



**SUNDAY:** Fly to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (SCY) on **SAN CRISTOBAL** Island, and transfer by bus then Zodiac to the ERIC or LETTY anchored in the bay. After the welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served on board. In the afternoon, travel by bus to **Cerro Tijeretas** (Frigatebird Hill), one of two sites where you can see nesting colonies of both species of frigatebirds (Great and Magnificent), as well lava lizards, the medium ground finch and the Chatham mockingbird. Walk along the trail to Punta Carola for scenic views, then return to the yacht in the evening for a briefing followed by our Captain's welcome party and dinner.

**MONDAY:** We spend the morning at **Cerro Brujo**, a breathtaking white coral beach, with expansive views and good birdwatching. Take a peaceful walk along the beach, snorkel or kayak or swim with sea lions. Enjoy a scenic zodiac ride through a cave called The Cathedral before returning to the yacht for lunch. Go ashore this afternoon at **Punta Pitt**, a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including all three types of boobies – blue-footed, red-footed and Nazca, both frigatebird species, swallow-tailed gulls, storm petrels, shearwaters and brown pelicans. Punta Pitt is considered one of the best sites for birds in the archipelago, and is also home to a colony of sea lions. At Pitt Rock, we snorkel or swim with sea lions and colorful fish such as King Angel and Surgeon fish. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

**TUESDAY:** Disembark at **Punta Suarez on ESPANOLA (Hood)** Island, home to the greatest number of endemic species found in Galapagos. Sea lions bark noisy greetings as we land on the beach, while curious Hood mockingbirds peck at our shoelaces. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in sky-pointing to show off for potential mates. From April to December, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, performs its wild mating ritual. Other easily spotted wildlife are the Nazca boobies busily caring for their young, stunning swallow-tailed gulls, the only nocturnal gulls in the world. We also find Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves, red-billed tropicbirds and Galapagos Hawks, as well as a unique species of marine iguanas with traces of red and green colorings. Follow the trail to the dramatic ocean blow hole, watch for colorful sally light-foot crabs crawling along the shoreline. Return to the yacht for lunch on board. Disembark at **Gardner Bay**, where large colonies of sea lions dot the seemingly endless white-sand beach. Take a leisurely stroll or relax on the beach, watching the Galapagos hawk, Darwin's finch, or Espanola mockingbird. Swim with playful sea lions from the beach, explore the bay and islets by kayak or stand-up paddle board. Take a Zodiac ride to explore the caves covered with invertebrates. Admire the colorful array of underwater life at the excellent snorkeling site near Tortuga Rock. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

**WEDNESDAY:** Step ashore at **Punta Cormorant on FLOREANA (Charles)** Island, where the olive-sand beach is alive with the sounds of sea lions, lava herons, yellow-crowned night herons, blue-footed boobies, and penguins. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home to Bahama ducks, common stilts, Galapagos flycatchers, yellow warblers and the greater flamingos. Wind your way past a rich variety of plants including the morning glory, cut-leaf daisies, mangroves (black, red and white), palo verde and scalesia. The trail leads to a beach where sea turtles lay their eggs in the powdery sand dunes and sting rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, there is an opportunity to snorkel at Champion Islet, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral, white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and sea stars. Lunch is served back on board on the sundeck, weather permitting. Floreana is one of the few populated islands in Galapagos with a rich and intriguing human history. After lunch, visit one of the most famous sites in Galapagos, **Post Office Bay**, where a post barrel was erected in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century for use by English whaling vessels. Visitors are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail destined for their home town. There is an opportunity to swim from the beach with sea lions. Late afternoon, take a Zodiac ride near Baroness Point to look for sea turtles and rays. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

**THURSDAY:** Disembark at **Puerto Ayora, SANTA CRUZ** Island, the social heart of the Galapagos, with a population of 24,000. Travel by bus to the highlands, passing through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Visit the tortoise reserve at Las Primicias, a private farm that protects giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Stop at the Tunnels, the largest lava tubes in the archipelago, and visit *Los Gemelos*, (The Twins), a pair of large craters. Return to the yacht for lunch on board. This afternoon we visit the **Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena** (formerly the Charles Darwin Research Station). Visit the tortoise corals and the breeding center with hatchlings and miniature tortoises that will be repatriated when grown. Scientists from all over the globe conduct biological research at the station from anatomy to zoology. Visit the new exhibit honoring Lonesome George, a worldwide icon of conservation as the last surviving tortoise from Pinta Island that tragically died of natural causes. Stroll through town to shop for souvenirs or stop at an internet café. Return to the yacht for dinner or, if you wish, remain ashore for dinner on your own. Zodiac shuttles from ERIC and LETTY to the main dock will be offered throughout the evening.

