

NEMO II: NORTH ITINERARY - 8 DAYS

DAY 1

SUNDAY

AM

BALTRA AIRPORT

Upon your arrival at Baltra airport, your guide will be waiting to welcome you and to help you board the transportation for a short transfer to the dock of Baltra island.

PM

NORTH SEYMOUR

This uninhabited island was formed by a seafloor uplift, instead of a volcanic eruption as most of the islands of the Galapagos. North Seymour is among the most popular visitor site due to the many bird colonies present on the island. After disembarking, a trail leads to the inner part through the frigate bird colonies to then lead to the beach, populated by blue-footed boobies, sea lions, and marine iguanas.

DAY 2

MONDAY

AM

SANTA CRUZ: HIGHLANDS

The highlands of Santa Cruz have incredible zones of vegetation, dominated by the endemic Scalesia tree. The Highlands of Santa Cruz also present one of the best opportunities to see the giant tortoises in their natural habitat, as these animals are in constant migration from the beach, where they nest, to the highlands, where there are enough nutrients thanks to the lush and green vegetation. The highlands are also a great place to observe the Islands' birdlife, because many species, including the endemic short-ear owl, inhabit this area.

PM

BREEDING CENTER FAUSTO LLERENA

The Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center, located in the same premises as the Charles Darwin scientific station is one of the most visited sites of the Galapagos and the only place

where is possible to see many different species of Giant tortoises at the same time. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults.

DAY 3

TUESDAY

AM

ISABELA: MORENO POINT

Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island. This site features a trail of approximately 2100 meters that takes visitors through the extensive lava field to then reach the tidal pools and lagoons, populated by flamingos and Galapagos ducks and the mangrove trees, used by other bird species, as the finches. The path leads then back to the coast, where is possible to do a panga ride along the rocky shore to observe the wildlife.

PM

URBINA BAY

This visitor site is quite unique, as it was formed during a recent seafloor uplift that exposed six kilometers of coral reef and coral heads above sea level, making possible for visitors to walk on what was used to be a coral bed. The trail will take us along the dry vegetation of the island, populated by land iguanas and many bird species, including flightless cormorants and pelicans.

DAY 4

WEDNESDAY

AM

ISABELA: TAGUS COVE

Located right in front of Fernandina Island, this cove was frequently used by pirates and whalers as an anchoring site in the 19th century, many of which painted the names on their ships on cliffs along the shore. A trail leads from the cove to the top of a nearby hill, where visitors can enjoy beautiful landscapes formed by the tuff lava hills that make the island and the nearby Darwin lake, usually populated by flamingoes.



During the hike is possible to observe the local fauna: yellow warblers, mockingbirds, finches and the Galapagos hawk.

PM

FERNANDINA: ESPINOZA POINT

Located at the northeast side of Fernandina island, in the western tip of the archipelago, this visitor site is one of the world's most pristine and best-preserved ecosystems. The landscape is dominated by the presence of the shield volcano known as "La Cumbre," one of the youngest in the Galapagos. The trail on Punta Espinosa takes visitors along the coastline and the lava formations, populated by sea lions, flightless cormorant, penguins, lava lizards and marine iguanas.

DAY 5

THURSDAY

AM

SANTIAGO: EGAS PORT

Also known as James Bay, this visitor site gets its name from the salt mining company that was started by Mr. Hector Egas in the 1960s, but the costs of bringing the salt to the mainland were too high, and the company closed after a couple of years. Today, Puerto Egas is a popular visitor site, with a trail that lets visitor walk along the beach and then to the nearby lava filed, where fur sea lions hide from the sun in the natural grottos, sharing the space with the Galapagos hawk, lava lizards, and marine iguanas.

Puerto Egas is also a very good place for snorkeling or swimming directly from the beautiful beach.

PM

BUCCANEER'S COVE

This visitor site is located in the northwestern shores of Santiago island and has a rich history, as it was used by whalers and pirates (hence the name) that stopped here to resupply fresh water from the highlands of the island and food. Nowadays, this visitor site, populated by pelicans, herons, brown noddies, swallow-tailed gulls, boobies, sea lions and fur seals, is known for its rock formations and as a great spot for kayaking or snorkeling.

DAY 6

FRIDAY

AM

RABIDA ISLAND

Rabida presents a different landscape than the rest of the Galapagos thanks to its red hue, caused by the high concentration of iron oxide in its sand. A wet landing brings visitors to the red beach of Rabida, where a trail leads visitors to the nearby brackish water lagoon, where is possible to observe flamingoes. The trail continues between two tuff cones and the arid vegetation composed mainly of Palo Santo trees and salt bushes, leading to a white coral beach used as a nesting site of sea turtles and located in the other coast of the island. The island is populated by yellow warblers, mockingbirds, finches, Galapagos doves, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.



PM

SULLIVAN BAY

Sullivan Bay, named after Captain James Sullivan, is an impressive lava flow formed only 170 years ago. This unique volcanic landscape allows visitors a firsthand view of the different formations of the lava and its flows, which have created most of the Galapagos archipelago. As vegetation is very scarce, there is almost no wildlife present on this site other than lava lizards. Sullivan Bay is also a good spot for snorkeling as the waters surrounding the bay are clear and calm.

DAY 7

SATURDAY

AM

GENOVESA: PRINCE PHILLIPS STEPS

This place is located at the southern end of the Darwin Harbour. We will walk the path of 1.5 km on the volcanic rock takes about two hours. The second part of the trail is very delicate , so you should always stick to the route. Due to natural erosion, often nest here storm petrels . Galapagos petrels and storm petrels wooden petrels addition to these , two species can be observed. You can also look red footed boobies and other sea birds and sea lions. The weather is usually very hot , so you need to consume plenty of water.

PM

DARWIN BAY

After a wet landing on Darwin Bay will walk a short trail leads to inhabited by colonies of boobies and frigates. At the beach we can see an interesting show to watch the frigates catching prey from other species of birds in the area.

DAY 8

SUNDAY

AM

DAPHNE

Daphne Major and Daphne Minor are two volcanic islands located to the north of Santa Cruz. Landing is not allowed in either of the islands, as the tuff cones are too fragile and would be damaged by visits. Since landings are not possible, the visits consist of a circumnavigation to the islands to observe the absurdly abundant birdlife that gathers here: Galapagos martins, great blue herons, red-billed tropicbirds, blue-footed boobies, masked boobies, finches and short-eared owls, among other, can be spotted around Daphne major and minor.

PM

BALTRA

Once on Baltra Island, you will take the short transfer to the airport for your flight back to mainland Ecuador. The airport has many souvenir shops and restaurants for last minute shopping or to enjoy a meal before the flight.