Galapagos Natural Life

Luxury Class - Yachts Galapagos

SANTA CRUZ II YACHT

DAY BY DAY

ITINERARY N

Itinerary 5 days / 4 nights Northern Galapagos

Day 1 - MONDAY

Baltra Island

We land at Baltra Island by plane in the morning and transfer to the dock to board the Santa Cruz, where we receive a welcome introductory briefing, boat drill and lunch.

Las Bachas (Santa Cruz Island)

This beautiful visitor site is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, a glorious white beach with a couple of brackish lagoons only a few steps away from the sea. These lagoons are the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos. Welcome cocktail, expedition plan for Tuesday and dinner.

Day 2 - TUESDAY

Buccaneer Cove (Santiago Island)

After breakfast, we explore the coastline along the impressive cliffs of Buccaneer Cove, learning about the area's distant and recent history. The cove is home to a large number of marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. Enjoy fantastic natural formations such as the "Elephant Rock", "The Bishop" and an impressive natural cave.

Puerto Egas (Santiago Island)

Once we disembark at the beach, we can enjoy a swim or snorkel amid a rocky shoreline, usually in the company of marine turtles. From here, we head off to our walk, a great opportunity to see land and marine birds amid landscape of tuff-stone layers and lava flows. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon the algae beds and we can also observe a colony of fur-sea lions.

Day 3 - WEDNESDAY

Rábida Island (Jervis)

Some groups will go for a fascinating panga ride along the shores while others will disembark on Rábida Island's red-coloured beach, caused by the unusually high content of iron in the volcanic material. Our walk brings us close to a colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. Very close to the beach, a salt pond hosts migrating greater flamingos at certain times of year. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach, both for beginners as well as for experienced snorkelers, due to the unique combination of underwater species and submarine landscapes. During navigation to our next island, dolphins are sometimes spotted!

Bartolomé Island

Today's activities begin with a wet landing on the golden beach of this famous island, dominated by the imposing Pinnacle Rock. There's great snorkelling and swimming from the beach plus the chance to ride the glass bottom boat. After returning to the ship, we then split into two groups, the first lands for a hike to the summit of this diminutive island that boasts fantastic views of the archipelago. This is a moderately steep climb aided by a wooden staircase, resting platforms and handrails – the view from the top is worth the effort! The second takes to the pangas to explore the rugged and volcanic shoreline. The groups then swap over.

Day 4 - THRUSDAY

Prince Philip Steps (Genovesa Island)

The morning starts with a steep climb (90 feet) up some stairs to reach a flat rocky plateau. Along our walk, we can observe large colonies of Nazca boobies, red footed boobies, great frigate birds and storm petrels. Those not wishing to disembark can enjoy a longer panga ride along the cliffs (depending on weather conditions).

Darwin Bay (Genovesa Island)

In the afternoon, we land at this beautiful beach to enjoy some swimming and/or snorkelling. Following our dip, we take an easy stroll to observe hundreds of birds, mainly frigate birds, red footed and Nazca boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds.

Day 5 - FRIDAY

Tortoise Reserve – Baltra airport

We start our last morning at the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. After breakfast, your luggage will be taken to the airport, while you visit the Tortoise Reserve. A dry landing at a passenger's wharf and a bus ride to the loftier region of the island will provide the last highlight of the cruise: giant tortoises in the wild. The windward slopes of the island are home to two species of giant tortoises. These lush highlands include dense forests of Galapagos daisies, orchids and bromeliads, and several endemic land birds. After this visit we will transfer directly to Baltra airport. Farewell to Galapagos.

Notes

PACKING CHECK LIST

• 1 Small backpack

• Comfortable walking shoes

• Sneakers with rubber soles

• Shorts

• Long pants

• T-shirts

• Long and Short sleeved shirts

• Wind breaker

• Bathing suit -wetsuit for snorkelling in cold

months

• Hat or cap

• Toilette kit (biodegradable shampoo please)

• Sun block

• Sunglasses

• Binoculars

• Camera & camcorder

• Any medicine you may be taking

• Book/ notebook

Recommendations

IMPORTANT NOTE:

• Please remember that the exact route and programme may vary according to weather and ocean conditions and the wildlife we encounter. It's also subject to change without previous notice due mainly to readjustment of the National Park policies and regulations.

Dry landing: guests step from the panga (dinghy) onto rocks or a dock.

Wet landing: as the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into around 20 cm (8 inches) of water and wade ashore.

info@galapagoslastminute.net

galapagos_natural_life@hotmail.com

Quito - Ecuador - South America