



ANDANDO[®]
TOURS
Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

TIP TOP II

ITINERARY 2 – 8 DAY / 7 NIGHT CRUISE FRIDAY - FRIDAY



DAY BY DAY

DAY 1

BACHAS BEACH (SANTA CRUZ)

The flight from mainland Ecuador (Quito or Guayaquil) to Baltra Island, with AVIANCA Airlines, arrives at approximately 09:20 a.m. Your guide meets you upon arrival and accompanies you to the bus. After a short 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) ride to the pier, you board the yacht without delay. As the crew weighs anchor, we greet you with our first orientation and offer a light snack. After navigating around the shore, we disembark on Playa Las Bachas, Santa Cruz Island, where you can appreciate numerous species of wildlife, including flamingos. During a walk along the lagoons, your guide explains details about the lives of local birds and animals. Is it private transportation? If so, I would say "private bus" or "chartered van" to clarify they won't be on a public bus.

Optional: opportunity for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel.

In the evening, there is an orientation about the origin and evolution of the Galapagos Islands. The entire crew welcomes you with cocktails and dinner.

DAY 2

GENOVESA ISLAND

After breakfast, you take a panga (dinghy) ride and make a dry landing on **Prince Phillips's Steps (Barranco)**, Genovesa Island, where you walk and observe the interesting lives of the local birds.

You come aboard for a delicious lunch. Later in the afternoon, you make a wet landing on **Darwin Bay**, Genovesa Island, to walk and observe frigate birds, herons, mockingbirds, boobies, shorebirds, turtles, and marine iguanas.

Optional: opportunity for those who would like to swim, snorkel or kayak. Dinner on the yacht, followed by an orientation about conservation efforts being made to protect the islands.

Return to the yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

ISLANDS

- Genovesa
- San Cristobal
- South Plaza
- Santa Fe
- Española
- Floreana
- Santa Cruz

SUMMARY

We will take you sailing to the east of the Galapagos Islands, to get a view of plants and animals that are unique to the eastern side. You'll get the chance to see red-footed boobies, land iguanas, and giant opuntia cactuses. There are plenty of birds circling the island as well such as swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds, and swarms of petrels.

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DAY 3

SOUTH PLAZA & SANTA FE

After breakfast, you make a dry landing on the pier of the South Plaza Island, where you can enjoy the antics of the sea lions. A walk through the cactus forest reveals land iguanas and many species of tropical birds.

Return to the yacht for lunch. After lunch, you make a wet landing on Santa Fe Island to visit the cactus forest and a colony of endemic land iguanas.

Optional: opportunity for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/or kayak.

At the end of the afternoon, we return to the yacht for a delicious dinner and our nightly orientation.

DAY 4

SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS & CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION

After breakfast, you will visit the highlands of Santa Cruz, which have incredible zones of vegetation, dominated by the endemic *Scalesia* tree. The Highlands of Santa Cruz also present one of the best opportunities to see the giant tortoises in their natural habitat, as these animals are in constant migration from the beach, where they nest, to the highlands, where there are enough nutrients thanks to the lush and green vegetation. The highlands are also a great place to observe the Islands' birdlife, because many species, including the endemic short-ear owl, inhabit this area.

In the afternoon, you will visit The Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center, located in the same premises as the Charles Darwin scientific station is one of the most visited sites of the Galapagos and the only place where is possible to see many different species of Giant tortoises at the same time. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults.





DAY 5

POST OFFICE BAY, BARONESS VIEW POINT, CORMORANT POINT (FLOREANA) & CHAMPION ISLET

After breakfast, you make a wet landing on Post Office Bay, Floreana Island, a historic site that harkens to the days of the whalers, who purportedly placed a wooden barrel on the shore in the 18th century to use as a post office. Then, you will continue to the Baroness Point view, named for the Baroness Eloisa von Wagner, a historical figure who resided on Floreana Island. You will enjoy the beautiful landscape and the ruins of her house.

Return to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, you will make a wet landing on Cormorant Point, Floreana Island. This impressive site consists of 2 beaches and a brackish lagoon with great possibilities to see flamingos. The trail that connects the beaches and the lagoon passes between two tuff lava cones that give the area a special atmosphere. There are various species of shorebirds to observe besides flamingos; the most frequent are common stilts, white-checked pintail ducks, herons and other migratory birds.

This site is also famous for the difference between the two beaches: "The Green Beach" (due to its high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand) and the "Flour Sand Beach" which is made up of coral.

DAY 6

SUAREZ POINT & GARDNER BAY (ESPAÑOLA)

After breakfast, you make an early dry landing on Punta Suarez, Floreana Island, to walk along lava beds where you can witness unique colonies of marine birds, including albatross (May - December).

Return to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, you make a wet landing in Gardner Bay, Española Island, for a stroll on the beach and to observe a colony of sea lions, which inhabit the beach in great quantities during the breeding season. The beach is also an important nesting area for sea turtles.

Optional: opportunity for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel.

Return to the yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

DAY 7

CERRO BRUJO, KICKER ROCK & JACINTO GORDILLO INTERPRETATION CENTER

After breakfast, you will make a wet landing on Cerro Brujo to walk on a white sand beach and observe sea lions, brown pelicans, marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies.

Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel or Kayak.

Then, your experienced Captain sails easily around Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido), a massive tuff-rock that juts abruptly almost 500 feet straight from the ocean. Kicker Rock serves as nesting place for many sea birds. This is a fantastic place to snorkel.

In the afternoon, you make a dry landing on San Cristobal port, after a short drive, you arrive at Jacinto Gordillo Interpretation Center where you learn about its mating rituals and the programs to maintain the species. You take the bus back to the port to visit the Interpretation Center of Human History of the Islands; this tour takes you through the geological and human history of the islands and its conservation. You return to the Yacht for dinner, and our nightly orientation.

DAY 8

BLACK TURTLE COVE (SANTA CRUZ)

After breakfast, you take a panga ride to Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island, a series of mangrove-surrounded coves and islets. Here you can observe white-tipped sharks, marine turtles, spotted eagle rays, and yellow cow-nosed rays.

You return to the yacht to disembark on the pier at 09:00 a.m. Your guide accompanies you on the bus ride directly to the airport.

You return to the yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

