewpoints offer wonderful landscapes. The island is a delight for bird watchers. Some of the rarer species are found here as nine varieties of finches, long-beaked, Galapagos hawk, and brown pelicans.

Attractions: Snorkel: reddish-white cheek ducks, goldfish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon, penguins, Galapagos Hawk

Activities: Snorkeling, boat tour and short hike (0.6 miles / 1 km)

Landing Type: Wet Landing

Difficulty: Easy / moderate



PM. Sombrero Chino

It is a small islet located on the south-east coast of Santiago Island, its shape is like a Chinese hat, geologically it was formed by the expulsion of lava in the form of drops, it is known as a cone type "Splash".

Towards the west side the lavas are pillow-like which is an indicator that the flows formed under the sea and were later lifted outwards here you can find corals on the lava.

Important aspects:

Snorkeling, Galapagos geology, lava tubes and lava flows, marine iguanas, Galapagos penguin, sea lions.

Activities: 700 m trail hike, snorkeling, swimming.

Landing Type: Wet Landing

Difficulty: Easy



Third day

AM. Bartolomé Island

The main attraction is the geological interpretation that can be given to this site, here is the famous pinnacle, the top of the hill from where the landscape is observed, it is located at an altitude of 115 meters above sea level. To the east of the summit are splatters of cones that are parasitic because they did not form from the main explosion.

The tuff cones are to the west and their remains eroded. The tower or Pinnacle is part of a volcanic tuff cone. There are two beaches that are visitor areas and are connected by a path.

Attractions:

Landscape geology, splash cones, lava glass bubbles (Hornitos), pioneer plants, also diving, observation of rays, sharks and penguins.

Activities: swimming, diving and walking along the 795-meter route and 375 wooden stairs.

Type of Landing: Wet and dry landing

Difficulty: easy and moderate.



PM. Sullivan Bay (Santiago Island)

It is located to the southeast of Santiago Island, it is covered by pahoehoe lava flows that were active in the last 25 years of the 19th century. The lava at Sullivan formed in 1897. This flow is geologically very young. The magma that formed is flat, but the movement of underground lava causes it to be corrugated, the rapid cooling and other eruptions led to the rupture in many places of the lava. Here islands of vegetation have been formed, surrounded by more recent lava tides, there are cone-shaped formations of tuff, which are small volcanoes, similar to Hornitos

Fourth day

AM. Black Turtle Cove

It is located north of Santa Cruz Island, it is a bay surrounded by a mangrove forest, it is a resting place, mainly for sea turtles, on the mangrove forest colonies of seabirds rest.

Attractions: Nesting site for sea turtles, lagoons with flamingos, marine iguanas and migratory and aquatic birds.

Activities: Swimming, diving and walking on the 1 km trail.

Landing Type: Wet Landing

Difficulty: Easy.

BALTRA

PM. Las Bachas beach

It is located in the north of the island of Santa Cruz, there are two beaches with an approximate length of 1 km. The name comes from World War II, when the United States Army left two barges on this beach, people began to use this name for what was initially called Las Bachas beach.

The predominant vegetation is the coastal zone with mangroves. It is one of the main nesting sites for sea turtles (*Cheloniemydas*) on Santa Cruz Island. It is a good place to see flamingos, as well as aquatic and migratory birds.

Attractions: Nesting site for sea turtles, lagoons with flamingos, marine iguanas and migratory and aquatic birds.

Activities: swimming, diving and walking the 1 km trail.

Landing Type: Wet Landing

Difficulty: Easy.



Fifth day

AM. Cerro Brujo (Isla San Cristóbal)

Located on the north coast, this hill and its surroundings constitute one of the most picturesque beaches in the Galapagos with its fine white sand and abundance of animals. The fauna includes sea turtles, rays, and various types of booby. Clear water provides an excellent opportunity to enjoy swimming and snorkeling.

Attractions: beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shorebirds, finches and nightingales; diving: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponge corals.

Activities: hike, boat ride, snorkel and kayak.

Landing Type: Wet Landing

Difficulty: easy to walk on the beach



AM. León Dormido (Isla San Cristóbal)

This striking rock formation is located off the western coast of San Cristóbal. The rocks protrude from the water, vertically hundreds of feet above the ocean, and are divided by a small channel. Although there are no landing zones, kayaking and diving allow visitors to enjoy a variety of marine life.

