

6 Days Galapagos Islands Nature(MANGROVE ESSENTIALS)

DAY 1: Transfer In + Interpretation Center + Friégate Hill

After arriving at San Cristóbal airport, we will visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Center. Here we can learn more about the origin of the archipelago, its fauna and flora, as well as the natural history and first inhabitants. After that, we will hike for about 2 hours to Friégate Hill where you'll see the endemic vegetation and beautiful views of the island and its surroundings. The main attraction here are the frigatebirds. At the end of the day, we will visit Friégate Bay and do some snorkeling, then leave for Golden Bay Hotel for your night's accommodation in San Cristobal.

DAYS 2 & 4: Day Tours

Important Note: During days two and four of your program you will visit the various islands described below. The specific islands and visitor sites you will visit will be confirmed with your guide before you are picked up in the morning for the day tour. Each morning you will be picked up at the hotel by your guide.

DAY 2: Kicker Rock or Lobos Island

KICKER ROCK

Kicker Rock is known as one of the best places to snorkel and dive in the Galapagos. This is because you can see sharks, rays, and many different types of fish. After the snorkeling we will visit one of the following beaches: Ochoa, Puerto Grande or Mangelito. In the afternoon you will return to San Cristobal to your accommodations.

LOBOS ISLAND

Lobos Island includes snorkeling activities with sea lions and observation of various birds like the blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds. Afterwards, enjoy a visit to the amazing beach, Playa Ochoa. Lunch onboard and in the afternoon you will have your own spare time to enjoy the surroundings. In the afternoon we return to San Cristobal to your accommodation at Golden Bay Hotel.

DAY 3: Transfer to Santa Cruz with Tortuga Bay and Bay Tour

On this day we will take a boat in the morning to Santa Cruz Island, about two and a half hours away. Arriving at Puerto Ayora you'll be transferred to the Red Mangrove Eco Luxury Hotel. Once you have settled into your new accommodations, we will do the bay tour, known in Spanish as "Tour de Bahía". This is a must-do in the Galápagos with activities like snorkeling, swimming and hiking.

During the tour you will visit fascinating spots like the "Lobería" and "Las Grietas". In the afternoon we will visit Tortuga Bay. To reach the beach you'll walk through a beautiful path that leads you through the middle of giant Opuntia and Candelabra cactus forests. At a leisurely pace it takes about 45 minutes. It is home to numerous Darwin finches, Galapagos Tortoises, mockingbirds, yellow warblers, lava lizards and many more of the Galapagos endemic and native species. As you enter the white sandy beach at the end of the path, you will see the beautiful beach of Playa Bravo. Make sure to heed the warning flags as the surf can be strong at times.

As you continue to walk along the beach you'll eventually come to some small tide pools and the beginning of a mangrove forest. Past this is a completely different type of beach where you can snorkel or lay beneath the mangroves for a relaxing break. The water is a bit warmer on this end of the bay. While snorkeling you may find sea turtles, stingrays and even Galapagos sharks. The walk back is through some prickly pear trees with black lava

outcroppings, which leads to the boat that will take you back to the Puerto Ayora pier. Once you arrive you will be transferred back to the Red Mangrove Eco Luxury Hotel.

DAY 4: Day Tour to Nearby Island

Important Note: On day four of your program you will visit one of the various islands described below. The specific islands and visitor sites you will visit will be confirmed with your guide before you are picked up in the morning for the day tour. The island visits are not specified beforehand due to changing availability and climate conditions.

Bartholomew Island

Bartholomew is an island surrounded by turquoise waters and beautiful beaches. It will take about 2 hours to arrive by boat. Upon arrival, the tour begins by climbing the boardwalk and staircase. When you reach the top you will see a spectacular landscape. Sullivan Bay and the famous Pinnacle Rock can be seen clearly from here.

The island is a now extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, green, black and shiny volcanic formations. This is the perfect place to observe Galapagos penguins. Moreover, you can snorkel with sea turtles, sharks, white-tip reef sharks, tropical fish, sea lions and many other unique marine species. After lunch, you will visit Sullivan Bay. Here you can see some amazing lava formations, the product of a volcanic eruption in 1903. This is an excellent example of the typical forms and colors that contrast with older types of lava.

Also, take into account that Bartholomew Island is a breeding ground for green sea turtles. They come to the shores of the island to nest through the months of January and March every year. The tour on the island will end at approximately 5:00 pm and you will be transferred back to the hotel.

Santa Fe Island

Santa Fe is one of the central islands in Galapagos surrounded by an incredible turquoise bay and usually hosts a large colony of sea lions. The island is protected by a natural barrier of rocks where sea lions like to gather. It will take about 40 minutes of navigation on the ocean to arrive by boat. When landing at the site you will discover a beautiful sandy beach, if you are lucky a colony of sea lions will be resting and enjoying the sun when you arrive!

