

### ITINERARY B2 (8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS)

For those passengers interested in nature but also in interacting with the local inhabitants of the Islands, this is the most suited itinerary aboard the great Yacht Catamaran Anahi. During our cruise we will visit San Cristobal Island where we find Puerto Baquerizo Moreno the capital of the Galapagos Province, the Island of Floreana where the first colonists of Galapagos arrived, and finally the city of Puerto Ayora the biggest town of the Archipel. Nevertheless we also visit other islands with beautiful flora, landscape, and fauna of Galapagos: Genovesa Island with the red footed boobies, Plazas and Santa Fe with the land iguanas, Espanola Island, one of the most famous and interesting islands due to its varied fauna.



***Nomenclature of Complementary Activities: W: Walk S: Snorkeling K: Kayaking PR: Panga Ride***

*(Note: Activities are subject to change depending on weather, regulations of the Galapagos National Park and the guide in charge)*

### **Day 1. Friday: Arrival on Baltra Island. Playa Bachas.**

Your arrival will occur about midday (local time) where our guide will be waiting for you with a signboard with the name of our Yacht Anahi at the lobby. The baggage is taken care by one of our crew members who will transport them directly to the yacht. First we will be transported by public bus to the place known as “El Muelle” (pier) from where our zodiacs will be ready to take you to the Yacht Anahi. Our Captain and crew will welcome you with a drink and then you will be allocated in your cabins. Following lunch, our guide will give us a short explanation about the afternoon activities. At about 2 p.m. we will disembark with our zodiacs to be taken to the place known as **Playa Bachas**. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, making it very white and soft, and a favourite nesting site for sea turtles. To a side of one of the beaches, we find a small lagoon where the occasional flamingo can be observed, as well as many other animal species such as the black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, and has two old barges that were abandoned during the Second World War when the US used Baltra Island as a military base. Here we will also encounter sea lions which rest on the beach, as well as marine iguanas and several marine birds. We will have some time to enjoy the calmness of the beach, as well as some time with playful sea lions that swim with visitors. **W.S.**

At 7 p.m. you will have the official welcome reception, followed by a delicious dinner. After dinner your guide will give you a briefing about the next day activities. **Lunch, Dinner.**



## Day 2. Saturday: Genovesa Island.

At 6 am. we will be arriving at Genovesa Island. This is the northeastern most Island in the Galapagos Archipelago also known as Tower Island with just 14 sq. km in size and a maximum elevation of 64 m (210 ft.). The horse-shoe shaped island has a volcanic caldera whose wall has collapsed, forming the beautiful **Great Darwin Bay**, surrounded by high cliffs. Although no historical eruptions are known from Genovesa, there are very young lava flows on the flanks of the volcano. Genovesa is also known as Bird Island, because of the large and varied bird colonies which nest here. There is an abundance of frigate birds and it is among the best place in the archipelago to see Red-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, storm petrels, tropicbirds, Darwin's finches, Galápagos Mockingbirds, the endemic Galapagos Dove and the short-eared owls.

The first visitor site is the **Darwin Bay Beach**, a very beautiful site due to the great abundance of sea birds that nest on the salt bush plants that dominate the area, which we will visit in the morning. In the afternoon we head to the second visitor point which known as the **Prince Philip's Steps**. We will accent 25 meters of stairs into one of the best bird nesting sites in the islands.

On Genovesa we will also have opportunity for panga ride, snorkeling, kayaking and walking.

**W.S.K.PR**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.**



### Day 3. Sunday: Plazas and Santa Fe Islands.

Our arrival to **Plazas Islands** will be at around 6 am after nighttime navigation. After breakfast we start our first visit in the morning. Plazas are two small islets that were uplifted a short distance from the East Coast of Santa Cruz. The unusual vegetation and location of the island create an interesting landscape in which the fauna and flora of Galápagos are enhanced. Moreover, despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the archipelago occur here. It is possible to guarantee the observation of land iguanas that often are in the shade of a cactus. Nesting on the rugged southern cliffs, are usually swallow tailed gulls, along with various other sea birds. The protected rocky seashore is a prime habitat for a large colony of noisy sea lions. The main attractions of Plazas Island include the land iguanas, the sea lions and the swallow tailed gulls as well as yellow tailed mullets, Audubon's shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds, and brown pelicans gliding past the cliff. We return to the yacht for lunch and a well-deserved rest. **W.**

In the afternoon we start our second visit to **Santa Fe (Barrington) Island**. The small bay on Barrington's northeast coast is extremely picturesque, where we can visit the two different trails, one leading to a scenic viewpoint on top of a cliff where it is possible to find land iguanas, endemic to the island. The other trail is near the beach and is a short circular trail where it is possible to find another colony of land iguanas, but early in the morning or in the afternoon when the sun is low. A particular attraction is the unusually tall forest of prickly cactus. Here we will also have the possibilities to do kayaking, snorkeling, panga ride and walks to observe and enjoy nature. We'll then return to the yacht for dinner and relaxation time. **W.S.K.PR.**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.**



