



Galapagos
Best

- **Day 1 Wednesday**
Baltra / Santa Cruz
- **Day 2 Thursday**
Floreana Island
- **Day 3 Friday**
Española Island
- **Day 4 Saturday**
San Cristobal-Kicker Rock
and Interpretation Centre
- **Day 5 Sunday**
Santa Fe / Plazas
- **Day 6 Monday**
Genovesa Island
- **Day 7 Tuesday**
Santiago Island / Cerro Dragon
- **Day 8 Wednesday**
Black Turtle Cove / Baltra



DAY 1 WEDNESDAY: Baltra / Santa Cruz

On arrival in the Galapagos, we collect our luggage and meet our naturalist guide in the arrival's hall. Then head to the Highlands of Santa Cruz for our first Galapagos adventure. Beginning at the coast we travel across Santa Cruz through the leeward side of the island and into the semi-cloud forests, dome-shaped giant tortoises in the wild, woodpecker, tree and vegetarian, warbler finches, mockingbirds, cuckoos with lunch in the highlands. After this we will drive down to Puerto Ayora, where we will check on how the locals live and then shuttle to the Daphne. Once on board, we'll be assigned our cabins, meet the crew members and get to know the yacht.

DAY 2 THURSDAY: Floreana Island

Early visit to the highlands of Floreana to search for the medium tree finch that lives only here. Later Discover the quirky maritime history of Post Office Bay, which has the oldest postal system in the Americas. Steeped in history, in 1793 a post office barrel was erected for mariners to post their mail and assist in delivery of mail to the United States and Europe.

Lunch.

At 2. Pm we will go to snorkeling at Devil's crown to spot one of the best marine environments where you can see eagle rays, white tip reef sharks, wallpaper of tropical fish and sea turtles.

We go ashore at Punta Cormorant where the sand is made up of fine olivine crystals, a glassy volcanic mineral, giving the beach an olive-green color. It is the best place to see Galapagos sea lions. Today is also one of our finest opportunities to see pink flamingos and other water birds wading in the lagoons, including pintails and stilts. The walk continues to a white flour sandy beach to an Eastern Pacific green turtle nesting site

DAY 3 FRIDAY: Española Island

Visit Punta Suarez which is one of the great sites in Galapagos and one of the most spectacular. Because of its remote location this island has a large population of endemic fauna. It is the breeding site for nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses and also home to colonies of blue-footed and masked boobies. Trails from the golden beaches, where sea lions bathe and marine iguanas make their way towards the water, lead us right through the middle of booby colonies, and Galapagos doves and mockingbirds are also often seen. We land at Punta Suarez, one of the most attractive locations in the Galapagos and home to large and varied wildlife population - a walk along its trails takes us to a cliff top viewpoint, where we gain a magical panorama. Boobies line the rocky shoreline beneath us, while frigate birds may be seen overhead; nearby enormous male sea lions can be seen lounging and albatross use the cliffs as their 'runway', helping become airborne by the southeast winds that blow across this part of the island. If we're lucky we'll see the elaborate courtship rituals performed by albatrosses before the female chooses her lifelong mate.

Pm. Gardner Bay which is considered by many as one of the most beautiful beaches in the Galapagos Islands and full of sea lions and hooded mockingbirds. Enjoy the beach and do some snorkeling which could be great for playing with sea lion pups and lots of fish. The rocks off the coast provide excellent snorkeling opportunities, with reef sharks, turtles and many species of tropical fish, including surgeon and angelfish, often seen

DAY 4 SATURDAY: San Cristobal-Kicker Rock and Interpretation Centre

Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido) is the magnificent basalt remains of a crater in the middle of the sea, the shape resembling a sleeping lion. The rock rises 150 meters above the surface and is divided into two parts by a narrow channel. We cruise through the channel, with nesting seabirds on either side of the boat, tropic birds' overhead, marine iguanas in the water and resting on the rocks and many sea lions also present. Snorkeling gives us the opportunity to see Galapagos sharks, and possibly a hammer head shark among sea turtles and an incredible biodiversity of invertebrates on the wall.

