



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

# S/Y NEMO I



**ITINERARY B- 8 DAY / 7  
NIGHT CRUISE**

MONDAY - MONDAY

# DAY BY DAY

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## DAY 1

### MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA BACHAS BEACH

At the arrival hall a naturalist guide will meet you and escort you on a short bus ride to the harbor at Baltra. By dinghy you will be taken to the yacht.

#### PM: Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz)

These two small beaches are found to the West of Black Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches there is a small brackish water lagoon, where occasionally it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as blacknecked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, but it has two old barges that were abandoned during World War II, when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategically point to protect the Panama Channel.

## DAY 2

### TINTORERAS ISLET & TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER

#### AM: Whitetip Reef Shark Canal (Isabela)

Las Tintoreras is a small bay on an islet, located 5 minutes on a inflatable dinghy ride from Port of Villamil, which permits the visitor to observe the whitetip reef shark. Nearby hundreds of marine iguanas can be observed, as 'Las Tintoreras' is one of their main breeding sites. On the nearby sandy beaches, sea lions play and relax in the sun. This is one of Isabela's most beautiful visitor sites.

#### PM: Arnoldotupiza Tortoise Breeding Center (Isabela)

Where giant tortoises are reared on Isabela. It is located 1.5 kilometers from Puerto Villamil, this important center has a captive breeding program for tortoises from the populations of southern Isabela.

## SUMMARY

Our 8 days eastern itinerary visits most popular destinations of southern and eastern Galapagos, including the booby and frigate colonies on North Seymour, the albatross and booby colonies and marine iguanas on Española, a flamingo lagoon on Floreana, spectacular snorkeling around Devil's Crown, the incredible shark canal out of the coast of Isabela, the popular, really not to be missed highlight of South Plaza and extraordinary Santa Fe (both with land iguanas and giant cactus trees). Most elder islands of Southeastern Galapagos have azure bays and striking beaches of white coral sand, which are favorite place for large colonies of sea lions. Of course we will also visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and quest for giant tortoises in the wild. This route also offers plenty possibilities for optional scuba diving.

## CONTACT US

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# GARDNER BAY

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

## **DAY 3** CORMORANT POINT, DEVIL'S CROWN & POST OFFICE BAY

### **AM: Cormorant Point & Devil's Crown (Floreana)**

This site offers probably the best flamingo lagoon in the Galapagos; it is also one of the largest in the islands.

It is very interesting to see the two distinct 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. After our visit of Cormorant Point we will continue with our yacht to the nearby islet known as Corona del Diablo (Devil's Crown), where we can enjoy some great snorkeling.

### **PM: Post Office Bay (Floreana)**

The idea is to carry letters or postcards to their destination by hand. Apart from being the Post Office Barrel, this site was the landing area for some of the first colonists. We will continue to the north of the island and ascend to an elevated slope to enjoy a beautiful view from the Baroness Lookout. It is said that Baroness Eloisa von Wagner loved this place and spent several hours watching the horizon.

## **DAY 4** SUAREZ POINT & GARDNER BAY

### **AM: Suarez Point (Española)**

This rocky land spot sustains one of the most impressive and varied colonies of sea birds in the Galapagos. Along its southern shore, high cliffs rise up from the sea affording the visitor spectacular views of soaring birds and of the blow hole where water spouts up to 50-75 feet into the air according to the intensity of the surf.

### **PM: Gardner Bay (Española)**

Located on the north-eastern coast of Hood, Gardner Bay provides an excellent beach for relaxing, swimming and snorkeling, and the opportunity to observe sea lions. Here you may also observe sharks in the crystal clear ocean waters.

## **DAY 5** **SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS & CHARLES DARWIN STATION**

### **AM: Highlands Tortoises Farm (Santa Cruz )**

Santa Cruz also offers excellent opportunities for viewing wild tortoises, both roaming through pastures in the agricultural zone and in the Tortoise Reserve. later, you will visit the Twin Craters, which are two pit craters. You will visit as well a local ranch where we can observe the Giant tortoise specie of Santa Cruz Island in its natural habitat. After our Highlands visit, we will return to Puerto Ayora and the yacht.

### **PM: Charles Darwin Research Station(Santa Cruz)**

Although the great majority of Galapagos visitors come here to observe and appreciate natural wonders, it is also interesting to learn how the protection and conservation of the islands are carried out. The Breeding and Rearing area of the scientific center are definitely a worthwhile visit.

## **DAY 6** **PITT POINT & WITCH HILL**

### **AM: Pitt Point (San Cristobal)**

At the far eastern end of San Cristóbal is Punta Pitt. Disembarking onto the small beach, visitors are confronted by the strong stench and cacophony of barking sea lions. This is a bachelor colony, and most are exhausted from fighting and mating. A steep gully leads up the cliff to a breeding ground for Boobies of all three varieties: red-footed, blue-footed and Nazca. It's the only place in the Galapagos where you can see all three species nesting together. Two species of frigatebirds are also present, as are swallow-tailed gulls and storm petrels. The view of sea lions from the top of the cliff over the beach is magnificent, as are the contours of the barren, wind-eroded peaks of the island. The trail across the Punta Pitt site offers a closer look at the hardy vegetation that manages to thrive in this volcanic wasteland. From saltbush and spiny shrubs next to the beach the trail leads up to an area of Palo Santo trees, big yellow-green shrubs, tiny cacti and, in the dry season, carpets of red sesuvium.

### **PM: Witch Hill (San Cristobal)**

The primary attraction of this site is the coral sand beach. It is an excellent place to swim and snorkel.

Captain Fitzroy climbed to the top of the hill to scout out reefs. It has an impressive landscape, where it is often possible to see coastal and migratory birds, including pelicans, blue-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls, as well as sea lions and marine iguanas. At times the lagoon is completely dry and deposits of salt may be found in the bottom. The people of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno used to use the lagoon as a salt mine.

## **DAY 7** **SANTA FE & SOUTH PLAZA**

### **AM: Santa Fe**

Santa Fe is the home of a number of endemic species like the Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, rice rats and one of the two species of land iguanas of the islands. After disembarkation in the beautiful and clear waters you will be in contact with one of the many sea lion colonies. Along the trail many salt bushes can be seen as well as giant prickly pear cactus. There are great possibilities of snorkeling with playful sea lions and tropical fishes.

### **PM: South Plaza**

The Plazas land iguanas are smaller than its relatives found on other islands. Throughout the island there are several hybrid iguanas, a result of crossing a male marine iguana and a female land iguana, they are unique, recognizable at first glance by their black/gray color, with a land iguana's crest, but face and tail of the marine iguana. Swallow Tailed Gulls nesting in the rugged cliffs are seen along with other sea birds as: Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds and brown pelicans.

## **DAY 8** **BLACK TURTLE COVE & DEPARTURE**

This little cove is located at the northern side of Santa Cruz Island, this is a red mangrove lagoon very calm and quiet which makes it an ideal place as nursery for many sharks and rays. Its crystal waters permits to observe large groups of white-tip reef, black tipped reef and hammer heads sharks, schools of golden rays and spotted eagle rays. There are no landing sites so the visit is done by zodiac. Sea turtles are frequently seen and sometimes they are seen mating in the mangrove-lined waters. Pelicans and herons are also seen in this area.

Check-in and flight back to Guayaquil or Quito.