

Itinerary D / 7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS
(Saturday to Saturday)
 Description of points of visit



Saturday

Arrival to Baltra and transfer to the Galapagos Explorer II. At night we visit: Cerro Dragon, Santa Cruz island: Bay located at the northwest of the Santa Cruz island and is called like this because they celebrated years ago the 400 anniversary of the Discovery of America and the in first island the Columbus disembark he stuck a cross (Cruz) in the land and named it Santa Cruz.



Most of the year you can see flamingoes in the "Humedal" lagoon next to some migratory birds. Darwin fishes, mocking birds and lava lizards can also be seen. The arid vegetation consists most in prickly pear cactus, rosewood or holy stick. The visit has a rich landscape when you see clearly Rabida island at west and the interior of Santa Cruz at east. In the beach zone there are lots of native plants and animals such as the marine iguanas, sea lions, oystercatchers, pelicans and small colonies of blue footed boobies. The disembark is dry on rocks and the path is plane 2km. (2 hours walk) We recommend comfortable shoes to walk and walking sticks and binoculars for the observation of the birds in the lagoon. The path is really hot for the solar refraction in the lava field.



Sunday:

Bartolome island: The island has an extension of 1,2 km² and a height of 114 meters above the sea level. It is separated by the Santiago Island by a very narrow channel. It is formed -like all the islands - by basaltic lava. Here you can find a clear example of colonization and ecological and geological processes that some islands had or still have. The unique landscape offers several sceneries that could be compared with photographs taken in the moon. In northeast you can enjoy a refreshing bath on the sea, snorkeling, penguins, the sunset, a the beach of southeast you can frequently see sharks, rays, turtles, etc.



Puerto Egas, Santiago island: It's located at the west side of Santiago island in James Bay. Before becoming a protected zone in the category of National Park, the place was used for salt exploitation, they took big amounts of a crater that is located approximately 6 km. from the referred place. Obviously there was an infrastructure settled until now you can see some rests of that dock. The first is disembarking on the beach, you walk a long the coast over the petrified lava flow covered by coastal vegetation where sparrow hawks, doves, lava lizards, finches, mocking birds and when the tide is low you will see in the shore hundreds of live organisms surrounded by a large amount of crabs, marine iguanas, lava herons, night herons, oystercatchers, migratory birds, sea lions. You will also find a special zone with a beautiful and colorful setting, a place to practice snorkeling and swim with sea lions, watch lots of different varieties of fishes in canals on which there are some natural bridges made of rocks and diving you will be able to see the tunnels that have served to discharge lava of some craters that are located nearby.





Monday:

Punta Espinoza, Fernandina island: it has an extension of 642 km² and is at 1492 meters above the sea level with a main volcano that is the most active one. Fernandina is a very young island that is why Punta Espinoza has fresh lava and over them you can see the first colonization of plants and animals.

The main attractive on this island are the flightless cormorants, the marine and land iguanas the penguin colonies, sea lions blue herons and sparrow hawks. Some cetaceous can be seen also when you navigate at the northeast of Isabela and around Fernandina. Among the activities that you can make are the hikes and dinghy tours. The terrain is dry and the type of path has a moderate difficulty.



Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela island: this area is located in a very privilege place where you can see Galapagos fur seals that are native of this island. This place was located at the west side of the Galapagos islands where the waters are really rich in nutrients due to the submarine current called Cromwell. The greenish color of the water show us how productive are these waters. In this stop you can see the sea lots of marine turtles feeding themselves with a lots a algae that is produced in that place.

Also you can find some marine mammals as whales, dolphins and numberless marine birds that depend on this high production. Besides is a wonderful opportunity to observe the volcanic formations of the islands. You can appreciate volcanic cones and different lava flows.



Tuesday:

North Seymour: A flat and small islands that is located at the north of Baltra. The path has a rocky surface at the beginning and then sand where you will see sea lions and marine iguanas resting. At the inside of the island you will see a small forest with rosewood or holy stick and prickly pear cactus and is inhabited by blue footed bobbies and frigate birds. This visit has a duration time of an hour and a half approximately and a dry disembark

Highlands, Santa Cruz island: is at the north east of Puerto Ayora. We have to go on bus to the Santa Rosa population and then walk a path between to farms an hour approximately until we arrive to the park. Then there are 2 roads: one to Cerro del Chato and the other to La Caseta. Around these places you can find in their natural habitat a variety of land tortoises on the Santa Cruz island. The vegetation is very dense and the road could be muddy or not. With out a guide is easy to get lost.

Lava tunnels: In the Santa Cruz island we find this lava tunnels that are a product of the lava fluid when the external lava got cold and the internal continue to flow. They are really impressive due to the size and length. They give the feeling of being inside a volcano. You can do the visit to the San Miguel Hacienda that is open to the public to appreciate the tunnels and the submerge craters The tunnels still has small stalagmites. The main part of the tunnels is lighted up. The largest tunnel has a length of 420m /1380 fts. And the smallest one is 50m. / 165 fts.





**Wednesday:
Lobería or Tijertas or Lobos island or El Junco
or The interpretation Center San Cristobal****

The Lobería: is a very distant place from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, but you can get there on 10 minutes by bus. The vegetation at the side of the road is very uncommon because of the rare colors and the variety of plants rarely or never seen in the world. This beach is a great colony of sea lions that use the sand whether is for resting or for mating. Regularly there are dozens of its and with low tide the ponds that are form or the low water level help the juvenile sea lions to improve their fishing, swimming and the defense skills.



