

Galapagos Natural Life

Luxury Class - Catamarans Galapagos

OCEAN SPRAY CATAMARAN



Itinerary "A"

6 Days – 5 Nights

SATURDAY:

Chinese Hat

Sombrero Chino is named after its shape formed by volcanic rock giving it the name, Chinese Hat. Since it was given a maximum visiting capacity by the National Park Service it offers rare, up close viewing of Galapagos wildlife and well preserved remnants of fragile volcanic rock that can't be found in such a unique condition anywhere else. The islet is home to a colony of sea lions on the white coral sand beach. Here you can see American Oystercatchers, Galapagos Penguins swimming along the shores, and Sally-Lightfoot Crabs in bright contrast to the dark volcanic rock.

Highlights:

American Oystercatchers,
Sally-Lightfoot Crabs, Sea Lion
colonies, Galapagos Penguins,
Lava Lizards, Marine Iguanas,
and White-Tipped Reef Sharks.

Possible Activities: A hike of 400 meters starting at the beach rising up to 160 feet exploring the different volcanic remnants and rare plant life along with amazing views; Snorkeling among White-Tipped Reef Sharks and various tropical fish.

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Moderate

SUNDAY:

Isabela Island

Vicente Roca Point

The largest in the archipelago, this seahorse-shaped island is also one of the youngest and most volcanically active. The morning visit is to Vicente Roca Point. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola-mola (sunfish).

Snorkeling & panga ride

Activities:

Difficulty: Easy /moderate

Type of Landing: No landing

Highlights & Animals: Penguins, Blue-footed Boobies, terns, Nazca Boobies, two types of sea lions. Snorkeling: sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

Espinosa Point

No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. The island's highlight features the Flightless Cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos Hawk.

Highlights: Flightless Cormorant, marine iguanas, AA lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano “La Cumbre”

Activities: Hike (1.2 mi/2 km)

Type of Landing: Dry and slippery at low tide

Difficulty: Moderate

MONDAY:

Tagus Cove

Tagus Cove is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.

Highlights: Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

Activities: Long hike, snorkeling, dinghy ride

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate/ difficult

Urbina Bay

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast, between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954, causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out, leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling.

Highlights: Land iguanas (the biggest in Galapagos), hawks, coral reef, giant tortoises; snorkeling: turtles, rays, tropical fish

Activities: Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6mi/1 km), long (1.9mi/3km)

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy /moderate

TUESDAY:

Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets, which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and Blue-footed Boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.

Highlights: Mangrove forest (unique in Galapagos), sea turtles, penguins, rays, herons, sea lions.

Activities: Two-hour dinghy ride

Type of Landing: No landing

Difficulty: Easy

Moreno Point

Moreno Point is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves create a birdwatcher's delight. In the tide pools green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted.

Highlights: Flamingoes, gallinules, Pintail ducks, turtles, whitetip reef sharks.

Activities: Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike (1.2mi/2km)

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate/difficult

WEDNESDAY:

Charles Darwin Station

The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to turtles ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Sub-species of turtles interact with one another and many of the older turtles are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a pet. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own.

Highlights: Giant Tortoises in captivity

Activities: Walking

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Easy

Santa Cruz Highlands

Reached by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green, contrasting beautifully with much of the dry, lower islands. The dominant vegetation in the highlands is the *Scalesia* trees, creating the lush green color. The lava tubes, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience.

Lava tunnels, wild turtles,
tortoises breeding center.

Highlights:

Activities: Hike (1.5 mi/ 2 ½ km)

**Type of
Landing:** Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate (Long)

THURSDAY:

South Plaza Island

In the morning, you will head to South Plaza Island. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by *Opuntia* cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the *Sesuvium*. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

Highlights:

Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

Activities: Hike (2 ½ km /1.5 mi)

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate

info@galapagoslastminute.net

galapagos_natural_life@hotmail.com

Quito - Ecuador - South America