

Galapagos Angel 4-day Cruise "A"

(Santa Cruz, Española, Santa Fe, South Plaza, Santa Cruz)

Day 1: Thursday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Baltra Airport Arrival

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos Islands. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Galapagos Angel staff member and brought into a private bus to start your adventure in Galapagos.

*The first excursion will be after being picked up at the airport upon arrival to the islands, so it is advisable to travel with suitable clothing and footwear for walking.

In the afternoon: Highlands

Accessible by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green which contrast beautifully with the dry, lower part of the islands. The predominant vegetation in the highlands are Scalesia trees which create a lush green forest. The lava tunnels, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience. At this place you'll have lunch.

Highlands, Santa Cruz Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Lava tunnels, Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

Day 2: Friday

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

In the morning: Suarez Point

On the trail to Suarez Point you will have the chance to spot blue-footed boobies, albatrosses, and Nazca boobies. This island is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You will have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts sea water into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

Suarez Point, Española Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Difficult
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Hood mockingbirds, Nazca boobies, waved albatrosses (approximately from the last week of April until the last week of January), red-billed tropicbirds, lavalizards, Galapagos hawks, blowhole, amazing landscape and maybe blue- footed boobies.

In the afternoon: Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet

This excursion takes you to the spectacular Gardner Bay. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst abusy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You may also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.

Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet, Española Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Snorkeling, panga ride, short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) and Kayaking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lionnursery

Day 3: Saturday

SANTA FE AND SOUTH PLAZA ISLANDS

In the morning: Santa Fé Island

Santa Fe Island (Barrington) is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails: one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.

Santa Fé Island, Santa Fe Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (5 miles / 8 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Land iguanas, giant Opuntia cacti

In the afternoon: South Plaza Island

This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

South Plaza Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

Day 4: Sunday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Black Turtle Cove

Visit Black Turtle Cove in the northern part of Santa Cruz. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.

Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy Ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	No Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds.

Afterwards: Baltra Airport Departure

After this final visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.