

The Galapagos Islands

DAY BY DAY

ITINERARY A

(Sunday - Wednesday)
4 days / 3 night

Our Galapagos itineraries offer unforgettable experiences, with our weekly departures allowing you to experience 3, 4, 7, and up to 14 nights tours including: full board, two daily guided excursions with optional activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy rides and our new feature daily diving tours for license-holding divers.

4 days / 3 nights

A | NORTH - CENTRAL

Sunday - Wednesday

Sunday:

- ➔ Baltra Airport
- pm. Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center 🦘 (Santa Cruz Island)

Monday:

- am. Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)
- pm. Bartolome Island

Tuesday:

- am. Rabida Island
- pm. Buccaneer Cove & Espumilla Beach (Santiago Island)

Wednesday:

- am. Black Turtle Cove (Santa Cruz Island)
- ➔ Baltra Airport





DAY 1 - SUNDAY
am – Baltra Airport

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Island (2 ½-hour flight). Arriving in the Galapagos, passengers are picked up at the airport by our natural guides and taken to a ten-minute bus drive to the pier to board the *M/Y Coral I* or *M/Y Coral II*.



pm – Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center (Santa Cruz Island)

Dry landing. We visit the Station where the Galapagos giant tortoise breeding program takes place as part of our efforts to preserve the fragile Galapagos environment and where the famous Lonesome George (the last surviving specimen of his species) lived for decades. Admire a prickly-pear cactus forest and variety Darwin's finches and other land birds. The Darwin Station also works providing environmental education to the communities, schools, and tourists visiting the Galapagos Islands. You will also have some free time to visit the town and shop for souvenirs.

Difficulty level: intermediate
Type of terrain: flat
Duration: 1 ½-hour visit



DAY 2 - MONDAY
am – Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)

Dry landing. Walk by a brackish lagoon to see flamingos. The trail leads across typical dry zone vegetation. Keeping up until Dragon Hill, see an important nesting ground for endemic land iguanas, offering lovely views of the anchored boats and neighboring islands. The forest is home to mockingbirds, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, and Galapagos doves.

Difficulty level: intermediate
Type of terrain: rocky
Duration: 2-hour walk



pm – Bartolome Island

Dry or wet landing. We discover a fascinating landscape formed by different volcanic parasitic cones—lava bombs, spatter, cinder cones—that resembles the moon. Going up to the summit there will be an impressive views of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone Pinnacle Rock. We also encounter marine iguanas, lava lizards, and blue-footed boobies.

Beach time is a great opportunity to do snorkeling and see the famous Galapagos Penguins, sea turtles and White-tipped Reef Sharks among a great variety of colorful fish. For many visitors, this may turn out to be the best snorkeling experience. Crystal clear water is the perfect spot to appreciate the incredible marine life it has to offer.

Due to its geographical location, the lack of vegetation is immediately noticeable however, there are pioneer plants including the endemic *Tiquilia nesiotica* and *Chamaesyce* (known as sand mat or spurge in English), lava cactus, and *Scalesia* bushes.

Difficulty level: intermediate
Type of terrain: trail made of 372 steps.
Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling





DAY 3 -TUESDAY
am – Rabida Island

Wet landing. Dark-red sand covers the unique beaches of this island, home of sea lions colonies; Rabida is considered the epicenter of the Galapagos Islands due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. Nesting brown pelicans are found from July through September plus nine species of the famous Darwin’s finches. Here a dinghy ride along marine cliffs is done, to observe nesting seabirds. Snorkel off the coast, where marine life is particularly active.

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: sandy
Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling / 1-hour dinghy ride



pm – Buccaneers Cove / Espumilla Beach (Santiago Island)

This is an amazing location, featuring the remains of an eroded shoreline that is home to seabirds, fur seals and the playful sea lions. Its different shapes have been made throughout a process caused by erosion of the waves and the wind. Espumilla Beach is a white-sandy beach in James Bay and is a popular place among visitors. There are mangroves and a small palo santo forest that lead to salty-water lagoons that are home to wading birds like flamingos. In the upper dunes are a nesting site for sea turtles. A good place to snorkel to see rays.

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: white sand
Duration: 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling / beach time



DAY 4 - Wednesday
am – Black Turtle Cove (Santa Cruz Island)

On the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, accessible only by sea, four species of mangrove crowd and form an internal lagoon, turtles visit the calm waters, peaking their heads above the surface while fish, rays circle below. White-tipped reef sharks can be seen beneath the boat, plus sea birds including pelicans, herons and egrets. This cove has been declared as a “turtle sanctuary”.

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: none
Duration: 1-hour dinghy ride..



pm- Baltra Airport

After the visit you will go to Baltra Airport for their return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.

Flight to / from Baltra: AV1632, departing Quito 7:00 / Guayaquil 8:35, arriving Galapagos 9:45.

Return flight: AV1633, departing Galapagos 10:20, arriving Guayaquil 13:10 / Quito 14:50.

DAY	TIME	VISIT	ISLAND	HIGHLIGHTS	TERRAIN	DIFFICULTY LEVEL	ACTIVITIES				
							TYPE	DIVING		SITE	LEVEL
SUN	AM	Baltra airport	Baltra	Meet and greet, bus transfer to the port, check-in on board. Transfer to Puerto Ayora.	-	-	-	-	Gordon Rocks or Daphne & Mosquera	- advanced - medium	
	PM	Fausto Llerena Breeding Center	Santa Cruz	Giant tortoises, Darwin finches, prickly-pear cactus forest. Interpretation center	flat	easy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trekking 	-	-	-	
MON	AM	Dragon Hill	Santa Cruz	Dry zone vegetation, endemic land iguanas, Darwin finches, mockingbird.	rocky	moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trekking 	-	-	-	
	PM	Bartolome	Bartolome	Landscape, Pinnacle Rock, penguins, blue-footed boobies	372 steps	moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trekking dinghy ride snorkeling 	-	-	-	
TUE	AM	Rabida	Rabida	Incredible landscape, brown pelicans, nesting spot of seabirds, red sand beach.	sandy	easy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trekking dinghy ride snorkeling kayak 	-	-	-	
	PM	Buccaneer Cove & Espumilla Beach	Santiago	Eroded shoreline home to seabirds, fur seals and sea lions.	sandy	easy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trekking snorkeling 	-	-	-	
WED	AM	Black Turtle Cove	Santa Cruz	Four species of mangroves, declared as a "Turtle Sanctuary"	water	easy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trekking 	-	Seymour & Daphne	medium	
		Baltra airport	Baltra	Check-out, transfer to airport 7-night guests Baltra' shore.	-	-	-	-	-	-	