



# INTERCHANGE



## *Extension to Galapagos*

4 days / 3 nights Cruise on board M/V Santa Cruz

### Daily Itinerary

#### *Day 7 - Galapagos, Friday*

Escorted transfer between Hotel in Guayaquil and airport.  
Baggage handling of two pieces of luggage per person at airport and at hotel is included.

#### **Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal [Chatham] Island)**

Arrival by plane to San Cristobal Island and transfer to the MV SANTA CRUZ, which will be anchored at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the provincial capital of the Galápagos Islands. Cabin assignment and lunch. After lunch, introductory welcome talk and boat drill.



#### **Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)**

A dinghy ride along the shores of tuff-stone layers will bring us to Cerro Brujo's white coralline beach. Wet landing. The area will show us good views of seabirds like blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, herons, frigate birds, and some shore birds. Also, look for Galapagos sea lions. The beach is a great open walking area, with rewarding birdwatching. Highlights ashore include the Chatham (San Cristobal) Mockingbird, Chatham Lava Lizard; both species are endemic to this island, and seen nowhere else in Galapagos. We may also spot Yellow Warblers, Galapagos flycatchers and with luck a Vermillion flycatcher (endemic subspecies to San Cristobal). These are the same shores that Charles Darwin walked upon, back in September 1835, as San Cristobal was the first island where he set foot in the Galapagos. Back on board for a briefing on the next day's activities, followed by a cocktail offered by the Captain and dinner.

#### *Day 8 - Galapagos, Saturday*

### **Punta Suarez (Española (Hood) Island)**

Morning outing at Punta Suarez (dry landing) for an exciting walk on lava/boulder terrain to visit its unique sea bird colonies, including the waved albatrosses (April - December), Nazca (masked boobies), blue-footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls, and the famous blowhole. Among its landbirds, the Hood island mockingbird, and three species of Darwin's finches are common highlights. Also, look for red-green-black marine iguanas, and of course a rookery of sea lions right at the landing site. Back on board for lunch.



### **Punta Cormorant (Floreana Island)**

Disembark at Punta Cormorant (wet landing) at an olivine-crystal beach for an easy walk that includes a brackish water lagoon where bird species like Greater flamingos, pintail ducks, common stilts, herons, sandpipers, and others may be observed. This outing also includes a white-sand beach where sea turtles come out at night for nesting (from December to May). Possibility of snorkeling from the beach, or join our Glass Bottom Boat or advanced snorkeling panga if conditions permit. Briefing and dinner.



## ***Day 9 - Galapagos, Sunday***

### **Punta Espinoza (Fernandina Island)**

This morning brings us to the youngest island, Fernandina. Disembark (dry landing) for a one-mile walk. Punta Espinoza has an amazing combination of barrenness with lots of wildlife. Having no introduced mammals, Fernandina has a very unique environment with the highest density of marine iguanas, sharing their island habitat with sea lions, sally-light foot crabs, and hawks. Lava terrain calls for good walking shoes. Back on board for lunch. As we sail along the Bolívar Channel, astonishing views of the Galápagos' youngest volcanoes can be seen. The nutrient-rich waters of the west can also bring surprises like encountering sea birds feeding, dolphins, and possibly whales.

### **Punta Vicente Roca (Isla Isabela)**

In the afternoon, depending on the conditions of the ocean, we will schedule a snorkeling outing along the cliffs of partly-sunken Ecuador Volcano, in the northern tip of Isabela Island. Since there is no landing site at this location, we will include a coastal exploration by dinghy, where our naturalist guides will commit to explaining the dramatic geology of the area with remains of lava flows and tuff stone layers. This is the nesting place for flightless cormorants, the only existing marine birds in the world other than penguins that have changed their condition of flying birds to diving birds. Wildlife here also includes Sea lions, Galápagos Fur seals, Galápagos Penguins, Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies and noddy terns. This area has a very rich marine life, and is seasonally visited by green sea turtles. Details about the next day's activities before dinner.



## ***Day 10 - Galapagos, Monday***

### **Santa Cruz Island and Baltra Island**

Visiting the famous Charles Darwin Research Station will be certainly a rewarding adventure for this morning's program. It will just require a different approach, in order to accomplish all our travel plans. **This outing is an optional program and an early one.**



We arrive at the Itabaca Channel, between the islands of Baltra and Santa Cruz and disembark at the public dock (dry landing) for a 30-minute bus ride along the highlands in route to Puerto Ayora where

changes in vegetation can be witnessed. Upon arrival, we proceed to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the rearing in captivity program for the famous giant tortoises. Here we will get to understand the conservation efforts promoted by this institution, and stroll among an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest where endemic land birds can be seen. After an hour visit, return via the same route to cross the Itabaca Channel by ferry and take the bus to Baltra Island airport in time for the 12h15 flight back to the continent.

Guests not taking this optional excursion may stay on board for a later wake up call, and then disembark directly at Baltra Island and transfer to the airport.

17.40 hours – Depart Guayaquil on Iberia flight IB6464, arrive Madrid at 13.45 hours the next day.

### ***Day 11 – Madrid – London, Tuesday***

15.15 hours- Depart Madrid on flight IB3172 arriving Heathrow Terminal 2 at 16.35 hours.

### **NOTES:**

- The route and program may vary according to National Park policies and regulations, weather conditions, seasonal changes, safety reasons and wildlife encounters. Safety will be always part of the daily programming of activities. Kindly follow all suggestions. It is compulsory to wear a life vest during all dinghy rides between the ship and the shore. Flexibility is essential in order to cope with nature's outstanding features. Given the islands' volcanic origin, and the fact that most walking is done over pristine and irregular volcanic terrain, guests must be in suitable physical condition for this kind of outings. The ship also organizes activities like boat rides, glass-bottom boat trips, snorkeling, swimming, lectures, all complementing everyone's experience.
- The Expedition Staff will provide you with snorkeling gear (mask and snorkel, fins, floating vest and net bag). The operation does not carry prescription masks. A shortie wet suit is highly recommended from June to December. Cooperation of guests is a key point when complying with the rules of the National Park. This alone can guarantee a major success in the expedition.
- For island visits, two types of landings are planned:
  - Dry landing:** guests step from the dinghy directly onto rocks or a dock.
  - Wet landing:** as the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into knee-deep water and wade ashore.

Assistance to departure flight in Guayaquil. Baggage handling of two pieces of luggage per person is included.

**Price :** £1825 per person – based on Main Deck standard twin cabin.

### **Prices include :**

- Return flight from Guayaquil – Galapagos

- Galapagos National park entrance fee
- All transfers/transportation in connection with the itinerary
- 3 nights accommodation
- All meals
- Excursions as specified

**Not included :**

- Drinks with meals
- Airport departure tax on departure from Guayaquil \$27.75 back to the UK
- Tips, bar and personal items

**Booking**

Contact us to reserve a place and then download our booking form and forward to us with your deposit.

**Contact details**

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