

ITINERARY A 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

MONDAY - MONDAY



Galapagos Natural Life S.A

Director de la operadora turística

Joaquín Pinto E8-64 y Av. 6 de diciembre "La Mariscal"

Quito-Ecuador-South América

Telf.: (593) (2) 2564-945 / 2520-575 / 0984579397

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DAY 1 – MONDAY

MORNING FLIGHT TO SAN CRISTOBAL – LOBOS ISLAND

PM: After arriving at San Cristobal airport, we will be greeted by our naturalist guide to then board the M/C Analí and have lunch. Following our meal, we will navigate a short distance to Lobos Island. This visitor site has a trail of 850 meters that crossed almost all of the island. There is a small population of blue-footed boobies and common frigate birds nesting at this site, that is also inhabited by the two species of sea lions present in the archipelago. This is also a great site for snorkeling, as the waters are calm and not so deep.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking – snorkeling– panga ride
- **Difficulty:** Moderate
- **LandingType:** Dry
- **Wildlife:** Sealions, mantarays, and sea turtles, blue-footed boobies, frigate birds

DAY 2 - TUESDAY

SOUTH PLAZA & SANTA FE



AM: Dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the archipelago on colorful South Plaza, home to vibrant green prickly pears, deep red Sesuvium, and coppery-orange land iguanas. Impressive seaward cliffs make the perfect perching spot for a variety of coastal birds. This is also a great place to observe the adult and pup sea lions swimming along the shores.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking
- **Difficulty:** Moderate

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- **Landing Type:** Dry
- **Wildlife:** Land iguanas, finches, sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, and red-billed tropic birds

PM: After a wet landing on Santa Fe, we will be encountered by a white beach where sea lions are usually resting. We will be looking for the endemic species of land iguana, larger and yellower than land iguanas on other islands. The largest prickly pear cacti in the Galapagos are also found here.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking – snorkeling – panga ride - Kayaking
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Landing Type:** Wet
- **Wildlife:** Galapagos hawks, Santa Fe land iguanas, sea lions, green sea turtles, and lava lizards

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

CHINESE HAT & DRAGON HILL



AM: Less than a quarter of one square kilometer in size, this island gets its name from being shaped like a Chinese hat. The hat shape is best appreciated from the north side. Lava formations can be seen on the western side of the island, formed under the sea and later raised upward, making it possible to observe coral heads on the lava.

Be amazed by the landscapes covered by sea lions' colonies, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking – snorkeling – panga ride - Kayaking
- **Difficulty:** Moderate
- **Landing Type:** Wet

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- **Wildlife:** White-cheeked pintail ducks, colorful fish, sea lions, penguins, Galapagos hawks, white-tipped reef sharks, lava lizards, sea lions, and marine iguanas

PM: We head across to Cerro Dragon on Santa Cruz's northwest shore (dry landing) to visit a saltwater lagoon, home to Greater Flamingos, black-necked stilts, and white-cheeked pintails. Further inland we find a fantastic land iguana esting site.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking – snorkeling
- **Difficulty:** Moderate
- **Landing Type:** Dry
- **Wildlife:** Flamingos, Darwin's finches, white-cheeked pintail ducks, and land iguanas

DAY 4 - THURSDAY

CHARLES DARWIN STATION & SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS (SANTA CRUZ ISLAND)

AM: We will visit Charles Darwin Research Station. Here, we will see tortoises from different islands. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors.

After this visit, we will continue our way to the Baltra airport for the departing flight to mainland Ecuador.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Landing Type:** Dry
- **Wildlife:** Galapagos tortoises

PM: This area, in contrast to the coastal region, has lush vegetation and forest due to the humidity in the higher regions.

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We will visit one of the ranches of the area where it is possible to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. As these animals migrate from the coastal area to the highlands and back, the chosen ranch will depend on the presence of the tortoises since they roam free and change locations. This is also a good place to see the ground finch of the Island, which populates these forests where it is also possible to see the yellow warbler.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Landing Type:** N/A
- **Wildlife:** Galapagos hawks, yellow warblers, and giant tortoises

DAY 5 - FRIDAY

TINTORERAS ISLET – SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO – ARNALDO TUPIZA & WETLANDS (ISABELA ISLAND)

AM: This area concentrates a lot of marine life that is easy to spot from the dingy or kayak. These tranquil waters are home to sea turtles, sea lions, rays, blue-footed boobies and other marine species. This site is also famous for the channels formed by the lava and that are used as resting sites by the white tipped reef sharks, known locally as “Tintoreras.”

