



ISLAND HOPPING 2017
Galapagos Quest
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS (SHARED TOUR)



- DAY 1:** Baltra – El Chato
- DAY 2:** Santa Fe island – Hidden beach
- DAY 3:** Transfer to Isabela – Wetlands – Tintoreras Islet
- DAY 4:** “Sierra Negra” Volcano / “Chico” volcano, transfer to Santa Cruz
- DAY 5:** Bay Tour
- DAY 6:** Plazas island – Carrion Point**
- DAY 7:** North Seymour* – Bachas or Bartolome Island – Sullivan Bay***
- DAY 8:** Twin craters – Airport

ITINERARY DESCRIPTION

DAY 1: QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL – BALTRA: CHATO RANCH

At the Baltra Airport will receive our staff, transfer to hotel, located on Santa Cruz. After lunch we will visit to “El Chato”, Tortoise Reserve, where you can observe giant tortoises in the wild. When these virtually catatonic, prehistoric-looking beasts extend their accordion like necks to feed, it’s an impressive sight. The reserve is also a good place to look for short-eared owls, Darwin’s finches, yellow warblers, Galápagos rails and paint-billed crakes. Overnight at hotel

DAY 2: SANTA FE ISLAND – HIDDEN BEACH

After breakfast, you will aboard a yacht, an hour sail, to Santa Fe island, from its huge precipices you could observe a forest of giant endemic cactus, colonies of sea birds, including pelicans, boobies and gulls in a calm turquoise bay, habited by a large number of sea lions, this is an ideal place to snorkel, swim with stingrays and tropical fish occasionally observe sea turtles. Lunch on board. Then we will visit Hidden beach and have a relax time before to return to the hotel.

DAY 3: TRANSFER TO ISABELA – FLAMINGOS LAGOON – TINTORERAS ISLET

Departure at 07:00 after breakfast, we board the yacht to the Isabela Island, navigation about two hours. After Arrival to Puerto Villamil, visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Center, which is located 1.5 km from the town you can walk or drive. Here observe turtles of all ages, can learn about the process of rising and breeding of giant turtles are considered endangered. Later visit Wetlands.

Then we continue our journey to TINTORERAS ISLET, is located on the south of Puerto Villamil. It has a small bay of completely calm turquoise waters, where you can see sea lions, sea turtles, marine iguanas, rays, etc. This bay is connected to a crystal clear crack, shallow and when the tide is low, the input is closed. In this crack, you can see how sharks swimming along with other small fish and sea lions. Approximate travel time from Puerto Villamil to Tintoreras islet is 10 minutes.

DAY 4: SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO / CHICO VOLCANO – SANTA CRUZ

On Isabela Island, at 8:00 am after breakfast, we will climb the Sierra Negra Volcano (second largest crater in the world). Lunch at a local restaurant, later, visit the “Chico” volcano (in activity), the tour is by car and then on horseback (optional), then you will observe the different vegetation of the island, along the way you will see the lava varieties according to their age, you can see white herons and hawks sometimes.

Then we return to Puerto Ayora.

DAY 5: BAY TOUR

After breakfast, visit the Lobería, this is an ideal place to snorkel, where in the company of our guides, you can swim alongside a colony of playful sea lions and colorful fish, sea turtles and occasionally appear stingrays.

In Punta Estrada, you see a small colony of blue footed boobies and pelicans. After landing on the dock and after a short walk, we reach the viewpoint channel sharks, for from a height of 14 to 15 meters watch. Then go to Cracks “las Grietas”, a paradise of crystal clear water lagoon, where you will swim like a natural pool, when you return visit “los alemanes” beach, where you can enjoy the sun and sea of Galapagos.

DAY 6: PLAZAS ISLAND – CARRION POINT

At 7:00 a.m. a bus to pick them up by their respective hotels for transfer to Itabaca Canal to board the yacht that will take us to Plazas Islands. After 2 hours of navigation, it just landed you can see one of the largest colonies of sea lions archipelago. Then just a few meters behind the dock landing a group of land iguanas are always observed. Then the trail goes to the other side of the island, which is very small and rectangular, walking along a ravine, where you can watch land iguanas, some marine iguanas and birds in the ravine or planning on the same, such as: boobies, blue footed and masked boobies, swallow-tailed gulls nesting, puffins and tropical birds. Besides frigates and pelicans often you fly over the ravines.

