

DARWIN'S FOOTSTEPS

8-Day Island Hopping Tour



**VISIT 4 DIFFERENT
ISLANDS**

**8 DAYS IN THE
GALAPAGOS AT
HOTELS ON SANTA
CRUZ & ISABELA
ISLAND**

**EXPERIENCE LOCAL
LIFE IN THE TOWNS
OF GALAPAGOS**





DAY 1 (-/L/-)*

BALTRA ISLAND: ARRIVAL IN GALAPAGOS

Arrival at the airport, pick up and transfer to the selected Hotel on Santa Cruz, lunch.



PM: Charles Darwin Research Station

On our visit to the Station, we will learn about the natural history of the Galapagos Islands and the importance of conservation efforts to protect its ecosystem. At the Tortoise Center, there are plenty of photo opportunities, we can observe the whole variety of tortoises, including hatchlings, juveniles, and full-grown individuals. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

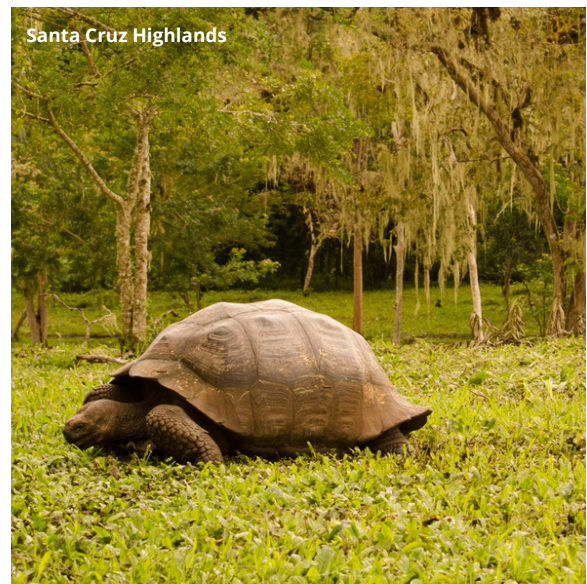
DAY 2 (B/L/-)



SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: HIGHLANDS, LAVA TUNNELS, TRAPICHE & GARRAPATERO

AM: After breakfast, we will take a bus ride to the green highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Upon arrival at the Tortoise Ranch, we will have the opportunity to explore and see many of the famous Galapagos Tortoises in the wild!

Next, we will visit the lava tunnels that were formed as the outer skin of molten lava solidified, and the liquid magma inside continued flowing, leaving behind a series of empty tubes. Visitors can walk through these underground channels!



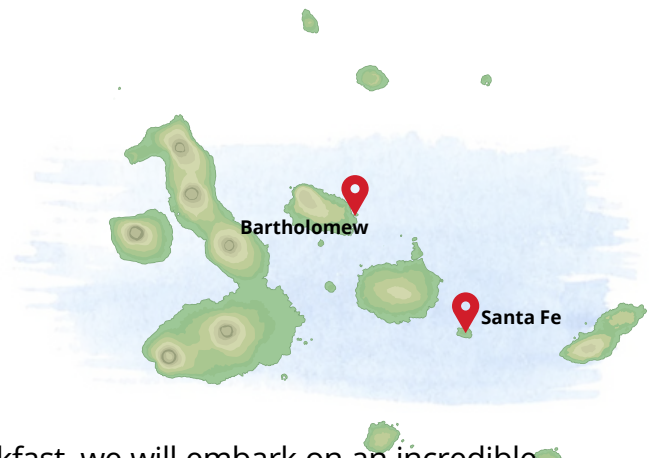
PM: After lunch we will visit The Ecological Trapiche Farm where we will find several cultivated products such as sugar cane, cocoa, and other short-cycle crops, you may also see endemic bird species such as Darwin's finches, and we can participate in agricultural activities such as extracting cane juice by applying a rustic and traditional method called "Trapiche".

Then we will head to the northern side of Santa Cruz where we will visit El Garrapatero, a sandy beach surrounded by mangroves. We'll then walk to a freshwater lake behind the beach that is home to flamingos, herons, stilts, and other shorebirds. The beautiful turquoise waters provide a good opportunity for swimming.

Transfer back to the hotel in Puerto Ayora. Overnight.

DAYS 3 & 4

(B/L/-)



Full day navigable tour to another island. After Breakfast, we will embark on an incredible adventure. These day tours visit an uninhabited island and include a nice trekking/excursion through it and the opportunity to do snorkeling. A delicious lunch is provided onboard. Return to Puerto Ayora at the end of the day.

Day tour destinations (subject to availability):



SANTA FE ISLAND

NAVIGATION TIME: 1 HOUR, 45 MINUTES

Santa Fe is home to a 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. Snorkeling is a must and we will see many different fish species and have the opportunity to swim with sea lions. Return to Puerto Ayora in the afternoon. Overnight.



BARTHOLOMEW ISLAND

NAVIGATION TIME: 1 HOUR, 45 MINUTES

Early in the morning, transfer to Baltra to start our navigable tour to Bartholomew. One of the Islands' principal attractions is the Pinnacle Rock. To see it properly we will make an easy hike for around an hour. In this excursion, we will learn from the volcanic landscape of the island and see different species such as lava lizards or cacti, once we reach the top will have a magnificent view of the Pinnacle rock in contrast with the volcanic landscape blended with the turquoise waters of the surrounding beaches. After the excursion, we will proceed to do snorkeling on one of the coral beaches. Return to Puerto Ayora in the afternoon. Overnight.



NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

NAVIGATION TIME: 1 HOUR

North Seymour, is a small island located northbound from Baltra. The main animal species of this island are Land Iguanas, the Magnificent Frigate bird with their incredible scarlet regular pouch, blue-footed boobies, and their particular courtship dance, and sea lions surfing across the waves. After lunch, we will do snorkeling in Bachas beach, where you will be able to discover tons of different fish and marine species, and also swim with playful sea lions. Return to Puerto Ayora in the afternoon. Overnight



SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

NAVIGATION TIME: 1 HOUR, 20 MINUTES

South Plazas is situated on the east coast of Santa Cruz Island, it's formed from uplifted marine lava and is one of the smallest islands on the archipelago. This Island despite its size has a lot of concentration of wildlife.

We will disembark on a small dock frequently occupied by sea lions. After this, we will continue through a small forest of prickly pear cacti with their yellow flowers where lots of land iguanas are waiting for their fruits and flowers to fall off to the ground. We continue our hike to the cliff to view swallow-tailed gulls, tropic birds, frigate birds, and pelicans. After this walk, we go back to the boat for lunch and sail to Punta Carrion for a great snorkeling session with sea turtles, white tip reef sharks, sea lions, and lots of fish. Return to Puerto Ayora in the afternoon. Overnight.

DAY 5 (B/L/-)



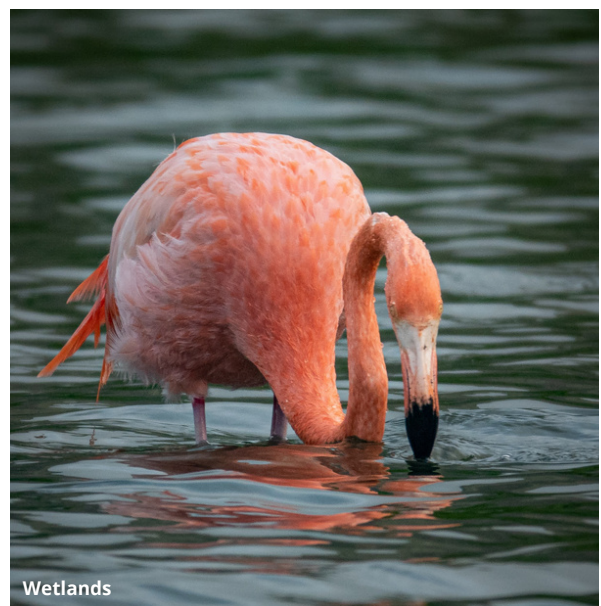
ISABELA ISLAND: WETLANDS, WALL OF TEARS, TINTORERAS

AM: Early pick up, and transfer to the main pier to board the public speedboat. Navigation to Isabela Island takes about 2h30m. Arrival in Puerto Villamil (Isabela I.), followed by transfer to the hotel and then we will head to the Wetlands, which are located just outside of town. The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The visit will continue with a lovely walk across wetlands and opuntia cacti and then we arrive at the tortoise breeding center of the island.

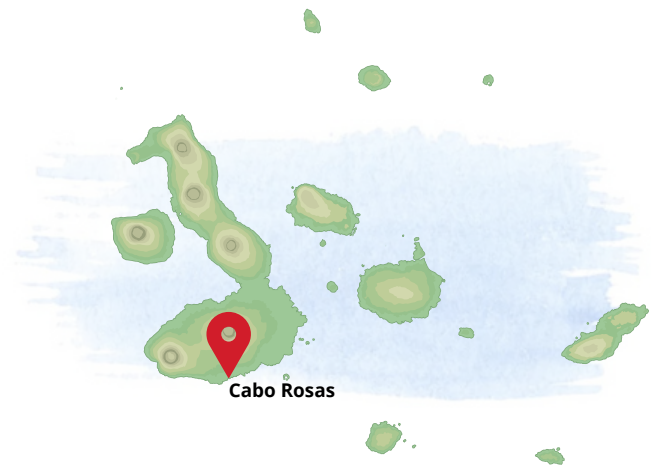
Time and energy permitting, we will visit The Wall of Tears, which is a 30 minute walk to a former penal colony that hosted prisoners from 1945 to 1959 and who were forced to build this stone wall, in isolation. This building took the lives of thousands during its construction and locals claim to hear crying emanating from the rocks of this historical site.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant back in Puerto Villamil.

