

## Galapagos Natural Life

Luxury Class- Yacht Galapagos

CALIPSO YACHT



# Itinerary "Diving Cruise"

8 Days – 7 Nights

## THURSDAY

**AM:** Arrival in San Cristobal Airport and Transfer to the boat

**PM:** San Cristobal: Lobos Island

One of the many islets that pepper the archipelago, this one is named for the mass amounts of sea lions that invade the area. Often used as a check-out dive site, Lobos Island is a sweet dive filled with star fish, rays, various fish, turtles, eagle rays, and sometimes marine iguanas.

**Highlights:** Sea lions by the dozens

**Experience:** Open water diver, with a minimum of 10 dives

**Depth:** 3-10 m (10-33 feet)

**Currents:** Light

**Water Temp:** 17 C -23 C / 63 F – 73F, depending on the season and special conditions

**Thermoclines:** Not generally

**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Visibility:** 6-12 M (20-40 ft)

**Unique Animals:** Galapagos garden eel, many endemic fish

**Interesting facts:** The sea lions here welcome you to Galapagos with friendly under water games of hide and seek, tag and “pull the fin!”

## FRIDAY:

### **AM: Marchena Island: Espejo Point**

There are no land visits to Marchena Island. It had recent volcanic activity in 1992. The island exhibits pristine flora and fauna since it was never inhabited by humans. The island is remembered for the mysterious discovery of the mummified remains of two bodies on the beach. One of the bodies was the remains Rudolf Lorenz, one of the lovers of the infamous Baroness who lived on Floreana. The other body was the captain of the Rudolf was on.

**Highlights:** Sea lions, sea turtles, reef fish

**Activities:** Snorkeling, diving

### **PM: Marchena Island: Mejia Point**

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**Highlights:** Sea lions, sea turtles, reef fish

**Activities:** Snorkeling, diving

# SATURDAY

**Am: Wolf Island: La Ventana Islet/La Banana**

## LA VENTANA

Wolf Island is located in the extreme northern part of the archipelago. There are no land visits to this island, and it is only visited by live-aboard dive ships.

This is a dive site only for experienced divers. The surge is heavy, currents can be quite strong, and visibility is often limited. Some very impressive and large animals such as whale sharks, hammerheads and dolphins are spotted here.

**Highlights:** Whale sharks, hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, dolphins

**Activities:** Diving

## LA BANANA

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**Highlights:** Whale sharks, hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, dolphins

**Activities:** Diving

**Pm: Wolf Island: Shark Bay/El Derrumbe**

## SHARK POINT

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**Highlights:** Whale sharks, hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, dolphins

**Activities:** Diving

## **EL DERRUMBE**

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**Highlights:** Whale sharks, hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, dolphins

**Activities:** Diving

## **SUNDAY**

### **Am: Darwin Island: Darwin's Arch**

Darwin's Arch is an impressive 15 M (50 ft) lava arch. A fast descent in current, where you will then grab onto the rocks below and basically be a spectator to the stuff blowing past! This is the most famous dive site in the Galapagos Islands and recognized as one of the best dive sites in the world. Accessible only by dive liveaboards, Darwin Island is an underwater Disneyland.

**Highlights:** Whale sharks, hammerhead cleaning station, turtles, pods of dolphins, countless schools of fish, Galapagos sharks, silky sharks

Experience required: Minimum 50 dives and experience in current, cold water and surge. **Depth:** 9-40 + M (20-130+ ft)

**Currents:** moderate to very strong Water

**Temp:** Dec – April: 24-28 C (76- 82 F)/May – Nov: 22 – 26 C (72 – 78 F).

**Thermoclines:** variable but generally around 20 m (65 ft)

**Difficulty:** Advanced

**Visibility:** 12-24m (40-80 ft)

Interesting facts: Divers from around the world come to the "theater": hold still to the rocks, and watch the show swim past you in the blue.

**Darwin Island: El Arenal/ Darwin's Arch**

## EL ARENAL

Often coined “the best dive site in the world”, Isla Darwin is an underwater circus with stars like whale sharks, hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, pods of dolphins, and a few killer whales and tiger sharks making guest appearances! El Arenal is an underwater sloping sand “driveway” of Darwin’s Arch teeming with amazing marine life. Stick with your expert guide who can show you the safest and best routes in the currents.

**Highlights:** hammerhead sharks and cleaning station, schools of big eyed jacks, blacktip sharks and whale sharks

**Experience required:** Minimum 50 dives and experience in current, cold water and surge

**Depth:** 14 – 37 m (46 – 121 ft)

**Currents:** moderate to strong

**Water Temp:** Dec – April: 24-28 C (76-82 F)/ May – Nov: 22 – 26 C (72-78F)

**Thermoclines:** variable

**Difficulty:** advanced

**Visibility:** 12-24 m (40-80 ft)

**Interesting facts:** A great place to hang out and watch the action fly past

## MONDAY:

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**Experience required:** Minimum 50 dives and experience in current, cold water and surge.

**Depth:** 9-40 + M (20-130+ ft)

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**Pm: Wolf Island: La Banana/Shark Bay Point/Anchor Bay**

## LA BANANA

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**Highlights:** Whale sharks, hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, dolphins

**Activities:** Diving

## SHARK POINT

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**Highlights:** Whale sharks, hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, dolphins

**Activities:** Diving

## TUESDAY

**Am: Isabela: Coka Port (Jun-Dec) / Fernandina: Cape Douglas (Jun-Dec)**

**Highlights:** Fur sea lions and Galapagos sea lions mingle with the snacking marine iguanas and “zoom-past-you” penguins.