Following the guide on one of the paths, you may find one of the endemic land iguanas found only on this island, the Santa Fe Iguana. Their main foods are the leaves and fruits of the large and thick cactuses, Palo Santo, which are also endemic to the island and are one of the major attractions. Crabs, night herons, sea iguanas, mockingbirds, and doves are seen frequently in this area. After the walk, lunch will be served on the boat. Afterwards, you'll have the opportunity to do some snorkeling. The bay is excellent for practicing this activity and is perfect to find species such as sea tortoises and stingrays. The tour ends at approximately 5:00 pm.

At this time you'll take a boat back to Santa Cruz, roughly 40 minutes and then you'll be transferred back to the Red Mangrove.

North Seymour and Bachas Beach

You'll be picked up at the hotel and transferred to the Itabaca Channel to board the yacht that will take you to North Seymour Island. This place is great for hiking. There is a circular path about 2 miles long that crosses the interior of the island and allows you to explore the rocky coastal path. On this trail, you will be able to discover some of the largest seabird colonies in the Galapagos Islands.

Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to observe the nesting sites of blue-footed boobies and the bright and colorful frigatebirds that are visible throughout the year. These two species

represent one of the biggest attractions of Galapagos. The male frigates inflate their red chest when they try to attract or draw attention to the females. These birds are also well known to steal food from the blue-footed boobies, and other bird species for that matter. Additionally, you cannot miss the funny ritual dance performed by the blue-footed boobies in order to win over a female mate, or how they find the perfect pebble and place it by the females feet as a gift.

After lunch, we will go snorkeling and hopefully find sea turtles, Galapagos sharks, and perhaps there will be sea lions playing around in the surf along the shore. After a few hours of this activity, we will visit Bachas Beach. At this beach, you can choose to rest and/or swim in the wonderful Galapagos waters. Tour will end at approximately 5:00 pm. Once more you will be transferred back to the Red Mangrove hotel afterward.

Plazas Island / Carrión Point

After about 2 hours of navigation, you will finally arrive at Plazas Island. The first attraction to be seen are large colonies of sea lions. Then, just a few meters from the dock, a group of land iguanas can almost always be observed. The trail your guide will take you on goes through to the other side of the island, which is very small and rectangular. You will walk along a ravine sharing the path with land iguanas, some marine iguanas, and birds such as blue-footed and Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls and tropical birds. Apart from this, frigatebirds and pelicans can be found within the area. Lunch will be served onboard the vessel.

Despite its small size, this island is the home of a large number of species. It is famous for its extraordinary flora, including attractive and beautiful trees and cactuses where a large colony of Galapagos land iguanas live. Therefore, this island is very popular among local and foreign visitors. Depending on the season, the vegetation will change its color from bright green in the rainy season to orange and purple in the dry season. You cannot miss this spectacular landscape! The tour will end at approximately 5:00 pm. Afterwards, you'll be transferred to the hotel.

DAY 5: Santa Cruz Highlands and Charles Darwin Research Station

Today we will take a shuttle throughout Santa Cruz Island until we reach the highlands. This part of Santa Cruz is lush with green vegetation. Here we see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Lunch will be at a local ranch.

Afterwards, we will head to the Charles Darwin Research Station. The station is a reservoir of information on habitats and local conservation, as well as other fascinating and relevant statistics. The most striking attraction of this station is certainly the Tortoise Breeding Center. There it is possible to view tortoises of varied shapes and sizes.

Visitors can walk around freely enjoying the different interpretation centers and different wildlife within the station such as land iguanas and different species of birds. After this visit we will head to Puerto Ayora to the Red Mangrove Eco Luxury Hotel.

DAY 6: Transfer Out

After a complete breakfast with the company of sea lions and various finches at the Red Mangrove, you will be transferred to the other side of Santa Cruz to board the ferry that will take you back to Baltra airport for your flight back to mainland Ecuador.

The Price of the program is in US dollars, per person in DBL occupancy:

Room Category	1 pax	2 pax	3 - 5 pax	6 - 9 pax	10 - 16 pax	SGL Room Supplement (per pax) Rack Rates
Standard	\$ 7,276	\$ 4,845	\$ 4,433	\$ 4,112	\$ 3,909	\$ 1,183
Superior	\$ 7,395	\$ 4,901	\$ 4,489	\$ 4,167	\$ 3,965	\$ 1,245
Suite	\$ 8,814	\$ 5,556	\$ 5,143	\$ 4,823	\$ 4,620	\$ 2,006

The price of the program includes:

- Transfers in / out and to / from Baltra airport.
- Visits as specified within itinerary.
- Bilingual guide English / Spanish.
- Transportation throughout program.
- All meals
- Accommodation for 2 nights at Golden Bay or Hotel or similar and 3 nights at Red Mangrove Eco Luxury Hotel (breakfast included).
- Snorkeling equipment for daily tours (face mask and snorkel).

The price of the program does not include:

- Galapagos flight ticket.
- Entrance to the GPS National Park (\$100).
- Ingala Transit Card (\$20).
- Lunch on the 6th day
- Drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Tips and personal expenses.
- Activities and services not specified within itinerary.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Pickups for day tours are scheduled from 6:45 am to 7:30 am.
- The return or departure schedule of the tours is an estimated timeframe. There are no exact timetables due to weather, logistic, or park authorizations that could vary.

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(ADA-25/07/2019)