After visiting Tintoreras, we will climb Sierra Negra Volcano. Its caldera is considered to be the second largest in the world, measuring nine kilometers from east to west and 10 kilometers from north to south. After leaving the transport, visitors hike up a trail to reach the rim of the crater for spectacular views of the crater and the nearby Volcan Chico, as well as the extensive lava fields created by the shield volcanos that have created this island.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking – snorkeling – panga ride
- **Difficulty:** Hard
- **Landing Type:** N/A
- **Wildlife:** Sharks, sea-horses, turtles

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PM: The Arnaldo Tupiza Tortoise breeding center helps to repopulate the island with young adults of the five species, threatened in their natural habitat by introduced animals such as goats, cats, and rats.

By the end of the day we will visit Isabela's Wetlands, which are a group of swamps and lagoons surrounded by mangrove trees. This site is considered one of the best near Puerto Villamil for spotting migratory birds, as a path takes visitors through the wetlands, where is easy to see flamingoes, whimbrels, common stilts, and gallinules.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking
- **Difficulty:** Moderate
- **Landing Type:** N/A
- **Wildlife:** Galapagos tortoises

DAY 6 - SATURDAY

PUNTAMORENO & ELIZABETH BAY (ISABELA ISLAND)

AM: We arrive at Isabela, the largest island in the Galapagos. After breakfast, we step ashore at Punta Moreno (dry landing) onto a superb pahoehoe lava flow surrounded by giant shield volcanoes, some of which are still active! From here we will do a short hike to a lagoon where flamingos are usually present.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking – snorkeling– panga ride
- **Difficulty:** Moderate / Hard
- **Landing Type:** Dry
- **Wildlife:** Flamingos, sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, pintail ducks, sea lions, tropical fish, paint billed crakes, and white-cheeked pintails

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PM: In the afternoon, you take a panga ride around the islets of Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island, to see marine iguanas, penguins, marine turtles, seabirds, shorebirds, herons and blue-footed boobies.

- **PossibleActivities:** Pangariding
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **LandingType:** N/A
- **Wildlife:** Marine iguanas, penguins, marine turtles, seabirds, shorebirds, herons and blue-footed boobies.



DAY 7 - SUNDAY

TAGUS COVE (ISABELAISLAND) & ESPINOZA POINT (FERNANDINA ISLAND)

AM: Dry landing near Tagus Cove, a historical pirate hideaway where names of countless ships are recorded for posterity on the cliff face. Hike through beautiful Galapagos landscapes to Darwin Lake, a salt-water crater lagoon surrounded by tuff stone.

- **Possible Activities:** Hiking – snorkeling– panga ride - kayaking
- **Difficulty:** Easy / Moderate
- **LandingType:** Wet
- **Wildlife:** Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorant, finches, land iguanas, large-billed flycatchers, hawks, land birds, sea turtles, Galapagos sharks, and hammer head sharks

PM: We cross Bolivar Channel to Fernandina Island, one of the world's most pristine sites, and disembark (dry landing) at Punta Espinosa. Strolling along the shoreline, we will be on the lookout for flightless cormorants, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos penguins and hawks, sooty-colored marine iguanas and bright red-orange Sally Light foot crabs.

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- **Possible Activities:** Hiking - snorkeling
- **Difficulty:** Easy/ Moderate
- **Landing Type:** Dry (slippery)
- **Wildlife:** Fur seals, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos hawks, oystercatchers, marine iguanas, finches, reef sharks, turtles, rays, and different species of tropical fish



DAY 8 - MONDAY

BACHAS BEACH (SANTA CRUZ ISLAND) & DEPARTURE

AM: This visitor site has a delightful, long beach perfect for swimming or for taking a stroll to observe the wildlife. The beach is a nesting area for green sea turtles, which leave tracks in the sand after burying their eggs, especially from November to February.

- **PossibleActivities:** Hiking - snorkeling
- **Difficulty:**Easy
- **LandingType:**Wet
- **Wildlife:** Green sea turtles

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