



**ANDANDO<sup>®</sup>**  
**TOURS**  
Mainland Ecuador &  
Galápagos Islands

# TREASURE OF GALAPAGOS



**ITINERARY C - 7 DAYS**

SATURDAY - FRIDAY

# DAY BY DAY

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## DAY 1 MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

**Baltra:** Transfer in to Puerto Ayora

**Charles Darwin Station:** Lunch at noon. Dry landing, activities: hiking educational visit to the Charles Darwin Station (giant tortoises, Opuntia cactus, etc.).

Difficulty: Easy  
Duration: 2 hours  
Dinner at night

## DAY 2 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

**Ballena Bay:**

Morning breakfast. Wet Landing. The visitor site is a cove of green sand at the basis of Ballena Hill on the west coast of Santa Cruz Island. The beach contains a large amount of olivine crystals, the same that originate from volcanic materials. The crystals were formed when the magma was still underground.

**Dragon Hill:**

Dry Landing. The site visit is located in the northwest of Santa Cruz Island, and consists of a path that runs for three different environments in just 1,600 m long. It gets its name because in 1975, was one of the only places in the Santa Cruz Island where there were land iguanas in healthy state.

## SUMMARY

Get a comprehensive insight into the magnificent Galapagos Islands on this 7-day cruise itinerary from Santa Cruz. Visit the iconic Charles Darwin Research Station, get up close to land iguanas at Dragon Hill and explore the wetlands and flamingo lagoons of Humedales. Witness flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins and sea lions at Punta Espinoza, learn about the whaling and pirate history of Tagus Cove and go snorkeling in wildlife-rich Puerto Egas.

## CONTACT US

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# URBINA BAY

## DAY 3 ISABELA

### Tintoreras:

Breakfast in the morning. Dry Landing. The islet is Located south of Puerto Villamil. It has a small bay of calm turquoise waters, where you can appreciate sea lions, sea turtles, marine iguanas, rays, etc. The bay is connected to a crevice of crystal clear water, that's shallow and when the tide is low the entrance closes. You can see how reef sharks swim along with other small fish and sea lions.

### Humedales (Wetlands):

Dry Landing. The Wetlands is a network of trails, adjacent to Puerto Villamil. There are nine tracks that comprise the following sites: The Wall of Tears, Cerro Orchilla, El Estero, Poza Escondida, Poza Redonda, Tunnel del Estero, Playa del Amor, Bay of Tunis and Pozas Verdes. The Wetlands are coastal mangroves and brackish water lagoons formed by seepage of seawater and freshwater underground tributaries coming from the upper parts of the island.

## DAY 4 MORENO POINT - URBINA BAY

### Moreno Point:

Breakfast in the morning. Dry landing, Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island. The route of the trail is approximately 2100 meters. The main attraction in Punta Moreno is the coastal lagoons in the middle of black lava flow where there are several species of birds. It has a view of 3 volcanoes, the most actives in the Galapagos; Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul.

### Urbina Bay:

Wet Landing. Urbina Bay is located at the base of volcanoes Alcedo and Darwin, west of Isabela Island. Here you can find corals, shells, and many other organisms exposed above the water. This area is also home to large and very colorful Galápagos land iguanas, giant tortoises and the famous population of Alcedo Volcano.



## DAY 5 ESPINOSA POINT - TAGUS COVE

### Espinosa Point:

Breakfast in the morning. Dry Landing. Punta Espinosa is a jagged promontory of cracked and eroded lava, but the name could also refer to the hundreds of spiny marine iguanas that drape the rocks. Pristine nature under an active volcano is the highlight of any cruise. Flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins, Galapagos sea lions, waders and the world's largest colony of marine iguanas thrive on the edge of a barren lava flow. Fine stands of mangroves support yellow warblers, Darwin finches, large billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and nesting brown pelicans.

### Tagus Cove:

Dry Landing. The site visit Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin volcano on Isabela Island. The route of the trail is about 1800 meters. This was a favorite place for pirates and whalers, there is observed a tradition that has been maintained since that time: the inscription of the names of boats. At the start of the walk, rising and passing the staircase, there is a small cave where we found inscriptions dating from the 1800s.

## DAY 6 SANTIAGO ISLAND (EGAS PORT) - RABIDA

### Egas Port:

Egas Port: Breakfast in the morning. Wet Landing. Puerto Egas is located northwest of Santiago Island, fascinating place to visit because it had a great volcanic activity in the past. Puerto Egas is one of the most popular sites in the Galapagos Archipelago. It has a beautiful black sand beach where you can see its many inhabitants as sea lions, chameleons, lizards and herons.

### Rabida:

Wet Landing. Also known by the name of Jervis in honor of a British Admiral John Jervis, Earl of St. Vincent. Rabida is located 5 km south of Santiago Island and is commonly regarded as the geographical center of the Galapagos Islands. It has an area of 4.9 km<sup>2</sup> and a maximum altitude of 367 meters. It has a high iron content, which causes that this place has a distinctive reddish color. Its main attraction is the salt lagoon with flamingoes, pelicans and boobies place where they build their nests.



## DAY 7 SANTA CRUZ

### Las Bachas:

Breakfast in the morning. Dry Landing. It is a beach about 1 km in length. With white sand beach, deserted and where you can see flamingos, and migratory birds.

In the vicinity of the Las Bachas beach can observe predominant vegetation of the coastal zone. Las Bachas beach represents one of the main nesting sites of sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) on Santa Cruz Island.

