



## GALÁPAGOS

— ECUADOR



Itinerary

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, THE LIVING LABORATORY OF EVOLUTION.

Join the Golondrina Yacht for an exciting small-ship cruise in the Galapagos Islands. Catering to just 16 guests, she offers attention to detail, a relaxing atmosphere and personalized service.

Eight-twin-bunk-bed cabins, each carpeted with ensuite bathrooms, hot water showers, and AC. Social areas include a comfortable dining room where local freshly prepared dishes are served a la carte style, an indoor salon and bar. A sun deck also available for your relaxation time aboard between excursions.

During the 5 or 8 day trip aboard our yacht, we will be walking the many islands, snorkeling, swimming and hiking.

The itinerary we suggest visits the following spots and it runs Friday to Friday.

Day 1: flight from Quito to Guayaquil and then a flight to BAltra. This is the main airport of the Islands. You will be met by an English speaking guide and directed to the boat.

Lunch PM visit to Mosquera. This will be a wet landing. Mosquera is an islet that sits between Northern Seymour and Baltra. A flat geography and here you will do your first snorkel.

Day 2: Isabela / Fernandina in the morning we will visit Vicente Roca Point we take a dinghy ride to these two separate coves and bay.

Our swim will show you sea turtles, love-fish, sun fish and in land we see the famous blue footed boobies. Lunch on board. In the afternoon, we will visit Espinoza point in Fernandina. this will be a dry landing and one and a half hour hike on sandy and rocky trail through nests of Iguanas. Nesting season is from January to June. we walk through the lava flows and find penguis, pelicans, lava cacti and cormorants on our way. We snorkel from the beach before going back to the boat.

Day 3: Isabela | Urbina in the morning we do a 2 hour walk watching the fauna of the island and snorkel before lunch.

Afternoon we will do a walk around a Crater Lake and again snorkel before going back to the boat. We will see Penguins and cormorants.

Day 4: James Bay and Chinese Hat

We visit Santiago Island and Port Egas.

This morning we do a dry landing.

We will visit a Crater lake and good chances of seeing seals, sea lions, the Galapagos Hawk, Darwin Finches. Snorkel.

Lunch

After a wet landing we take a 30 min walk on lava formation to see the lava cacti, Galapagos Sesuvium, and also snorkel.

Day 5: Santa Cruz

we will visit the Charles Darwin Station.

Learn about the giant tortoises and the formation of the archipelago.

#### Lunch

Afternoon we drive to Primicias Ranch. we will see the Giant Tortoises gracing the foliage or simply resting. The many birds here are endemic subspecies of the Andean Plateau. Birds like the mockingbirds, egrets, flycatchers, etc.

#### Day 6: Española Island

in the morning we will visit Tintoreras.

this is a turquoise water bay where a viety of marine life can be enjoyed. We can see Sea turtles, iguanas, sea lions and when the tide is low, we can see the sharks and stingrays swimming in the water.

lunch on board

In the afternoon we visit the

Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center.

At the center, the giant tortoises are bred in captivity in order to maintain the numbers of these animals.

We continue to the Wetlands which is a rocky coastline and mangrove. The many trails on this 30 minute hike, allow the tourists to observe the 4 species of mangroves in the islands and visit with the Blue, Lava, Striated Herons, Galapagos Hawk, Lava Gulls.

Finally, at the end of our afternoon we visit the Wall of Tears. This wall was built by the inmates that were captive in the once prison built on this island that functioned between 1946 and 1956.

Day 7: Rabida. we will do another wet landing to this colorful volcanically active island.

This brown sand beach extends for a half a mile walk up to a lookout and a breathtaking view.

This is known as the birdwatcher paradise island as we will see lots of interesting and endemic birds.

Lunch on board

In the afternoon we will hit dock and go behind the beach to a hyper saline lagoon frequented by Flamingos, Plovers, Black bellied Ducks and other birds.

This walk overviews the bay and in to Galapagos Land Iguana nesting grounds which most of them were relocated by the Darwin Research Station.

#### Day 8: Santa Cruz and Baltra

Black Turtle Cove

No landing. WE will do our tour aboard our dinghy.

