



# GALAPAGOS JOURNEY FLEET



***ITINERARY***

***E : 12D/11N***

***From Monday to Friday***





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## ***Itinerary E: 12D/11N Monday to Friday***

Sample of a day by day itinerary with the description of the visits and the activities  
(Subject to change with previous notification)

### ***DAY 1: Monday Mainland - Galapagos San Cristobal Island***

AM: Flight to Galapagos from Quito or Guayaquil Airport      PM: Interpretation center



The flight from Quito to the Galapagos is approximately 2 ½ hours. Upon arrival at San Cristobal travelers pass through an airport inspection point to insure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands and to pay the park entrance fee of \$100 (unless prepaid), and \$20 for the INGALA card which is an identity card that you need .

It is an interpretation center with exuberant gardens and stunning ocean views in contrast with the 1960's buildings in Charles Darwin Center.

Visitor to the interpretation center can learn a lot over the geological and human history of the islands, conservation facts and natural history. This is the oldest museum of the Natural History of the Galapagos Islands that is trying to preserve the nature of the islands.

B/-/D

PASSENGERS	ADULT	CHILD (under 12 years old)
FOREIGNERS	\$100	\$50

Guides will meet you, collect your luggage, and escort you on the short bus ride to the harbor. Motorized rafts, called 'Pangas' will transport you to the M/C Seaman Journey and our crew will welcome you onboard. After departure and lunch, the first island visit is made.



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### ***DAY 2: Tuesday Galapagos Cruise San Cristobal Island***

#### AM: Galapaguera



its natural habitat.

A short visit to the natural Galapaguera that is a good place to observe Galapagos tortoises in

In this marvelous lava landscape where you can see seabirds like blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, herons, frigate birds and shore birds. The protected bay is very popular to observe young tortoises and for swimming.

The pools with salty water behind the sand dunes were used for the fishers as a salt mine in order to preserve food for the local population. Among the fauna that you can observe the Chatham Mockingbird and the San Cristobal Lava Lizard, both species are endemic to the island and unique to the area as they cannot be observed nowhere else. Also you can find the island canary, the Galapagos turtles and with luck the little bird known as the Pájaro Brujo in Spanish, an endemic specie from San Cristobal Island. The vegetation covers all the route where you can find species like the candelabrum cactus and carob trees.

San Cristobal Island also has some species of endemic animals among which are: the mockingbird, San Cristóbal mockingbird, Lava Lizard, *Microlophus bivittatus* (formerly lizards Galapagos were classified in the genus *Tropidurus*), one of the species geckos, *Phyllodactylus leei* and turtles. All these species can be observed in this place. The beach is large and serves as a nesting sea turtles. In the months of January to May is common to find traces of females who have risen to the sand dunes to lay their eggs.

#### PM: Cerro Brujo

Cerro Brujo is a beautiful beach of white coral beach where you can swim and watch birds and sea lions, plus you can snorkel. This is the first coast where Charles Darwin walked in 1835.

Located on the north coast of Isla San Cristobal it is a peaceful place with white sand and crystal water, a perfect combination for an incredible stay.

B/L/D





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### ***Day 3: Wednesday - Galapagos Cruise Española Island***

#### **AM: Bahía Gardner**

Located on the north-eastern coast of Hood, Gardner Bay provides an excellent beach for relaxing, swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and the opportunity to observe sea lions.

Here we can also observe sharks in the crystal clear ocean waters.



#### **PM: Suarez Point**

This area is great for spotting blue-footed boobies, albatrosses and Nazca boobies.

A beautiful site on the ocean front, the large waved albatrosses use the cliff as a launching pad. The famous attraction is the magnificent blowhole, spurting water high into the air at least from 50 to 75 meters high. This site presents wonderful photograph opportunities.

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### ***DAY 4: Thursday Galapagos Cruise Floreana Island***

AM: Cormorant Point



This site offers probably the best flamingo lagoon in the Galapagos; it is also one of the largest in the islands.

It's situated between two tuff lava cones that give the area a special atmosphere. There are various species of shorebirds to observe besides flamingos; the most frequent are common stilts, white-checked pintail ducks, and other migratory birds. It is very interesting to see the two distinct beaches:

"The Green Beach" (due to its high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand) and the "Flour Sand Beach" which is made up of coral.

