



NEOTROPICAL[®]

NATURE & BIRDING TRIPS

ITINERARY SAMBA

OCEANIC FORCES AND ENCHANTED LAND: SOUTH, EAST & CENTRAL ITINERARY

DAYS	ISLAND	VISITING SITES
TUESDAY	BALTRA SANTA CRUZ	AM: BALTRA AIRPORT PM: HIGHLANDS
WEDNESDAY	FLOREANA	AM: PUNTA CORMORANT & DEVIL'S CROWN PM: BARONESS LOOKOUT
THURSDAY	ESPAÑOLA	AM: PUNTA SUAREZ PM: GARDNER BAY
FRIDAY	SAN CRISTOBAL	AM: PUNTA PITT PM: ISLA LOBOS
SATURDAY	SANTA FE PLAZAS	AM: BARRINGTON BAY PM: SOUTH PLAZA
SUNDAY	JAMES	AM: CHINESE HAT PM: BARTOLOME
MONDAY	SANTIAGO RABIDA	AM: JAMES BAY PM: RABIDA
TUESDAY	SEYMOUR	AM: NORTH SEYMOUR PM: BALTRA AIRPORT

Note: Itinerary is subjected to change because of management by the Galápagos National Park Service, local weather conditions and other unpredictable natural events.

After spending quality time with our gentle giants and walking through a lava tunnel we travel on our bus to Puerto Ayora. In town guests have a few minutes to walk by the main street before we head to the Samba. We will be on board around 17:30 and dinner will be around 19:00.

WEDNESDAY, FLOREANA (CHARLES)
AM: PUNTA CORMORANT & DEVIL'S CROWN
PM: BARONESS LOOKOUT



Following a four-hour navigation from Puerto Ayora we will do a wet landing on a volcanic olivine beach. **Punta Cormorant** is located on the northern shore of Floreana and is the house of greater flamingos and sea turtles. On one side, the point is partially flooded with a brackish lagoon where flamingos occasionally feed. Whimbrels, herons and stilts are other common shore and migratory birds of the wetlands. On the other side sea turtles use every corner of a white sand beach to deliver their eggs. You often see stingrays and reef sharks from the shore and if you are lucky turtles ending basking.

Late that morning we will snorkel at one of the best spots in the world! **Devil's Crow** is a magical start to the Galápagos underwater experience.

To make absolutely sure you get a full day from sunrise to sun set, we will kayak/panga ride and climb at the **Baroness lookout**. Navigating through a small set of islets with a sea lion colony, boobies and mangroves. Finally, following our ride we will start our short hike to the top of this eroded spatter cone to share the vivid obscurity of the human history of "Las Encantadas". A fantastic landscape decorated with little islands is the perfect setting to engage with the fascinating story of the Wittmer's, Doctor Ritter and Dora, and the famous Baroness and her three lovers. Charles, Floreana and Santa María are the official names of the Island that holds an overwhelming mystery of our human history.



THURSDAY, ESPAÑOLA (HOOD)
AM: PUNTA SUAREZ
PM: GARDNER BAY & GARDNER ISLAND



Hood is the oldest Galapagos Island, the Queen. Her Majesty has travel 100 miles away from the volcanic hotspot; she sets an example of splendor and wisdom. When landing on its western tip, on **Punta Suárez**, it is difficult to digest the beauty and the overwhelming amount of life. It takes a few minutes to understand that you are not dreaming and that the marine iguanas are really covered with fiery colors, sea lions leisurely wander around you, blue-footed boobies and Sally light-foot crabs coat the rocks with their intense grace. The long walk leads you the finest illustration of ancient sea bird colony. The endless cliff shaped by strong wave action and the force of the wind is the home of the only tropical albatross of the Earth (may be absent at this tie of the year). This mythical elegant glider shares the precipice with many others sea birds like the tropicbirds, the sallow tailed gull, the Nazca booby.

Depending on weather conditions, either at the end of the morning or early in the afternoon, we will snorkel or kayak around **Gardner Island**. Its calm waters and attractive landscape give you a great experience above and below water. Located on the north coast of Española **Gardner Bay** has tranquil white sand beach. The fine grains of sand make perfect terrain for a soft walk and a relaxing late in the afternoon. Don't get me wrong, you won't be alone, sea lions and Hood mocking birds will keep company.



FRIDAY, SAN CRISTOBAL (CHATHAM)

AM: PUNTA PITT

PM: ISLA LOBOS



Chatham is the first Island where Charles Darwin set foot in Galápagos. Beautiful tuff cones that are eroding away decorate this old basaltic formation. Upon arrival to the Airport, a short bus ride will take us to the Samba. We will soon start our navigation northeast to meet our first visiting site. **Punta Pitt** greets you to a mind-blowing landscape and its protected cove offer a great chance to kayak. On our tenders we ride very close to the large colony of seabirds nesting on a nearby islet. At glance is easy to spot swallow tailed gulls, frigate birds, Nazca and red footed boobies, storm petrels and shearwaters. The golden sand and cast away sea lions give us a welcoming for our wet landing late in the afternoon. We climb

and explore a tuff cone before sunset. This point is the closest landmass to South America.

