

# The Galapagos Islands

## DAY BY DAY

### ITINERARY D

(Thursday - Monday)  
5 days / 4 night

Our Galapagos itineraries offer unforgettable experiences, with our weekly departures allowing you to experience 3, 4, 7, and up to 14 nights tours including: full board, two daily guided excursions with optional activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy rides and our new feature daily diving tours for license-holding divers.

5 days / 4 nights

## D | SOUTH

Thursday - Monday

**Thursday:**

- ✈ San Cristobal Airport
- pm. Interpretation Center & Tijeretas (San Cristobal Island)

**Friday:**

- am. Gardner Bay, Osborn or Gardner Islets (Española Island)
- pm. Suarez Point (Española Island)

**Saturday:**

- am. Post Office (Floreana Island)
- pm. Cormorant Point, Devil's Crown or Champion (Floreana Island)

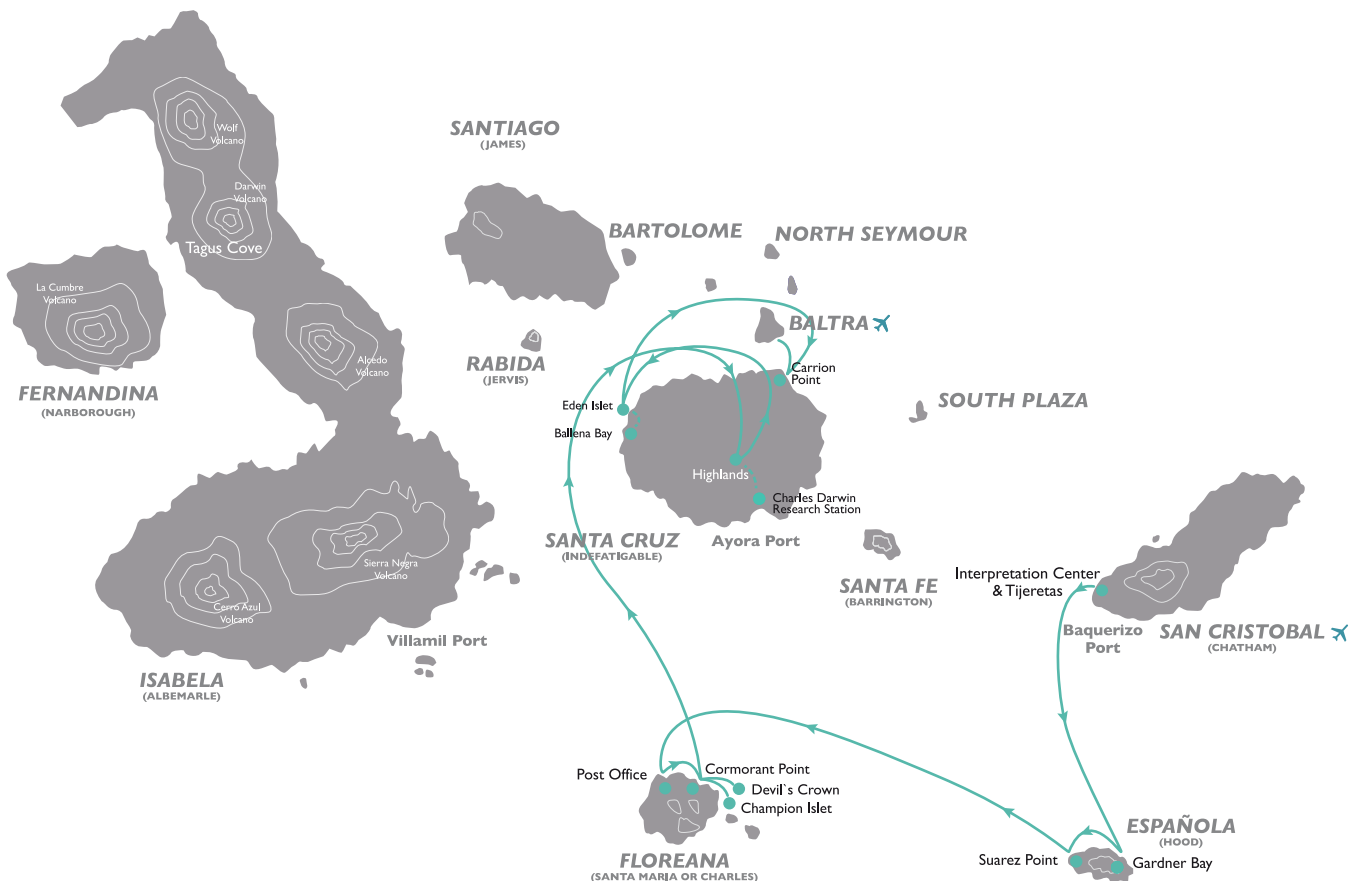
**Sunday:**

- am: Charles Darwin Research Station & 🐢 Highlands Tortoise Reserve 🐢 (Santa Cruz Island)
- pm: Eden Islet or Ballena Bay (Santa Cruz Island)

**Monday:**

- am: Carrion Point (Santa Cruz Island)
- ✈ Baltra airport

GENOVESA





**DAY 1 - THURSDAY**  
am – San Cristobal Airport

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal in a 2-hour flight. Upon arrival, passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken on a ten-minute bus drive to the pier to board the Galapagos Legend.



pm – Interpretation Center & Frigatebird Hill (San Cristobal Island)

The interpretation center is full of interesting information and offers the perfect overview to the formation of Galapagos, its significance in the world, threats and conservation efforts. Followed by a hike to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas) we will have great looks at both species of frigatebird, with the bonus of a beautiful view of the bay below.

