

The Galapagos Islands

DAY BY DAY

ITINERARY A

(Sunday - Wednesday)
4 days / 3 night

4 days / 3 nights

A | NORTH - CENTRAL

Sunday - Wednesday

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.

Sunday:

- ➔ Baltra Airport
- pm. Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center 🦘 (Santa Cruz Island)

Monday:

- am. Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)
- pm. Bartolome Island

Tuesday:

- am. Rabida Island
- pm. Buccaneer Cove & Espumilla Beach (Santiago Island)

Wednesday:

- am. Black Turtle Cove (Santa Cruz Island)
- ➔ Baltra Airport





DAY 1 - SUNDAY
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 – 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



DAY 2 - MONDAY
am – Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)

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 – Bartolome Island

Considered the most iconic landscape of the entire archipelago the view from the top of Bartolomé Island, overlooking the famous Pinnacle Rock and the austere Santiago Island beyond, is well worth the climb up the wooden boardwalk. This volcanic scene has often been likened to a lunar landscape. Our subsequent snorkel here might put us face to face with Galapagos penguins, white-tipped reef sharks and playful sea lions.

Difficulty level: intermediate
Type of terrain: trail made of 372 steps.
Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling





DAY 3 -TUESDAY
am – Rabida Island

Lying at the heart of the archipelago this dramatic island, with its distinctive red-sand beach, is home to sea lions, mockingbirds, finches, endemic Galapagos doves and vermilion flycatchers. A walk takes us through a forest of *palo santo* and cacti to a beautiful overview of the bay. Snorkeling here can be excellent, often with large schools of black-striped salemas, sea lions and the ubiquitous turtles.

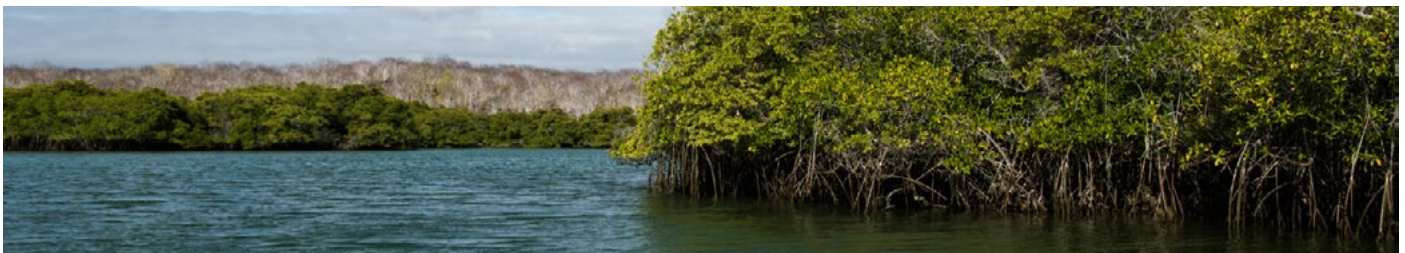
Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: sandy
Duration: 1½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling / 1-hour dinghy ride



pm – Buccaneers Cove / Espumilla Beach (Santiago Island)

This is an amazing location, featuring the remains of an eroded shoreline that is home to seabirds, fur seals and the playful sea lions. Its different shapes have been made throughout a process caused by erosion of the waves and the wind. Espumilla Beach is a white-sandy beach in James Bay and is a popular place among visitors. There are mangroves and a small *palo santo* forest that lead to salty-water lagoons that are home to wading birds like flamingos. In the upper dunes are a nesting site for sea turtles. A good place to snorkel to see rays.

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



DAY 4 - Wednesday
am – Black Turtle Cove (Santa Cruz Island)

Here we can find four species of mangrove in the extensive tidal lagoon system that stretches for almost a mile inland. During our *panga* ride through the labyrinth we will spot many turtles, herons of several species, sharks and rays. The experience is otherworldly and seems to transport us back to the beginning of time.

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



San Cristobal Airport

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