

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 a welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served on board. In the afternoon, travel to Cerro Colorado to visit **Centro de Crianza Jacinto Gordillo (La Galapaguera)** where the national park has established a breeding program for giant tortoises in their natural habitat. At the visitor center, learn about the origin and evolution of tortoises, as well as threats from introduced animals. Along the trail, watch for the San Cristobal mockingbird and Calandrinia plant, both endemic to this island. Return to the ERIC or LETTY for a briefing followed by our Captain's welcome cocktail party and dinner prepared by our chefs.

MONDAY: Spend the entire day on **GENOVESA (Tower)** Island, one of the most spectacular places in Galapagos for bird species. Land at **Prince Philip's Steps**, where red-footed boobies nest in palo santo trees, while Nazca boobies nest near the trail, and storm petrels gather in large numbers in an open lava field. With luck, you may spot the elusive short-eared owl. Return to the yacht for lunch on the sun deck. Choose to paddle from a kayak or stand-up paddle board and explore the cliffs. Look for the red-billed tropic bird hiding in the crevices or snorkel in deeper water from the Zodiac. Land at **Darwin Bay**, a coral sand beach where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of *Optuntia* cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigatebirds nest, the males inflating their red-throated pouches to attract females as they fly overhead. The trail leads through a rich intertidal zone with diverse wildlife. Choose to relax on the beach or swim with sea lions in these northern warmer waters. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner and an evening full of stars.

TUESDAY: Today guests on the Letty visit **Las Bachas beach**, (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. Guests on board the ERIC 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. Return to the yacht for lunch. This afternoon, step ashore on **Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill)** for a majestic view of the bay and the island landscape covered in opuntia cactus, palo santo and muyuyo (*Cordia letea*). The trail also offers excellent opportunities to see Darwin's finches, Galapagos flycatchers, yellow warblers, shearwaters, as well as the endemic land iguanas, that were once part of the park's breeding program. In the saltwater lagoon, pink flamingos feed alongside other birds such as stilts, pintail ducks and sandpipers. After the briefing and dinner, we sail toward the western islands and cross the equator for the second time.

WEDNESDAY: This morning's stop is at **Punta Espinoza on FERNANDINA**, the youngest and most pristine Island in Galapagos, with no introduced animals. Recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Observe sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory, and hundreds of marine Iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, basking in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Out on the point, the Flightless Cormorants build their nests close to shore since they lost their ability to fly. There is a chance to snorkel here with large sea turtles that frequent this area before returning to the yacht for lunch. Disembark at **Urbina Bay on ISABELA** Island, where four miles of coastal seabed were exposed due to a dramatic uplift during a volcanic eruption in 1954. See the remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high, and keep an eye out for the very large and colorful Galapagos land iguanas, as well as marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, and the occasional giant tortoise. Return to the ERIC or LETTY for briefing and dinner. A sky full of stars beckons to go on deck and observe the galaxy.

THURSDAY: Visit **Elizabeth Bay on ISABELA Island** by zodiac to explore a secluded cove lined with large red mangrove trees, where sea turtles, rays, and shore birds are often spotted. Motor along the rocky islets known as "Las Marielas", to find a colony of nesting Penguins, Flightless Cormorants and giant marine Iguanas.

Isabela was created when six volcanoes flowed together and formed the largest Island in Galapagos. Return to the yacht for lunch served on the sun deck. Go ashore on **Tagus Cove**, a favorite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. Sections of the rocky cliffs are covered with graffiti dating back to the 1800s. An uphill hike leads to a saltwater lagoon and a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of the ocean, lava fields and volcanic formations. Take advantage of the secluded cove and explore the shoreline by kayak or stand up paddle board in search of Galapagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds. Return to the yacht for briefing and dinner as we cross the Equator for the last time.

FRIDAY: Stroll along the shoreline at **Puerto Egas on SANTIAGO (James) Island** looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life caught in the tide pools. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. Watch for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. The walk ends at the grottos, deep pools of clear water where we encounter fur sea lions once on the verge of extinction. Before returning to the yacht, there is a chance to snorkel from the beach. After lunch, take a seat on deck to view the dramatic landscape and dolphins that are often spotted here.

Disembark on **RABIDA (Jervis)**, a small Island considered the geographic center of Galapagos because its volcanic rocks are the most diversified in the archipelago. The dark red color of the beach comes from the high iron content in the volcanic stones. Follow the trail to a saltwater lagoon where greater flamingos migrate, keeping an eye out for marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and Darwin's finches. Afterwards, do not miss the opportunity to snorkel with a colony of sea lions and rays. Return to the yacht for dinner and the Captain's Farwell cocktail party and dinner as well as a special slide show presentation by your guides.

SATURDAY: Disembark at **Puerto Ayora, SANTA CRUZ** Island, the social heart of the Galapagos, with a population of 24,000 humans. 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, 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. 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 to stimulate the local economy. Return to the ERIC or LETTY for dinner or, if you wish, remain ashore for dinner on your own. Zodiac shuttles from the yachts to the main dock will be offered throughout the evening.

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 option (Sunday to Saturday)

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

Itinerary B – Western/ Northern on 6-night option

Sunday to Friday – Same as on 7 night itinerary

Saturday: Highlands of SANTA CRUZ (Indefatigable)

Transfer to Baltra airport from Puerto Ayora with guide

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. Departing passengers are transferred by private car, accompanied by one of our guides or a local guide to the Itabaca canal, followed by a 10-minute ferry crossing, then a 15 minute bus ride to the Baltra airport for check in for your flight departing at 10AM or 1PM. Only when confirmed on the later flight will you have time to visit the tortoise reserve at La Primicias. The return flight from Baltra will incur an additional fee of \$26 per person and is subject to availability and confirmation is requested at the time of booking.

For passengers who disembark on Saturday and remain in Santa Cruz, there is no additional charge. You may disembark after breakfast, we can deliver you to the main dock by Zodiac. You will need to arrange for a transfer to your hotel through the hotel or take a taxi.

Two-week itinerary back to back

Book two consecutive weeks back to back for a comprehensive two-week itinerary and do not repeat the same sites twice.

Itinerary B+A 15 days/ 2 week itinerary

Sunday: La Loberia or El Junco Lake, SAN CRISTOBAL
Cerro Tijeretas & Leon Dormido, SAN CRISTOBAL

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