



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

# GALAPAGOS ITINERARY



**GALAVEN - 8 DAYS  
ITINERARY A**

**TUESDAY - TUESDAY**

# DAY BY DAY

## DAY 1

### MORNING FLIGHT FROM QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL TO BALTRA NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND –BLACK TURTLE COVE

Assistance at the airport by our representative for your Galapagos flight.

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim you will be met by Galaven staff and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.

In the afternoon we will visit Black Turtle Cove is situated in the northern part of Santa Cruz. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a safe haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.

## DAY 2

### EL BARRANCO & DARWIN BAY

Genovesa Island is located at the inner part of Darwin Bay. This area contains an abundance of frigatebirds and other interesting seabirds. Behind the small beach filled with nesting areas for frigates, Red-footed Boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls are a number of tide pools. At high tide it is likely that the trail will be covered with water. Our morning visit is to the El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, El Barranco's steep, rocky paths leads up to a high cliff-face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to Palo Santo vegetation as well as Redfooted Boobies, Short-eared Lava Owls, Galapagos Swallows, and Galapagos Doves.

In the afternoon, you will head to Darwin Bay, this white-sand coral beach heads a half mile trail (0.5 miles / 0.75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, and Swallow-tailed Gulls can be spotted here. Further down the path are tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view off a cliff.

## ISLANDS

- Baltra
- Genovesa Island
- Santiago Island
- Santa Cruz Island
- Floreana Island
- Española Island
- San Cristobal Island

## SUMMARY

Explore the central and eastern islands on this 8-day Galapagos itinerary onboard the Galaven yacht. Spot blue-footed boobies, Audubon's shearwaters, noddy terns and frigate birds at El Barranco and learn how pahoehoe lava flows are formed at Sullivan Bay. Then get up close to giant tortoises at the Charles Darwin Research Station and go snorkeling in the abundant waters of Devil's Crown.

## CONTACT US

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# RABIDA ISLAND

## RED SAND BEACH

### DAY 3 SANTIAGO ISLAND – SULLIVAN BAY & RABIDA ISLAND

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### DAY 4 CHARLES DARWIN STATION & EL CHATO

This day you can know The Charles Darwin Research Station; this is home to turtles ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Sub-species of turtles interact with one another and many of the older turtles are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a pet. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own.

After you will visit "El Chato" reserve is divided into two areas: Caseta and Chato. The trail begins at Santa Rosa (13.7 miles / 22 km) from Puerto Ayora, with the Caseta route being the more challenging. The reserve allows visitors to observe giant tortoises in the wild during the dry season and is also a good place to spot short-eared owls, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails and paint-billed crakes.

## **DAY 5 DRAGON HILL & BACHAS BEACH**

In the morning we will visit the Dragon Hill in Santa Cruz. The visitors' site at Dragon Hill is located in northwestern Santa Cruz Island, and consists of a trail that runs through three different environments at just 1,600 m long. The beach is very rocky. At high tide it's a nice place for snorkeling. At this visiting site you can find vegetation of typical the intertidal zone and dry zone.

The afternoon visit: Bachas Beach, located on the north shore of Santa Cruz, is a swimming beach. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest off the beach.

## **DAY 6 POST OFFICE BAY & CORMORANT POINT OR DEVIL'S CROWN**

We will visit two sites on Floreana Island. In the morning, we will visit the famous Post Office Bay. You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel for use as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home!

In the afternoon, we will head to Cormorant Point. Here you will enjoy a hike to a saltwater lagoon which is home to flamingoes. You will also get to swim in the crystal clear waters of the Devil's Crown. This extinct volcano peaks out of the waters just off of Floreana's coast and offers a magnificent snorkeling experience.

## **DAY 7 SUAREZ POINT & GARDNER BAY**

Española Island is the southernmost island of the Galapagos and is the breeding site of nearly all of the Waved Albatrosses in the entire world. Española is densely populated with mockingbirds, Bluefooted and Nazca Boobies, Darwin finches, Galapagos Doves, hawks, red and green marine iguanas, and loads of sea lions.

The morning trip will head to Suarez Point on a trail where you will have the chance to see bluefooted boobies, albatrosses and Nazca Boobies. We will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You'll have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts water into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

In the afternoon, we will visit the spectacular Gardner Bay. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. It is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of Waved Albatrosses.

## **DAY 8 INTERPRETATION CENTER & DEPARTURE**

The Interpretation Center was opened in 1998 as a phase of the project "Interpretation and Environmental Education Project". Visitors enjoy expositions on natural history, human history, and conservation. The conservation efforts represent the movement to protect the wildlife and natural environment through means of population and tourist control. The Interpretation Center has an outdoor stadium, audio-visual equipment, and meeting rooms.

After this final visit, you will be transferred to the airport in time to catch your flight back to the mainland.