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TOURS

Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

M/Y PASSION



EASTERN ISLANDS – 5 DAY / 4 NIGHT CRUISE

SATURDAY - WEDNESDAY

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1

MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA BLACK TURTLE COVE

After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our naturalist guide to then board the M/Y WildAid's Passion and have lunch. After lunch, we will navigate a short distance to Black Turtle Cove, a large mangrove lagoon on the north coast of Santa Cruz Island. Pelicans and herons roost on the branches, while marine dwellers such as green sea turtles or golden rays may cruise right next to the panga as it makes its way through the mangroves.

DAY 2

DARWIN BAY & EL BARRANCO

AM

We travel to Genovesa Island and reach Darwin Bay (wet landing), a unique site with a beautiful beach, lined with red mangroves and soft-haired prickly pear cacti where red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds perch tamely.

PM

At El Barranco (dry landing), we climb the edge of a cliff where frigatebirds, masked boobies, and red-footed boobies nest. The trail will take us to the inner part of the island, populated by holy stick trees and cacti.

ISLANDS

- Santa Cruz Island
- Rabida
- Santiago Island
- Genovesa
- Bartolome
- Chinese Hat
- Santiago Island

SUMMARY

This tour will take you to the eastern islands of the archipelago, to deep, silent coves where green sea turtles swim, to the iconic Pinnacle Rock and to a red sandy beach where yet more sea lions await you. After a delicious breakfast, a panga will take you where red footed boobies perch on prickly pear cacti, Nazca boobies nest and green sea turtles glide alongside.

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RABIDA ISLAND

RED SAND BEACH

DAY 3 BARTOLOME ISLAND & CHINESE HAT

AM

Dry landing at Bartolome to climb up the wooden steps and reach the summit of this spatter cone for a most breath-taking panorama of the island's well photographed Pinnacle Rock and views of neighboring Santiago and many other central islands in the distance. Afterward, we will visit the white sand beach used as a nest site by sea turtles. Bartolome is also a good place to spot the Galapagos penguin.

PM

Less than a quarter of one square kilometer in size, this island gets its name from being shaped like a Chinese hat. The hat shape is best appreciated from the north side. Lava formations can be seen on the western side of the island, formed under the sea and later raised upward, making it possible to observe coral heads on the lava. Be amazed by the landscapes covered by sea lions' colonies, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins.

DAY 4 RABIDA & CERRO DRAGON

AM

Wet landing onto Rabida's deep-red beaches to explore the red island's fascinating interior and saltwater lagoon. Darwin's finches, Galapagos mockingbirds and yellow warblers feed off the vegetation.

PM

We head across to Cerro Dragon on Santa Cruz's northwest shore (dry landing) to visit a saltwater lagoon, home to Greater Flamingos, black-necked stilts and white-cheeked pintails. Further inland we find a fantastic land iguana nesting site.

DAY 5 **PUERTO AYORA & SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS**

AM

This is our last day in the islands. After breakfast we will disembark in Puerto Ayora and board our transport to reach Santa Cruz Highlands. We will visit one of the ranches of the area where it is possible to see giant tortoises in their natural hábitat.

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.