Visit to the highlands to see the San Cristobal giant tortoises, Chatham mockingbirds, finches. The human history up here is rich and offers an insight into the discovery and colonization of the Galapagos. This is a great place to get a complete overview of the Galapagos.



DAY 5 SUNDAY: Santa Fe / Plazas

Santa Fe is home to more sea lions, and these ones are very eager for swimming partners! It's a lovely place to take a dip, offers a dense concentration of wildlife, and is a fantastic place to see many of the stars of the Galapagos in one relatively small area. Expect to see Galapagos hawks, land iguanas, a variety of finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, sea lions, marine turtles, frigate birds, Galapagos doves and lava lizards. It's a naturally beautiful island as well with one of the most attractive coves in the archipelago and the jade-green waters are ideal for snorkeling. Our trail follows the coast into the opuntia forest, where we see Santa Fe's trees - the largest in the Galapagos. Hiking into the island you can see a forest of giant cacti and palo santo trees. Once back at the beach we have free time to snorkel in the jade green water. Playful sea lion pups and fluorescent fish make for fascinating company.

A small island, Plaza Sur (or South Plaza) is nonetheless a place of great beauty where we get close to sea lions and on to trails past one of the Galapagos' largest land iguana populations, resting amid cacti and volcanic landscapes colored bright red and green by sea-purplanes. The island's rugged southern cliffs are excellent places to spot tropicbirds and swallow-tailed gulls, as well as 'the Gentlemen's Club' - a gathering of male sea lions either too young or too old to be 'beach masters'!

DAY 6 MONDAY: Genovesa Island

It takes us an overnight sail to reach Isla Genovesa, the archipelago's north-eastern outpost, but it is undeniably worth the voyage. Dolphins are often spotted in the waters around Genovesa while the island itself is one of abundant beauty, with varying landscapes and wonderful wildlife. It is also a twitcher's paradise with all three kinds of boobies, including the rare red-footed booby, and numerous other species such as tropicbirds and frigate birds. Walking the steep path known as Prince Philip's Steps get us into the heart of the seabird rookeries, with birds' overhead and nesting among the cliffs. On the island's rocky plains, we look out for storm petrels. Genovesa is the only place in the world where they can be seen flying during the day. Afterwards, cool off with a snorkel!

Darwin Beach is another superb site with large breeding colonies of seabirds and frigates and other birds such as lava herons, swallow-tailed gulls, mockingbirds and, hopefully, vampire finches. During the walk we will pass by tide pools with playful sea lions and diamond stingrays. The island's magnificent marine life also makes for spectacular snorkelling and with the chance of encountering manta rays, sharks, turtles and moray eels along with many types of fishes.



DAY 7 TUESDAY: Santiago Island / Cerro Dragon

On Santiago Island's eastern coast sits Bahia Sullivan, also known as James Island. Here, we take a walk on Pahoe-Hoe lava that was created by an eruption that occurred in 1897 and witness the plants that have grown on the site since that last eruption. Hopefully we may see some marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, sea lions, finches, turtles, sharks and penguins. On our walk here, our guide will recount to us the geological history of the islands.

Cerro Dragon is known for its gorgeous landscape and is one of the most striking sites of the archipelago. From the shore, the trail leads through a lagoon for viewing flamingos and waders such as pintail ducks, marine iguanas are all present. Here we will find great opuntia cactus forest which allows existence of land iguanas as well as mockingbirds, doves, finches, and lava lizards. There is also an opportunity for snorkelling in a place where sea stars, damsels, gobies, and surgeon fish are numerous.

DAY 8 WEDNESDAY: Black Turtle Cove / Baltra

As flights to the mainland from Galapagos depart mid-morning, it is an early start for our last morning on the islands. Depending on the time of our flight, our time spent on this final excursion could be limited.

We take a panga ride to explore Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) - a red mangrove wetland on the north shore of Isla Santa Cruz. We paddle among the cove's peaceful waters to experience the underwater riches of these waters. It's a breeding area for green turtles, so it is not uncommon to see them mating. There is also abundant bird life, such as the yellow warbler and lava heron. It is also a nursery for golden cow-nose rays, eagle rays and Galapagos sharks.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end and we say farewell to the Galapagos Islands.

