

## Luxury Class - Yachts Galapagos

### ENDEMIC YACHT



### ITINERARY DAY BY DAY

## Itinerary 'A' 8 days / 7 Nights

### DAY 1 - SUNDAY

#### **BALTRA AIRPORT – SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Dragon Hill**

Upon arrival, reception and assistance at the airport, transfer from Baltra Airport to the M/C Endemic

In the afternoon, the first visit to Dragon Hill will take place, which is located in the north-western part of Santa Cruz island. Here you will have the opportunity to walk into the island and view the land iguana. Be among these magnificent reptiles, that just a few decades ago were on the brink of extinction.

Moreover, at Dragon Hill you will see a flamingos' lagoon, pintail ducks and other endemic birds including flycatchers and warblers. After a short trek, amazing view awaits us up the hill. Offshore snorkeling before returning to the yacht.

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## DAY 2 - MONDAY

### **GENOVESA ISLAND: Darwin Bay - El Barranco (Prince Philip's Steps)**

In the morning, visit to Darwin Bay, which is the only sandy beach found in the caldera on Genovesa. Colonies of the Great Frigates are found along the beach. Male exhibit their red balloon pouch to females for hope of a match.

Red-footed boobies nest in the trees in contrast to the other two booby species which do so on the ground.

In the afternoon, we will go to El Barranco (Prince Philip's Steps), a carved out of stone stair. This will lead you to a wide plateau, where you can observe large colonies of masked boobies, frigate birds, storm petrels and ducks. During this easy stroll you will cross a small Scalesia forest, habitat of the short-eared owl. The same path will lead you back to your boat.

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## DAY 3-TUESDAY

### **SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Twin Craters – SANTIAGO ISLAND: Sullivan Bay**

In the morning, after breakfast, the Twin Craters will be visited. Located in the highlands of Santa Cruz on the road to Baltra airport from Puerto Ayora, these scenic craters are approximately 30 meters deep. These two huge land depressions are surrounded by a Scalesia forest with abundant birds such as the yellow warbler and the Vermilion Flycatcher. Gorgeous views of the leafy green highlands forest are also part of the visit. Then we will continue our journey to board the M/C Endemic.

In the afternoon, you will visit Sullivan Bay, located on the east coast of Santiago Island. We land on a white coral sand beach and begin our walk over lava that flowed less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galapagos. Also in this area you will admire flora that grows in lava fields.

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## DAY 4-WEDNESDAY

### **ISABELA ISLAND: Sierra Negra volcano – Wetlands – Wall of Tears – Breeding Center**

Isabela Island is the largest of the archipelago with a surface of 4588 square kilometers. It encompasses more than the half of the total land area of Galapagos.

In the morning, the first spot to be visited is Sierra Negra Volcano, one of largest craters in the archipelago with a diameter of five kilometers. It offers mesmerizing views with great contrast in colors between lava fields, vegetation and fumaroles.

After lunch, you will be transported to the Wetlands (Humedales), that are a complex of trails of 6 kilometers long, located south of Isabela Island. They have a wide variety of flora and abundant bird life, including gallinules, finches, stilts and ducks among others.

On the way up to Orchilla hill, giant tortoises and marine iguanas will appear. From the viewpoint the spectacular scenery of the bay, the town of Puerto Villamil, volcanoes, islets and rocks can be appreciated. Isabela wetlands has endemic and introduced species.

You will also visit the Wall of Tears. This is a man-made monument which has been built in the 40's by prisoners, since Isabela island was once an Ecuadorian penal colony and building up the wall was part of the punishment.

Finally, at the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center of Isabela, infant and juvenile giant tortoises can be seen until they are ready to be released and survive in the wild. On the way back to the yacht, be ready to spot flamingos and other water birds.

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## DAY 5- THURSDAY

### **ISABELA ISLAND: Elizabeth Bay – Urbina Bay**

In the morning, you will discover Elizabeth Bay, that is a marine visitor site. The excursion is carried out in a zodiac and so there is no landing point. Your zodiac ride starts with a visit to the Marielas islets where there is the largest and most important penguin colony in the Galapagos Islands. The excursion continues into the cove that is surrounded by red mangroves where you can spot sea turtles, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans and sea lions.

