

## 8 Days/7 Nights

Departs Sundays from Quito or Guayaquil



### Luxury Yacht Origin

#### 7 Night Cruise B

The Origin blends the best of tasteful design, elegant décor, and environmental sustainability. Each inviting stateroom features large windows for stunning views of the islands. 10 cabins.

#### INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip air & ground transfers
- Cruise accommodations

- Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee
- Excursions with naturalist guide

- All Meals



DAY 1

#### SUNDAY: FLIGHT TO GALAPAGOS FROM QUITO/GUAYAQUIL AIRPORT - SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND:

**AM:** Upon arrival at **San Cristobal Island**, guides will meet you, collect your luggage, and escort you to the ship, where the crew will welcome you aboard. After a welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served on board.

**PM:** In the afternoon, travel to Cerro Colorado to visit **Centro de Crianza Jacinto Gordillo (La Galapaguera)** where the national park has established a breeding program for giant tortoises in their natural habitat. At the visitor center, learn about the Origin and evolution of tortoises, as well as threats from introduced animals. Along the trail, watch for the San Cristobal mockingbird and Calandrinia plant, both endemic to this island. Return to the Origin for a briefing, followed by our Captain's welcome cocktail party and dinner prepared by our chefs.

*(Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Origin)*



DAY 2

#### MONDAY: GENOVESA (TOWER) ISLAND:

Spend the entire day on **Genovesa (Tower) Island**, one of the most spectacular places in Galapagos for bird species. Land at **Prince Philip's Steps**, where red-footed boobies nest in palo santo trees, Nazca boobies nest near the trail, and storm petrels gather in large numbers in an open lava field. With luck, you may see the elusive short-eared owl. Return to the ORIGIN for a BBQ lunch on the sun deck. Choose to paddle in a kayak or stand-up paddleboard and explore the cliffs. Look for the red-billed tropic bird hiding in the crevices, or snorkel in deeper water from the Zodiac. Land at **Darwin Bay**, a coral sand beach where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of Opuntia cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigate birds nest, the males inflating their red-throated pouches to attract females as they fly overhead. Chose to relax on the beach or swim with sea lions in these northern warmer waters. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner and an evening full of stars.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Origin)*



DAY 3

#### TUESDAY: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND:

**AM:** Today we visit **Las Bachas** (Spanish for barges) on the northern side of Santa Cruz. Explore the long stretch of a white sand beach and the interior lagoons populated by greater flamingo, then take the opportunity for some wonderful snorkeling from the beach. Return to the Origin for lunch.

**PM:** This afternoon, step ashore on **Cerro Dragon** (Dragon Hill) for a majestic view of the bay and the island landscape covered in opuntia cactus, palo santo and muyuyo (Cordia letea). The trail also offers excellent opportunities to see Darwin's finches, Galapagos flycatchers, yellow warblers, Audubon's shearwater, as well as the endemic land iguanas that were once part of the station's breeding program. In the saltwater lagoon pink flamingos feed alongside other birds such as stilts, pintail ducks and sandpipers. After the briefing and dinner, sail toward the western islands and cross the equator for the second time.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Origin)*



DAY 4

#### WEDNESDAY: ISABELA ISLAND:

**AM:** This morning we visit **Punta Vicente Roca** on a Zodiac ride offering an incredible view of the tuff walls, where you can enter the wave-sculpted cave. There is an excellent chance to snorkel here and find penguins and sea turtles that frequent this area. During lunch, we sail through the **Bolivar Channel**.

**PM:** Take a seat on the deck to view the dramatic scenery and watch for whales and dolphins riding the bow wave, and occasionally the Mola Mola, the odd-looking giant sunfish. Disembark at **Urbina Bay** on Isabela Island, where four miles of coastal seabed were exposed due to a dramatic uplift during a volcanic eruption in 1954. See the remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high, and keep an eye out for the very large and colorful Galapagos land iguanas, as well as marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, and the occasional giant tortoise. Return to the Origin for briefing and dinner. A sky full of stars beckons you to go on deck and observe the galaxy.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Origin)*



DAY 5

#### THURSDAY: FERNANDINA ISLAND:

**AM:** This morning's stop is at **Punta Espinoza** on Fernandina, the youngest and most pristine island in the Galapagos, with no introduced animals. Recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Observe sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory, and hundreds of marine iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, basking in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Out on the point, the Flightless Cormorants build their nests close to shore since they lost their ability to fly. There is a chance to snorkel here with large sea turtles that frequent this area before returning to the Origin for lunch.

**PM:** Go ashore to **Tagus Cove**, a favorite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. Sections of the rocky cliffs are covered with graffiti dating back to the 1800s. An uphill hike leads to a saltwater lagoon and a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of the ocean, lava fields and volcanic formations. Take advantage of the secluded cove and explore the shoreline by kayak or stand-up paddleboard in search of Galapagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds. Return to the Origin for briefing and dinner as we cross the equator for the last time.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Origin)*



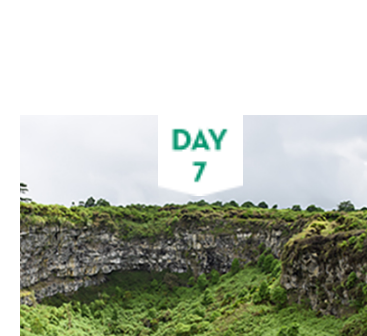
DAY 6

#### FRIDAY: RABIDA (JERVIS) ISLAND:

**AM:** This morning, disembark on **Rabida (Jervis)**, a small Island considered the geographic center of Galapagos because its volcanic rocks are the most diversified in the archipelago. The dark red color of the beach comes from the high iron content in the volcanic stones. Follow the trail to a saltwater lagoon where greater flamingos migrate, keeping an eye out for marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and Darwin's finches. Afterwards, do not miss the opportunity to snorkel with a colony of sea lions and rays. Return to the ORIGIN for lunch.

**PM:** This afternoon, there is a zodiac ride at **Caleta Tortuga Negra** (Black Turtle Cove) through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. Witness pairs of mating sea turtles (Sept to Feb), white-tipped reef sharks and golden cownose rays. Return to the Origin for the captain's farewell cocktail party and dinner, as well as a special slide show presentation by your guides.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Origin)*



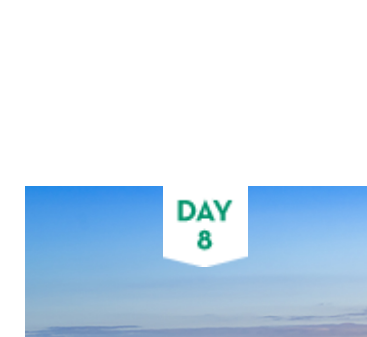
DAY 7

#### SATURDAY: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND:

**AM:** Disembark at **Puerto Ayora**, Santa Cruz Island, the social heart of the Galapagos, with a population of 24,000. Travel by bus to the highlands, passing through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Visit a tortoise reserve on a private farm that protects giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Stop at the **Tunnels**, the largest lava tubes in the archipelago, and visit **Los Gemelos (The Twins)**, a pair of large craters. Return to the Origin for lunch on board.

**PM:** This afternoon we visit the **Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena** (formerly known as the Charles Darwin Research Station). Visit the tortoise breeding center with hatchlings and miniature tortoises that will be repatriated when grown. Scientists from all over the globe conduct biological research at the station, from anatomy to zoology. Visit the new exhibit honoring Lonesome George, a worldwide icon of conservation as the last surviving tortoise from Pinta Island that tragically died of natural causes. Stroll through town to shop for souvenirs or stop at an internet café. Return to the ORIGIN for dinner or, if you wish, remain ashore for dinner on your own. Zodiac shuttles from Origin to the main dock will be offered throughout the evening.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Origin)*



DAY 8

#### SUNDAY:

Travel by bus to the Interpretation Center on **San Cristobal** to gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, spend time in port before heading to the airport for your flight back to the mainland.

*(Breakfast, Origin)*