

Cruise C East (Mon – Thu)

4 days / 3 nights

Monday -- Day 1

AM – Baltra Island Airport

Departing from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra for a 2:30 hour flight. Upon arrival passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken on a ten-minute bus drive to the pier to board the ^{M/V} **Galapagos Legend**.

PM – Bartolome Island

Considered the most iconic landscape of the entire archipelago the view from the top of Bartolome Island, overlooking the famous Pinnacle Rock and the austere Santiago Island beyond, is well worth the climb up the wooden boardwalk. This volcanic scene has often been likened to a lunar landscape. Our subsequent snorkel here might put us face to face with Galapagos penguins, white-tipped reef sharks and playful sea lions.

Highlights: Landscape, Pinnacle Rock, penguins, blue-footed boobies.

Disembarking: dry landing

Physical Condition: medium

Type of terrain: wooden path of 372 stairs.

Activities: 45 min glass-bottom boat or 45 min beach snorkeling / 30 min dinghy ride / 45 min hike

Tuesday -- Day 2

AM – South Plaza Islet

Sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls and land iguanas are all present at the landing site. The small island is covered with a carpet of a red succulent studded with *Opuntia* cacti. At the cliff edge, we spend time watching birds fly past at eye level in the up draught. These include, frigatebirds, flocks of Galapagos shearwaters and of particular note, flights of displaying red-billed tropicbirds. Back at sea level, we once again encounter land iguanas, some of which have hybridized with their resident marine cousins.

Highlights: Large colony of sea lions, endemic cactus forest, land & marine iguanas, Nazca & blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls.

Disembarking: dry landing

Physical Condition: medium

Type of terrain: rocky

Activities: 2 hour 15 min hike

PM – North Seymour Island

This flat, uplifted, island is an important spot to see both magnificent and great frigatebird males courting the females by clicking, bill-clapping, shuddering and flapping their wings, all while showing off their grossly inflated, bright red, gular pouch. We will also likely see courting blue-footed boobies displaying their unique feet while `dancing´ to a prospective mate. Sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, crashing surf and distant views of the Daphne Islands top off a great visit.

Highlights: Two species of frigatebirds: magnificent & great, swallow-tailed gulls, nesting colony of blue-footed boobies.

Disembarking: dry landing

Physical Condition: medium

Type of terrain: rocky & sandy

Activities: 1 hour 45 min hike / 1 hour glass-bottom boat or deep water snorkeling

Wednesday -- Day 3

AM – Punta Pitt & Islet (San Cristobal Island)

Sea lions will greet us as we land on the beach and prepare for our climb to a high point on the steep eroded tuff cone. This is the only place in the islands where we will enjoy the chance to see all three of the booby species in the same place. The red-foots will be perched on the *Cordia lutea* and small trees, the Nazca's on the ground near the cliff edge while the blue-foots will be a little further inland. Frigatebirds will be all around and the views are breathtaking.

Highlights: Magnificent viewpoints, colony of sea lions, 3 booby species and 2 frigatebirds.

Disembarking: wet landing

Physical Condition: medium

Type of terrain: rocky

Activities: 2 hour hike / 1 hour beach snorkeling or 45 min kayaking

PM – Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)

From our dinghy ride, as we head to shore, we are first humbled by the immensity of the stunning cliffs of 'Sorcerer's Hill'. We can enjoy simply sharing the beach with sea lions, snorkeling from shore or take a walk to a hidden lagoon where we might spot black-necked stilts, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels and white-cheeked pintails.

Highlights: extensive marine wildlife.

Disembarking: wet landing

Physical Condition: low

Type of terrain: sandy

Activities: 45 min dinghy ride / 1 hour 30 min beach snorkeling or 45 min kayaking

Thursday -- Day 4

AM – Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve (San Cristobal Island)

In the moist highlands of San Cristobal, we will visit the giant tortoise breeding center "La Galapaguera" to witness the most iconic creature of the archipelago in its various life stages. The tortoises wander in a semi-natural habitat which lends itself to good photographic opportunities. The aim of the reserve is to help restore populations of the threatened San Cristobal tortoise back into the wild. In town, there are shops to purchase local handicrafts and souvenirs.

Highlights: Giant tortoises in semi-captivity, beautiful landscape on bus ride to La Galapaguera, miconia plant zone.

Disembarking: dry landing

Physical Condition: medium

Type of Terrain: sandy

Activities: 1 hour 30 min bus ride round-trip / 1 hour 15 min visit

San Cristobal Airport

After the visit, guests will be transferred to San Cristobal Airport for their return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.