

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Name

ISABELA II Northern Islands. 7Days/6Nights (Tuesday to Monday)

Description

We're delighted to have you on board for an unparalleled 7-day journey of discovery to some of the most beautiful islands in Galapagos. We begin our itinerary at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galapagos Province. On our first afternoon, we visit Cerro Colorado's giant tortoise breeding centre. Sailing north overnight, we awaken to thousands of birds at the sunken caldera of Genovesa Island. On Thursday, we return to the central islands and learn about Buccaneer Cove's distant and recent history before heading to Puerto Egas, a great place to see land and marine birds as well as tuff-stone layers and lava flows. In both sites we will have an opportunity to enjoy the water. After a full-night's journey, we reach Fernandina and Isabela. First stop, Punta Espinoza with its amazing combination of barrenness and abundant wildlife and then Tagus Cove, where an uphill hike takes us to the rim of Darwin Crater. Time for a panga ride then aquatic activities. The next day, Urbina Bay's large and colourful Galapagos land iguanas await, followed by Punta Vicente Roca's abundant wildlife and, hopefully, sightings of green sea turtles. On Sunday, we anchor to visit Rabida Island's red beach and large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. In the afternoon, we stop to see the land iguanas of *Cerro Dragón* (Dragon Hill), and get a beautiful view of the bay. We end our journey at Baltra airport.

	AM VISITS	ISLAND	Aquatic Activities	PM VISITS	ISLAND	Aquatic Activities	Highlight
Tuesday	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno Airport	San Cristobal Island		Cerro Colorado Tortoise Breeding Centre	San Cristobal Island		Genovesa & Fernandina
Wednesday	Prince Philip Steps	Genovesa Island	 	Darwin Bay	Genovesa Island	  	
Thursday	Buccaneer Cove	Santiago Island	 	Puerto Egas	Santiago Island	  	
Friday	Punta Espinoza	Fernandina Island		Tagus Cove	Isabela Island	  	
Saturday	Urbina Bay	Isabela Island	 	Punta Vicente Roca	Isabela Island	 	
Sunday	Red Beach	Rabida Island	  	Dragon Hill	Santa Cruz Island		
Monday	Baltra Airport	Baltra Island					



TO-ENRITENERY
NORTHERN GALAPAGOS
TUESDAY TO MONDAY
SAN CRISTOBAL - BALTRA

GALAPAGOS BIG15

	Galapagos Albatross	Blue-footed Booby	Naasa Booby	Red-footed Booby	Flightless Cormorant	American Flamingo	Regent's Reef and Magnificent	Galapagos Hawk	Land Iguana	Marine Iguana	Santa Fe Iguana	Galapagos Penguin	Galapagos Sea Lion	Galapagos Fur Seal	Galapagos Giant Tortoise	BIG 15
		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	13/15

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

- Day 1 - SAN CRISTOBAL** (-/L/D)
 Tuesday: AM Arrival at San Cristobal airport / PM Cerro Colorado Tortoise Breeding Centre, welcome cocktail party.
- Day 2 - GENOVESA** (B/L/D)
 Wednesday: AM Prince Phillip Steps: Walk, snorkelling, panga ride, kayaking / PM Darwin Bay: Walk, snorkelling.
- Day 3 - SANTIAGO** (B/L/D)
 Thursday: AM Buccaneer Cove: Walk, snorkelling, glass bottom boat ride, swimming / PM Puerto Egas: Snorkelling and swimming.
- Day 4 - ISABELA** (B/L/D)
 Friday: AM Punta Espinoza: Walk, snorkelling / PM Tagus Cove: Walk, snorkelling, panga ride, swimming, kayaking.
- Day 5 - ISABELA** (B/L/D)
 Saturday: AM Urbina Bay: Walk, snorkelling / PM Punta Vicente Roca: Snorkelling, panga ride
- Day 6 - RABIDA / SANTA CRUZ** (B/L/D)
 Sunday: AM Rabida: Walk, snorkelling, panga ride, glass bottom boat ride, swimming, kayaking / PM Dragon Hill: Walk.
- Day 7 - BALTRA** (B/-)
 Monday: AM Transfer out to Baltra airport

ITINERARY DESCRIPTION

Day 1 - SAN CRISTOBAL

(-/L/D)

Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal Island)

We arrive by plane at San Cristobal Island and transfer to Yacht Isabela II for cabin assignment, introductory briefing and lunch.

Cerro Colorado Breeding Centre

After lunch, we land back at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and drive 40 minutes to the island's southern shore. At Cerro Colorado, we visit the breeding centre of the highly-endangered giant tortoises in the midst of a fantastic deciduous forest, home to dozens of bird species and the endemic San Cristobal lava lizard.



Day 2 - GENOVESA

(B/L/D)

Prince Philip's Steps (Tower/Genovesa Island)

Overnight, we navigate northbound to the incredible bird haven on Genovesa Island, crossing the equator on the way. The morning starts with a panga ride along the cliffs of this dramatic island, followed by a dry landing with a steep climb (90 feet) up some stairs to reach a flat plateau. Along our walk, we can observe large colonies of Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, great frigatebirds and storm petrels. Coastal exploration along the cliffs (depending on weather conditions) will let us see more wildlife, including Galapagos fur seals. We can also enjoy snorkelling and kayaking.



