

The Galapagos Islands

DAY BY DAY

ITINERARY D

(Wednesday - Sunday)
5 days / 4 night

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.

5 days / 4 nights

D | SOUTH

Wednesday - Sunday

Wednesday:

- ✈ San Cristobal Airport
- pm. Interpretation Center & Tijeretas (San Cristobal Island).

Thursday:

- am. Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)
- pm. Pitt Point (San Cristobal Island)

Friday:

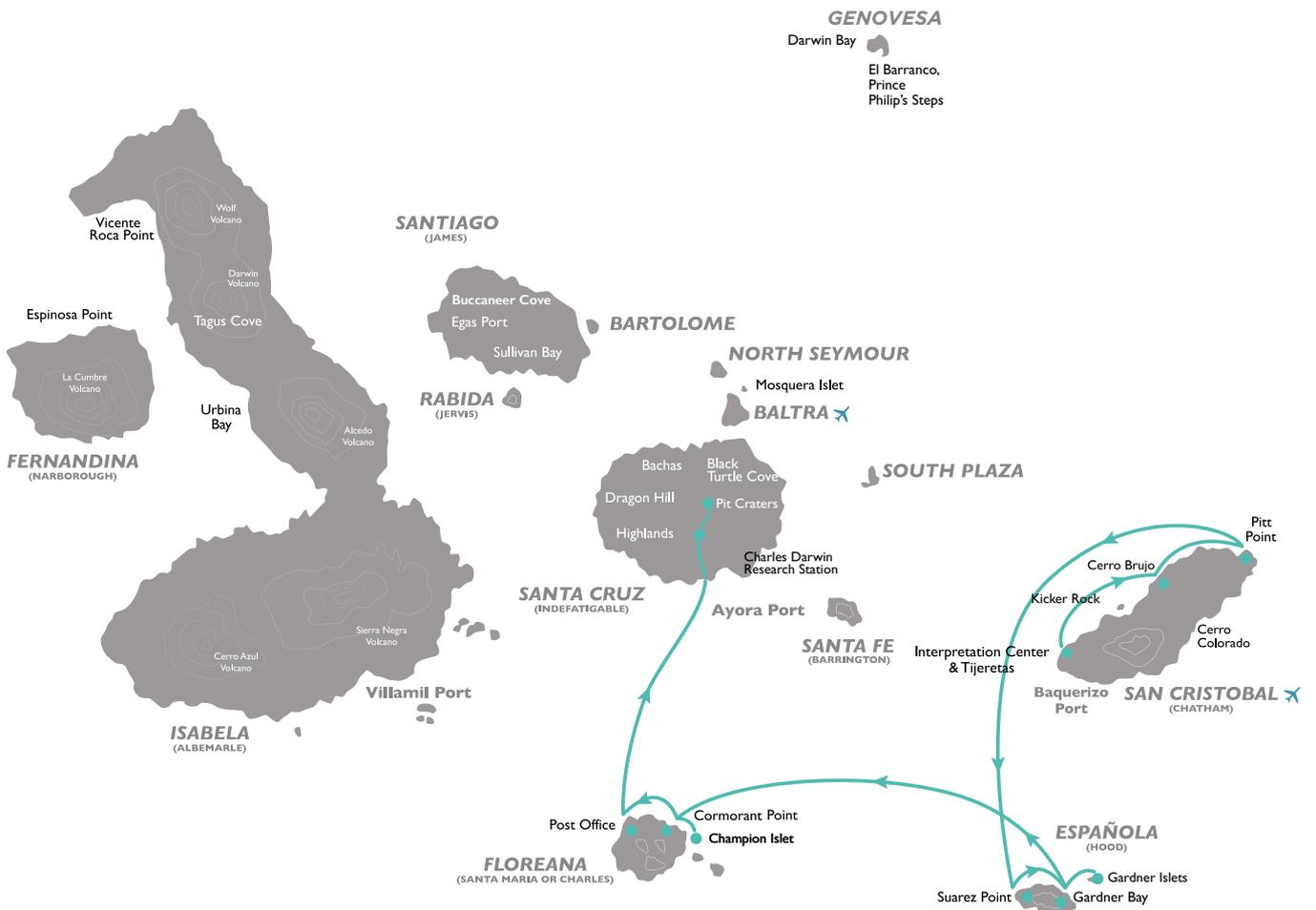
- am. Suarez Point (Española Island)
- pm. Gardner Bay, Osborn or Gardner Islets (Española Island)

Saturday:

- am. Cormorant Point, Devil's Crown or Champion Islet (Floreana Island)
- pm. Post Office (Floreana Island)

Sunday:

- am. Highlands Tortoise Reserve & Pit Craters: for extended cruises (Santa Cruz)
- ✈ Baltra airport





DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY
am- San Cristobal Airport

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal (2 1/2 hours flight). Arriving in Galapagos, passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken to the pier to board the *M/Y Coral I* or *M/Y Coral II*.



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

Frigatebird Hill

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



DAY 2 - THURSDAY
am – Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)

From our *pangas*, as we head to shore, we are first humbled by the immensity of the stunning cliffs of Sorcerer's Hill. We can enjoy simply sharing the beach with sea lions, snorkeling from shore or take a walk to a hidden lagoon where we might spot black-necked stilts, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels and white-cheeked pintails.

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



pm – Punta Pitt & Islet (San Cristobal Island)

Sea lions will greet us as we land on the beach and prepare for our climb to a high point on the steep eroded tuff cone. This is the only place in the islands where we will enjoy the chance to see all three of the booby species in the same place. The red-foots will be perched on the *Cordia lutea* and small trees, the Nazca's on the ground near the cliff edge while the blue-foots will be a little further inland. Frigatebirds will be all around and the views are breathtaking.

Difficulty level: difficult
Type of terrain: rocky
Duration: 2½-hour walk/ 40-minutes snorkeling or kayaking





DAY 3 - FRIDAY
am – 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 ground
Duration: 2 ½-hours walk



pm – 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. Darwinis 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



DAY 4 - SATURDAY
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. Devilis 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 ecrowni 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



pm – 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



DAY 5 - SUNDAY

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, vermillion 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



Baltra Island Airport

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