

# Galapagos Natural Life

## First Class - Galapagos Yachts

### Anahi - CATAMARAN



#### ITINERARY DAY BY DAY

## Itinerary B2 8 days / 7 nights

For those passengers interested in nature but also in interacting with the local inhabitants of the Islands, this is the most recommended itinerary. During our cruise we will visit San Cristobal Island where we find Puerto Baquerizo Moreno de Capital of the Galapagos Province. Then our next inhabited Island will be Floreana where the first colonists of Galapagos arrived. Finally we will also touch Puerto Ayora the biggest town of the Archipel.

Nevertheless also we visit other islands with beautiful flora, landscape, and fauna of Galapagos: Genovesa Island with the red boobies, Plazas and Santa Fe with the land iguanas, Espanola Island, one of the most famous and interesting islands due to it varied fauna.

### DAY 1 - FRIDAY

#### Arrival on Baltra Island. Playa Bachas

Your arrival will occur about midday (local time) and after clearing documents you will get to the lobby of the exit area where our guide will be waiting for you with a sign table with the name of our Yacht Anahi. Bags are taken care by one of our crew members who will transport them directly to the yacht. Board one of the airlines local buses and you will be transported (5 minutes) to the place known as "El Muelle" (pier) from

where our zodiacs will be ready to take to the Yacht Anahi. Our Captain and crew will welcome you with a drink and then you will be allocated in your cabins. Lunch follows and then our guide will give a short explanation about the afternoon activities. At about 2 p.m. you will disembark and with our zodiacs will be taken to the beach known as Playa Bachas where you will have a wet disembark. These two small beaches are found to the West of Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favourite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches there is a small brackish water lagoon, where occasionally is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, but it has two old barges that were abandoned during the Second World War, when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategically point to protect the Panama Channel. (The metal is rusty and sharp, so it is not a good place for swimming). Here we also will have our first encounter with sea lions which are resting on the beach and also we can find some marine iguanas and several marine birds. Time to enjoy the beach and for snorkeling with playful sea lions. Transport back to the boat and at 7 p.m. you will have the official welcome drink followed by a delicious dinner. After dinner your guide will give you a briefing about the next day activities. Lunch, Dinner.

## DAY 2 - SATURDAY

### **Genovesa Island.**

At 6 a.m. we will be arriving at Genovesa Island. This is the northeastern most Island in the Galapagos Archipelago and it is also known as Tower Island with just 14 sq. km in size, but in despite of this, Genovesa offers an amazing opportunity to enjoy Galapagos at the most. Its maximum elevation is 64m (210ft). The horse-shoe shaped island has a volcanic caldera whose wall has collapsed, forming the beautiful Great Darwin Bay, surrounded by high cliffs. Lake Arcturus, filled with salt water, lies in the center, and sediment within this Crater Lake is less than 6,000 years old. Although no historical eruptions are known from Genovesa, there are very young lava flows on the flanks of the volcano. Genovesa is also known as Bird Island, because of the large and varied bird colonies which nest here. There are an abundance of frigate birds and it is among the best place in the archipelago to see Red-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, storm petrels, tropicbirds, Darwin's finches, Galápagos Mockingbirds, the endemic Galapagos Dove and the short-eared owls. It has 2 visitor sites:

The first visitor site is the Darwin Bay Beach, a very beautiful and attractive site due to the great abundance of sea birds that nest on the salt bush plants that dominate the area. We will visit this place in the morning and the in the afternoon we go to the second visitor point which known as the Prince Philip 3 Steps. This visit requires a 25 meters of cliff ascend to reach a platform which is an excellent site for observing various species of birds.

On Genovesa we will also have opportunity for panga ride, snorkeling, kayaking and walking.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

## DAY 3 - SUNDAY

### **Plazas and Santa Fe Islands.**

As usually our arrival will be at about 6 a.m. to Plazas Islands. After breakfast we start our first visit in the morning. Plazas are two small islets that were uplifted a short distance from the East Coast of Santa Cruz. The unusual vegetation and location of the island create an interesting landscape in which the fauna and flora of Galápagos are enhanced. Moreover despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the archipelago occur here. It is possible to guarantee the observation of land iguanas that often are in the shade of a cactus. Nesting on the rugged southern cliffs, are usually swallow tailed gulls, which seen along with various other sea birds. The protected rocky seashore is a prime habitat for a large colony of noisy sea lions. The principal attraction of Plazas is the land iguanas, the sea lions and the swallow tailed gulls. Also we can see yellow tailed mullets, Audubon's shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds,

frigate birds, and brown pelicans gliding past the cliff. Return to the yacht for lunch and a well-deserved rest.

In the afternoon we start our second visit to Santa Fe (Barrington) Island. The small bay on Barrington's northeast coast is an extremely picturesque anchorage. There are two different trails at this site one leads to a scenic viewpoint on top of a cliff where it is possible to find land iguanas, endemic to the island. The other trail is near the beach and is a short circular trail where it is possible to see land iguanas, but early in the morning or in the afternoon when the sun is low. A particular attraction is the unusually tall forest of prickly cactus. Here we will also have the possibilities to do kayaking, snorkeling, panga ride and walks to observe and enjoy the nature. Back to the yacht for dinner and enjoy a good drink and rest.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

## DAY 4 - MONDAY

### **San Cristobal Island: Punta Pitt, Kicker Rock and Lobos Island.**

In the morning we will arrive to San Cristobal (Chatham) Island. This is the easternmost island in the Galápagos archipelago, and one of the oldest geologically. The name "San Cristobal" comes from the patron saint of seafarers, St. Christopher. English speakers increasingly use that name in preference to the traditional English name of Chatham Island, derived from William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham. The Island has an area of 558 km<sup>2</sup> (215sqmi) and its highest point rises to 730m (2400ft).

The capital of the archipelago, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, is a small town lying at the south-western tip of the island. San Cristobal hosts frigate birds, Galapagos sea lions, Galápagos tortoises, blue and red footed boobies, tropical birds, marine iguanas, dolphins, swallow-tailed seagulls.

In the morning we will be visiting Punta Pitt considered as one of the most beautiful and impressive sites of the whole archipelago of Galapagos. The erosion of the high cliffs and the almost constant foggy morning gives to Punta Pitt an Erie atmosphere. Being the northeastern most point in Galapagos, it has become one of the most favorite nesting sites for sea birds. Here we can observe the three different species of boobies and great frigate birds nesting in the same area. Here we are also permitted for snorkel, panga ride, kayaking and walking. We return to the yacht for lunch and in the afternoon and after a good rest, we navigate towards the giant and impressive out crop rock locally known as "Leon Dormido" (sleeping Lion). This amazing geological formation shapes as a sleeping sea lion and from there its name comes. On the cliffs we can see lots of blue-footed boobies, masked boobies, pelicans and other several marine birds. During our snorkeling activity we can observe sharks, marine turtles, sea rays, and several species of colorful fishes. Later on we go for a walk on Isla Lobos (Lobos Island). This small islet, located only an hour by boat from Pto.

Baquerizo Moreno is separated from the main Island by a narrow stretch of calm water. Upon its rocky shores blue-footed boobies nest and sea lions rest. The atmosphere is one of tranquility and primitive beauty. This is typical Galapagos environment. Back to the yacht for dinner and rest.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

## DAY 5 - TUESDAY

### **San Cristobal Island: Junco Lagoon, Cerro Colorado Galapaguera, Interpretation Center and Cerro Tijeretas.**

In the morning our guide will take you up on the highlands of San Cristobal Island. Our tour starts from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and our first visit will be to the Laguna El Junco (El Junco Lagoon).

Rainwater and condensation have collected for hundreds of years in the caldera of an extinct volcano, creating this haven for frigate birds. The lake supplies water both for the people of the island and for many

of the boats. Hiking around the lake offers views of practically the entire island including San Joaquin Hill the island's highest point.

Our next stop will be at Cerro Colorado Turtles Breeding Center. Here we can learn about the hard work developed by scientists in order to preserve the species of the Giant Galapagos Turtles. There is a nice walk on a trail which permits you to be in close contact with the turtles of the different sizes, from the tiny ones to the giant oldest ones.

Transport back to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon we make a tour to visit the Interpretation Center of San Cristobal. Located in the outskirts of the small city of Pto. Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galapagos Province, it gives a very good introduction to the Galapagos Islands, it's marine and land life, and flora. Then we walk up to the place known as Frigate Bird Hill. A short hike starting from the interpretation Center will take us to the base of the hill and from here the hike to the top of the hill takes approximately 30-40 minutes. Once there, visitors are treated to a spectacular view of the white beaches on one side and the roofs of Puerto Baquerizo on the other.

The hill is often visited by Frigate birds, giving it its name. Both magnificent frigate birds and great frigate birds can be seen. From the hill we descend towards the beach known as Punta Carola, a place where we find a large colony of sea lions. A great spectacle!

