

# ***ITINERARY B5 5DAYS / 4 NIGHTS***

***THURSDAY-MONDAY***



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## **DAY 1 – THURSDAY**

### **MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA – SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS**

PM: After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our naturalist guide to then visit the Highlands of the island. In contrast to the coastal region, has lush vegetation and forest due to the humidity in the higher regions. We will visit El Chato II ranch 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. This is also a good place to see the ground finch of the Island, which populates these forests where is also possible to see the vermilion.

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

## **DAY 2 - FRIDAY**

### **CHAMPION ISLET, CORMORANT POINT, BARONESS LOOKOUT & POST OFFICE BAY (FLOREANA ISLAND)**



AM: We spend the day on Floreana, legendary homestead of infamous Baroness Eloise Von Wagner de Bousquet. After snorkeling near Champion Islet, we will be landing onto the olivine beaches of Punta Cormorant, where we will be seeking Greater Flamingos on the brackish lagoon on our way to another special beach with the finest sand you'll set foot on, a sea turtle nesting ground where sharks and rays also visit regularly.

- Possible Activities: Hiking – snorkeling – panga ride • Difficulty: Easy • Landing Type: Wet • Wildlife: Flamingos,

White-tipped sharks, Galapagos sharks, rays, and tropical fish

PM: After lunch, we will hike up to Baroness Lookout to see an incredible panorama views. A great place to observe the Palo Santo and Mangrove forests, as well as the coastline from the Enderby Island to Post Office Bay; Cerro Straw and Punta Cormorant.

After visiting this place, we will visit Post Office Bay (wet landing), where you can drop your postcards in the barrel as the whalers did centuries ago and select cards to hand deliver when you return home.

- Possible Activities: Hiking – kayaking - snorkeling
- Difficulty: Easy
- Landing Type: Wet
- Wildlife: N/A

## **DAY 3 – SATURDAY**

### **GARDNER BAY & SUAREZ POINT (ESPAÑOLA ISLAND)**

AM: We will spend the morning in the fantastic Gardner Bay (wet landing) of Española Island; an outstanding beach with sea lions, marine iguanas, and the intrepid Española mockingbird. Close to Española, there is a good spot for snorkeling called Gardner Islet. While snorkeling, there is a good chance playful sea lions will join you. Get ready for more snorkeling at Osborn islet, a great place to observe great quantities of marine life.

- Possible Activities: Hiking – snorkeling – panga ride
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Landing Type: Wet
- Wildlife: Española mockingbirds, three species of Darwin’s finches, a large colony of sea lions, occasional green sea turtles, coral fish, and other marine life



PM: In the afternoon we will head to Suarez Point, one of the most popular landing sites in Galapagos. The highlights include: sea lions near the landing place, sometimes to be seen body-surfing in the large breakers, large marine iguanas, with red-colored males in the breeding season, oystercatchers, blue-footed and Nazca boobies, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos doves, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds, and three species endemic to Española: the waved albatross (present only from April to December), the Española mockingbird, and the Española lava lizard. The trail ends in "El Soplador" a blowhole that sprays water some 25 m (75 feet) into the air.

- Possible Activities: Hiking
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Landing Type: Dry
- Wildlife: Waved albatross (breeding site), Nazca boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, blue-footed boobies, finches, Galapagos doves, and marine iguanas

## **DAY 4 – SUNDAY**

### **PITT POINT, WITCH HILL & KICKER ROCK (SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND)**

AM: Punta Pitt (Pitt Point) is located in the northeastern tip of San Cristobal Island and is the only place in the archipelago where is possible to see the 3 different species of boobies (blue-footed, red-footed and masked) as well as the 2 species of frigate birds sharing a common space. The site has a trail that goes up a cliff and through a ravine, leading to an area with abundant birdlife. This site is also known for being a good snorkeling spot of San Cristobal Island.

- Possible Activities: Hiking – kayaking – panga ride - snorkeling
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Landing Type: Wet
- Wildlife: Sea lions, 3 species of footed-boobies



PM: In the afternoon, we will visit Witch Hill. This place is an eroded tuff cone surrounded by a beautiful white powdery sand beach with an abundance of animals. Wildlife includes sea turtles, rays, pelicans, sea lions and various types of boobies. The clear water provides an excellent opportunity for swimming and snorkeling. This was also one of the first places visited by Charles Darwin during his trip in the M/S Beagle.

After visiting Witch Hill, we will head to Kicker Rock, also known as “León Dormido” (sleeping lion in Spanish). This natural monument has become a favorite site for cruises due to the many tropic birds, frigates, and boobies that perch on the rocks. Beneath the sea, the nearly crystal waters offer a brilliant show of colorful tropical fish and invertebrates. Due to the sheer vertical pitch of the rock face, landings are not possible.

- Possible Activities: Hiking – snorkeling – kayaking – panga ride
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Landing Type: Dry
- Wildlife: Galapagos sharks, tropical fish, manta-rays, hammer-head sharks, blue-footed boobie, Nazca boobies.

## **DAY 5 – MONDAY**

### **INTERPRETATION CENTER (SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND) & DEPARTURE**

AM: This useful point of information located in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno was opened in 1998 with the purpose of informing visitors about the origins and geography of the Galapagos islands. The center has different sections depicting the natural and human history of the Galapagos as well as the efforts of conservation of the present.

- Possible Activities: Hiking
- Difficulty: Easy
- Landing Type: Dry
- Wildlife: N/A