#### **Day 4. Monday: San Cristobal Island: Punta Pitt, Kicker Rock and Lobos Island.**

In the morning we will arrive to San Cristobal (*Chatham*) Island the easternmost island in the Galápagos archipelago, and one of the geologically oldest. The name "San Cristobal" comes from the patron saint of seafarers, St. Christopher. English speakers increasingly use that name in preference to the traditional English name of Chatham Island, derived from William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham. The Island has an area of 558 km<sup>2</sup> (215 miles<sup>2</sup>) and its highest point rises to 730 m (2400 ft.). The capital of the archipelago, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, is a small town lying at the south-western tip of the island. San Cristobal hosts a myriad of animal life including frigate birds, Galapagos sea lions, Galápagos giant tortoises, blue and red footed boobies, tropical birds, marine iguanas, dolphins, swallow-tailed seagulls and many more.

In the morning we visit **Punta Pitt**, considered as one of the most beautiful and impressive sites of Galapagos. The erosion of the high cliffs and the almost constant foggy morning gives to Punta Pitt an eerie atmosphere. Being the northeastern most point in Galapagos, it has become amongst the favorite nesting sites for sea birds. Here we can observe the three different species of boobies and great frigate birds nesting in the same area. We return to the yacht for lunch and in the afternoon we navigate towards the giant and impressive rocky formation locally known as "**Leon Dormido**" (**sleeping sea lion**). On the cliffs we can see lots of blue-footed boobies, masked boobies, pelicans and other several marine birds. During our snorkeling activity we can observe sharks, marine turtles, sea rays, and several species of colorful fishes next to the impressive rock formation. Later on we go for a walk on **Isla Lobos (Lobos Island)**, a small islet separated from the main Island by a narrow stretch of calm water. Upon its rocky shores blue-footed boobies nest and sea lions rest. The atmosphere is one of tranquility and primitive beauty. The typical Galapagos environment.

**W.S.**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.**



## Day 5. Tuesday: San Cristobal Island: Junco Lagoon, Cerro Colorado Galapaguera

In the morning our guide will take you up on the highlands of San Cristobal Island. Our tour starts from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and our first visit point will be to the **Laguna El Junco (El Junco Lagoon)**. Rainwater and condensation have collected for hundreds of years in the caldera of an extinct volcano, creating this haven for frigate birds. The lake is the main water supplier for the island population and thus of vital importance. Hiking around the lake offers views of practically the entire island including San Joaquin Hill, the island's highest point. **W.**

Our next stop will be at **Cerro Colorado Turtle Breeding Center**. Here we can learn about the hard work developed by scientists in order to preserve the species of the Giant Galapagos Turtles. There is a nice walk on a trail which permits you to be in close contact with the turtles of the different sizes, from the tiny ones to the giant oldest ones.

Following lunch our guide will give a short explanation about the afternoon activities. At about 2 p.m. you will disembark and start our walking tour to visit the **Interpretation Center of San Cristobal**, located in the outskirts of the small city of Pto. Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galapagos Province. The interpretation center gives us a great introduction to the islands, from the natural and human history, to the actual efforts taken by the National Park and marine reserve to protect the fragile environment. We then walk up to the place known as **Frigate Bird Hill**. This short hike starts from the interpretation Center and takes about 30 minutes to reach the top of the hill. Once there, visitors are treated to a spectacular view of the white beaches and the amazing Kicker Rock formation emerging from the Pacific Ocean, and the roofs of the houses of Puerto Baquerizo. The hill is often visited by Frigate birds who nest here in certain times of the year, thus giving it its name. Both the species of "Magnificent" frigate birds and "great" frigate birds can be seen here! From the hill we descend towards the small cove known as Punta Carola, a place where we find a colony of cute sea lions. A great spectacle! **W.**

We then return to the yacht for dinner and in the evening (if desired) you can go to town for a walk and perhaps a drink at one of the local bars. **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included.**



## Day 6. Wednesday: Española Island: Punta Suarez & Gardner Bay.

In the morning after a night boat ride, we will be arriving to Española Island, also known as Hood Island after Viscount Samuel Hood. It is located in the extreme southeast of the archipelago and is considered, along with Santa Fe, one of the oldest islands at approximately four million years of age. The island is slowly becoming a rocky, barren land with little or no vegetation, with sand and soft shingle beaches which attracts a healthy number of Galapagos Sea Lions.

