

4 Days/3 Nights

Departs Sundays and Wednesdays from Baltra



Galapagos: Finch Bay Eco-Hotel

If you prefer an alternative to a cruise, charming Finch Bay Hotel is the perfect land-based option. It is located at Academy Bay on Santa Cruz Island, across the bay from the small town of Puerto Ayora. Named after the famous Darwin's Finches abundance in the nearby mangroves, the hotel is just steps away from a sandy beach. Daily excursions will be chosen from available options at hotel check-in, and vary depending on weather. Excursions are on average 3-4 miles and are divided into easy, moderate, and difficult options fit for differing levels of fitness and interest.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 3 Nights Finch Bay Eco-Hotel

INCLUSIONS

- All Ground Transfers
- Galapagos National Park Fee
- 1 Full Day Yacht Exploration
- 1 Full Day Land Exploration
- All Meals



ARRIVE SANTA CRUZ ISLAND:

Upon arrival to the airport at Baltra Island, you will be taken across the Itabaca Channel to Santa Cruz Island. Where a bus will take you to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a visit the Giant Tortoises Reserve in their natural habitat, a once in a lifetime experience! A stop is then made at the Twin Pit Craters, great depressions of volcanic material, formed by a long process of slow sinking of the ground, where exceptional Scalesia trees, ferns, mosses and orchids can be seen in the surroundings. Box lunch is provided and then on to the Finch Bay Eco Hotel to enjoy its multiple attractions: pool, the white coral beach in front of the hotel and rest on your hammock. In the evening, dinner includes the delicacies of local and international gastronomy, one of the main reasons people choose the Finch Bay Hotel.

(Lunch, Dinner & Accommodation, Finch Bay)



NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND:

A stroll on flat terrain allows the observation of Palo Santo trees and colonies of blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls and magnificent frigate birds. Towards the other side of the island, the ocean crashes against the rocks and sea lions surf in the waves. This Island was lifted from the ocean floor by a seismic event, and its origins as a seabed give the island its low, flat profile. Cliffs only a few meters high form the shoreline, where swallow-tailed gulls sit perched in ledges. A tiny forest of silver-grey Palo Santo trees stand just above the landing, usually without leaves, waiting for the rain to bring them into bloom. You might have to give way to a passing sea lion or marine iguana; blue-footed booby nests sit beside the trail where mating pairs perform their courtship dance. Further along, the rocky shore displays white sand, and large flocks of pelicans mass for a dive-bomb feeding frenzy, rendering a tableau for us from ages long past. The trail turns inland to reveal the largest nesting site in the Galápagos of the "magnificent frigate bird." These dark acrobats have two-meter wingspans, and males, with puffed up scarlet throat sacks, sit precariously perched in low bushes to watch over their chicks. Las Bachas, After WWII, US military barges were beached and abandoned here. Locals referred to the beach as the barges beach, a name that morphed to "bachas". Located on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, it is a glorious white beach, with several brackish lagoons only a few steps away from the sea. These lagoons are the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos. Fantastic snorkeling, swimming, or simply enjoying the white soft beach.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Finch Bay)



PLAZA ISLAND:

Tortuga Bay and Charles Darwin Research Station: Tortuga Bay is a glorious beach that is located southwest of Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. Tortuga means "turtle" in Spanish and it was named as such due to the fact that sea turtles have made this one of their favorite places to come and lay their eggs. The stunning, white sand beach is considered by many to be the most beautiful stretch of coast in the Galapagos archipelago. Tortuga Bay is reached via a marked and cobbled 2 kilometer (1.2 mile) path that starts at the west end of Charles Binford Street, not all that far from Puerto Ayora itself. Guests must sign in and out at the National Park control point that sits at the beginning of the path. It is open daily from 6:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The trail and beach provide excellent birdwatching opportunities, with plenty of Darwin's finches and other seabirds. The beach itself is a great place to go kayaking, snorkeling, and/or surfing! Afterwards, we'll head to the headquarters of the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station, which are located side-by-side, right on the edge of Puerto Ayora. Here, there is an interpretation center open to the public where you may also view their tortoise breeding program as well as giant tortoises in captivity. A visit to the Center is sure to expand your knowledge of this unique, iconic Galapagos animal as well as the ongoing conservation efforts in the islands.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Finch Bay)



DEPART FINCH BAY:

After breakfast, check-out and transfer to the Baltra Airport to fly back to the mainland. From there, connect to your international flight home, or on to your next Avanti Destination!

(Breakfast, Finch Bay)