In the afternoon, Urbina Bay will be visited. Here you can see coral formations, large colored land iguanas. The possibility of seeing giant turtles, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, penguins and marine iguanas is excellent.

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## DAY 6 - FRIDAY

### **ISABELA ISLAND: Tagus Cove – FERNANDINA ISLAND: Espinoza Point**

After breakfast, Tagus Cove will be the first attraction to see. A ride along the cliffs in a zodiac will give visitors a good chance to see the Galapagos penguin, the flightless cormorant and other sea birds. From the landing dock it is about a 30-minute hike along the trail up to the top of the cliff from where you can view Darwin Lake, a saline lake saltier than the sea. You can also see several volcanoes from this location.

After lunch, Espinoza point will be visited, which is one of Fernandina's visit points. Located within a fascinating lava scenery with Lava-Cactuses. On the surface of the lava, mangroves thrive. The highlights are sea lions, penguins, the flightless cormorant (especially in spring and summer), and one of the biggest iguana colonies of Galápagos.

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## DAY 7 - SATURDAY

### **SANTIAGO ISLAND: Espumilla Beach & Buccaneer Cove – RABIDA ISLAND**

In the morning the visit to Espumilla Beach will take place. It is a pristine sandy beach and a popular place for marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot Crabs. The crabs attract the hunting herons, performing the dance of predator and prey. With an abundance of marine life including octopi, moray eel, and shark, snorkeling is recommended and available.

In the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to discover the Buccaneer Cove that is located just north of James Bay. It was known as a safe haven in the 17th and 18th century for pirates to stash their loot, take on fresh water and capture tortoises for food. It is a nice place for a zodiac ride, snorkeling and kayaking. Blue-footed, Nazca boobys, fur seals, and Galapagos hawks can be seen flying overhead.

Later, you will be taken to Rabida Island. Its main attraction is the red sand beach, famous for its cactus groves and rock formation scenery, aside from the vegetation of the arid zone and the presence of native and endemic species. During the walk on the red sand beach you will see brown pelicans' nests, and a lagoon where flamingos are seen from time to time.

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## DAY 8- SUNDAY

### **SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Black Turtle Cove – BALTRA AIRPORT**

After breakfast, enjoy the visit to Black Turtle Cove, which is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz. It is a living illustration of how mangroves alter the marine environment to create a rich and unique habitat. Three mangrove species crowd the area from the shore out into the lagoon, which reaches almost a mile inland.

As you drift through quiet waters in the zodiac, you are likely to see spotted eagle rays and diamond shaped mustard rays, which swim in a diamond formation. White-tipped reef sharks slip beneath the boat and Pacific green sea turtles come to the surface for air and to mate. Waterfowl, including pelicans, herons and egret, all feed in the cove. This is a peaceful place that will make you feel calm.

After this last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.

Assistance and farewell at the airport.

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\*\*\*End of cruise\*\*\*

***\*The operator reserves the right to change the itinerary without previous notice due to weather, National Park regulations or notifications and unforeseeable circumstances.***

#### **Rate includes:**

- All meals, Buffet (breakfast - lunch - dinner) water with meals.
- Accommodation in double cabins.
- Transfers from the airport to the yacht and vice versa in Galapagos.
- Excursions in the islands with English Speaking Naturalist Guide.
- **Air ticket.**

#### **Rate does not include:**

- Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee: USD 100.00 per person.
- Migratory Control Card: USD 20.00 per person.
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages.
- Snorkelling equipment for rent on board.
- Tips.

**Note:**

- Rates per person in U.S. Dollars
- Single occupancy supplement 80% or 100%
- The route of the ship and the itinerary are subject to change and can vary depending on the regulations and policies of the Galapagos National Park, weather, seasonal changes, safety, etc.