The most outstanding:

Snorkel: Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays, hammerhead sharks, spectacular rock formations; seabirds: blue footed boobies, Nazca boobies and frigates

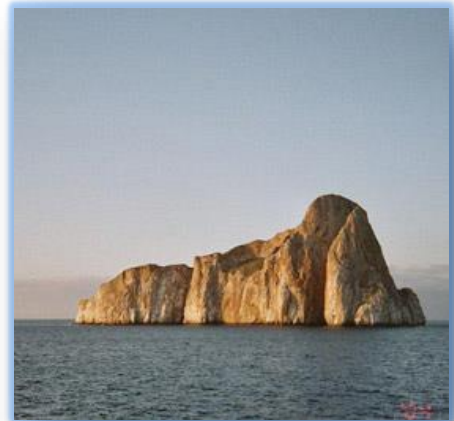
Activities:

Snorkeling & zodiac ride

Landing Type:

No Landing

Difficulty
Easy



PM. Lobos Island (Isla San Cristóbal)

The name of this island is the appropriate name for a colony of noisy, cheerful sea lions, which welcome visitors by diving and swimming with their flippers. This island also offers great diving opportunities, as well as the chance to see blue-footed boobies.

Attractive:

Snorkeling with sea lions, frigates, Blue-footed Boobies.

Activities:

Short hike (less than half a mile / 1 km), zodiac ride, snorkeling.

Landing Type:

Dry landing

Difficulty

Easy moderate



Sixth day

PM. Cerro Tijeretas (San Cristobal Island)

This hill offers visitors a breathtaking view of the bay of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on one side and the city on the other. The area is also ideal for observing both types of frigates and a great variety of flora. The site also offers safe diving and swimming.

Attractions: Frigate birds, cactus, red mangrove

Activities: Snorkeling, swimming

Landing Type: Dry Landing

Difficulty: Easy



AM. Interpretation Center and Galapagueras (San Cristobal Island)

The Interpretation Center was opened in 1998 as a phase of the "Environmental Education and Interpretation Project." Visitors enjoy exhibits on natural history, human history, and conservation. Conservation efforts represent the movement to protect the islands' wildlife and natural environment. Interpretation Center has an open air space, audio-visual equipment and meeting rooms.

Attractions:
visitor center, giant tortoises in captivity, land birds.

Activities: interpretive trail walk.

Landing Type: Dry Landing.

Difficulty: Easy



Seventh day

San Cristóbal Island

In San Cristóbal is the city of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno which is the Capital of the Province of Galapagos, on this island is the Laguna del Junco, located 700 meters above sea level. El Junco has been the subject of a study in which the sediments at the bottom of the lake were analyzed to discover information about the vegetation and climate of the archipelago during its formation thousands of years ago.



AM. Punta Pitt (San Cristobal Island)

Punta Pitt, located at the north-eastern end of San Cristóbal Island, here you can see frigates, petrels, and the three types of blue-footed, masked and red-footed boobies. A steep path goes up a cliff, crossing a ravine, reaching a site with a large number of birds. This site is also ideal for snorkeling and diving.



Attractions: wonderful landscape, sea colony of sea lions, three species of boobies.

Activities: boating, diving, kayaking and hiking (1.55 miles / 2.5 km).

Landing Type: Wet Landing

Difficulty: Moderate / difficult

Eighth day

A.M. Charles Darwin Station (Santa Cruz Island)

The tour starts at the Information Center of the Parque Nacional Galapagos PNG, the path continues to the Interpretation Center Van Stralen, then continues to the breeding center and from there begins an elevated wooden path, here you can see turtles of the Española Island, the trail ends at the corrals where captive Galapagos are used to humans.

The turtle and land iguana breeding program is carried out by PNG staff with the collaboration of scientists from the Charles Darwin CDRS Research Station. After the devastating predation that wild dogs that have caused problems to the populations of land iguanas, *Conolophus subcristatus*, in Santa Cruz and Isabela, in 1976, the station and the PNG started a breeding program for these reptiles.

The main function of the Darwin Station is to promote scientific research on the islands and the associated logistics. The station is directly dependent on the Darwin Foundation, an international non-profit organization.



Attractions: giant tortoises in captivity, turtle breeding program and land iguanas

Activities: Hikes

Landing Type: Dry Landing

Difficulty: Easy

INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on board based on a shared double cabin
- Detailed food: Breakfast, lunch and dinner (based on menu)
- Bilingual naturalist guide (English-Spanish) certified by the Galapagos National Park
- Detailed visits
- Maritime and land transportation for necessary visits

NOT INCLUDED:

- Air ticket (check our prices and advantages of buying with us)
- Migration control card Galápagos Government Council \$ 20
- Tax to the Galapagos National Park:

NATIONALITY		THIRD-AGE ADULTS	UNDER 12 YEARS
Foreigners	\$100	\$100	\$50
Pacto-Andino Mercosur	\$50	\$50	\$100
Ecuadorianos	\$6	\$3	\$3

- Bus Airport Dock and / or Canal de Itabaca Airport \$ 5 per way per passenger.
- Snorkeling equipment, it is possible to rent on board, for this we require your confirmation.
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance on land

Av. Amazonas N24-24 y Pinto Telf. 2567100 – 2528764 – 0999237320 – 0994952005

WWW.GALAPAGOSNATURAL.COMsvmerak1@hotmail.com Quito - Ecuador