

The Galapagos Islands

DAY BY DAY

ITINERARY C

(Sunday – Wednesday)
4 days / 3 night

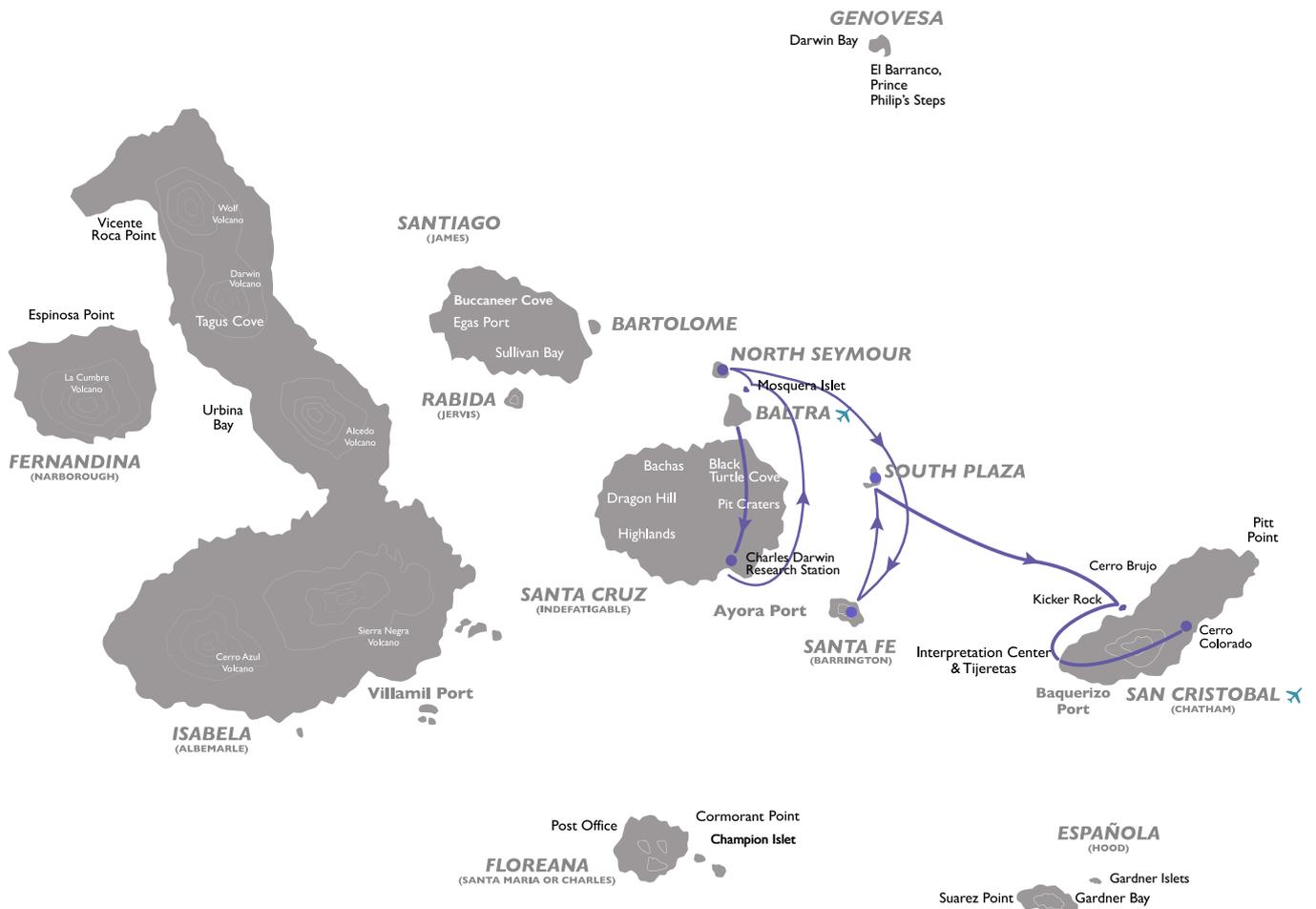
4 days / 3 nights

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.

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Sunday - Wednesday

- Sunday:**
 ✈ Baltra Airport
 pm. Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center 🐢 (Santa Cruz Island)
- Monday:**
 am. Mosquera Islet
 pm. North Seymour Island
- Tuesday:**
 am. Santa Fe Island
 pm. South Plaza Island
- Wednesday:**
 am. Kicker Rock circumnavigation. Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve 🐢 (San Cristobal Island)
 ✈ San Cristobal 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 – Mosquera Islet

This tiny, low lying islet, covered in coral sand, is set between North and South Seymour Islands. It is home to a group of sea lions that come to laze on the soft white sand. It is a good spot to observe shorebirds as well as herons, lava gulls and boobies. Snorkeling or diving here one can often see sharks, rays and barracudas.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: sandy

Duration: 1 ½-hour walk & snorkeling



pm – North Seymour Island

This flat, uplifted, island is an important spot to see both magnificent and great frigatebird males courting the females by clicking, bill-clapping, shuddering and flapping their wings, all while showing off their grossly inflated, bright red, gular pouch. We will also likely see courting blue-footed boobies displaying their unique feet while dancing to a prospective mate. Sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, crashing surf and distant views of the Daphne Islands top off a great visit.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Type of terrain: rocky ground

Duration: 2-hour walk / 30-minute snorkeling





DAY 3 - TUESDAY
am – 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



pm – South Plaza Islet

Sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls and land iguanas are all present at the landing site. The small island is covered with a carpet of a red succulent studded with *Opuntia* cacti. At the cliff edge, we spend time watching birds fly past at eye level in the updraught. These include, frigatebirds, flocks of Galapagos shearwaters and of particular note, flights of displaying red-billed tropicbirds. Back at sea level, we once again encounter land iguanas, some of which have hybridized with their resident marine cousins.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Type of terrain: rocky

Duration: 2-hour walk



DAY 4 - Wednesday
am – Kicker Rock Circumnavigation

Kicker Rock can be seen directly from the vessel. In the sea northeast of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is this ancient and eroded volcanic tuff lava named Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock; it is formed by two rocks approximately 148 m, named for its resemblance of a sleeping lion.

It serves as home to many of the typical Galapagos sea animals, such as birds, sea lions, blue and Nazca boobies and frigate. With rare sightings of swallow turtle gulls, tropic birds, and pelicans.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of Terrain: water

Duration: 1-hour circumnavigation

am – Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve (San Cristobal Island)

In the moist highlands of San Cristobal we will visit the giant tortoise breeding center iLa Galapaguera to witness the most iconic creature of the archipelago in its various life stages. The tortoises wander in a semi-natural habitat which lends itself to good photographic opportunities. The aim of the reserve is to help restore populations of the threatened San Cristobal tortoise back into the wild. In town, there are shops to purchase local handicrafts and souvenirs.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Type of Terrain: sandy

Duration: 40-minute bus drive to the Reserve / 1-hour visit



San Cristobal Airport

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