**Difficulty level:** easy /intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** flat/stairs  
**Duration:** 1-hour visit / 1-hour walk

Cerro Tijeretas

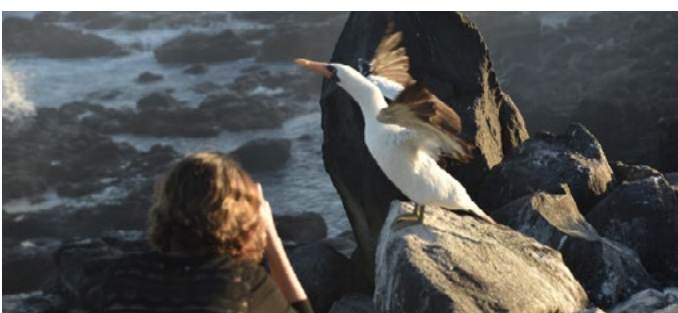
**Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of terrain:** Rocky  
**Duration:** 1-hour visit



**DAY 2 - FRIDAY**  
am – Gardner Bay, Gardner & Osborn islets (Española Island)

One of the most stunning beaches in all of Galapagos. The long, white, sandy beach, lapped by turquoise waters is home to a colony of Galapagos sea lions, indifferent to the humans that walk amongst them. The Hood mockingbirds, endemic to this particular island, will be eager to inspect the visitors and satisfy their innate curiosity. Darwin's finches may also join the throng including the reclusive warbler finch. We can also snorkel here from the beach, in the shallows of the bay.

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** sandy  
**Duration:** 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



pm – Punta Suarez (Española Island)

One of the highlight visits of the trip. Punta Suarez seems to have everything - a naturalists paradise. A slew of marine iguanas and sea lions greet us at the landing site from where our walk continues with close encounters of boobies, endemic lizards, gulls and even a dramatic blow hole. The oldest extant island in the archipelago it is our only opportunity to commune with the endemic waved albatross during their breeding season between April and December. With luck, we can watch their complex courtship display.

**Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of terrain:** rocky  
**Duration:** 2 ½-hour walk



**DAY 3 - SATURDAY**

**am – Post Office Bay (Floreana Island)**

A very short walk from the beach leads us to the famous Post Office Barrel. Claimed to have been first setup in 1793 by Captain James Colnett it remains the oldest functioning epost office in the Pacific. The system was that whalers and fur sealers would leave addressed letters in the barrel to be picked up by homeward bound colleagues. In the spirit of maintaining tradition visitors today will often take letters and hand-deliver them in their home countries.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** sandy

**Duration:** 30-minutes walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**pm – Punta Cormoran / Devil's Crown / Champion (Floreana Island)**

**Punta Cormoran:**

On arriving, the observant visitor will notice that olivine, a volcanic crystal, has proffered a subtle green hue on the dark beach. Our walk takes us past island-endemic *Scalesia* plants to a large, shallow, lagoon often inhabited by a variable number of shockingly pink greater flamingoes. We continue through a forest of palo santo trees to arrive at a powdery white beach, a nesting area of green turtles. As we paddle barefoot in the shallow water we will spot diamond stingrays and white-tipped reef sharks.

**Devil's Crown:**

One of the favourite snorkeling sites in the islands. Devil's Crown, an eroded volcanic cone, is home to an abundance of fish and marine animals. We will swim with big schools of yellow-tailed surgeonfish, salemas and creolefish and with luck may spot turtles, spotted eagle rays, parrotfish, and even hammerhead sharks! The jagged crown is a roosting area for boobies, noddies, tropicbirds and frigates.

**Champion Islet:**

A truly magical place to snorkel. We would expect to see here green turtles, harmless white-tipped reef sharks, an impressive diversity and abundance of fish as well as some playful sea lions often approaching very close, itching to show off their prowess in the water. Champion Islet also happens to be the last remaining home of the island-endemic Floreana mockingbird which we may be lucky enough to see from our pangas.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** sandy & flat

**Duration:** 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**DAY 4 - SUNDAY**

**am – Charles Darwin Research Station & Fausto Llerena Breeding Center (Santa Cruz Island)**

Once home to the famous Lonesome George, the last tortoise of the Pinta race, the breeding and relocation center is named in honour of his long-time guardian. The center is set in the Galapagos National Park Service where various interpretative buildings are available to visit. The grounds, with large stands of native vegetation are one of the better places to spot some of the seldom seen Darwin's finches such as the woodpecker, cactus and vegetarian finches.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate

**Type of terrain:** flat

**Duration:** 1 ½-hour visit

**am – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)**

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kind of birds, such as: tree and ground finches, vermilion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos giant tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** flat & muddy (depending on season)

**Duration:** 45-minute drive / 1 ½-hour walk



**pm – Eden Islet or Ballena Bay (Santa Cruz)**

The perfect spot to enjoy our water activities of snorkeling, kayaking or the glass-bottom boat. Expect to see lots of fish species including king angelfish, surgeonfish, parrotfish, damsels, rays and sharks. From the land portion of the visit there will be sea lions and basking marine iguanas with herons and turtles in the mangrove areas. We might even discover some antique ceramic relics left behind by previous settlements.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate

**Type of terrain:** rocky

**Duration:** 1 hour walk / 1 hour snorkeling



**DAY 5 - MONDAY**  
**am – Carrion Point (Santa Cruz Island)**

Dinghy ride at the entry of the Itabaca Channel in a lagoon with turquoise water, where we can observe sharks, blue-footed boobies, and different kinds of fish.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: none

Duration: 1-hour dinghy ride



**pm – Baltra Island Airport**

After the visit, passengers will be transferred to the airport for their return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.