



ITINERARY

A

5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS
Friday to Tuesday

ROUTE



Day 1 – Friday
Flight to Baltra Airport (GPS)
Chato Reserve (Santa Cruz)

Day 2 – Saturday
Sullivan Bay (Santiago)
Bartholomew

Day 3 – Sunday
North Seymour
South Plaza

Day 4 – Monday
Pitt Islet and Pitt Point (San Cristobal)
Witch Hill (San Cristobal)

Day 5 – Tuesday
Interpretation Center (San Cristobal)
Transfer to San Cristobal Airport (SCY)

Our shortest routes give an excellent impression of this unique 'laboratory of evolution' in case you have little time, or if you are on a limited budget. However, you must understand that it would be impossible to see all the highlights in just a few days, although you will probably only visit the Galapagos once in a lifetime. Each island is distinctive and well worth a visit, with different landscapes and an ever-changing spectrum of adapted species.

HIGH CHANCE OF SPOTTING:



Waved Albatross



Blue & Red footed boobies



Galapagos Giant Tortoise



Galapagos Sea Lion



Great & American Frigatebird



Marine Iguana

DAY 1 - FRIDAY

AM - Flight to Baltra Airport (GPS)

Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, you will pass through an airport inspection point to insure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands, as well as to pay the park entrance fee of \$200 (unless it has been prepaid).

A guide will meet you, help you collect your luggage, and escort you on a short bus ride to the harbor.

PM - Chato Reserve (Santa Cruz)

On your first excursion, you will disembark at the Itabaca Channel and be driven to the highlands of Santa Cruz island, where you will visit an area populated by Galapagos giant tortoises. Because these magnificent reptiles don't stop their migration patterns at the official limits of the National Park, dozens of them also roam the island's agricultural properties and humid forests, enjoying muddy baths, devouring fallen fruits, and carrying birds on their backs. After sharing the company of these modern-day dinosaurs in their natural habitat, you will return on board for dinner, entertainment, and relaxation.



DAY 2 - SATURDAY

AM - Sullivan Bay (Santiago)

The arrival in Sullivan Bay is like a moon landing. The desolate, sprawling fields seem to be mostly lifeless, but this island, which is particularly popular among photographers, still offers a lot to see. There is even some life! Green sea turtles burrow in the small white sand beach, where you can also find crabs, blue herons and oystercatchers. In the lava flow, only sparse pioneer vegetation, such as lava cacti and mollugs, can grow.

PM - Bartholomew

The island of Bartholomew rises 114m above Sullivan Bay. Climb the steps of the Bartolomé Peak Trail and you will be rewarded with panoramic views over volcanic peaks, lunar craters and lava fields. Afterwards you can refresh yourself at the foot of the famous "Pinnacle Rock" and explore the underwater world in the shallow water while snorkelling.

Although there is little vegetation on this island, it has two breathtaking beaches, where sea turtles live. At the foot of the mountain you can also discover a small colony of Galapagos penguins.

DAY 3 – SUNDAY

AM – North Seymour

Seymour is an uplifted (as opposed to volcanic) island and therefore is generally flat and strewn with boulders. There are good nesting sites here for a large population of magnificent frigate birds. Blue-footed boobies perform their courtship dance in the more open areas and swallow-tailed gulls perch on the cliff edges. Despite the tremendous surf that can pound the outer shore, sea lions haul out onto the beach and can be found bodysurfing. Do watch your step as the boobies don't worry much about where they nest, and you might just step on one. The trees are dotted with male frigate birds trying to attract the attention of the ladies by inflating their bright red skin flaps. They sometimes fly in the air to call more attention to themselves. There's a circular path that takes you through the island to a beautiful, rocky shore where the waves crash a silvery-blue.

PM – South Plaza

This afternoon's excursion will be on the South Plaza Islet. While landing there, a barking Galapagos sea lion bull may block the jetty for a loud welcome to his beach and rookery. Overall, this islet breathes a unique Jurassic ambiance, with its psychedelic reddish flora and giant Opuntia cacti covering the landscape and providing food and shelter for thousands of endemic marine and Barrington iguanas. During this visit, you will also have the opportunity to swim over a reef of boulders that attracts an amazing variety of marine life, such as sea turtles, reef sharks, stingrays, and sea lions.



DAY 4 – MONDAY

AM – Pitt Islet and Pitt Point (San Cristobal)

The wind-sculpted cliffs of Pitt Point were the first sight of land when Charles Darwin arrived in the Galapagos aboard the HMS Beagle on September 15, 1835.

Today you will disembark to that very same small green sand beach, where you will first be greeted by a group of barking sea lions. Behind this dreamy beach, crossing some thorny bushes, begins a trail that will take you to the top of the cliff through a ravine. While you ascend, marvel at the landscapes of this geological wonder, where it's possible to find three species of boobies breeding and playing: blue-footed, red-footed and Nazca. Two species of frigate birds can be found as well (Great and Magnificent)

Do not miss the chance to snorkel or kayak around these far-away, dreamlike shores.

PM – Witch Hill (San Cristobal)

Witch Hill (Cerro Brujo in Spanish) is the remains of a tuff cone, and its primary attraction is a coral sand beach that opens into a tranquil bay. Snorkeling here leads to a rich habitat for marine iguanas, stingrays, white-tipped sharks, eagle rays, turtles, morays, garden eels, and many kinds of reef fishes.

Behind the sand dunes of the beach, there is a dry dark lava flow with salty ponds, which serve as a refreshment spot for iguanas, as well as a strategic place to observe coastal and migratory birds, including pelicans, blue-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls.



DAY 5 – TUESDAY

AM – Interpretation Center (San Cristobal)

The Galapagos National Park Visitor Center lies close to the port town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. The center explains a series of natural circumstances such as the volcanic origins of the islands, their remoteness from the continent, its ocean currents, its special climate, the arrival of different species, and their establishment, among others.

Transfer to San Cristobal airport

It has been a pleasure accompanying you on this unique trip and we hope to see you again very soon!



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