About 3 and half hours of navigation South we find **Isla Lobos** were the barking of Galapagos sea lions welcome you to a dry landing. We will walk on over very rocky terrain. To your surprise red balloons will soon bound you, great and magnificent pirates' nests on this small flat Island. Frigate birds with their magenta and green iridescent feathers decorate the saltbushes. The island is also the nesting ground of blue-footed boobies. Don't miss the chance of swimming with sea lions; a few sea creatures are as playful as these marine mammals.



SATURDAY, SANTA FE & PLAZAS
AM: BARRINGTON BAY
PM: SOUTH PLAZA



The bay looks as if artist ornamented it. **Barrington Bay** is one of the most picturesque inlets of all visitor sites of the Galapagos. The white sand on the seabed reflects the light to turn the calm waters turquoise. A small forest of gigantic prickly pear cactus grows on a peninsula that keeps the bay sheltered. All the before mentioned are suitable conditions for a large sea lion colony. Santa Fe is an ancient extinct volcano and it has been isolated from other island long enough to have an endemic land dragon. Paler in color than its relatives, the Barrington terrestrial iguana has a primitive morphology. Galapagos Hawks, mocking birds, finches and endemic rice rats make company to yellowish monster. The snorkeling won't disappoint you.

A two-hour navigation north will take us to **South Plaza**. The dry landing takes you to a brilliant combination of life and colors. Land iguanas wondering through bright red carpet weed, Swallow tailed gulls nesting around the overhang tops and red-billed tropicbirds and shearwaters flying with dancing displays. Mind the pirates of the sky; they will strike if you drop your guard. 13 acres of beauty Hectare is one of the best spots in the archipelago to see land iguanas and swallow-tailed gulls, both indigenous to the Galapagos. There are iguana nests scattered all over the hill. The sheer cliffs of the southern shore are a perfect bird habitat,

making it an unparalleled bird observatory for especially swallow-tailed gulls, shearwaters, and red-billed tropicbirds.



SUNDAY, CHINESE HAT & BARTOLOMÉ
AM: CHINESE HAT
PM: BARTOLOMÉ



The genesis of the islands is easy to acknowledge at **Chinese Hat**. The coiled shiny structures of the pahoe-hoe lava appear as if they were formed yesterday. Lava tubes run like petrified rivers and white sand from eroded coral surrounds the black rock, scenic falls short. Located on the Southeast shores of James this Island is a very symmetrical cinder cone. The contrast of colors and shapes of the basalt, rust and shine of its surface will take you travel back to Mars, if you've been there before. **Did someone say penguins? We love snorkeling here ☺.**

Bartolomé Island offers an explosive volcanic landscape. Get ready to climb above 270 feet to admire the dramatic spatter cones and the view of Pinnacle Rock that everyone wants. Later, take a walk on magical golden beaches where sea turtle nest (December to March). Don't forget to make time to swim near penguins, sharks and lava tubes.



MONDAY, SANTIAGO & RABIDA
AM: JAMES BAY
PM: RABIDA



Subsequent to a three-hour sail northwest we will do a we wake up at **Puerto Egas** also known as **James Bay**. The magical shorelines of the west of James Island are a combination of tuff cone, lava flows and organic sand. A rocky coast with a very gentle slope is used by a great number of shore birds and reptiles. Oystercatchers, whimbrels, sanderlings, turnstones, tattlers and other waders are mixed with marine iguanas and bright painted crabs to feed by the rich littoral zone.

As grand finally, large lava tunnels, that are partially collapsed, are the houses of the Galapagos fur sea lions. The snorkel can be one of the best in the archipelago. Sea turtles feeding, parrot fishes, damsel fishes, white tipped reef sharks and more...

Galapagos offers a diversity of geological formations without boundaries. The island of **Rábida** has lavas rich in iron and after millions of years of exposure to air they have turned red. The rusted volcanic material has eroded to form a beautiful crimson sand beach, lovely for a walk. The protected shore provides excellent conditions for a Galapagos sea lions nursery, occasional brown pelicans use the nearby saltbushes as a resting or nesting area, and sometimes we find flamingos in the brackish lagoon! Hawks and mocking birds are common visitors of the lowlands. Furthermore, you will find that snorkeling of the beach can be very exciting as sharks, rays and many colorful fish are often visible.



TUESDAY, NORTH SEYMOUR & CHECK OUT
AM: NORTH SEYMOUR
AM: CHECK OUT



The visit to **North Seymour** is the best way of saying goodbye to the Galapagos. Following a dry landing at sunrise we will walk amongst the largest blue-footed booby colony of the Islands. If breeding you will enjoy their dancing and singing to find a mate. Not far from the dancers we have great and magnificent frigate birds nesting. The males inflate their pouches to attract the ladies that fly above them. Swallow tailed gulls and tropicbirds decorate the large basaltic walls of the island.

We will be back on board for breakfast at 8:00 and we have to be ready to check out at 9:00. It is always a good idea to do most of your packing the previous night so you can have a pleasant last early morning visit and a relaxed breakfast.

