





**DAY 1 - THURSDAY**  
am – San Cristobal Airport

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal in a 2-hour flight. Upon arrival, passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken on a ten-minute bus drive to the pier to board the Galapagos Legend.



pm – Interpretation Center & Frigatebird Hill (San Cristobal Island)

The interpretation center is full of interesting information and offers the perfect overview to the formation of Galapagos, its significance in the world, threats and conservation efforts. Followed by a hike to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas) we will have great looks at both species of frigatebird, with the bonus of a beautiful view of the bay below.

**Difficulty level:** easy /intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** flat/stairs  
**Duration:** 1-hour visit / 1-hour walk

Cerro Tijeretas

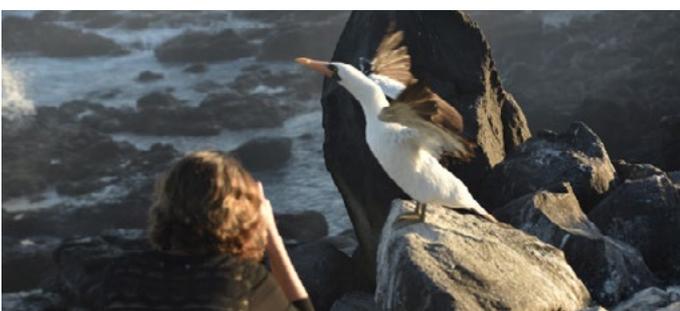
**Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of terrain:** Rocky  
**Duration:** 1-hour visit



**DAY 2 - FRIDAY**  
am – Gardner Bay, Gardner & Osborn islets (Española Island)

One of the most stunning beaches in all of Galapagos. The long, white, sandy beach, lapped by turquoise waters is home to a colony of Galapagos sea lions, indifferent to the humans that walk amongst them. The Hood mockingbirds, endemic to this particular island, will be eager to inspect the visitors and satisfy their innate curiosity. Darwin's finches may also join the throng including the reclusive warbler finch. We can also snorkel here from the beach, in the shallows of the bay.

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



pm – Punta Suarez (Española Island)

One of the highlight visits of the trip. Punta Suarez seems to have everything - a naturalists paradise. A slew of marine iguanas and sea lions greet us at the landing site from where our walk continues with close encounters of boobies, endemic lizards, gulls and even a dramatic blow hole. The oldest extant island in the archipelago it is our only opportunity to commune with the endemic waved albatross during their breeding season between April and December. With luck, we can watch their complex courtship display.

**Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of terrain:** rocky  
**Duration:** 2 ½-hour walk



**DAY 3 - SATURDAY**  
**am – Post Office Bay (Floreana Island)**

A very short walk from the beach leads us to the famous Post Office Barrel. Claimed to have been first setup in 1793 by Captain James Colnett it remains the oldest functioning epost office in the Pacific. The system was that whalers and fur sealers would leave addressed letters in the barrel to be picked up by homeward bound colleagues. In the spirit of maintaining tradition visitors today will often take letters and hand-deliver them in their home countries.

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** sandy  
**Duration:** 30-minutes walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**pm – Punta Cormoran / Devil's Crown / Champion (Floreana Island)**

**Punta Cormoran:**

On arriving, the observant visitor will notice that olivine, a volcanic crystal, has proffered a subtle green hue on the dark beach. Our walk takes us past island-endemic *Scalesia* plants to a large, shallow, lagoon often inhabited by a variable number of shockingly pink greater flamingoes. We continue through a forest of palo santo trees to arrive at a powdery white beach, a nesting area of green turtles. As we paddle barefoot in the shallow water we will spot diamond stingrays and white-tipped reef sharks.

**Devil's Crown:**

One of the favourite snorkeling sites in the islands. Devil's Crown, an eroded volcanic cone, is home to an abundance of fish and marine animals. We will swim with big schools of yellow-tailed surgeonfish, salemas and creolefish and with luck may spot turtles, spotted eagle rays, parrotfish, and even hammerhead sharks! The jagged crown is a roosting area for boobies, noddies, tropicbirds and frigates.

**Champion Islet:**

A truly magical place to snorkel. We would expect to see here green turtles, harmless white-tipped reef sharks, an impressive diversity and abundance of fish as well as some playful sea lions often approaching very close, itching to show off their prowess in the water. Champion Islet also happens to be the last remaining home of the island-endemic Floreana mockingbird which we may be lucky enough to see from our pangas.

