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rediscovering the New World

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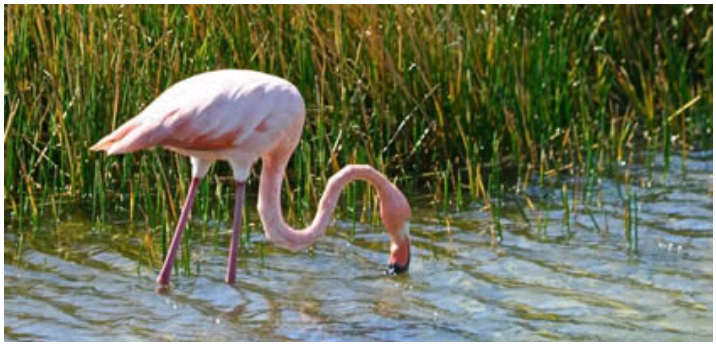
TRIP DETAILS
5 days / 4 nts - Ecuador

Departures Daily
Trip Ref 3665

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

PRICES FROM $1,599



Island Hopping: Santa Cruz & Isabela

Day 1: Arrive in Santa Cruz Island (Highlands - Primicias Ranch and Charles Darwin Station)
After arriving at Baltra Airport we will take a hike to the highlands of the island and visit the Primicias Ranch where we will be bushwalking and looking for a giant Galapagos tortoises. After a walk, we will visit the lava tunnels and have lunch in a typical restaurant.

We will continue down to Puerto Ayora where we will tour the important Charles Darwin Research Station where we will visit one of the largest Galapagos tortoises and land iguanas breeding centers. The local guide will give us a detailed explanation on the islands evolution. Return to the hotel and lodging.

(Included meals: lunch)

Day 2: Santa Cruz Island (Bay Tour / Trip to Isabela Island / Flamingos Lagoon)
In the morning we will take a tour around the bay. We will visit Punta Estrada, the Germans' Beach, Channels of Love and the Grietas. During this trip, you will be able to watch seabirds and sea lions and you can surface dive. Lunch in Puerto Ayora. In the afternoon, a speed boat will take us to Isabela Island, one of the most beautiful islands in the Archipelago. After a cruise of 2,5h, we will reach this corner of paradise where a local transfer will take us to the hotel. After the check-in we will take a walk around the Flamingos Lagoon. Return to the hotel and lodging.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

Day 3: Isabela Island (Sierra Negra Volcano / Campo Duro Farm / Tintoreras)
Our guide will meet you at the hotel and take you to one of the most beautiful volcanoes in the world - Sierra Negra. Its crater is approximately 7 kilometers wide. We will take a 4h trekking tour to enjoy this wonderful and unique scenery. Lunch in a local farm called Campo Duro where we will also watch Isabela Giant Tortoises.

Back at Puerto Villamil town, we will visit Tintoreras Islets. Herds of white tip sharks can often be seen here, resting around the lava canals. You can also observe hundreds of marine iguanas, as "Las Tintoreras" are one of their main breeding sites. On the nearby sandy beaches, sea lions play and relax in the sun. Afterwards we will have an opportunity to snorkel. Return to the hotel and lodging.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

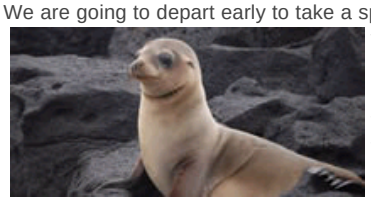
Day 4: Isabela Island (Tunnels of Cape Rosa / Wall of Tears / Orchilla Viewpoint / Breeding Center)
Prepare yourself for one of the best days of this trip! After sailing for 45 minutes from Puerto Villamil, we will reach Cape Rosa on the western side of the island. This is one of the most beautiful and amazing places nature has bestowed upon humankind. Here we can walk over the connected lava tunnels surrounded by the crystal sea waters. From the surface, you will be able to see dozens of sea turtles, penguins and rays. You can also snorkel or simply swim along this rich marine fauna.

As we sail to and from Isabela, we might be able to see manta rays of different sizes - a truly unique experience. And if it is their mating season, we will watch them floating upside-down on the surface, waiting to have their pictures taken. In the afternoon we will drive towards the "Wall of Tears". This historical place was built by the prisoners of the Ecuador's first jail. On our way back we will stop at the Orchilla viewpoint. From the top you can see the entire coastal wetland system including Poza de los Diablos, Puerto Villamil, the beaches, the volcanoes and the islets to the south-east of Isabela. Its a great location for panoramic photos on clear days. If we still have time, we might visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Centre where you will be able to observe tortoises of all ages and sizes. We will also learn about the breeding and farming of giant tortoises and see all the work that is being done to help recover the wild populations of these species. Return to the hotel and lodging.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

Day 5: Isabela Island - Santa Cruz Island - Fly out from Baltra

We are going to depart early to take a speed boat back to Puerto Ayora. After getting there we will take a bus to the Baltra Airport where we will check-in for our flights back to the Continent.



You can also take an inter-island flight in a plane with a capacity of 5 to 9 passengers. The flight from Isabela to the Baltra Airport takes 30 minutes and connects to the flight to the continent (no flights on Sundays). This service is optional; it is charged extra and should be booked at least 48 hours in advance.

(Included meals: breakfast)

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Includes: Accommodation in double or triple room. Meals as detailed in the itinerary. Public Speed Boat for navigation (open boats). Bilingual English speaking naturalist guide (local guides) during the excursions. Private land transportation. Equipment for the sports as detailed in the itinerary. Airport assistance in Quito to take flight to Galapagos.

Not included: Airfare to Galapagos (round trip, $568). Airfare from Isabela Island to Baltra airport (if you require $166). Entrance fee Galapagos National Park (US$ 100 or $50 if your country belongs to the Andean Community). Transit Control Card (US$ 10). Isabela Departure Fee (US$ 5). Personal expenses and tips. Alcoholic drinks and additional soft drinks. Any other activity hereby not mentioned. Fee at Isabela airport (US$ 15). Any additional meal not detailed in the itinerary. VAT for Ecuadorian citizens. Wet suit.

Important information:
- Departures every day of the week
- Minimum 2 passengers
- Ask for extension Packages to San Cristobal and Floreana Island.
- If you need a permanent guide, ask for the extra cost
- If you want a private speed boat for navigations, ask for the extra cost.
- The ferry to cross from Baltra Island to Santa Cruz Island is shared based service (First Day).

Recommendations:
- Procure Medical and/or Travel insurance prior to your trip.
- Luggage: We suggest you take a 10kg suitcase and a hand luggage. This is what is allowed by the local airlines.
- Please bear in mind that trips in Galapagos take place outdoors and include hikes, swimming, scuba diving, and other physical activities that require comfortable, lightweight, informal clothing.
- Clothing: For the hot months (December - May) we recommend a bathing suit, T-shirts, shorts, sunglasses, cap or hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, sport shoes that are good for walking in lava and rocks, and sandals. For the cooler months (June - November), a waterproof jacket or poncho and light pants are necessary. Other important items are lip balm, eye drops, plastic bags for electronic equipment, binoculars, patches or pills for sea sickness, a photo or video camera and enough film, and any personal medications that you normally use.

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