

Luxury Class- Yacht Galapagos

EVOLUTION



This charming 32-guest expedition yacht is ample enough to provide spacious staterooms, along with various social areas - including inside and outside dining - yet small enough for guests to be able to experience nature in an up-close and personal manner. This artful combination of factors results in a yacht which offers excellent service, accommodations and attention to detail, while causing minimal impact on the environment.

ITINERARY DAY BY DAY:

Itinerary A

DAY 1 - SATURDAY

Quito or Guayaquil / San Cristobal - Galapagos

This morning we fly to San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos. Flight time is just under 2 hours. Upon arrival we board M/V Evolution where you will have lunch and a quick briefing en route to our first visitor site: Kicker Rock, a spectacular rock formation that rises 152 meters (500 feet) out of the Pacific. It takes the form of a sleeping lion, but from another angle you can see that the rock is split, forming a colossal tablet and, piercing the sea, a great chisel ready for etching. We celebrate our first equatorial sunset with a welcome cocktail, followed by our first briefing and dinner. (Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 2 - SUNDAY

AM: South Plaza Island

PM: Punta Carrion / Mosquera Island

We start our day with a visit to South Plaza, one of the smallest yet most colorful islands in the archipelago; with red sesuvium ground cover and green prickly pear cactus, where bright yellow land iguanas reside, all set against a turquoise channel. We visit the bachelor sea lion colony at the crest of the island where swallow tailed gulls nest and red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds and shearwaters fly in dancing displays. Early afternoon snorkeling at Punta Carrion followed by a visit to Mosquera Islet, located between North Seymour and Baltra. It is one of the smallest Islands resulting from an uplift of sand, made up of coral reefs

and rocks. It boasts one of the largest sea lion colonies in the Galapagos archipelago. There are occasional reports of Orca whales seen praying on the sea lion colony. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 - MONDAY

AM: Chinese Hat Islet

PM: Santiago Island: James Bay

Tiny Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat) Island is named for the resemblance its shape has to a traditional Chinese Coolie's hat. It rests across a quiet channel from nearby Santiago Islands. We land at a tiny crescent cove with sandy white beach cradled by black lava formations; home to sally lightfoot crabs, marine iguanas and further along the coast, Galapagos penguins. You'll also have a chance to see the penguins during a panga ride, as well as snorkel with both sea lions and penguins at the cove. Afternoon visit to James Bay on the western shores of Santiago. We land on a black beach offering excellent snorkeling with sea turtles and tropical fish. A trail leads to a series of crystal-clear grottos formed of broken lava tubes, which are home to fur seals, sea lions and samurai-like marine iguanas that feed in tidal pools. Keep your eyes open for Galapagos hawks that frequent the area. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY

AM: Genovesa (Tower) Island: *Darwin Bay*

PM: Tower Island: *Prince Phillip's Steps*

Tower Island could serve as a film set for a secret submarine base! The southwestern part of the island is an ocean-filled caldera ringed by the outer edges of a sizeable and mostly submerged volcano. The island sits to the northwest, slightly removed from the Galapagos archipelago. It is also known as "Bird Island," a name it lives up to in a spectacular way! (B, L, D)

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY

AM: North Seymour Island

PM: Santa Fe Island

Morning visit to North Seymour Island which is teeming with wildlife! Cliffs only a few meters high from the shoreline are home to swallow-tailed gulls. A tiny forest of silver-grey Palo Santo trees stands just above the landing, where a trail will take us to see sea lions, marine iguanas, blue footed boobies, pelicans, magnificent frigatebirds and land iguanas. Afternoon visit to Santa Fe Island, home to one of the most beautiful and sheltered bays of the archipelago, and to some of the best snorkeling - with its crystal clear waters. Certainly one of the best locations to see sea turtles, swim with sea lions and glimpse of the Galapagos White-tipped Shark. After a wet landing you will walk up to a nearby cliff to see the land iguanas through an area of Opuntia Cactus. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 - THURSDAY

AM: Floreana Island: Post Office Bay / Baroness Overlook

PM: Floreana Island: Cormorant Point / Devil's Crown

Floreana has had a colorful history: Pirates, whalers, convicts, and a small band of somewhat peculiar colonists—a Baroness among them—who chose a Robinson Crusoe existence that ended in mystery and death. We visit Post Office Bay, where in 1793 British whalers set up a barrel as the island's Post Office, to send letters home on passing ships. The tradition continues to this day, simply by dropping a postcard into the barrel without a stamp. Afternoon visit to Punta Cormorant which offers two highly contrasting beaches;

a green-olivine beach and an iron-red beach. Between the two beaches is a salt lagoon frequented by flamingoes, pintails, stilts and other wading birds. Late afternoon snorkeling at Devil's Crown, which is home to a myriad of marine species including a variety of corals, pencil sea urchin, wrasses, angelfish and amberjacks - making for some of the best snorkeling in the Galapagos. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 - FRIDAY

AM: Santa Cruz Island : *Wild Land Tortoises Reserve (Highlands) (WH)*

PM: Santa Cruz Island : *Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, Charles Darwin Research Station (WH)*

Santa Cruz Island is the second largest island in the Galapagos and its capital, Puerto Ayora, is the economic center of the Islands. In the morning we visit the Highlands, where the dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our destination is the Tortoise Reserve, where we will have a chance to see these animals in the wild, walk through lava tubes and see the Gemelos; twin collapsed craters. In the afternoon we return to Puerto Ayora to visit Charles Darwin Research Station, to see the Giant Tortoise and Land Iguana Breeding and Rearing Program. The Fausto Llerena Center receives about 7,800 visitors a month and currently houses about 900 youth and 70 adult tortoises. This project, which began in the 1970's has been an incredible success in helping repopulate the Galapagos Giant Tortoise population. You'll have time in town to enjoy a café and shop for souvenirs. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 - SATURDAY

AM: Santa Cruz Island : Black Turtle Cove

Late AM: Baltra Island: Depart for mainland Ecuador

Today our Galapagos Cruise comes to an end, but before we bid farewell to the Evolution and her crew we pay a visit to Black Turtle Cove, a beautiful mangrove estuary where we quietly drift in our panga to see spotted eagle rays, diamond shaped mustard rays, white-tipped reef sharks, pacific green sea turtles and a large variety of shore birds. Next we head to Baltra Island airport for the flight back to the Ecuadorian mainland.

Disembark after breakfast, visit the interpretation center and transfer to the airport for our flight to Quito.

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.