

# Northern Galapagos Travel

## Travel Itinerary

### Day 1 - Baltra & Santa Cruz Islands



Las Bachas on Santa Cruz Island.

#### Baltra Island

You will land in Baltra Island by plane in the morning and then take a guided transfer to the dock to board the Santa Cruz II Galapagos Cruise. After an introductory briefing onboard, all passengers will partake in an emergency boat drill. Afterwards, you will be assigned to your cabin and then be invited to lunch.

#### Las Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz Island)

This beautiful visitor site is located on the northern shore of Santa Cruz Island, where a glorious white beach awaits along with a couple of brackish lagoons that are just a few steps away from the sea. These lagoons actually serve as the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos. You are more than welcome to enjoy swimming and snorkeling activities at this beach, too. Afterwards, we will head back aboard for a welcome cocktail and an expedition briefing about the following day. Dinner is served shortly after this.

## Day 2 - Santiago Island



Exploring Buccaneer Cove is one of the highlights of a Galapagos vacation!

### Buccaneer Cove

After breakfast, we will get to explore the coastline along the impressive cliffs of Buccaneer Cove, all while learning about the area's history. This cove is home to a large number of marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. We will also get to marvel at the fantastic geological formations such as "Elephant Rock" and "The Bishop" as well as an impressive natural cave. Here, you will have the chance to go snorkeling, take a ride on the dinghy or the glass-bottom boat.

### Puerto Egas

After disembarking at the beach here, you will get to enjoy a swim or snorkel along the rocky shorelines, typically in the company of marine turtles. From here, the excursion will head off on a walk that gives you a great opportunity to see some of the Galapagos iconic species as they skitter about a landscape that consists of tuff-stone layers and lava flows. At low tide, marine iguanas can oftentimes be found grazing upon the algae beds nearby. We can also observe a colony of fur-sea lions. After the visit, the whole group will have some additional time for swimming and/or snorkeling.

## Day 3 - Rabida & Bartolome Islands



This is one of the most iconic views of Galapagos Islands.

### Rabida Island

Some groups here will opt to go for a fascinating dinghy ride along the shores while others may choose to disembark on Rabida Island's mesmerizing, red-colored beach. The color of this beach is the result of the unusually high levels of iron that are found within its sand. The walk here will bring guests close to a colony of Galapagos sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. Not far from the beach here, a saltwater pond is occasionally seen hosting American flamingos. This is also a great place to take a dip and snorkel along the beach, thanks in large part to the unique combination of underwater species and aquatic terrain. As the Santa Cruz II Galapagos Cruise sails to the next island from Rabida, we might even be lucky enough to spot dolphins!

### Bartolome Island

Today's afternoon activities begin with a wet landing on the golden beach of this famous island, dominated by the imposing Pinnacle Rock. This is another great place for all of us to go for a swim and snorkel from the beach. A chance to ride the glass-bottom boat is also offered. After returning to the ship, guests will be split into two groups: the first group will go for a hike to the summit of this relatively small island, the viewpoint of which boasts fantastic views of the archipelago. This "climb" consists of a moderately steep incline that's made even easier thanks to the presence of a wooden staircase, complete with resting platforms and handrails. The view from the top is well worth the effort! The second group, in the meantime, will get to explore the rugged and volcanic shoreline aboard the dinghies. The groups will then swap spots so that each one experiences the full beauty of this iconic island.

## Day 4 - Genovesa Island



Having fun while hiking at Darwin Bay!

### Prince Philip's Steps

The morning starts with a steep climb (only 90 feet/28 meters) up a flight of stairs to reach a flat and rocky plateau. Once there, you can walk along comfortably and check out large colonies of Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, great frigatebirds and storm petrels. Otherwise, you can opt for enjoying a longer dinghy ride along the cliffs, weather permitting. Kayaking here is optional.

### Darwin Bay

In the afternoon, we will land at the beautiful beach that lines this bay to enjoy some swimming and/or snorkeling. Following this refreshing dip, the excursion will head out to take a stroll and observe hundreds of birds, mainly: frigatebirds, red-footed and Nazca boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds. Opportunities for snorkeling, kayaking and swimming are available here.



## Day 5 - Baltra & Santa Cruz Island



Galapagos giant tortoise resting in a pond.

### Tortoise Reserve

You will begin your last morning on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. After breakfast, your luggage will be taken to the airport while guests themselves head out for one last visit over at the Giant Tortoise Reserve. Following a dry landing at a passenger's wharf and a bus ride to the higher region of the island, guests will get to experience the final highlight of this itinerary: giant tortoises roaming around in the wild. These lush highlands include dense forests consisting of Galapagos daisies, orchids and bromeliads as well as several endemic land birds.