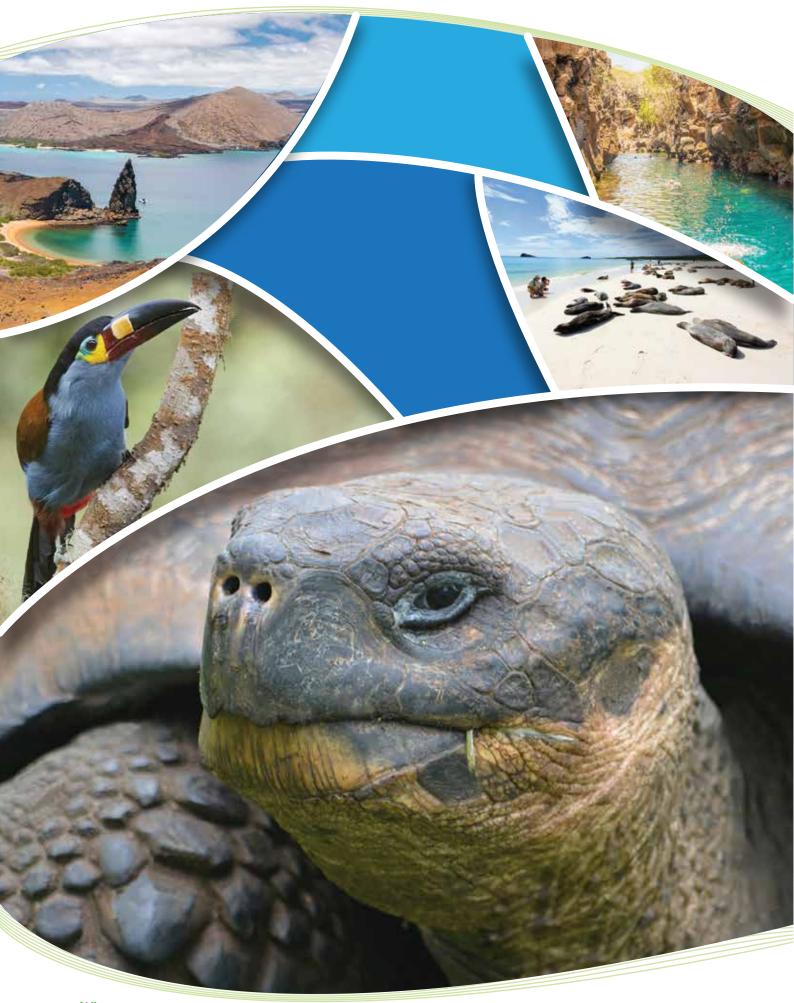
A beautiful experience. We will see Black sea Turtles swimming in the cristal clear waters. The crew will turn off the engine and start paddling through the mangroves where we look for birds in the hidden lagoons. After visiting this cove, you are transported back to the airport to take your flight back to Quito.

#### **Prices:**

8 day cruise aboard the Golondrina Yacht, Friday to Friday: US\$3,190 US\$500 for the air ticket Quito - Baltra - Quito per person. US\$120 for the park entrance fee and migration card.

Additionally, the following cost must be added in order to cover hotel nights in Quito, pick up transfers, assistance at the airport on both ends of the Galapagos journey.

Three nights in Puembo Birding Garden Hotel in Quito, three dinners, two lunches, four transfers to and from the airport: US\$410 per person.





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## **Itinerary**

#### GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, THE LIVING LABORATORY OF EVOLUTION.

THE HIGHLIGHTS of Santa Cruz and an encounter with Toucans, Tanagers and Hummingbirds. 9 day - 8 nights Package.

The name Santa Cruz is Spanish for Holy Cross.

A visit to Santa Cruz will give us a broad view of the highlights in fauna and flora of the Galapagos Islands.

Santa Cruz is known for its sandy beaches such as El Garrapatero.

The town of Puerto Ayora is the archipelago's tourism hub. Here the Charles Darwin Research Station has a breeding program for endangered giant tortoises, which actually live in the wild up in the highlands of El Chato Reserve.

Tortuga Bay, another attraction in the island, homes sea turtles and marine iguanas.

Los Gemelos volcanic calderas and a lava tunnel lie inland.

Though this package sounds short, Santa Cruz will give us the opportunity to not only walk through the interesting attractions of the island but also hike, swim, snorkel, and kayak.

#### Santa Cruz - Galapagos

#### Day 1: INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL TO QUITO

Arrival to Quito's airport. Transfer to Puembo Birding Garden (PBG). Overnight (dinner not included)

### Day 2: BALCON TUMPIKI – INTIÑAN MUSEUM

Breakfast. Departure with your guide and private van for an hour and 15-minutes drive to Balcon Tumpiki. Here we will enjoy the colorful birds that come to the feeding stations, for example the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Toucan Barbet, Crimson rumped Toucanet, Flame faced Tanager and dozens of humming-birds that come to the feeders.