Despite its small size it is home to a large number of species and is famous for its extraordinary flora. Therefore, this island is very popular among domestic and foreign visitors. Because it has attractive beautiful trees and cactus thorn and of course the large colony of Galapagos land iguanas. Depending on the season, vegetation changes its color from bright green in the rainy season to orange and purple in the dry season!

DAY 7: NORTH SEYMOUR – BACHAS

At 7:00 a.m. a bus to pick them up by their respective hotels for transfer to Itabaca Canal to board the yacht that will take us through our journey. North Seymour Island is a great place for hiking. There is a visitor or circular path about 2 miles long that crosses the interior of the island and takes him to explore the rocky coast path. This trail will take you through some of the largest seabird colonies in the Galapagos Islands.

Here you will have the opportunity to observe nesting sites of Blue-Footed Boobies bright and colorful frigates that are visible throughout the year. Which are one of the biggest attractions of Galapagos. These birds inflate their huge red swish hanging from their necks when they try to attract or draw attention to a couple, the frigates are also well known to steal food from the blue-footed boobies. You definitely will delight comic or mating ritual dance performed by blue-footed boobies.

After lunch, we will snorkel with green sea turtles and the famous Galapagos sharks, you'll also appreciate the mischievous sea lions playing and surfing in the sea. Visit Bachas where we can enjoy the wonderful sun and Galapagos Sea. Finally we will be back at 5pm for transfer to your hotel.

or BARTOLOME ISLAND – SULLIVAN BAY

At 6:00 a.m. a bus to pick them up by their respective hotels for transfer to Itabaca Canal to board the yacht that will take our tour of this island turquoise waters and beautiful white sand beaches .

We will take on board breakfast and after 2 hours of sailing arrive at Bartholomew. Once arrived, we have to climb a staircase and from the top you will see a spectacular landscape of two beautiful bays and fascinating formations of lava and volcanic cones. Here is the famous Pinnacle. This is a huge black lava formation that has eroded over time and is the most representative image of the archipelago. Near Pinnacle Rock you can also see two beautiful beaches in the form of a crescent.

This island offers some of the most beautiful landscapes of the archipelago. The island is an extinct volcano and has a variety of red soils, orange, green, black and shiny volcanic formations. After practice snorkel with sea turtles, sharks, white tip reef, tropical fish, sea lions and many other unique marine species.

Also, this is the perfect area to observe the Galapagos Penguins. After lunch, we 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 typical forms and colors that contrast with lavas from older types.

Also Bartolome Island is the breeding ground of the green sea turtles. They come to the shores of the island to nest during the months of January and March of each year. We will be back at 5pm for transfer to your hotel.

DAY 8: TWIN CRATERS - AIRPORT

After breakfast, take a bus or taxi back to the airport, on the way you will make a final stop to visit the Twin Craters, geological subsidence in the middle of a forest of escalecias (native vegetation) located in the highest part of the island.

*** Itinerary is subject to change without prior warning depending on seasonal changes, weather conditions, and adjustments in policies set by the Galapagos National Park, or other unforeseen circumstances that may arise ***

Important notes:

- **Ecuadorians must add 14% VAT
- ** Supplement of 80 usd p/person in Ecuadorian holidays
- ** Prices subject to change without advance
- ** Bartolome Island - Sullivan Bay only on Tuesday and Friday
- ** Plazas Island – Carrion Point only on Wednesday and Saturday
- ** North Seymour - bachas only on Monday and Thursday



Standard room



Suite



Pool



INCLUDED:

- ✓ Accommodation at Ninfa Hotel in Santa Cruz island, All rooms have: air conditioning, TvCable, private bathroom, hot water; Outside: Bar, restaurant (wi-fi area), swimming pool, sun deck, play zone.
- ✓ Hotel Coral Blanco (2/3*) or Albermarle (3* sup) or similars in Isabela Island.
- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Lunch and dinner on Isabela island
- ✓ Lunch on Santa Cruz island
- ✓ Visit to the island according to the itinerary
- ✓ Transfer airport – hotel – airport with Spanish assistance
- ✓ Naturalist guides
- ✓ Snorkel equipment
- ✓ Soft drinks and snacks during navigation.
- ✓ Security lockers in the hotel front desk.

NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Air ticket Quito/Galapagos/Quito from \$519 per/person
- ✓ Dinner on Isla Santa Cruz island
- ✓ Transit card \$20 usd per / person
- ✓ Galapagos Park entrance fee:
Ecuadorian: \$6 p/p
Foreign passengers: \$100 p/p
- ✓ Isabela tax \$10 p/p
- ✓ Unspecified services