PM: A small boat will take us on a nice 15 minute ride to Tintoreras. These delightful islets and its turquoise crystal waters are home to a great variety of wildlife, like White-tipped reef sharks, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles, and sea lions. Along the path we can also spot lava herons, lava lizards and a hefty number of marine iguanas can often be seen as well. After this excursion, we will return to our selected hotel in Puerto Villamil. Overnight.



DAY 6 (B/BL/-)



ISABELA ISLAND: CABO ROSAS & TUNNELS



After breakfast, we will be picked up from the hotel for a full day navigable tour on board a small yacht and we will head to Cabo Rosas. This is a small inhabited islet where we can catch sight of pelicans, blue-footed boobies and Nazca Boobies. Occasionally, sea lions can be seen resting on the rocks of this amazing site. On the next stop of this tour, we will be able to enjoy some swimming and snorkeling alongside sea turtles, White-tipped sharks, trumpetfish, and surgeonfish. With some luck, we may also see eagle and golden rays as well.

The lava formations of Cabo Rosas have shaped tunnels that are a marine paradise inhabited by varied endemic Galapagos species that can be easily seen from the paths. A box lunch will be provided and then we will head back to our hotel in Puerto Villamil at the end of the tour.

Overnight.



DAY 7 (B/BL/-)



ISABELA ISLAND: SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO & CONCHA DE PERLA

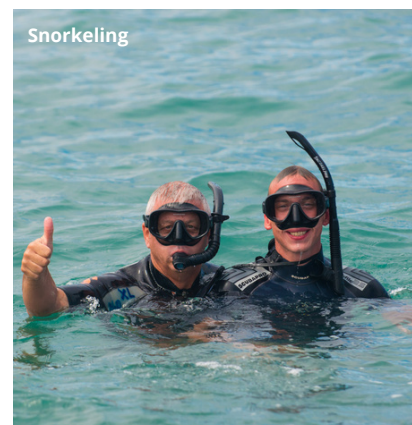
AM: After a restful night and breakfast, we will be picked up from the hotel and head towards the highlands of Isabela to begin our hike of about 5 hours (round trip), to cover a total of 14 kilometers (8,6 miles).

During the first part of the hike, we may experience light rain and plenty of mud on the track. Along the way our guide will be pointing out different animal and plant species as they present on our route. Continuing the excursion, the climate will be drier until we reach our destination where we will enjoy a box lunch in the picnic area, while we admire the magical landscape of the coast of Isabela. Then, we will begin our return to Puerto Villamil by the same route to take the shuttle back to the hotel.



Keep in mind that it is extremely necessary to use proper hiking boots or shoes that allow you to perform this long walk comfortably. Other requirements are a hat or cap, and sunblock.

PM: We will be picked up at the hotel and go for a short 10 minute drive to Concha de Perla. After following a short wooden pathway, the bay's calm, shallow and clear waters welcome us to the ideal place for observing an incredible array of marine life. We will have the opportunity to swim and snorkel alongside tropical fish, sea lions, and turtles. It is also a great location to observe up to 20 bird species. We will head back to our hotel in Puerto Villamil at the end of the tour. Overnight





DAY 8 (B/-/-)

ISABELA ISLAND TO BALTRA

Early pick up and transfer to the main pier to board the public speedboat from Isabela Island to Santa Cruz Island. After arrival in Puerto Ayora, we will have breakfast, and then we will take our transfer to Baltra Airport. End of services.

Notes:

- **B:** Breakfast; **BB:** Box breakfast; **L:** Lunch; **BL:** Box lunch **D:** Dinner
- Flight back to the continent should leave after 12 pm (noon), otherwise a box breakfast will be provided.
- The order of visits on this itinerary may change subject to availability, unforeseen circumstances, safety and national park regulations .

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in a double room
- Meals as described in itinerary (B=Breakfast, L= Lunch, BL= Box Lunch, BB= Box Breakfast)
- Detailed excursions
- Naturalist English-speaking guide and transportation
- Transfer by speed boat (public transportation) to/from Isabela
- Transfer to/from Baltra's airport
- Entrance fees: Highlands, Lava Tunnels, Garrapatero Beach
- Snorkeling equipment (only in navigable tours: mask & tube)

NOT INCLUDED

- Air tickets to/from Mainland / Galapagos
- Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee: \$100 (Subject to change) per person
- Migratory Control Card: \$20.00 per person
- Isabela local tax: \$10 per person
- Wetsuit
- Dinner, Soft and alcoholic drinks
- Personal expenses and tips
- \$6 water transportation