

# The Galapagos Islands

## DAY BY DAY

### ITINERARY B+C

8 days – 7 nights

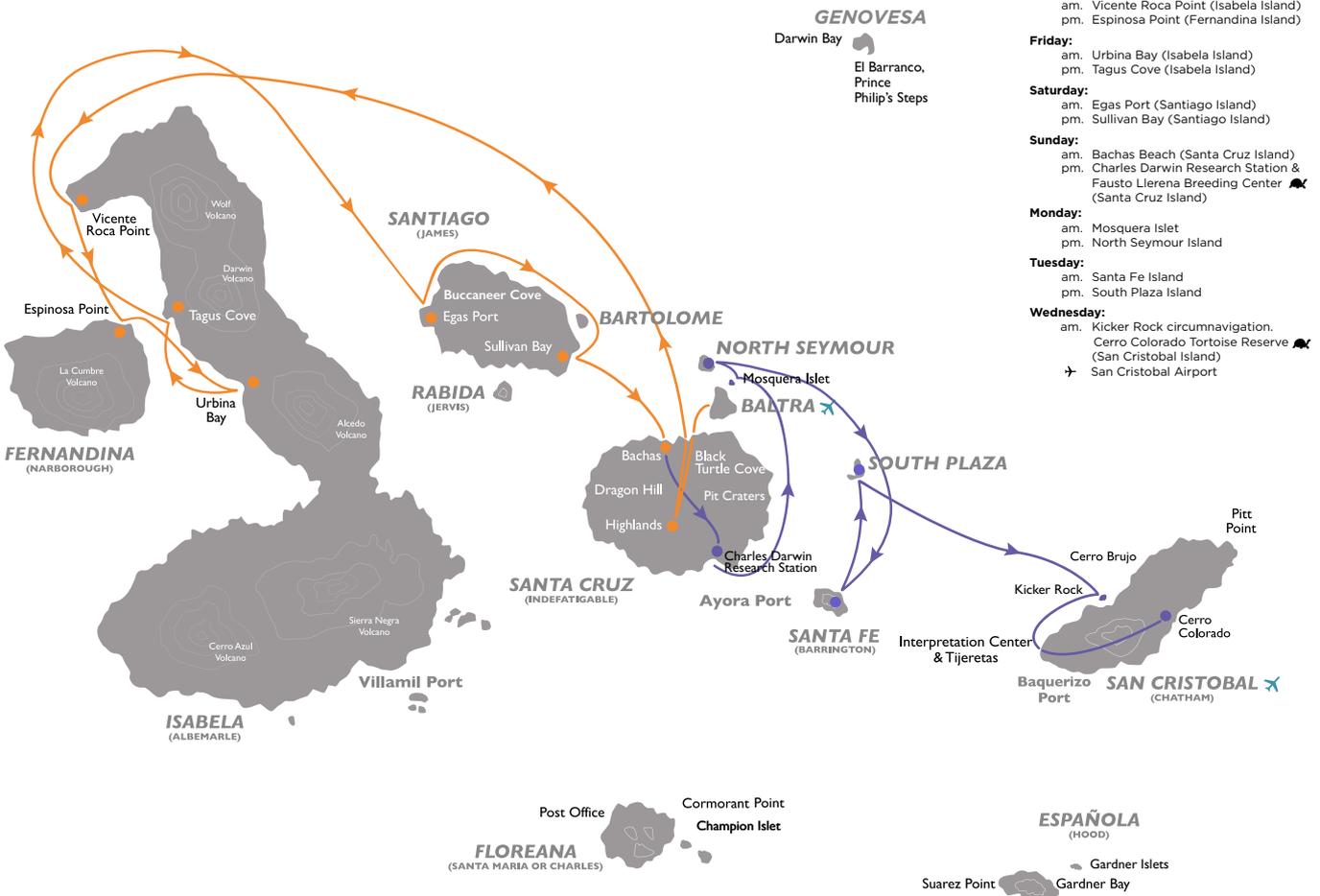
Our Galapagos itineraries offer unforgettable experiences, with our weekly departures allowing you to experience 3, 4, 7, and up to 14 nights tours including: full board, two daily guided excursions with optional activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy rides and our new feature daily diving tours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

**B**  
WEST

+

**C**  
EAST

8 Days / 7 Nights



- Wednesday:**  
→ Baltra Airport  
pm. Highlands Tortoise Reserve 🐢 (Santa Cruz Island)
- Thursday:**  
am. Vicente Roca Point (Isabela Island)  
pm. Espinosa Point (Fernandina Island)
- Friday:**  
am. Urbina Bay (Isabela Island)  
pm. Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)
- Saturday:**  
am. Egas Port (Santiago Island)  
pm. Sullivan Bay (Santiago Island)
- Sunday:**  
am. Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz Island)  
pm. Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center 🐢 (Santa Cruz Island)
- Monday:**  
am. Mosquera Islet  
pm. North Seymour Island
- Tuesday:**  
am. Santa Fe Island  
pm. South Plaza Island
- Wednesday:**  
am. Kicker Rock circumnavigation, Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve 🐢 (San Cristobal Island)  
→ San Cristobal Airport



