

Penguin

Itinerary



- **Day 1 Wednesday**
Baltra / Bachas Beach
- **Day 2 Thursday**
Rabida Island
- **Day 3 Friday**
Tagus Cove / Urbina Bay
- **Day 4 Saturday**
Punta Espinoza / Vicente Roca
- **Day 5 Sunday**
Puerto Egas/Bucaneer Cove
- **Day 6 Monday**
Bartolome/Sombrero Chino
- **Day 7 Tuesday**
North Seymour/Highlands
(Santa Cruz)
- **Day 8 Wednesday**
Trapiche / Baltra

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY: Baltra / Bachas Beach

On arrival in the Galapagos, we are met in the arrivals hall and then transferred to our boat, the Daphne, anchored a short distance away. Once on board we'll be assigned our cabins, meet the crew members, and get to know our naturalist guide and fellow travelers over a delicious lunch.

The sandy, white beaches of **Las Bachas** on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island are a nesting site for the Pacific green turtle, and marine iguanas are also commonly seen. The sand here is particularly white and soft as it is made of decomposed coral. The rocks provide great snorkeling and are the perfect habitat for the Sally Lightfoot crabs, which are plentiful on the island. A saltwater lagoon near to the beach is home to flamingo and whimbrel and look out for great blue herons. Remnants of a floating pier can still be sighted, and it is a testimony to the US presence in the Galapagos during World War II.

DAY 2 THURSDAY: Rabida island

Rabida island is the place where you can see a long beach with red sand and tenanted by sea lions. Taking a walk inland, gives the opportunity to find flamingos, Darwin finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, wading birds such as white cheeked pintails, Galapagos hawks and an amazing view from the cliff side. Snorkeling and kayaking is also very rewarding here.

From here we will set navigation towards the western islands, good time to be out on deck searching for the Galapagos petrels and possibly cetaceans.



DAY 3 FRIDAY: TAGUS COVE/ URBINA BAY

Tagus Cove was a place of anchorage for pirates and whalers who collected turtles for their trip. Approximately a two-hour visit where we can snorkel, check out ancient graffiti on its walls, observe flightless cormorants, penguins, blue-footed boobies, and a variety of waterfowl. The walk leads to a high point where we take in a spectacular panoramic view of the north of Isabela Island and the Wolf volcano.

URBINA BAY. Pm.

Urbina bay was uplifted back in 1954 and today is the visitors site we will be exploring. Full of fossilized shells and rocks that originally was under water, now plays a vital roll in the flora and fauna. Galapagos mockingbirds, Darwin finches but the high light here are the giant tortoises which make their journey from Alcedo volcano down towards the lowlands. Land iguanas live here, and they are found almost everywhere.

DAY 4 SATURDAY: PUNTA ESPINOZA/ VICENTE ROCA

Isla Fernandina's north-east tip, **Punta Espinosa**, is the most pristine place on earth, a narrow ledge of lava and sand that was uplifted back in the 80's where visitors can see piles of marine iguanas, lava cactus, flightless cormorants, shore birds, Galapagos penguins, among the stark volcanic landscape.

Navigation towards Punta Vicente Roca which is located on the western edge of Isabela. This is not a landing site but best place to go for zodiac ride to find best geological formations and features that are unique here. Chance to photograph flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins, Brown noddies, blue footed bobbies. The great highlight here will be getting in the water and snorkeling almost face to face with the Pacific green sea turtles. Plenty of fish, chance to see penguins and cormorants in the water.

DAY 5 SUNDAY: PUERTO EGAS/ BUCANEERS COVE

Pm. Puerto Egas is a black sand beach located on the west side of James Bay and northwest of Santiago Island. Here we will see amazing volcanic tuff formations and the walk along the beach provides many opportunities for encounters with the locals such as marine iguanas, pelicans, finches, mockingbirds, oystercatchers, Galapagos sea lions and Galapagos fur seals. We can also see amazing tidal pools formed from ancient lava flow and home to sponges, snails, hermit crabs, barnacles, and fish. Snorkeling with the seals is always offer the possibility of thrilling encounters.

BUCANEERS COVE, on the northern coast of Santiago Island, is one of the most idyllic locations in the Galapagos Islands and is an important because Charles Darwin went ashore here. Beautiful volcanic remains of cinder cones, Galapagos fur seals. Zodiac ride to potentially see Galapagos hawks, blue-footed boobies (often plunging for fish) and brown pelicans. It is also well known for its Prickly pear cactus hanging on the cliffs.

Kayak and snorkeling.



DAY 6 MONDAY: BARTOLOME/ SOMBRERO CHINO

Isla Bartolomé is one of the most spectacular volcanic landscapes in the Galapagos, full of parasitic spatter cones, lava flows, Galapagos penguins and lava lizards. Bartolomé is a relatively new island in the archipelago and walking shoes are required as we will climb over 360 wooden steps to the summit, where the scenery is spectacular, and we have a great view of Pinnacle Rock - one of the most photographed sites in the Galapagos. It is an abrupt jag of rock protruding from the earth like a tooth, while nearby two golden bays back on to each other. Here we can hike to the top of a once-active volcano and enjoy superb views across to Sullivan Bay on nearby Santiago Island. If we are in luck, we might catch a glance of the Galapagos hawk here. We will have the opportunity to go snorkeling with plenty of tropical fish, starfish and hopefully also penguins, white-tipped reef sharks and rays.

DAY 7 TUESDAY: NORTH SEYMOUR / HIGHLANDS

(SANTA CRUZ)

We take an active excursion to Isla **North Seymour (North Seymour Island)**, probably one of the Galapagos' most visited islands. On North Seymour the highlight will be seeing the blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, both species of frigate birds (great frigate birds and magnificent frigate birds), land iguanas, marine iguanas, Galapagos sea lions and endemic incense trees. The magnificent frigate bird, a large black bird with a long wingspan and a hooked beak, is extremely fast and has excellent vision. Frigate birds are known for the large red pouch on their necks. During mating season, the males throw back their heads, inflate the pouch (sometimes to the size of a soccer ball) and shake trying to capture the attention of female frigates. Boobies and frigates have an interesting relationship. They share the same nesting area on North Seymour with blue-footed boobies nesting on the ground while the frigate birds' nests just above them in the saltbushes. A solid walk is followed by snorkeling, where we will find a great variety of fish, and possibly white-tipped reef sharks, rays and sea lions.

Pm. We will head to the Highlands of Santa Cruz for our highlands adventure. Beginning at the coast we travel across Santa Cruz through the agricultural region and into the misty forests where we can see the unique scalesia cloud forest, dome-shaped giant tortoises in the wild, different species of Darwin finches and possibly the world-famous woodpecker and warbler finches, tree finches as well as vermilion flycatchers. Today we will enjoy lunch in the highlands.

DAY 8 WEDNESDAY: TRAPICHE / AIRPORT

As flights to the mainland from Galapagos depart mid-day, 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 bus ride to the highlands, on our way to the airport we will stop at el Trapiche farm to meet don Adriano Cabrera farming sugar cane-he still uses donkey power to crush the sugar cane on an old wheel press. He will offer a taste of his homebrew cachasa, made from sugar and coffee-think expresso martini Galapagos-style!