**Experience required:** Advanced open water and minimum 40 logged dives

**Depth:** 20 m (66 ft)

**Currents:** Moderate

**Water Temp:** 18 – 26 C (65-78 F)

**Difficulty:** Advanced

**Visibility:** 12-20 m (39-66 ft)

**Endemic Animals:** Galapagos marine iguana

**Pm: Isabela: Cape Marshall (Jan-May)/Vicente Roca Point (Jun-Dec)**

**CAPE MARSHALL (JAN - MAY)**

A near-vertical wall of volcanic rock that plummets to the bottom of the sea, this dive site boasts the big stuff: manta rays, hammerheads, sun fish (Mola mola), and sometimes huge schools of the endemic salema.

**Highlights:** Not only is the topography of this site distinct and fascinating, but so is the marine life! The “usual” sea turtles and sea lions swim along with you and the Chevron barracuda, yellow fin tuna, marbled rays, mobula rays, snappers, and more!

**Experience:** Minimum advanced open water and 30 dives. Experience with current, walls, and good buoyancy needed.

**Depth:** 10 -35m (33-98 feet)

**Currents:** Strong

**Water Temp:** 17 C – 23C / 63 – 73F, depending on the season and special conditions

**Thermoclines:** Prevalent at approximately 14 m (45 ft)

**Difficulty:** Advanced

**Visibility:** 3-10 m (10-33 feet)

**Unique Animals:** The Galapagos black – striped salema

Interesting facts: The red-lipped batfish can be found here, although no night diving is permitted in Galapagos, so it will be tricky to find them!

## **VICENTE ROCA POINT (JUN - DEC)**

Highlighting an enormous amount of the “small stuff”, Punta Vicente Roca offers up a sweet home to octopi, sea horses, red-lipped batfish, frogfish, and nudibranchs. The mola mola, or sun fish has been spotted here as well.

**Highlights:** This drift wall dive will bring you up close and personal to a long list of invertebrates including sponges and flat worms. Keep your eyes peeled for the endemic camotillo and the occasional Port Jackson shark!

**Experience:** Minimum open water diver with good buoyancy control

**Depth:** Average dive depth 20 M (66 ft)

Currents Mild to none

**Water Temp:** 17 – 24 C (62 – 76F), depending on the season and special conditions



**Thermoclines:** Variable; often below 20 m (66ft)

**Difficulty:** Beginner

**Visibility:** 8-15 m (26-49 ft)

**Unique Animals:** Camotillo

**WEDNESDAY:**

**Am: Santiago Island: Cousins Rocks**

## Cousin's Rock

Just one of the many islets that help form the archipelago, this dive has a great deal to offer the advanced diver. With sloping rock plate formations and a wall that drops farther than the eye can see, diver will come across hidden sea horses and octopi, Galapagos black coral, frogfish, and hammerheads and Galapagos sharks!

**Highlights:** Green sea turtles and sea lions accompany the diver on the lookout for hammerheads and Galapagos sharks.

**Experience:** Minimum advanced open water diver and 30 logged dives. Divers must have good buoyancy control.

**Depth:** 2m – 30 m maximum dive depth (one side has a rock-plate slope)

**Currents:** Moderate, with surge in shallower waters

**Water Temp:** 17 C – 23 C / 63F – 73F, depending on the season and special conditions

**Thermoclines:** Often at approximately 25 meters

**Difficulty:** Intermediate to advanced

**Visibility:** 10-20 m (33-66 feet)

**Unique Animals:** Juvenile Galapagos black coral

**Interesting facts:** This site offers up a buffet of amazing sights for the diver: giant mantas below, sea turtles above, sea horses in the coral, and sea lions that play with your bubbles.

**Pm: Santa Cruz: El Chato/Tortoise Breeding Center**

## EL CHATO TORTOISE RESERVE

The El Chato reserve is divided into two areas: Caseta and Chato. The trail begins at Santa Rosa (13.7 miles/22km) from Puerto Ayora , with the Caseta route being the more challenging. The reserve allows visitors to observe giant tortoise in the wild during the dry season and is also a good place to spot short-eared owls, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails and paint billed crakes.

**Highlights:** Giant tortoises, finches, Galapagos rails

**Possible Activities:** Walking, horseriding, bird watching

**Type of Landing:** Dry lading

**Difficulty:** Easy/ medium

## CHARLES DARWIN STATION/FAUSTO LLERENA BREEDING CENTER

The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to turtles ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4 feet long. Subspecies of turtles interact with one another and many of the older turtles are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own.

**Highlights:** Giant tortoises in captivity

**Possible Activities:** Walking

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

### THURSDAY

**Am: Transfer to the San Cristobal Airport**

**Rate includes:**

- Snorkelling equipment
- All meals, Buffet (breakfast - lunch - dinner) water with meals.
- Accommodation in double cabins.

- Transfers from the airport to the yacht and vice versa in Galapagos.
- Excursions in the islands with English Speaking Naturalist Guide.
- **Air ticket**

**Rate does not include:**

- Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee: USD 100.00 per person
- Migratory Control Card: USD 20.00 per person
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages.
- Tips.

**Note:**

- Rates per person in U.S. Dollars
- Single occupancy supplement 80% or 100%
- The route of the ship and the itinerary are subject to change and can vary depending on the regulations and policies of the Galapagos National Park, weather, seasonal changes, safety, etc.

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**Quito - Ecuador - South America**