PM: Post office bay & Baroness Lookout

Historically, this site is the location of a wooden barrel that was placed in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship.

It has been used since this time by mariners and tourists as a post office. The idea is to carry letters or postcards to their destination by hand. Apart from being the Post Office Barrel, this site was the landing area for some of the first colonists. We will continue to the north of



the island and will ascent to an elevated slope to enjoy a beautiful vista at the Baroness lookout. It is said that Baroness Eloisa Von Wagner loved this place and spent several hours watching the horizon. Within walking distance (30 m) are the ruins of what is known as her house. From this lookout, the landscape covers the coastline from the Enderby islet to Post Office Bay, as well as Cerro Pajas, the pool of flamingos and wide forest of Palo Santo.

B/L/D



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### **DAY 5: Friday Galapagos Cruise Santa Cruz Island**

#### AM: Charles Darwin Station

Although the great majority of Galapagos visitors



come here to observe and appreciate natural wonders, it is also interesting to learn how

the protection and conservation of the islands are carried out. One of the main attractions are the National Park information center, the Van Straelen Exhibition Hall, the Breeding and Rearing Center for young tortoises, Lonesome George (turtle from Pinta), and adult Galapagos tortoises in captivity.

#### PM: Santa Cruz Highlands

Journeying across Santa Cruz into the highlands visitors are delighted by the island's variety of life and geology. Beginning at the coast and traveling across Santa Cruz the road departs from Puerto Ayora climbing through the agricultural lands and into the mist covered forests. Santa Cruz possesses all of the various life zones present in the archipelago. As you travel through these zones birders are enchanted. Whether it's the bright red feathers of a vermilion flycatcher or one of Darwin's Finch almost every bird present

present in the islands can be found here. Santa Cruz offers excellent opportunities for viewing



wild Galapagos Tortoises. Tracking tortoises is not the only exciting activity to be found in the highlands. There are also plenty of lava tubes, sinkholes and craters to explore. These eerie formations offer a fascinating hike into the belly of the island to view its volcanic make-up.

### **DAY 6: Saturday Galapagos Cruise Fernandina Island**

#### AM: Mangle Point

Off the eastern coast of Fernandina is Mangle Point a superior snorkeling



site and a beautiful location for riding in a panga or zodiac through a grove of mangrove trees. A hike of about 1/2 miles is possible.



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Whether you hike, snorkel, or stay in your panga for a ride through the red mangrove trees, this second site of Fernandina Island is equally memorable.

While you are on your ride, you are likely to see sea lions, tortoises, pelicans, rays and birds too numerous to name them all.

PM: Punta Moreno



Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island between the

volcano Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcano.

The trail runs along a lava flow Pahohoe (solidified lava in the form of corrugated or an accordion) into a complex of coastal lagoons, its main attraction are several species of birds which can be found around this lakes and mangroves.

B/L/D

### ***DAY 7: Sunday Galapagos Cruise Isabela Island***

AM: 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. Urbina Bay is a path that starts at the beach where a landing is made wet, the course is approximately 3200m, and substrates through the sand, pumice, lava, coral and vegetation in a coastal area suffered an uprising and the listener can appreciate iguana burrows.

It is an ideal place to see red and blue lobster. In Bahia Urbina you can see a lot of Darwin's finches. Its main attraction is the land iguanas, larger than in places like South Plaza Island, Galapagos tortoises also in the wild, sometimes even out of season they are on the bottom of the islands.



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in this area stands a large amount of vegetation, chamomile and Rosewood, but among all these plants stand out the beautiful flowers of cotton Darwin, endemic to the Galapagos Islands.



### PM: Tagus Cove

Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. This was a favorite spot for pirates and whalers, a tradition is still observed that has continued since that time: the inscription of the names of boats. At the start of the walk, going up and passing the staircase, is a small cave where you will find inscriptions dating to the 1800s. Its name originated from a British warship that went through the islands in 1814 looking for Galapagos Tortoise for food.

Due to explosive eruptions must have occurred at the site, the substrate has a large amount of volcanic rocks of different sizes, among the most common are little balls of nearly spherical shape known as the "lapilli" or petrified rain.

