



## Day 1 FRIDAY

*On our first day, we visit the gentle giants, the old souls that have endured time, and get their name from the islands: The unique Galapagos tortoises.*

### **AM: San Cristobal Island - Arrival**

**Landing type: Dry landing.**

**Possible activities: Walking.**

Our flight takes us to the small town of Puerto Baquerizo, the capital of the Galapagos Province on San Cristobal island.

Upon arrival we clear the Galapagos National Park checkpoint. Customs agents check passports and the transit control card, after check-in, we enter the islands (If you have not previously paid your Galapagos entrance fee you will be asked to pay on spot, payments are cash only: \$100 USD for adults and \$50 USD for children under 12 years of age). Please consult rates and conditions before your departure since rates may change without notice from the Galapagos authorities.

We are welcomed by our naturalist guide and staff at the airport's exit, *please remember to collect your luggage from the belt.*

A short ride by coach takes us to the pier where we board our dinghies and head to the yacht. A briefing is given about the ship's facilities, a safety drill is conducted by your cruise concierge and your cabin is assigned. Afterwards, we will prepare for our afternoon activities.

### **PM: San Cristobal Island - La Galapaguera**

**Landing type: Dry landing.**

**Possible activities: Walking, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.**

Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is the second largest town in the archipelago. We stroll in this picturesque town before we head to La Galapaguera, the tortoises breeding center. This project is part of a great effort to restore the number of tortoises in the islands. Here we see the entire breeding process from small eggs to hatchlings. When they are grown, the tortoises are released in a controlled environment where they can be fed and monitored until they reach maturity. As adults, they are returned to the wild to repopulate the islands.

After visiting the breeding center, we return to the yacht and continue to our next adventure.

Meals: Lunch & Dinner

## Day 2 SATURDAY

*Española* is home to one of the most magnificent marine birds that inhabited the islands: *the waved albatross*. In this visit, we can see their nesting site and depending on the time of the year we witness their glamorous courtship display.

### **AM: Española Island - Gardner Bay**

**Landing type: Wet landing.**

**Possible activities: Short hike, snorkeling, kayaking, panga ride.**

Our morning visit takes us to the beautiful Española island. This is one of the many gems that Galapagos has to offer, from white sandy beaches to breathtaking cliffs, Española has everything to fall in love with. We disembark on the amazing white sand beach of Gardner bay, where we snorkel and swim with colorful schools of fishes and rays that glide along the seafloor, sometimes we spot green turtles. A short dingy ride takes us to visit Osborn islet, an exuberant coral reef that is bursting with life.

An incredible morning discovering the underwater beauties of the Galapagos Marine Reserve.

### **PM: Española Island - Suarez Point**

**Landing type: Dry landing.**

**Possible activities: Hiking, good shoes are required.**

Our afternoon visit is devoted to the incredible Punta Suarez cliffs. Upon disembarking from our dingy, we notice a large colony of marine iguanas. Unlike any other iguana species, the marine iguana of Galapagos is the only iguana that can dive in order to find its food. We will find them basking in the sun heating themselves in order to be able to dive again in search of their favourite food: nutritious algae.

The trail takes us to the island cliffs of Española, here we find the spectacular rock blowhole, where the massive force of crashing waves sends an impressive column of water several feet up into the air.

Punta Suarez is full of surprises. During the hike, we find one of the most magnificent birds that dwell in the Galapagos Archipelago, the spectacular waved albatross. With a wingspan of over 6.5ft this bird is one of the most beautiful. Depending on the season, you could see them building their nests, performing their courtship ritual or taking care of their chicks. The waved albatrosses are one of the many incredible animals we can see in Galapagos.

After this amazing visit, we return to our yacht and set sail to our next destination: Floreana Island.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## Day 3 SUNDAY

*A canvas painted with all the colors of the rainbow, Floreana will dazzle you with its amazing landscapes, intriguing human history, and vibrant colors.*

### **AM: Floreana Island - Cormorant Point, Devil's Crown**

**Landing type: Wet landing.**

**Possible activities: Hiking, panga ride, Snorkeling.**

We take the dinghy to the bright-green colored sand beach of Cormorant Point. As if thousands of emeralds were paving the beach, Cormorant Point will dazzle us with its unique coloration. On the beach, we find a small trail that leads us to the inner saltwater lagoon of Floreana, where several great flamingos feed from the crustaceans that live there. Green sands, bright pink feathers, and turquoise waters create a spectacular view.

Our next site is the Devil's Crown. Protruding from the peaceful ocean waters, this circular formation of pointy rocks creates the perfect refuge for tropical fish, rays, sharks and corals making this the absolute best site for snorkeling in the archipelago. Our pangas take us close to the diving site and we start snorkeling in the inner part of the formation. Here, an abundant coral reef houses thousands of colorful fish that we admire while they swim by, some white tip reef sharks make their appearance as well as manta rays and many other denizens of the deep.

After this unique experience, we return to our ship before setting sail to our next destination.

### **PM: Floreana Island - Post Office Bay, Baroness Lookout**

**Landing type: Wet landing.**

**Possible activities: Hiking, Kayaking, Panga Ride, Snorkeling.**

Our last visit of today is Post Office Bay, a place where a hundred-year-old tradition continues with the help of guests from all over the world.

With no official post offices and hundreds of miles away from home, sailors in the XVIII century devised an ingenious way to communicate with their relatives and friends back home. A post office, that depends not on stamps or fees, but on the goodwill and camaraderie of fellow sailors. A wooden barrel was placed in the bay and inside, the sailors would leave their mail addressed to the intended recipient. A fellow crew member returning home would check the mail and the men that were heading to the same destination would take the letter and deliver it personally to its addressee. This honor system would help sailors to communicate with their loved ones for many years, and today you have the opportunity to continue this tradition. Deposit a letter or postcard to a relative of yours in the wooden barrel, and if you can take one or two letters back home and send them to their intended recipient, it would be highly appreciated by those who left them.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## **Day 4 MONDAY**

*Galapagos is one of Earth's most fragile ecosystems and on our last day we get to know the different projects undertaken by the scientific community to preserve this earthly paradise.*

**AM: Santa Cruz Island - Charles Darwin Research Station, Baltra Airport**

**Landing type: Dry landing, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.**

**Possible activities: Walking.**

Before we depart, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. Inaugurated in 1964, the station was built in order to provide the scientific community with the necessary resources, labs, and equipment to conduct their research in the Galapagos and help with the titanic task of preserving this fragile ecosystem. We visit the different areas of CDRS: such as the interpretation center, tortoise breeding area, and the famous lonesome George tortoise memorial.

We take an overland transfer by coach to Baltra Island Airport in order to take our flight back to mainland Quito or Guayaquil and then home.

At the airport, the guide and a member of the crew will assist you during the check-in process and accompany you to the security gates, they will say goodbye and wish you a safe trip back home. Please remember to show your transit control card when requested.

Meals included: Breakfast.