

# MONSERRAT GALAPAGOS CRUISE ITINERARY B 4d/3n Thu-Sun

# DAY 1: BALTRA AIRPORT/ SANTA CRUZ ISLAND (THURSDAY) Baltra

Transfer to the boat to meet the guide and get on board. In the afternoon, enjoy the highlands. Visit a tortoise ranch and see some of the amazing volcanic formations on Santa Cruz.

#### **Santa Cruz Highlands Excursion (PM)**

Santa Cruz Island (2h-3h)

Visit the highlands of Santa Cruz and see the Galápagos giant tortoise in its natural surroundings. Explore the area and its incredible underground lava tunnels – some are more than 1km (.6 mi) long! Wander along the volcanic tubes and keep an eye out for the (mainly) nocturnal barn owls that sometimes roost here.

# DAY 2: ISLAS PLAZA / SANTA FÉ ISLAND (FRIDAY)

Land at South Plaza in the morning for wildlife spotting opportunities and a walk through the cactus forest. In the afternoon, take a guided walk around Santa Fé to observe wildlife and plentiful marine iguanas.

#### **South Plaza Island Visit (AM)**

South Plaza

Visit South Plaza, one of the smallest islands in the Galápagos, which has one of the largest populations of land iguanas. Walk along a path through a cactus forest and view a combination of dry and coastal vegetation on this lively island, home to a wide range of fauna, including incredible birdlife. Spot red-billed tropicbirds and indigenous swallow-tailed gulls resting on the cliffs, and sea lions playing in the waters.



#### Sante Fé Hiking (PM)

Santa Fé Island

Lace up your hiking boats to explore the island's flora and fauna. Trek toward the cliffs along the island's northern shore to see a forest of giant prickly pear cacti (Opuntia). See endemic land iguanas lounging in their favourite forest, and feasting on Opuntia pads and fruit.

### DAY 3: PUNTA PITT / CERRO COLORADO (SATURDAY)

Morning landing at Punta Pitt on San Cristóbal Island to observe the marine iguanas and seabirds along the beach and enjoy a snorkelling excursion. Head to La Galapaguera for opportunities to see giant tortoises.

#### **Punta Pitt Visit (AM)**

Punta Pitt

Enjoy amazing wildlife watching and interesting geological formations on this fascinating expedition. Arrive at a quiet cove on the eastern tip of San Cristóbal to explore Punta Pitt. Made up of volcanic tuff substrate, it's the only site in the Galápagos where it's possible to see three species of boobies and two species of frigatebirds.

#### **Snorkelling (Punta Pitt) (AM)**

Punta Pitt

Snorkel around Punta Pitt Island and spot schools of fish swimming below. On the shore admire the nesting birds and sun bathing sea lions.

#### Galapaguera de Cerro Colorado Visit (PM)

San Cristóbal Island

Get up close to giant tortoises at the Galapaguera de Cerro Colorado, an area of land reserved for the repopulation of these magnificent ancient creatures. Learn about the life cycle of the tortoises at the small breeding centre and interpretation centre.



## DAY 4: PUERTO BAQUERIZO MORENO/AIRPORT (SUNDAY)

#### San Cristóbal

Explore the port town of Puerto Baquerizo, the capital of the Galápagos. Visit the San Cristóbal Interpretation Centre before transferred to the airport.

### **Interpretation Center Visit (AM)**

San Cristóbal Island (1h-2h)

Learn about the history of the Galápagos Islands from the very beginning of their volcanic origins through to today's conservation efforts. Tour the Human History exhibit to learn about the islands' discovery and colonization, and discover the natural history and variety of flora and fauna that make the Galápagos so fascinating.