**DAY 1 -WEDNESDAY**  
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 – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)**

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kinds of birds, such as tree and ground finches, vermilion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos Giant Tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a bird watchers' haven since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** flat & muddy sometimes (seasonal conditions)  
**Duration:** 45-minute drive / 1 ½-hour walk



**DAY 2 - THURSDAY**  
am- Vicente Roca Point (Isabela Island)

Great deep-water snorkeling at one of the richest marine havens on Earth, the Bolivar Channel. Accessible by water, we take a dinghy ride along the coast to observe a great diversity of sea and coastal birds; Nazca and blue-footed boobies, noddies, brown pelicans, penguins, flightless cormorants. The upwelling of cold water currents in this part of the Galapagos gives rise to an abundance of marine life, a perfect place for deep snorkeling.

**Difficulty Level:** moderate / high  
**Type of terrain:** water  
**Duration:** 1-hour snorkeling / 1-hour dinghy ride



**pm – Espinosa Point (Fernandina Island)**

Dry landing. From Espinosa Point, is possible to admire a wide view of Isabela Island across the Bolivar Channel, an area that boasts some of the highest diversity of endemic sea fauna in the Galapagos. Here the largest, most primitive-looking marine iguanas are found mingling with sea lions and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Fernandina displays a wonderful opportunity to encounter flightless cormorants at their nesting sites, Galapagos penguins and the "King" of predators on the islands, the Galapagos hawk. Pa-hoe-hoe and AA lava formations cover the majority of Fernandina terrain. Vegetation is scarce inland, with few brachycereus cacti. In the shore mangrove can be found.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** flat/semi rocky  
**Duration:** 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling





**DAY 3 - FRIDAY**  
**am – Urbina Bay (Isabela Island)**

Wet landing (might be difficult due to the tide). Volcanic black beach, depending on the season, it is possible to find giant tortoises, land iguanas, and the unusual flightless cormorant. After a short walk inland it's snorkeling time, a chance to swim with sea turtles, sea lions, and countless tropical fish. Urbina Bay features a wide variety of plants with the different range of colors in flowers, attracting different insects, birds, and reptiles. One of the highlights of the island is the uplifted coral reef that resulted from the 1954 seismic activity; here the views of Alcedo Volcano are remarkable. When navigating from Urbina to Tagus Cove whale watching is usual in May – December.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** flat & rocky  
**Duration:** 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**pm – Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)**

Dry landing on Galapagos' largest island where we will learn about the eruption of the five volcanoes that form it. The trail leads to Darwin's salt-water crater lake and excellent views of lava fields and volcanic formations. We will return by the same path for a dinghy ride along a shoreline full of marine wildlife, where we will admire a variety of seabirds, such as Blue-footed Booby, Brown Noddy, terns, Flightless Cormorant and depending on the season, a large number of Galapagos Penguins which are only 35 cm tall; the only penguin species in the world to live in the tropics.

The population of penguins on the islands is about 2,000 individuals, most of which live on this western portion of Isabela; others are scattered further south. We will have an opportunity to snorkel in deep water. Graffiti believed to have been left by 19th-century pirates is a curious reminder of an intriguing past.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate/difficult  
**Type of terrain:** steep/steep  
**Duration:** 2-hour walk / 40-minutes dinghy ride / 1-hour deep water snorkeling



**DAY 4 - SATURDAY**  
**am – Egas Port (Santiago Island)**

Wet landing. Egas Port is a black volcanic sand beach, visited by Darwin in 1835. The first section of the trail is formed of volcanic ash (eroded tuff) and the other half is an uneven terrain of volcanic basaltic rock. The unique, truly striking layered terrain of Santiago shore is home to a variety of animals including the bizarre yellow-crowned night heron and marine wildlife including lobster, starfish and marine iguanas grazing on algae beds alongside Sally light-foot crabs. It is easy to see colonies of endemic fur seals swimming in cool water volcanic rock pools.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** flat & semi-rocky  
**Duration:** 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**pm – Sullivan Bay (Santiago Island)**

Wet landing. This site located at the southeastern portion of Santiago Island is of important geologic interest. It features extensive relative young pa-hoe-hoe lava flows formed during the last quarter of the 19th century. In the middle of the lava flow, older reddish-yellow-colored tuff cones appear. Mollugo plants with their yellow-to-orange whorled leaves usually grow out of the fissures. Walking on the solidified lava gives the impression of been in another planet. Tree molds are found, indicating that in that position large size plants grew in small crevices, until the lava flow of past eruptions burned down the flora of the island.

**Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of terrain:** flat volcanic lava  
**Duration:** 1½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling / beach time





**DAY 5 - SUNDAY**  
**am – Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz Island)**

Wet landing. On the north side of Santa Cruz; behind the beach lies two small flamingo ponds were iguanas sunbathe, see coastal birds, Darwin finches, mockingbirds, and gulls, as well as interesting native vegetation like red and black mangrove, salt bushes. This beach is one of the main sea turtles nesting sites in the Galapagos. A turtle can lay eggs 3 or 4 times per season with an average of 70 eggs each time. At this paradisiacal site, we will also find the remains of barges that sank a long time ago, when the United States Navy operated a base during World War II on Baltra Island. Local people modified the word barges to "Bachas".

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



**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 6 - MONDAY**  
**am – Mosquera Islet**

Wet Landing. Mosquera Islet is located between North Seymour and Baltra Island. This flat, sandy island has a large colony of sea lions. It is also an excellent site to observe shorebirds such as herons and lava gulls. There is no trail on the islet, the visitor can enjoy the open area. Most of the islet is covered with sand and barren lava rock. Very little sesuvium portulacastrum plants grow on the sand.

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** sandy  
**Duration:** 1 ½-hour walk & snorkeling

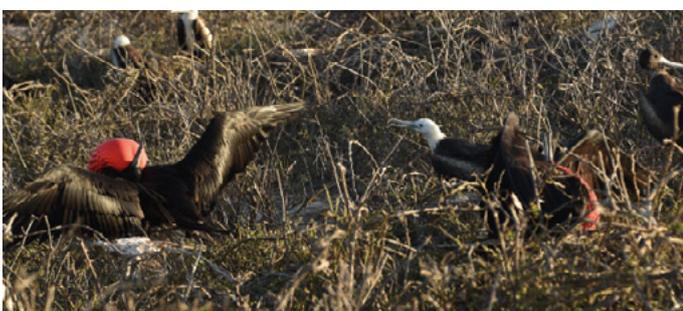


**pm – North Seymour Island**

Dry landing. This is perhaps one of the busiest tourist destinations on the archipelago. Off of Baltra Island (where the airport is located) and not far from Santa Cruz, North Seymour is the most accessible for day trips out of Santa Cruz's main port, Puerto Ayora.

An approximately two hour walk amidst large nesting colonies of blue-footed boobies\*, magnificent and great frigatebirds,\* and swallow-tailed gulls for an in depth encounter with sea bird breeding cycles and as well as sea lions. You will also encounter sea lions, land iguanas, and on a lucky day, you might even come across a Galapagos Snake.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** rocky ground  
**Duration:** 2-hour walk / 30-minute snorkeling





**DAY 7 - TUESDAY**  
**am – Santa Fe Island**

Wet landing. Santa Fe shows white sand beaches surrounded by sea lion colonies; through the island path, an endemic cactus forest is passed, home the Santa Fe land iguanas (the largest in the islands). This island is the habitat for a number of species, including the Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snakes, rice rats (one of the few endemic Galapagos rodents), a variety of finches and one of the four mockingbird species of the archipelago.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate

**Type of terrain:** rocky

**Duration:** 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour deep-water snorkeling



**pm – South Plaza Islet**

Dry landing. There are two Plaza Islets (north and south) located east of Santa Cruz Island. On the northern part of the Islet, visitors begin the journey along an impressive cactus forest where colorful yellow and red land iguanas live, the population number is around 300 animals; during the dry season they survive on fruits and flowers of the opuntia cacti. A peculiar thing to see in South Plaza is the hybrid iguana (sea and land). When reaching the highest point, tropicbirds can be seen. During the dry season (June – January) the usually greenish and yellowish vegetation change of color creating a bright red landscape (sesuviumedmonstonei plant).

**Difficulty level:** intermediate

**Type of terrain:** rocky

**Duration:** 2-hour walk



**DAY 8 - Wednesday**  
**am – Kicker Rock Circumnavigation**

Kicker Rock can be seen directly from the vessel. In the sea northeast of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is this ancient and eroded volcanic tuff lava named Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock it is formed by two rocks approximately 148 m, named for its resemblance of a sleeping lion.

It serves as home to many of the typical Galapagos sea animals, such as birds, sea lions, blue and Nazca boobies and frigate. With rare sightings of swallow turtle gulls, tropic birds, and pelicans.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of Terrain:** water

**Duration:** 1-hour circumnavigation

**am – Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve (San Cristobal Island)**

Dry landing in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Passengers visit the San Cristobal Giant Tortoise Breeding Center to learn about the National Park's conservation programs. Enjoy a beautiful landscape on the way to the Reserve. Passengers will also have the opportunity to visit the village's port, have a drink or shop for arts and crafts and other souvenirs.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate

**Type of Terrain:** sandy

**Duration:** 40-minute bus drive to the Reserve / 1-hour visit



**pm - San Cristobal Airport**

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