### Baltra Airport

After this final visit, you will take your transfer vehicle to Baltra airport and say farewell to Galapagos Islands!

## Sailing Dates

2020

Monday to Friday\*

May May 25 to 29

June Jun. 08 to 12 Jun. 22 to 26

July Jul. 06 to 10 Jul. 20 to 24

August Aug. 03 to 07 Aug. 17 to 21 Aug. 31 to Sept. 04

September Sept. 14 to 18 Sept. 28 to Oct. 02

October Oct. 12 to 16 Oct. 26 to 30

November Nov. 09 to 13 Nov. 23 to 27

December Dec. 07 to 11 Dec. 21 to 25

2021

Monday to Friday\*

January Jan. 04 to 08 Jan. 18 to 22

February Feb. 01 to 05 Feb. 15 to 19

March Mar. 01 to 05 Mar. 15 to 19 Mar. 29 to Apr. 02

April Apr. 12 to 16 Apr. 26 to 30

May May 10 to 14 May 24 to 28

June Jun. 07 to 11 Jun. 21 to 25

July Jul. 05 to 09 Jul. 19 to 23

August Aug. 02 to 06 Aug. 16 to 20 Aug. 30 to Sep. 03

September Sep. 13 to 17 Sep. 27 to Oct. 01

October Oct. 11 to 15 Oct. 25 to 29

November Nov. 08 to 12 Nov. 22 to 26

December Dec. 06 to 10 Dec. 20 to 24

## ASK OUR Prices (per person) & Conditions

### Included

- Accommodation
- All meals
- Activities
- Bilingual naturalist guides
- Conferences and lectures
- Visits to the islands mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation to/from the airport in Galapagos on cruise arrival and departure dates
- Snorkeling equipment
- Kayaks
- Glass-bottom boat
- Paddleboards
- Onboard Medical Assistance
- Luggage handling
- Shared transfers from main hotels in Quito (Casa Gangotena, Hilton Colon, Sheraton, Marriott, Dann Carlton) and in Guayaquil (Hilton Colon, Oro Verde, Wyndham, Sheraton) to airport for flights to/from Galapagos are included in these rates. To coordinate these transfers, we must have guests' hotel contact information.

### Not Included

- Airline tickets to/from Galapagos\*
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US\$100 per person)\*\*
- Transit Control Card for Galapagos (US\$20 per person)\*\*
- Wetsuits (available for rent)
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages\*\*\* (you can also ask your destination expert to include a drinks package in your quote. Ask us about all the available options we have for you!)
- Tips
- Gifts and additional items
- Fuel surcharge
- Laundry
- Wi-Fi internet (Intermittent and low-bandwidth. Available for an additional fee)

\*Upon request, airline tickets can be included we guarantees availability of these flights. Airfare is subject to change.

\*\*Upon request, we can include the Galapagos National Park and INGALA Transit Control Card fees (US\$100 and US\$20 respectively and subject to change without prior notice). However, due to logistical reasons, these fees can only be included when guests travel on the operational departure date and not before.

\*\*\*Guests may bring their own wine or spirits; however, there is a corkage fee of \$25 USD + tax.

\*This itinerary departs every second Thursday. If a Thursday does not appear in our list of sailing dates, it is either because we are fully booked for that Thursday departure period or simply because we do not operate this specific itinerary on that Thursday

departure period due to our 15-day sailing cycle (to cover each separate region of the archipelago).

Important Notes:

- 1) During peak season dates, we reserves the right to prioritize reservations taking into account factors such as payment and confirmation dates. A peak season supplement also applies.
  - 2) we reserve the right to limit the number of twin/double cabins for single use dependent on availability.
  - 3) Explorer Cabins for single use incur a surcharge of 15% of the price per person. Only 5 cabins are available for single use. Please check availability first.
  - 4) If more cabins are needed for single use, twin/double cabins incur a 100% surcharge when used as singles. Please check availability first.
  - 5) Explorer Family Cabins (2) for twin/double use incur a 50% surcharge per person.
  - 6) Explorer Family Cabins accommodate 2 adults and 1 child under 12 years old, only in exceptional cases will 3 adults be allowed. Please check with your Destination Expert regarding limitations and requirements, prior to confirming.
  - 7) Regardless of the number of cabins occupied, the ship's authorized maximum operating capacity cannot exceed 90 guests.
- (#) = number of cabins per category