The marine iguanas are one of the largest varieties in the archipelago that can be seen on the rocks. They have very particular characteristics in this island as well as the lava lizards that are native specie of this island.

Lobos island: This island with basaltic sprouts has also the name of "The sea lions island" has a large and very noisy population of these mammals that are always barking and playing in the sand. There is also a place where the blue footed boobies nests and a great place for snorkeling, dinghy rides and swimming.



Tijeretas: this spectacular scenery is one of the reasons why you should visit Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. The road goes though some holy stick forest until a viewpoint where some beautiful landscapes can be seen and hikes, snorkeling and dinghy rides can be done.

Interpretation Center: Is in San Cristobal island is located this center that opened the doors for the first time in 1998 thanks to a donation made by the Spanish government. It has a very outstanding and informative architecture offering the tourists and locals complete information of the islands, natural history and ecology.



Transfer to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno airport*

Wednesday

San Cristobal: has a harbor Puerto Baquerizo Moreno as a political capital of the Colon's archipelago. San Cristobal is the only island that has a lagoon with fresh water, that is inside the Junco Volcano, and is the vital liquid for the population of the island and most of the tourism ships of Galapagos. This water comes from the condensation of the vapor water. The main town zone is called "El Progreso" that has its origins in the human settlement on the San Cristobal island.



Wizard Hill: Where beaches of white coral sand can be seen. Is a beautiful beach where you can swim and observe the birds and the sea lions, also snorkeling can be performed.



Thursday:

Punta Suarez: Is located at the south of the archipelago and has an extension of 60km². and a height of 206 meters above the sea level. The sea lions surf every wave that majestically hits the natural slopes. The first emotion that can be experienced in the island – just at the disembark moment- will be seen the animal living peacefully and harmonious so close to each other: marine iguanas, gulls, blue footed boobies, crabs and lava lizards.

In the path you can observe these boobies in their nests with eggs or chicks, as well as marine iguanas in full swing - digging their nests, fighting for their territory or in the process of thermo-regulation. You can also observe tropical birds in their caves, bifurcated tail gulls, masked boobies, whose nesting area differs from the booby-legged blue crabs beautiful colors covering the black lava.

There is also the "blow hole" that ejects the water to up to 20-25 meters above the sea level when the waves are big and the tide is high. Besides the albatrosses whose colony is formed by 15000 couples that nests from April to November...Is all this that makes this place really unique!



Gardner Bay: Is located at the east of the island. Has a wide beach with white sand where the sea turtles shelters in reproduction time. They have ideal rocks to dive or snorkel and a beautiful beach to rest and to observe the sea lions. In the front are located three islets where you will find; sharks, sea turtles, rays, and a great variety of fishes of tropical and subtropical waters. Some activities can be performed such as hikes, diving in deep waters (experience is required), beach walk. Among the fauna that can be observed we have Galapagos hawk, mockingbirds, finches, doves, lizards besides you can see observe a great variety of bushes.





Friday:

Charles Darwin Scientific station is next to Puerto Ayora, in Santa Cruz island, in a special zone for Galapagos National Park use only. This is next to the Galapagos National Park headquarters and they work together developing conservation programs for the native and endemic species of the archipelago. Here one can easily appreciate the work of some programs, the program Interpreting as-in-Tourist Reception Center, the Breeders both tortoises and land iguanas, the Research Programs of these and other species, etc. .



These species are found in semi natural large pens protected and easy to see - divided into four stages: eggs, babies, juveniles (in the age of being "repatriated"), and adults. It is an excellent place to see several species of finches to their surroundings, like varied vegetation Xerophytes. Then they visit Puerto Ayora, which is a recreation center for tourists, with crafts and varied connotations, positive features of its people in front of the visitor. In general, you will have the opportunity to see - in colonized areas - the activities of the field, their products, their lifestyle and customs of the peasant island.



Puerto Ayora: This is a really natural beauty, the centered location and the variety of characteristics for the tourist and makes Puerto Ayora the axis of Galapagos. This is the most inhabited part of the island and has the most important harbor in the archipelago. Even though some tourists come for just a few hours to see the Charles Darwin station the different activities available, restaurants and other services that makes this an unforgettable place. The iguanas rest over the cargo that is placed on the dock while the boobies and pelicans plunge into the turquoise water of Academy Bay. Here are also the headquarters of Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin station.



Rabida island: It is a small island (5 km2), covered by dry and coastal vegetation and a central volcano of 367 m2., Rabida is characterized by its red sand and brown waters resulting from the lava erosion. Colony of sea lions. Behind the beach is almost always a gap with flamingos, at one end of it and the seashore pelicans nest in the breeding season. There is a trail overlooking the cliff, and during this journey you can enjoy an incredible landscape, flora and fauna. At a short distance in the top of the road, you can take good photographs of the clear waters and the peaks of volcanoes. It is also a great place to dive with snorkel. Stay near the rocks and away from sharks and rays.



Among the activities are: Hikes, snorkeling, bird watching. Its fauna is very interesting and attractive consist of flamingos, Galapagos Hawks, penguins, pelicans, sea lions and their vegetation has prickly pear cactus and Rosewood.





Saturday:

Bachas Beach: White sand beach where you can see some sites of nesting, sheltering, and marine turtles also a small lagoon with migratory birds, herons, pelicans, crabs, and some other species. Is a very popular place for snorkeling, swimming, dinghy tours and beach walks.

Return

