

8 Days/7 Nights

Departs Sundays 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

- 7 Nights Finch Bay Eco-Hotel

INCLUSIONS

- All Ground Transfers
- Galapagos National Park Fee
- 3 Full Day Yacht Explorations
- 2 Full Day Land Explorations
- 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 bluefooted boobies, swallow-tailed gulls and magnificent frigate birds.

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". Today it is an important nesting area for the east Pacific green sea turtle. 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. Fantastic snorkeling, swimming, or simply enjoying the white soft beach.

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



PLAZA ISLAND:

This is the southern partner of two small crescent-shaped islands that lie just a few hundred meters off the east coast of Santa Cruz. The northern island is used for scientific purposes only. South Plaza is one of the smallest yet richest islands in the archipelago. Our landing is in the channel between North and South Plaza, where the island slopes down toward the water. Further up the shore a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath, waiting patiently for pears to drop. The trail gradually follows the tilt of the island to the cliffs that overlook the ocean to the south, where swallow-tailed gulls nest. The overlook is a great place for spotting large marine life, including manta rays. Surf pounds an inlet at the western corner of the island, where a colony of sea lion bachelors make their home, accounting for the surface of the rocks, polished by the oils of their fur. Your guide will find the right spot to snorkel, whether on Plazas Island or Punta Carrion: The shoreline of Las Plazas makes for excellent snorkeling in a sea lion colony of nearly a thousand.

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



SANTA CRUZ ISLAND:

Stay at Santa Cruz Island and enjoy the activities of your choice.

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



SANTA FE ISLAND:

A short trek leads through woods of Opuntia cacti and Palo Santo trees. There is opportunity to swim and snorkel. Santa Fé offers one of the more beautiful and sheltered coves in the islands. The island lies to the southeast of Santa Cruz within sight of Puerto Ayora. Like North Seymour, Santa Fe has been uplifted seismically, and you can see underwater lava formations. A wet landing in a sandy white beach brings us into contact with one of the many sea lion harems. Bulls vie for the right to be Beach Master, while smaller males masquerade as females, intent on making stealthy mating moves. Galapagos hawks are often easily approached, perched atop salt bushes. Our goal is to spot one of the large species of land iguana native to Santa Fe. An indigenous species of rice rat also inhabits the thickest, and lucky hikers can spot harmless Galapagos snakes. After the hike, there is nothing more inviting than a swim in the calm waters of the bay.

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



TORTUGA BAY:

It is considered the nicest spot of the archipelago, a peaceful corner for the nature lover. Tortuga Bay's name comes from the sea turtles that go there to lay their eggs. Excellent bird watching can be found along the way and at the Bay. Back to the Finch Bay Eco Hotel for lunch. Free time in the afternoon.

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



BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND:

The trail is a fairly steep climb on wooden steps to the summit, worth the effort, as there is a spectacular view of the Galapagos scenery from above. Interesting lava formations and tuff cones can be observed. Sea lions and penguins swim in the vicinity of Pinnacle Rock. Enjoy snorkeling or swimming from the beach. Bartolomé is famous for Pinnacle Rock, a towering spearheaded obelisk that rises from the ocean's edge and is the best known landmark in the islands.

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



DEPART FINCH BAY:

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland. Connect to your international flight home, or on to your next Avanti destination.

(Breakfast, Finch Bay)