Darwin Bay (Genovesa Island)

In the afternoon, we land at the beach for an easy stroll observing hundreds of birds, mainly frigatebirds, red-footed and Nazca boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds. There's an optional walk over sharp lava and uneven terrain for dramatic views, or else we can return to the beach to enjoy snorkelling at this beautiful natural harbour.



Day 3 - SANTIAGO

(B/L/D)

Buccaneer Cove (James/Santiago Island)

After breakfast, we enjoy a coastal exploration along the impressive cliffs of Buccaneer's Cove, learning about the area's distant and recent history. The cove is home to a large number of marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. Enjoy fantastic natural formations such as the "The Bishop" and an impressive natural cave. This is a great site for snorkelling too or ride in our glass-bottom boat.

Puerto Egas (Santiago Island)

This is a wonderful opportunity to see land and marine birds amidst a landscape of tuff-stone layers and lava flows. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon the algae beds and we can also observe a colony of fur seals. Back at the beach where we land, there's very good snorkelling and swimming here.



Day 4 - ISABELA

(B/L/D)

Punta Espinoza (Fernandina Island)

In the morning, we visit the youngest island of the archipelago, Fernandina. Punta Espinoza has an amazing combination of barrenness and abundant wildlife. Highlights include hawks, penguins, flightless cormorants, and some of the densest colonies of marine iguanas. Snorkeling here usually bring unexpected marine encounters.

Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)

Across the narrow Bolivar Channel, we anchor at this cove on the northwest of Isabela. It provided a favourite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. An uphill hike takes guests to the rim of Darwin Crater, filled with salt water and to a dramatic viewpoint. After our walk, we take a panga ride to spot local wildlife, including some Galapagos penguins with the possibility of swimming, kayaking or snorkelling.

**Day 5 - ISABELA**

(B/L/D)

Urbina Bay (Isabela Island)

After breakfast we disembark at Urbina Bay, the result of an uplifting of the ocean floor in 1954. Here you can find corals, shells and many other calcareous organisms exposed above water. This area is also home to large and very colourful Galapagos land iguanas, and occasionally to giant tortoises. Along the shoreline, after the hike, guests may encounter flightless cormorants and see penguins while snorkelling.

Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island)

Since there is no landing site at this location, the coastal exploration is by skiff, while naturalists explain the dramatic geology of the area, with remains of lava flows and tuff stone layers. There is abundant wildlife and, depending on the conditions of the ocean, we'll be able to snorkel along the cliffs, hopefully in the company of green sea turtles and penguins. Expedition plan for Sunday and dinner.



(B/L/D)

Day 6 - RABIDA / SANTA CRUZ
Rabida Island (Jervis Island)

In the morning, we disembark at Rabida Island's red-coloured beach. A stroll allows us to observe a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach. We can also enjoy a panga ride, kayaking or ride in our glass-bottom boat.

Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) (Santa Cruz Island)

The north shore of Santa Cruz hosts Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill). Our walk includes circling a brackish water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, including ducks, stilts and some few flamingos. Further inland, the trail brings us to the nesting area of land iguanas, and then it offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago



Day 7 - BALTRA
Baltra Island

(B/-/-)

Our journey ends at Baltra Island where we transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the mainland.

Notes

- Please remember that the exact route and programme may vary according to weather and ocean conditions and the wildlife we encounter. Our Expedition Team is in charge of

planning the daily activities and logistics involved. It's also subject to change without previous notice due mainly to readjustment of the National Park policies and regulations.

For accessing the different visitor sites, our skiffs will bring us ashore where two types of landing are expected:

Dry landing: Guests step from the panga (dinghy/skiff) onto rocks or a small man-made jetty.

Wet landing: As the skiff edges onto a sandy beach, guests gently step into small breakers and wade ashore.

Recommendations

PACKING CHECK LIST

- 1 Small backpack
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sneakers with rubber soles
- Shorts
- Long pants
- T-shirts
- Long and short sleeved shirts
- Wind breaker
- Bathing suit – wetsuit for snorkelling in cold months (also available for on board rental)
- Hat or cap
- Toilette kit (biodegradable shampoo please)
- Sun block SPF30 or higher
- Sunglasses (polarized glasses recommended)
- Binoculars (8 x 42 recommended)
- Photo & video equipment
- Any medicine you may be taking
- Book / notebook

Included

All meals, island sightseeing, naturalists and lecture services, wi-fi internet access*, snorkelling gear and transfers.

Not Included

Air tickets to/from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park admission fee (US \$100 subject to change without notice), transit Control Card for Galapagos (US\$ 20 per person), wet suits, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage, tips, gifts, and additional items of personal nature.

* Due to the Galapagos' remote location, internet signal follows a low-bandwidth satellite service and may be intermittent at certain locations.