Galapagos Natural Life

Luxury Class - Yachts Galapagos

PASSION

ITINERARY DAY BY DAY

Itinerary 'Eastern Islands'

DAY 1 - SATURDAY

MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA & BLACK TURTLE COVE

PM: After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our naturalist guide to then board the M/Y WildAid's Passion and have lunch. Following our meal, we will navigate a short distance to Black Turtle Cove, a large mangrove lagoon on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. Pelicans and herons roost on the branches, while marine dwellers such as green sea turtles and golden rays may cruise right next to the panga as it makes its way through the mangroves.

The day ends with dinner and a briefing for the next day's activities on board the yacht.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY

DARWIN BAY & EL BARRANCO

AM: We travel to Genovesa Island and for a wet landing on Darwin Bay, a unique site with a beautiful beach, lined with red mangroves and soft-haired prickly pear cacti, where red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds perch tamely.

PM: After a dry landing at El Barranco, we will climb to the edge of a cliff where frigatebirds, masked boobies, and red-footed boobies make their nests. The trail will take us to the inner part of the island, populated by palo santo trees and cacti. We will be seeking out the impressive red-billed tropicbird amidst Galapagos storm petrels and the endemic short-eared owl.

DAY 3 - MONDAY

PUNTA ESPEJO & SULLIVAN BAY

AM: Today we will have the opportunity to observe the abundant marine life of Punta Espejo, on Marchena Island. This site is reserved for snorkeling and diving only, and it is safe to say that it is one of the best spots in the Galapagos for these activities. This location is known for having dolphins and hammerhead sharks, as well as the vast quantities of coral heads, allowing for a much higher concentration of coral than the rest of the archipelago. We will have two snorkeling activities during this morning, to have more time and opportunities to observe the marine life.

After snorkeling, we will return to the yacht for an in-depth briefing about the ocean currents and their effect on the archipelago's flora and fauna while we navigate to our next destination.

PM: We will have a dry landing in Santiago Island's Sullivan Bay, where we will walk over a recent lava flow with fresh pahoehoe lava formations, lava bubbles containing crystallized minerals, and pioneer plant fossils. Along the shoreline, we may find Galapagos penguins and herons going after small fish.

DAY 4 - TUESDAY

BARTOLOME & DRAGON HILL

AM: We will have a dry landing on Bartolome, followed by a mild climb up a set of wooden steps to reach the summit of a spatter cone for a breathtaking panorama of the island's iconic Pinnacle Rock and views of neighboring Santiago, and other central islands in the distance. Afterward, we will visit the white sand beach used as a nesting site by sea turtles, followed by snorkeling in the waters of Bartolome Island, where it is not unusual to spot Galapagos penguins.

PM: In the afternoon, we navigate a short distance to Cerro Dragon on Santa Cruz's northwestern shore with a dry landing to visit a saltwater lagoon, home to greater flamingos, black-necked stilts, and white-cheeked pintails. Further inland we will find a fantastic land iguana nesting site.

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY

SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS & DARWIN RESEARCH STATION

AM: We will spend this day visiting Santa Cruz Island ś most famous highlights. We will have a dry landing at the dock of Puerto Ayora to then board our transportation and head to the island's highlands. This area, in contrast to the coastal region, has lush vegetation and forest due to the humidity in the higher regions.

We will visit one of the ranches of the area where it is possible to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. As these animals migrate from the coastal area to the highlands and back, the chosen ranch will depend on the presence of the tortoises since they roam free and change locations. This is also a good place to see the ground finch of the Island, which populates these forests where it is also possible to see the yellow warbler.

PM: We will return to the ship for lunch and to freshen up to then head back to Puerto Ayora for our second visit of the day, the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here, we will see tortoises from different islands. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults.

DAY 6 - THURSDAY

PLAZA SUR & SANTA FE ISLAND

AM: We will have a dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the archipelago on colorful Plaza Sur, home to vibrant green prickly pears, deep red Sesuvium, and coppery-orange land iguanas. Impressive seaward cliffs make the perfect perching spot for a variety of coastal birds. This is also a great place to observe the sea lion adult and pups swimming along the shores.

PM: After a wet landing on Santa Fe, we will encounter a white beach where sea lions are usually resting. We will be looking for the endemic species of land iguana, which is larger with a deeper shade of yellow than land iguanas on other islands. The biggest prickly pear cacti in the Galapagos are also found here.

DAY 7 - FRIDAY

GARDNER BAY & PUNTA SUAREZ

AM: Following a wet landing, we will spend the morning in Española Island's Gardner Bay, an outstanding beach with sea lions, marine iguanas, and the bold Española mockingbird. Close to Española, there is a beautiful array of islets ideal for observing marine life. While snorkeling at one of these locations, we will come face to face with the marine reserve's endemic species including the playful sea lions.

PM: After this visit, we will head to Punta Suarez, one of the most popular landing sites in Galapagos. The highlights include: sea lions near the landing place (sometimes seen body-surfing in the large breakers) large marine iguanas, with red-colored males in the breeding season, oystercatchers, blue-footed and masked boobies, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos doves, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds, and three species endemic to Española: the waved albatross (present only from April to December), the Española mockingbird, and the Española lava lizard. The trail ends in El Soplador, a blowhole that sprays water some 25 meters (75 feet) into the air.

DAY 8 – SATURDAY

TWIN CRATERS & DEPARTURE

AM: This is our last day on the islands. After breakfast we will disembark in Puerto Ayora to take our transport to the Baltra airport, making a short stop to visit the Twin Craters. The Gemelos are two deep craters located to the side of the road that leads from Puerto Ayora to the other side of the island in order to arrive to the airport. These huge holes were most likely created in a volcanic explosion or by magma chambers having collapsed underneath the island ś surface. This is also an excellent place to see the Galapagos hawk and the Santa Cruz barn owl. The surrounding forests are also filled with birds such as the vermilion flycatcher and the yellow warbler.

After this visit, we will continue our way to the Baltra airport for the departing flight to mainland Ecuador.

Rate includes:

• 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.

• Ecogal Tax: USD 10.00 per person.

• Soft drinks and alcoholics 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.

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Quito - Ecuador - South America