

ITINERARY 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS "B"



DAY 1: SATURDAY

AM: BALTRA AIRPORT

Departure to the Galapagos Islands, arrival at Baltra Airport, where our naturalist guide of the National Park will be waiting for you.

PM: SANTIAGO ISLAND – SULLIVAN BAY

A coral beach landing leads you towards a lava field as far as the eye can see. Hunt and peck over the two distinguished types of lava, pahoehoe and 'a'a, for signs of plant life that have managed to emerge over the past 100 years since the most recent volcanic explosion. A truly amazing volcanic experience...up close and personal!

DAY 2: SUNDAY

AM: ISABELA ISLAND – VICENTE ROCA POINT

Located on the northwestern coast of the island and comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating *Mola mola* (sunfish) may be spotted here. This bay is great for diving and snorkeling.



PM: FERNANDINA ISLAND – ESPINOZA POINT

No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. The volcano “La Cumbre” dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. The island's highlight features the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.



DAY 3: MONDAY

AM: ISABELA ISLAND – TAGUS COVE

Tagus Cove is located across from Fernandina Island near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.



PM: ISABELA ISLAND - URBINA BAY

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling.



DAY 4: TUESDAY

AM: ISABELA ISLAND – ELIZABETH BAY

Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.



PM: ISABELA ISLAND – MORENO POINT

Moreno Point is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves create a birdwatcher's delight. In the tide pools, green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted.

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY

AM: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND – TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER

The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to turtles ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Subspecies of turtles interact with one another and many of the older turtles are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own.



PM: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND – HIGHLANDS

Reached by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green contrasting beautifully with much of the dry, lower islands. The dominant vegetation in the highlands is the forest of *Scalesia* trees creating the lush green color. The lava tubes, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience.

DAY 6: THURSDAY

AM: FLOREANA ISLAND – POST OFFICE BAY

In the 18th century whalers passing through the islands placed a wooden barrel on Floreana Island for use as an unofficial mail box. The tradition continues today as visitors leave addressed postcards in the barrel and sort through left mail to deliver at home.



AM: DEVIL'S CROWN

One of the best snorkeling sites in the Galapagos, this volcanic crater has been eroded by the waves leaving the northern and southern sides poking out of the water. The coral reef in the middle is perfect for attracting marine life. Snorkelers enjoy the variety of marine life and exciting currents that rush through the crown creating an exhilarating experience.



PM: FLOREANA ISLAND – CORMORANT POINT

This site hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct: The “Green Beach” named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the “Four Sand Beach” composed of white coral.



DAY 7: FRIDAY

AM: SANTA FE ISLAND

Santa Fe (Barrington) is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island’s northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails, one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.



PM: SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND – LOBOS ISLAND

The name of this island means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, frolicking, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkeling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies.



DAY 8: SATURDAY

AM: SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND – TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER

This is a new visitor site in the northeast part of San Cristobal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. In the Breeding Center, you will be able to admire the hatchling turtles from their birth until they are 120 days old when the grown turtles are taken to their natural habitat.