We will visit the two spots that are especially popular with visitors: In the morning and after breakfast we will be visiting **Punta Suárez**, a destination of great interest due of its abundance of bird-life. This island also has its own species of animals, such as the Española Mockingbird, which has a distinctive longer and more curved beak than variations in other islands; the Española lava lizard; the Marine Iguana of the subspecies *venustissimus*, which has red markings on its back; among others. We can also observe Swallow-tailed Gulls and other tropical birds that live in the rocky slopes.



Amongst the most interesting attractions we find the Waved Albatross, where almost the entire world population arrives to breed here from March to January, and the mating dances of the funny Blue-footed Boobies. There are hundreds of masked Boobies, colonies of sea lions, huge colonies of marine iguanas, and different species of birds. We'll return to the yacht for lunch and after a short rest we begin our afternoon visit to **Bahía Gardner** which has a lovely beach, excellent for swimming and snorkeling. Here we also find a big colony of playful sea lions and with luck we can observe Galapagos hawks and the local species of snakes, while almost certainly Darwin finches, mocking birds and sea turtles. **W.S.K.PR.**

After enjoying the beach, we return to the yacht for dinner and rest for the day. **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.**

**Day 7. Thursday: Floreana Island: Punta Cormorant, Devils Crown & Post Office Bay/ Asilo de la Paz.**



Floreana Island was named after Juan José Flores, the first president of Ecuador during whose administration the government of Ecuador took possession of the archipelago. It was previously called Charles Island (after King Charles II of England), and Santa Maria after one of Columbus' ships. The island has an area of 173 square km (67sq mi) formed by volcanic eruptions like most main islands of the archipelago, with the highest point being Cerro Pajas at 640m (2,100ft). In the morning we will go to **Punta Cormorant**, a site which probably offers the largest and best flamingo lagoon in the Galapagos. It is situated between two "tuff" type cones that give the area a special atmosphere. There are various species of shorebirds to be seen besides flamingos, the most frequent being stilts, white-checked pintail ducks and other migratory birds. This is a unique zone due to the high percentage of endemic (unique to the island) plant life. Here we see the "green beach" (due to high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand) and the "Flour sand beach" made up of coral which are two of the most interesting beaches of the islands. We can also snorkel from the beach around the area. We return to the yacht to start our snorkel activity at the place known as Corona del Diablo (Devil's Crown). This is a submerged eroded volcanic crater where the interior of the formation is ideal for the sustainment of a wonderful coral reef habitat making it one of the most fascinating marine sites in the Galapagos. Here you can observe reefs, sea lions, reef fish, hammerhead sharks, and several other species of fish. We'll return for lunch to the yacht, followed by a short navigation and rest period. **W.S.PR.**

Our afternoon visit will be to the famous **Post Office Bay**, which historically served as a letter exchange station through the use of a wooden barrel that was placed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the crew of a whaling ship. Both Sailors and tourists have used this rudimentary system to exchange correspondence to every corner of the world! The idea is to carry letters or postcards to their destination by hand, thus creating a very special "Postal Service" apart from being the Post Office location this site was also the landing area for some of the first colonists. Later on we will visit the place known as "Asilo de La Paz" (Haven of Peace), known for its bizarre history as one of the first occupied spaces of the islands by a German family with the last name of Wittmer. After exploring the caves where this family used to live, we will return to our yacht to begin our navigation towards the port of Puerto Ayora, the biggest town in Galapagos. With luck, we can spot herds of dolphins during our navigation, as well as sea rays and marine turtles. **W. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Day 8. Friday: Santa Cruz Island: F. Llerena Interpretation Center & Giant Galapagos Turtles.**

After breakfast, we will depart from our ship, and with the company of your guide we will visit 2 interesting attraction points before heading to the airport. We start with a walk in the Galapagos National Park “Fausto Llerena” turtle breeding and Interpretation Center where we can learn about the work done to maintain the species of this unique animal. **W.**

Then we will be transported to the Itabaca Channel which we cross with a local ferry to take a bus on the other side headed to the Airport of Baltra Island. Here our voyage ends, and we will say goodbye to our guide and to the Galapagos Islands, which wait for your next visit. **Breakfast.**





## **Anahi Yacht Operation:**

Arrival from Quito or Guayaquil to Galapagos Baltra airport normally occurs between 12 p.m. – 13 p.m. local time. After airport check out and payment of entrance fee, passengers will be welcomed by the guide and transferred to the yacht where you will have lunch followed by a short briefing of the following day's activities.

Navigations generally begin between 2am to 3am. As it heads to the next island arriving around 6am. Breakfast is normally served at about 7am followed by disembarking (wet or dry) in the shores of the islands where our visits generally last for about 2 hours with hikes, snorkelling and combination of both. Lunch generally occurs at 13:00pm. In the afternoon, some of the Itineraries also involve short navigation periods that take clients to the next visit point.



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