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



**DAY 4 - SUNDAY**  
**am – Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center (Santa Cruz Island)**

Once home to the famous Lonesome George, the last tortoise of the Pinta race, the breeding and relocation center is named in honour of his long-time guardian. The center is set in the Galapagos National Park Service where various interpretative buildings are available to visit. The grounds, with large stands of native vegetation are one of the better places to spot some of the seldom seen Darwin's finches such as the woodpecker, cactus and vegetarian finches.

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

**am – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)**

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kind 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 birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** flat & muddy (depending on season)  
**Duration:** 45-minute drive / 1 ½-hour walk



**pm – Eden Islet or Ballena Bay (Santa Cruz)**

The perfect spot to enjoy our water activities of snorkeling, kayaking or the glass-bottom boat. Expect to see lots of fish species including king angelfish, surgeonfish, parrotfish, damselfish, rays and sharks. From the land portion of the visit there will be sea lions and basking marine iguanas with herons and turtles in the mangrove areas. We might even discover some antique ceramic relics left behind by previous settlements.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** rocky  
**Duration:** 1 hour walk / 1 hour snorkeling



**DAY 5 - MONDAY**  
am – Carrion Point (Santa Cruz Island)

Dinghy ride at the entry of the Itabaca Channel in a lagoon with turquoise water, where we can observe sharks, blue-footed boobies, and different kinds of fish.

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



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 6 - TUESDAY**  
am – El Barranco, Prince Philip's Steps (Genovesa Island)

Riding our *pangas* to the far side of the caldera, red-billed tropicbirds display vociferously overhead while Galapagos fur seals can be seen on the shoreline. Once at the top of the rocky stairway we are immediately met by Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, mockingbirds and finches that line our way through a palo santo forest until we arrive at an expansive open lava field. Wedge-rumped storm petrels swarm above the lava where we keep our eyes peeled for short-eared owls.

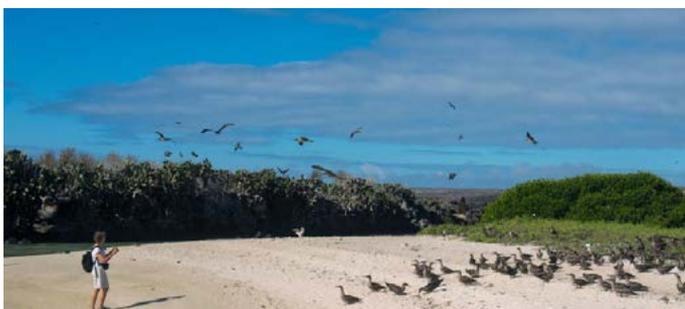
**Difficulty level:** moderate  
**Type of terrain:** rocky – lava  
**Duration:** 45-minute walk



pm – Darwin Bay (Genovesa Island)

From within the flooded caldera of Tower Island we set foot onto a sandy beach to be greeted by swallow-tailed gulls often said to be the most beautiful gull in the world. Our short, flat, trail leads us past stands of mangroves and saltbush on which we have our best possible looks at nesting red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds. At the tidal lagoon we may also see the rarest gull in the world, our very own, endemic lava gull.

**Difficulty level:** moderate  
**Type of terrain:** Sand & Lava  
**Duration:** 2 ½-hour walk approx.





**DAY 7 - WEDNESDAY**  
am – Dragon Hill

Arriving to a small lava dock our first encounters are with marine iguanas that blend-in perfectly to the dark rock. As we walk past large prickly pear cacti we arrive to one end of a long, sickle-shaped, beach with Dragon Hill standing in the distance. Our walk takes us on a circular path, past a shallow lake where flamingoes frequently come to feed. Waders such as stilts, turnstones and sandpipers work the muddy edges frenetically looking for food as we continue inland to a dry, forested habitat where land iguanas nest and burrow.

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



pm – Santa Fe Island

After a fabulous snorkel in the turquoise waters of the protected bay we may have enjoyed time with sea lions, turtles, reef sharks and spotted eagle rays. Landing onto a sandy beach we are immediately distracted by the abundant sea lions there with us. We begin a walk past a forest of island-endemic giant Opuntia cacti. Here we search for another island-endemic the Santa Fe land iguana, paler than its cousins on other islands. Galapagos hawks and even endemic rice rats are also things to look out for.

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



**DAY 4 - THURSDAY**  
am – Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz Island)

Named for some wrecked World War II barges whose ribs are still visible in the sand this visitor site offers great swimming, a lovely walk along the shore and a visit to a lagoon behind the high tide line with wading birds, marine iguanas and sometimes even flamingoes. The two beaches are also favourite nesting sites for green turtles which often leave tractor-like tracks in the sand.

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



pm – Baltra Airport

After the visit, passengers will be transferred to the airport for their return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.