After our visit to Balcon Tumpiki we will drive for about 20 minutes to Mirador Guaycapi, here we will enjoy the view of the hummingbirds that come to the feeders while we have a sit-down lunch.

Around 2 pm we will drive to our next destination Museo Intiñan, located close to the Middle of the World monument, this onsite museum features interactive exhibits on how the Incas determined the middle of the earth, plus interesting science experiments such as balancing an egg on a nail and the effects of the Coriolis force on earth.

Return to Puembo Birding Garden by the end of the afternoon.

Dinner and overnight PBG.

#### Day 3: CHARLES DARWIN STATION - STATION BEACH

Breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight from Quito to Baltra.

Upon arrival to Baltra's airport, our guides will greet you and transfer you to the hotel located in Santa Cruz Island (45-minutes drive). Arrival at the hotel, check-in and lunch.

In the afternoon visit to the Charles Darwin Station, here we will learn about the studies Charles Darwin did in the archipelago and the risks to which the fauna and flora of the Islands are exposed to and the efforts that are being carried out to protect the environment of the Galapagos.

After our visit to Darwin station, we will have so time to relax in the beach that is closed by, called Playa de la Estacion (Station Beach).

Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

#### Day 4: BAY TOUR OF SANTA CRUZ

Breakfast. This tour takes about 4 hours, our boat will depart from the pier of Puerto Ayora and our first stop will be the Shark Canal, a viewpoint where you can see blue sharks and along the way you will see Lava herons.

Going ahead with our route, the next place we will visit is the beautiful Canal del Amor with its peculiar turquoise color, it is full of zayapas (crabs) and marine iguanas.

Next, we will head to Playa de los Perros, named after the large colony of see lions that inhabit this beach, also here you can find the largest marine iguanas of the island and appreciate its beautiful scenery.

The last stop of the day will be Las Grietas. Geological formations of lava form two giant walls and in the middle of them the water of the upper part of the island mixes with the sea water called brackish, great opportunity to snorkel.

Return to the hotel by lunchtime.

In the afternoon we will enjoy the hotel facilities.

Dinner at the hotel and overnight.

#### Day 5: TORTUGA BAY BEACH (45 MIN APROX. WALK)

After breakfast we will take a walk to the beautiful beach of TORTUGA BAY, considered the most beautiful of the archipelago, spectacular scenery, sun, turquoise sea, and white sand await us, we will enjoy a refreshing swim accompanied by iguanas and colorful fish, here we can go kayaking.

Return to the hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon we visit Las Ninfas Lake and by late afternoon we enjoy the facilities of the hotel and relax. Dinner and overnight.

#### Day 6: UPPER PART OF THE ISLAND RANCHO PRIMICIAS

Breakfast. Our destination for the day is the high part of the Island, perfect opportunity to observe Giant Turtles in their natural habitat, we will visit Rancho Primicias, where we will be in close contact with these beautiful creatures.

Sit-down lunch at Primicias.

On our way back to town, we will visit the incredible Lava Tunnels which are approximately 1 km long. These tunnels were formed when the surface layer of the lava flow cooled as it came into contact with the cooler atmospheric air, at the end of the eruption period and once all the lava has passed, it leaves behind an empty tube like formation. The tunnels are well illuminated, there are spots where it can be wet so bring comfortable clothing.

Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

#### Day 7: EL GARRAPATERO BEACH

Breakfast, our vehicle will be ready to take us (35-minute drive) to El Garrapatero beach, a paradise far from any settlement. Its crystal-clear water, subtle waves and white sand welcome visitors who opt for a quiet day in contact with nature and provides a perfect spot for snorkeling.

Behind the beach is a lagoon where flamingos, black-necked guans, Galapagos finches and migratory birds can be found.

Return to our hotel by lunchtime. Afternoon to relax and explore Puerto Ayora. Dinner and overnight.

#### Day 8: TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT - BALTRA ISLAND - QUITO

Breakfast and transfer back to Baltra airport for our flight to Quito. Transfer to Puembo Birding Garden (PBG).

Dinner and overnight PBG.

DAY 9 - INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Transfer to airport for international departure. End of services.

(Check out by 2pm)

PRICE: US\$1,690 per person.



WE ALSO OFFER CUSTOMIZED TRIPS TO THE Galapagos Islands INCLUDING YOU A PRIVATE NATURAL HISTORY GALAPAGOS GUIDE AND AN EXPERT MAMMAL AND BIRD GUIDE.

For more on any of these trips write to

reservas@puembobirdingarden.com or operacionespbg@hotmail.com Or call / WhatsApp: 593 997591313