B/L/D

### ***DAY 8: Monday Galapagos Cruise Fernandina Island / Isabella Island***

#### AM: Espinoza Point

Espinoza Point is a place famous for its large colonies of marine iguanas and as the habitat of unique species like the flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguin, Galapagos hawk, and Galapagos snake.

#### PM: Isabela: Punta Vicente Roca

One of the most impressive and spectacular places of the enchanted Galapagos Islands; with high cliffs and tuffstone, ash and lava formations give this area a majestic touch. Located in the north-western coast of the island; comprises two distinct inlets. This large bay has a spectacular marine life. Here, you can see seahorses, sea turtles and the strange yet fascinating Mola-mola or sunfish. This bay is a great place to practice Panga Ride and Snorkeling.

We also found: Penguins, Blue-footed boobies, Terns, Boobies, Sea lions. Also you can snorkel and observe sea turtles, stingrays and puffer fishes.

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### ***DAY 9: Tuesday Galapagos Cruise Santiago Island***

AM: Playa Espumilla / Bucanero



Espumilla beach is located in northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay.

During the last presence the El Niño phenomenon, one of the two lagoons in this site, underwent a process of sedimentation, thus causing the disappearance of a representative colony of flamingos.

The main attractions are the palosanto forest and the marvelous. The beach is an important site for nesting marine turtles.

PM: Puerto Egas, Santiago Island

Its black beach is located at the west side of the island and is the main attraction of the island. Their volcanic tuff deposits have favored the formation of this special black sand beach.

This site is called Puerto Egas, because there was an attempt of company of Hector



Egas, to start the exploitation of salt, which failed because the price of salt in the continent was very cheap, and did not justify its exploitation in Galapagos. The project was abandoned and they left their infrastructure.

B/L/D

### ***DAY 10: Wednesday Galapagos Cruise Rabida / Chinese Hat***

AM: Rabida

Rábida Island is unique because the red color of the rocks and sand. The volcanic material in this island is very porous and external factors as rain, salt water, and sea breeze have acted as an oxidizing agent. A short walk along a trail lead you to a coastal lagoon behind the beach which permits you to observe the land birds such as finches, doves, yellow warblers, and mocking birds. At the lagoon there is a colony of flamingos.



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PM: Chinese hat



This is a small islet (1 sq km) located just off the southeastern tip of Santiago Island. It is a recent volcanic cone, shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from north side.

On the west you can see lava formations, formed under the sea and raised upward, this is why coral heads are found on the lava. This is an excellent visit for interpretation of geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows.

The landscape is covered by sea lions colonies, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins.

B/L/D

### **DAY 11: Thursday Galapagos Cruise Santiago Island**

AM: Sullivan Bay

Santiago, also called James, or San Salvador Island, is located in the west central part of the Galapagos archipelago. It is the fourth largest island in the archipelago (following Isabela, Fernandina and Santa Cruz). Along with some of the large western volcanoes of Isabela and

Fernandina, Santiago is also volcanically active, with many young flows and cones to be seen, particularly along the south, west, and east coasts. These may even be seen from the summit of Darwin Volcano and from space. A number of historic eruptions have been reported over the last 2 centuries. Santiago actually consists of two coalesced volcanoes: a typical shield volcano on the northwest end and a low, linear fissure volcano on the southeast end.



PM: Bartolomé

Bartolome Island is situated across Sullivan Bay. It has an altitude of 114 meters, from where we can observe one of the most beautiful sceneries of the Galapagos Islands such as: Volcanic cones, lunar-like craters, lava fields, and the famous Toba formed pinnacle eroded by the sea. There is very little vegetation on this island.

It has two breathtaking beaches where marine turtles exist and at the base of the pinnacle, as well as a very small colony of Galapagos penguins.

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### ***DAY 12: Friday Galapagos Cruise Santa Cruz Island***

AM: Bachas Beach



These two small beaches are found to the West of Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches there is a small brackish water lagoon, where occasionally is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels.

The other beach is longer, but it has two old barges that were abandoned during the Second World War, when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategically point to protect the Panama Channel.

After the morning excursion you will be taken to the airport for your flight to the mainland.

B/-/-

Transfer to Baltra airport  
Flight to Quito or Guayaquil