

GALÁPAGOS LAND PACKAGE
DISCOVERING SANTA CRUZ ISLAND
4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS
15-18 SEP 2024

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY	HOTEL	MEALS
1	SEP/15/24	Transfer in from Baltra to your hotel + free afternoon	SOL Y MAR or similar	- / - / -
2	SEP/16/24	AM: Visit to the Highlands (private tortoises reserve and lava tunnels) + Charles Darwin Station PM: Tortuga Bay Beach	SOL Y MAR or similar	B / L / -
3	SEP/17/24	Navigation Day to an inhabited island: North Seymour Norte, Plazas Sur, Bartolome o Santa Fe.	SOL Y MAR or similar	B / L / -
4	SEP/18/24	Transfer out from Puerto Ayora to Baltra.	-	B / - / -

ITINERARY DAY BY DAY:

DAY 1: Transfer in - (- / - / -)

After landing at Baltra Airport you will have to pay the entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park, this payment must be in cash. Continuing with the arrival process, you will have to take your luggage and scan your hand luggage inside the airport control area. When you leave, our guide will be waiting for you at the arrival gate and will welcome you.

At the end, an airport shuttle service will take you from Baltra to the Itabaca Channel. At the Itabaca Channel you will board a ferry to cross the channel and reach Santa Cruz Island. This process could take more than 1h15, but it is very necessary to do so to get to the hotel.

In the afternoon, you will have time to visit the town.



DAY 2: Santa Cruz Highlands + Charles Darwin Station and Tortuga Bay Beach - (B / L / -)



In the morning, after breakfast, our transport will take you to the Highlands of Santa Cruz, where once we arrive we will take a walk inside a Private Reserve where we will go hiking and look for giant Galapagos tortoises in their natural state.

After this visit, we can visit the Charles Darwin Scientific Station where we can observe the development of one of the largest breeding centers for tortoises and land iguanas in the Galapagos. If time permits, we can meet the famous "Lonesome George." The nature guide will give us a detailed

explanation about the origin and evolution of the islands.

After this interesting visit, a delicious lunch will be served in the area and in the afternoon, we will head to Tortuga Bay, one of the best beaches in the Pacific Ocean, located approximately 40 minutes' walk from the main water taxi dock in Puerto Ayora. Tortuga Bay has a beautiful and well-preserved beach, full of wildlife such as marine iguanas, Galapagos crabs and birds that are seen dotted along the volcanic rocks.



There is a nearby bay where visitors can swim and see white-tip reef sharks and sometimes tiger sharks. The landscapes offer magnificent views of a lush vegetation of dry-type cactus species that is unique to the Enchanted Islands, as well as many other endemic species.

DAY 3: Navigation to an inhabited island - (B / L / -)

This day, after breakfast, a Day Tour to an uninhabited island will be held, depending on the availability of the day. The most common destinations for these navigations are:

- **North Seymour Island:** You will sail from the Itabaca Channel, the navigation is approximately one hour, and this island is located north of Santa Cruz Island. On this wonderful island, sea lions on the dock and rocks will greet you. The landscape of the island contrasts with the Palo Santo forest and the red-colored soil here you can expect to see blue-footed boobies nesting (or doing their courtship dance, depending on the season), swallow-tailed gulls perched on the cliffs and admire a large number of frigates in their nests. Snorkeling will be done at Las Bachas beach, located on Santa Cruz Island; you will be able to observe sharks, a variety of fish and perhaps flamingos in the beach lagoon.



- **Bartolomé Island:** On this island, you can see interesting lava formations and cinder cones. A beautiful view of the nearest bays awaits us at the top, after climbing a wooden staircase for 30 to 40 minutes to the top. This is one of the most visited and photographed islands for its unique Pinnacle Rock with sea lions and penguins at its feet.



- **South Plazas Island:** North Plazas Island is used for scientific purposes, while South Island is one of the smallest, but most diverse islands in the archipelago. Only 130m wide, the pressure of the tectonic plates that meet in the Galapagos formed it. The turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the coast. The rocks were made thin with some cacti in certain places highlighted with colorful zayapas. The trail continued gradually towards the top of the island towards the ravines, which allow a view of the ocean to the south where swallow-tailed gulls nest. Tropical birds, Nazca boobies and blue-footed boobies fly against the wind. This beautiful place is famous for having one of the largest colonies of land iguanas, and for having a new species that was the result of crossing female land iguanas with male marine iguanas, which is the hybrid iguana; this species is unique to the Galapagos Islands.
- **Santa Fe Island:** With 24 km² and 60 m above sea level, this island is almost central and has an incredible bay with turquoise water to visit, the place is protected by a natural barrier of rocks, where you can see colonies of sea lions, and hawks flying over the place. The island is home to two species of land iguanas, and their main food is the leaves and fruits of large, thick cacti. Crabs, night herons, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, land doves and the Galapagos hawk can be frequently seen around the area. The bay with its crystal-clear, warm water is an excellent place to snorkel and swim with sea turtles, manta rays, sea lions and different fish. Another attraction on this island is the presence of giant tuna, which have the widest trunk of any other island.



DAY 4: Transfer out to Baltra. - (B / - / -)

In the morning, you will be transferred from Puerto Ayora to Baltra Airport, according to your flight itinerary. Your check-in will be 2 hours before take-off time.

END OF OUR SERVICES

INCLUSIONS:

INCLUDED:

- *All nights' accommodation in selected hotel with breakfast.*
- *Meals as detailed in the itinerary. (3 breakfasts + 2 lunches)*
- *Bilingual English-speaking naturalist guide (local guides) during the excursions.*
- *Private land transportation as per the itinerary*
- *Assistant for transfers in and out*
- *For navigation tour: Equipment (mask, and tube), lunch and National Park's guide (shared service)*
- *Visit and excursions as detailed in the itinerary*
- *Lobito Shuttle Bus in Baltra Airport (shared service)*
- *Ferry in Itabaca Channel (shared service)*
- *Private land transportation from Itabaca Channel to Puerto Ayora with assistant*

NOT INCLUDED:

- *Airfare to/from Galapagos (special price for Travel Agent)*
- *Entrance fee Galapagos National Park (USD 200 p.p., Merco Sur USD 50 p.p.)*
- *Transit Control Card (USD 20 p.p. in cash)*
- *Personal expenses and tips*
- *All drinks. Please bring your own water bottle*
- *Meals not mentioned on the itinerary*
- *Wetsuit (Available for rent)*
- *Medical and Travel Insurance (we suggest acquiring an insurance that cover the air ambulance service)*
- *Extra services not mentioned in the itinerary*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

GALACRUISES EXPEDITIONS

- Contact Person for Questions and Reservations: travel@galacruises.com