

ITINERARY A5 5DAYS / 4 NIGHTS



THURSDAY - MONDAY

DAY 1 – THURSDAY

MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA – SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS

PM: After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our personnel to then cross the Itabaca channel and reach Santa Cruz Island for our first visit in the Archipelago: The Highlands of Santa Cruz.

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. Then, we will head to the M/C Analí.

- PossibleActivities: Hiking
- Difficulty: Easy
- LandingType: N/A
- Wildlife: Giant tortoises

DAY 2 – FRIDAY

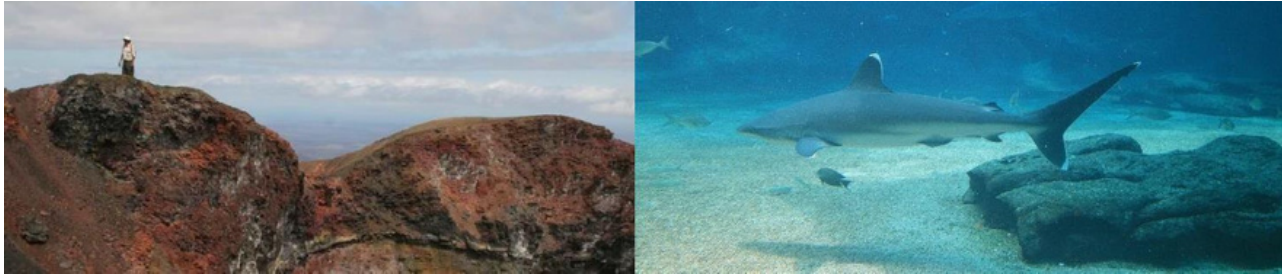
TINTORERAS ISLET – SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO – ARNALDO TUPIZA & WETLANDS (ISABELA ISLAND)

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.

- PossibleActivities: Hiking – snorkeling – panga ride
- Difficulty: Hard

- LandingType:N/A
- Wildlife:Sharks,sea-horses, turtles



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.

- PossibleActivities: Hiking
- Difficulty:Moderate
- LandingType: N/A
- Wildlife:Galapagostortoises

DAY 3 – 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 shorthike to a lagoon where flamingosare usually present.

- Possible Activities: Hiking – snorkeling– panga ride
- Difficulty: Moderate / Hard

- LandingType: Dry
- Wildlife: Flamingos, sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, pintail ducks, sea lions, tropical fish, paintbilled crakes, and white-cheeked pintails

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



DAY 4 – SUNDAY

TAGUS COVE (ISABELA ISLAND) & 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 hammerheadsharks

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 Lightfoot crabs.

- 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 5 – 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.

- Possible Activities: Hiking - snorkeling

- Difficulty: Easy

- Landing Type: Wet

- Wildlife: Green sea turtles