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TOURS
Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

M/Y PASSION



EASTERN ISLANDS - 4 DAY / 3 NIGHT CRUISE

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS, PUERTO AYORA & FAUSTO LLERENA TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER

After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our personnel to then cross the itabaca channel and reach Santa Cruz Island for our first visit in the Archipelago: the Highlands. This is also a good place to see the ground finch of the Island, which populates these forests where is also possible to see the vermilion flycatcher or the yellow warbler.

We will return to the yacht for lunch and to freshen up to then head back to Puerto Ayora for our second visit of the day, the Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center. Here, we will see tortoises from different islands. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors.

Afterwards we will head back to Puerto Ayora, where we will have some time to explore the town and shops by ourselves (this is the only change of shopping during on this itinerary) before boarding the M/Y Passion at around 5:00 p.m. Once on board, we will be welcomed by the crew and captain, have a short security drill and enjoy dinner and the briefing for the next day's activities.

DAY 2 PLAZA SUR & SANTA FE

AM

Dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the archipelago on colorful Plaza Sur, home to vibrant green prickly pears, deep red Sesuvium, and coppery-orange land iguanas. Impressive seaward cliffs make the perfect perching spot for a variety of coastal birds. This is also a great place to observe the adult and pup sea lions swimming along the shores.

PM

After a wet landing on Santa Fe, we will be encountered by a white beach where sea lions are usually resting. We will be looking for the endemic species of land iguana, larger and yellower than land iguanas on other islands.

ISLANDS

- Santa Cruz Island
- South Plaza
- Española
- Santa Fe

SUMMARY

Your time in Galapagos can be short but sweet on the M/Y Passion's 4-day cruise. First, spend a whole day with the world-famous Giant Tortoises in the Santa Cruz Highlands and the Charles Darwin Research Center. Spend time with colorful land iguanas in Plaza Sur and then hang out with sea lions on Santa Fe. Then, marvel at the geologic formations of the coast of Española and snorkel with some of the world's most majestic sea creatures.

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DAY 3

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND: GARDNER BAY, GARDNER ISLET, OSBORN ISLET & PUNTA SUAREZ

AM

We will spend the morning in the fantastic Gardner Bay (wet landing) of Española Island; an outstanding beach with sea lions, marine iguanas, and the intrepid Española mockingbird. Close to Española, there is a good spot for snorkeling called Gardner Islet. While snorkeling, there is a good chance playful sea lions will join you. Get ready for more snorkeling at Osborn islet, a great place to observe great quantities of marine life.

PM

In the afternoon we will head to Punta Suarez, one of the most popular landing sites in Galapagos.

The highlights include: sea lions near the landing place, large marine iguanas, with red-colored males in the breeding season, oystercatchers, blue-footed and Nazca boobies, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos doves, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds, and the waved albatross.

DAY 4

TWIN CRATERS & DEPARTURE

AM

This is our last day in the islands. After breakfast we will disembark in Puerto Ayora to take our transport to the Baltra airport, making a short stop to visit the Twin Craters. The Gemelos (twins) are in fact not craters, but magma domes that have collapsed, leaving two deep and wide holes located to the side of the road that leads to Puerto Ayora from the other side of the island.

After this visit, we will make our way to the Baltra airport for the flight to mainland Ecuador.

In addition to the land visits, we offer a good balance of other activities such as snorkeling, panga rides, and kayaking.