**FRIDAY:** Today, guests on board the Eric visit **Las Bachas** (Spanish for barges) on the northern side of Santa Cruz. Explore the long stretch of a white sand beach and the interior lagoons populated by greater flamingo, then take the opportunity for some wonderful snorkeling from the beach. Guest onboard the Letty will have a Zodiac ride at **Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove)** through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. View pairs of mating sea turtles (Sept to Feb), white-tipped reef sharks and golden cow-nosed rays. We return to the yacht for lunch. After lunch, disembark at **BARTOLOME**, a young Island that is inhospitable to most plants and animals. Climb the long wooden staircase to the summit of a dormant volcano, pausing along the way to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. It seems as if we are walking on the moon! The panoramic view from the top encompasses the entire island, including the distinctive eroded tuff cone known as Pinnacle Rock. The crystal clear water below beckons for snorkeling with schools of tropical fish, white-tipped reef sharks and Galapagos Penguins. Take a Zodiac ride along the rocky shoreline. Return to the yacht for the evening briefing and dinner.

**SATURDAY:** Today's visit is at **SOUTH PLAZA**, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs where swallow-tailed gulls, shearwaters, and red-billed tropicbirds build their nests. The trail leads us through Opuntia (prickly pear) and Sesuvium, and land iguanas are seen here feeding on cactus leaves. The island is also home to a colony of bachelor sea lions, with dominant bulls in various stages of recovery from battles over prime beach territory. Return to the yacht and snorkel between North and South Seymour in deeper water. After lunch, go ashore at **NORTH SEYMOUR**, a small geological uplift to observe swallow-tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies and endemic land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of Magnificent frigatebirds in the Galapagos, and watch for marine iguanas and sea lions body surfing the northern swells. Return to the ERIC or LETTY for the Captain's farewell cocktail party and dinner, followed by a slide show presentation.

**SUNDAY:** Travel by bus to the Interpretation Center on San Cristobal to gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, spend time in port before heading to the airport for your flight back to the mainland.

### **7 day/ 6 night cruise (Sunday to Saturday)**

Passengers can disembark one day early on Saturday in Baltra for a shorter, 6 night cruise.

#### **Itinerary A – Southern/ Central Route**

Sunday to Friday – same as on 7 night itinerary

Saturday: Drop off Itabaca Canal 6AM (transfer to Baltra or Puerto Ayora not included)

For passengers who disembark on Saturday and require a private transfer to the airport with a guide, there is an additional charge of \$50 per person or \$200 maximum. The return flight from Baltra will incur an additional fee of \$26 per person and is subject to availability and confirmation is requested

For passengers who disembark on Saturday and remain in Santa Cruz, there is no additional charge. Drop off is at the Itabaca Canal at 6AM local time and passengers will need to arrange for transportation to Puerto Ayora through their hotel.

### **Two week itinerary back to back**

Book two consecutive weeks back to back for the most comprehensive cruise itinerary, and do not repeat the same visits twice.

#### **Itinerary A+B 15 day/ 2 week itinerary**

Sunday: La Loberia or El Junco Lake, SAN CRISTOBAL  
CCJG (La Galapaguera Cerro Colorado), SAN CRISTOBAL

Saturday: Reserva Ecologica Cerro Mesa, SANTA CRUZ  
Tortuga Bay, SANTA CRUZ

Ecoventura reserves the right at its sole option and discretion and that of the Captain of the vessel without liability for damages or refund of any kind to deviate from the vessel's advertised or ordinary itinerary. Itineraries are subject to change at any time for any reason including mechanical failure and without prior notice. Ecoventura will not be held responsible for any refunds whatsoever for changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary.