

ITINERARY H – GOLONDRINA YACHT

Monday

DAY 1



Baltra Island - Santa Cruz Island

AM

Departing Guayaquil to Galapagos (1½ Hour Flight).

BALTRA ISLAND: Home to Galapagos' main airport, this will be the starting point of your experience aboard the best tour of the Galapagos Islands. A bilingual guide will meet you at the airport and assist you during the transfer onboard the Golondrina. Welcome Ceremony, briefing session.

PM – After Lunch

TORTUGA BAY BEACH: After a 1½ Hour walk through the most inhabited island in Galapagos you'll arrive at the white sands and turquoise waters of Tortuga Bay. One of the most beautiful beaches of the Galapagos, Tortuga Bay has actually two beaches to offer: a wave-pounding surf that's frequented by local and international surfers; and a second beach where the ocean is calm and there are virtually no waves. After the visit at the beach you can enjoy the night life Tortuga Bay has to offer. Accommodation and dinner at Hotel Fernandina or similar.

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Tuesday

DAY 2



Santa Cruz Island

AM – After Breakfast

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND (CHARLES DARWIN SCIENTIFIC STATION): Visit the 1959-established Charles Darwin Station to learn about the Giant Tortoises and their reproduction, as well as the origin and formation of the archipelago.

PM – After Lunch

PRIMICIAS RANCH: On the very first stop, you'll be able to see the staple and namesake of the Islands: the Giant Tortoise, these gentle creatures are easily spotted gracing through the foliage or resting. Harder to spot but equally fascinating, the many birds that reside in the Galapagos are literal descendants of the Andean Plateau species; endemic sub-species of Mockingbirds, Flycatchers, Cattle Egrets and Finches can be seen throughout the Ranch.

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Wednesday

DAY 3



AM – After Breakfast

TINTORERAS: Located South of Port Villamil, Tintoreras has a tranquil turquoise-water bay where a variety of marine life can be seen: sea turtles, iguanas, and sea lions are almost a guaranteed spot. The bay is connected to a shallow fissure, when the tide is low the entrance is cut off and sharks and stingrays can be found swimming within. Lunch onboard.

PM

ARNALDO TUPIZA BREEDING CENTER: The population of giant tortoises of the island is maintained through their bred-in-captivity program.

WETLANDS: This area is known for its sandy beaches, rocky coastline and its mangroves. A series of trails allow tourists to closely observe the four species of mangrove that can be found in the Galapagos, as well as Great Blue Herons, Galapagos Hawks, Lava Herons, Striated Herons, Lava Gulls and many other bird species. 30 minute hike.

PLAYA DEL AMOR: On this beautiful beach you can see marine iguanas resting or diving in the crystal-clear waters, and iconic Galapagos' birds such as the blue-footed boobies, the masked boobies and frigatebirds.

LA PLAYITA: It is a beach of fine sand, you can see pelicans, marine iguanas, boobies fishing, as well as a mangrove and a cactus forest.

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EL TÚNEL DEL ESTERO: It is directly connected to the ocean; it is surrounded by cacti that make it an unparalleled landscape. While passing through it, you can see small crabs and a variety of small fish.

Thursday

DAY 4



Santa Cruz Island

AM – After Breakfast

RABIDA ISLAND: One of the more colorful and volcanically active islands of the archipelago, as well as an amazing diving site. We begin at the prominent Brown-Sanded Beach of Rabida, then a light ½ a mile hike to reach a lookout of breath-taking view. A paradise for birdwatchers, Flycatchers, Brown Pelicans, Galapagos Hawks, varieties of Finches and many other of the rarer species flock to Rabida. Wet landing, lunch onboard.

PM

DRAGON HILL: After docking, we'll go behind the beach to reach a hyper-saline lagoon frequented by Flamingos, Wilson's plovers, Black-bellied Ducks among others. The hike to Dragon Hill overviews the bay and takes you right into the Galapagos Land Iguana nesting grounds after which the site takes its name. Many of the iguanas nesting at Dragon Hill have been relocated here by the Charles Darwin Scientific Station.

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Friday

DAY 5



Santa Cruz Island

AM – After Breakfast

BLACK TURTLE COVE:

No landing, dinghy (panga) tour of the site; near Baltra.

An extraordinary beautiful experience. You'll get a chance to see Black Sea Turtles in the clear water below, as the dinghy cuts the engine and the operators row you along the mangrove-laden shoreline, discover hidden lagoons while keeping an eye out for the diverse bird and sea life variety.

After the cove, you'll do your final transfer to Baltra Airport by bus.