Return to the yacht for dinner and in the evening you can go to the town for a walk and have a drink on one of the small bars. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

## DAY 6 - WEDNESDAY

### **Espanola Island: Punta Suarez & Gardner Bay.**

In the morning we will be arriving to Espanola Island. The English named it Hood Island after Viscount Samuel Hood. It is located in the extreme southeast of the archipelago and is considered, along with Santa Fe, one of the oldest, at approximately four million years. While Española Island is one of the oldest of the Galapagos Islands, this island is dying, slowly becoming a rocky, barren land with little or no vegetation. But this does give large bays, with sand and soft shingle which attracts a healthy number of Galapagos Sea Lions. Two spots are especially popular with visitors: In the morning and after breakfast we will be visiting Punta Suárez, of great interest because of its varied bird-life. This island has its own species of animals, such as the Española Mockingbird, which has a longer and more curved beak than the one on the central islands; the Española lava lizard; the Marine Iguana of the subspecies *venustissimus*, which has red markings on its back; among others. Here there are also Swallow-tailed Gulls and other tropical birds. One of the most interesting attractions are Waved Albatrosses (from March to January almost the entire world population breeds on the island) and the mating dances of Blue-footed Boobies. There are hundreds of masked boobies, colony of sea lions, huge colonies of marine iguanas, and different species of birds. Return to the yacht for lunch, rest and afterwards start our afternoon visit to Bahía Gardner, which has a lovely beach, excellent for swimming and snorkeling. Here we also find a huge colony of playful sea lions. Perhaps we can observe Galapagos hawks, Darwin finches, mocking birds, sea turtles and eventually snakes. After enjoying the beach we return to the yacht for dinner and rest. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

## DAY 7 - THURSDAY

### **Floreana Island: Punta Cormoran, Devils Crone & Post Office Bay/ Asilo de la Paz.**

Floreana Island was named after Juan José Flores, the first president of Ecuador, during whose administration the government of Ecuador took possession of the archipelago. It was previously called Charles Island (after King Charles II of England), and Santa Maria after one of the caravels of Columbus.

The island has an area of 173 square kms (67 sq. miles) and it was formed by volcanic eruption. The island's highest point is Cerro Pajas at 640 m (2,100 ft). Our visit points: In the morning we go to Punta Cormoran, a site which probably offers one of the largest and the best flamingo lagoon in the Galapagos. It is situated

between two tuff cones that give the area a special atmosphere. There are various species of shorebirds to be seen besides flamingos, the most frequent are stilts, white-

checked pintail ducks and other migratory birds. This is a unique zone due to the high percentage of endemism in the plant life. It is also very interesting the two distinct beaches: the "green beach (due to high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand) and the "Flour sand beach" made up of coral. We can also do snorkel at the beach. Return to the yacht and we can start our snorkel at the place known as Corona del Diablo (Devils Crone). This is a submerged eroded volcanic crater. The interior of the crater forms an ideal coral reef habitat and that is why it is one of the most fascinating marine sites in the Galapagos. Here you can observe coral reefs, sea lions, reef fish, hammerhead sharks, and several other species of fish. Back to the yacht for lunch.

In the afternoon visit to the famous Post Office Bay. Historically, this site is the location of a wooden barrel that was placed in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship. It has been used since this time by mariners and tourists as a post office. The idea is to carry letters or postcards to their destination by hand. Apart from being the Post Office Barrel, this site was the landing area for some of the first colonists. Later on we will visit the place known as "Asilo de La Paz" (Haven of Peace) located in the interior of the island, at the top, a place where the Wittmer settled when they arrived in Galapagos. Back to the yacht and then we will navigate towards the port of Puerto Ayora, a small city known as the biggest town in Galapagos. During the navigation perhaps it is possible to spot herds of dolphins, sea rays and marine turtles. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

## DAY 8 - FRIDAY

### **Santa Cruz Island: F. Llerena Interpretation Center & Giant Galapagos Turtles.**

In the morning we say good bay to our crew and with the company of your guide you will be transferred to the airport on Baltra Island. On the way we have 2 visit points: a walk in the Galapagos National Park turtles breeding center and Interpretation Center "Fausto Llerena", combined with a visit to a private farm where we find a nice green lush area on the highlands of Santa Cruz. Our guide will take you for a nice walk among the beautiful trees of the forest including ferns and sedges, miconias, etc. And then you will amaze with the giant Galapagos tortoises roam freely in the farm natural habitat. The Tortoises are very shy, and will typically withdraw into their carapaces as soon as they see you coming close. It is very important not to bother, touch or feed these beautiful animals. The area also contain several species of birds including the famous finches of Darwin, the so called and rare "Pájaro Brujo" a beautiful red colored bird, etc. At El Manzanillo farm we also found a simple but nice infrastructure where you can rest and buy drinks, a beer or a try the delicious local juices. Transport to el Canal de Itabaca (Itabaca Channel) which we cross it with a local ferry and from the other side a bus will take us to the Airport of Baltra Island. Our guide will help you with the airline check in and will say a final goodbye to our estimated passengers. Be ready for a prompt return to Galapagos! Breakfast.

### **Rate includes:**

- All meals (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.
- Snorkelling equipment for rent on board.
- 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.
- Please Ask us if you have a penalty If you don't issue the flights with the Yacht.

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**Quito - Ecuador - South America**