



Galaven 8 Day B Itinerary (Tue-Tue)



(San Cristobal, Santa Fe, South Plaza, Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago, Bartholomew, North Seymour)

Day 1 (Tuesday)

MORNING FLIGHT FROM QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL TO SAN CRISTOBAL (GALAPAGOS) & JACINTO GORDILLO BREEDING CENTER or PUERTO CHINO

Assistance at the airport by our representative for your Galapagos flight.

You will arrive at **San Cristobal Island** in the morning. After going through immigration and baggage claim you will be met by a Galaven staff member and transferred to the yacht. You'll be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.


The **Jacinto Gordillo Breeding Center** is a new visitor site in the northeast part of San Cristóbal Island and takes approximately one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. At the Breeding Center you will be able to admire the hatchling turtles, from their birth until they are 4 years old when the grown turtles are taken to their natural habitat.


JACINTO GORDILLO BREEDING CENTER	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1Km)
Difficulty:	Easy / Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises in captivity, snorkeling with sea lions, land and sea birds, blue-footed boobies, hatchling turtles.

In the afternoon you will visit **Puerto Chino** located 15,2 miles (24.5 km) away from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and a few miles from the Breeding Center Cerro Colorado, this walk takes approximately 30 minutes to the beach.


PUERTO CHINO	
Possible Activities:	Hiking, swimming, snorkeling
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea birds, snorkeling


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Day 2 (Wednesday)

SANTA FE & SOUTH PLAZA ISLANDS

Your morning visit is to **Santa Fe Island** (Barrington) which is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails: one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.

SANTA FE	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, giant Opuntia cacti

In the afternoon, you will head to **South Plaza Island**. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is Sesuvium. During the rainy season, its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
Difficulty:	Moderate.
Type of Landing:	Dry landing.
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

Day 3 (Thursday)

SANTA CRUZ: FAUSTO LLERENA GIANT TORTOISES BREEDING CENTER & TWIN CRATERS

Today you will visit **Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center**. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Subspecies of tortoises interact with one another and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept here until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.

FAUSTO LLERENA TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant Land Tortoises



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The afternoon visit is to a site called **Los Gemelos (Twin Craters)**. Los Gemelos wait for you at the end of a short hike. These sinkholes are often referred to as craters, though the term is only descriptive, not literal. They were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The endemic Scalesia forest surrounds the site where you may see vermilion flycatchers, short-eared owls, and finches.

LOS GEMELOS (TWIN CRATERS)	
Possible Activities:	Short hiking
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Pit craters, Scalesia forest.

Day 4 (Friday)

ISABELA: SIERRA NEGRA & WETLANDS, THE WALL OF TEARS OR BREEDING STATION

The morning will consist of a visit to **The Sierra Negra Volcano** which is the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos at 9 x 10 km. The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to 7 species of finches and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005.

SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO	
Possible Activities:	Hiking, horseback riding, walking
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Basaltic caldera, stunning views, finches

The afternoon visit will head to the **Wetlands** of Isabela Island, which are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path through the swamps.

WETLANDS	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant mangroves, shore birds

The Tortoise Breeding Station was created to protect animals in their first years of life from the threats of foreign species such as pigs and donkeys. Giant tortoise eggs are collected and brought to the center where they are hatched and kept for five years before being released to their natural environment.



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TORTOISE BREEDING STATION	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Two of the five subspecies of the giant tortoise

Day 5 (Saturday)

ISABELA ISLAND: MORENO POINT & TAGUS COVE

In the morning you will visit **Moreno Point** located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

MORENO POINT	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 miles / 2km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Flamingos, gallinules, pintail ducks, turtles, white-tip reef sharks.

In the afternoon, you will visit **Tagus Cove** on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, close to the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.

Tagus Cove	
Possible Activities:	Long hike, snorkeling, panga ride
Difficulty:	Moderate / Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, flightless cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

Day 6 (Sunday)

FERNANDINA ISLAND - ESPINOSA POINT & ISABELA ISLAND - VICENTE ROCA POINT

In the morning you will visit **Fernandina Island**. No foreign species have ever invaded this island, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. Fernandina is the youngest island in the Galapagos. Access to this site is extremely restricted by the Galapagos National Park, and you will be one of those very lucky visitors. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean.



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Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at **Espinosa Point**, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you'll reach the island's highlight: The flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

ESPINOSA POINT	
Possible Activities:	Hike of approx. (1.2 miles / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry and slippery at low tide
Highlights & Animals:	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'a lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre"

In the afternoon, you will head to **Isabela Island**, which is the largest in the archipelago. This seahorse-shaped island is also one of the youngest and most volcanically active.

The afternoon visit is at **Vicente Roca Point**. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sunfish).

VICENTE ROCA POINT	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling & panga ride
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	No landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions. Snorkeling: sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

Day 7 (Monday)

SANTIAGO – ESPUMILLA BEACH OR BUCCANEER COVE & BARTHOLOMEW ISLAND

Your morning visit is to **Espumilla Beach** where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could find yourself face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish.



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ESPUMILLA BEACH	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling and swimming
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Snorkeling

In the afternoon you will head for **Bartholomew Island**, home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. You will take a trail of stairs to the summit of the volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you will enjoy one of the best views of the islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation found on this barren island. The beach is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see the Galapagos penguins.

BARTHOLOMEW ISLAND	
Possible Activities:	Panga ride, snorkeling & hike (1.2 miles / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 114 meters, 375 wooden steps
Type of Landing:	Dry and wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus. Reef sharks, rays, great colorful fish.

Day 8 (Tuesday)

NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND - DEPARTURE

North Seymour. Here you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

NORTH SEYMOUR	
Possible Activities:	Panga ride & hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions.

After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.