

## CATAMARAN ARCHIPPELL II

Offers space and comfort combined with stability making it perfect for an adventure in the Galapagos Islands.



### ITINERARY B MONDAY - THUESDAY 4 DAYS - 3 NIGHTS

DAY	VISIT
MON	AM - Arrival at Seymour Ecological Airport PM - North Seymour
TUE	AM - Bartolome PM - Espumilla Beach, Buccaneer Cove
WED	AM - Puerto Egas (Santiago) PM - Rabida
THU	AM - Charles Darwin Research Station PM - Transfer out to Seymour Ecological Airport



All Galapagos itineraries are subject to change without prior notice due to National Park regulations, weather conditions, and majeure.

# CATAMARAN ARCHIPELL II

## ITINERARY B - MONDAY TO THURSDAY

### 4D / 3N - DAY BY DAY PROGRAM

#### DAY 1: MONDAY

##### AM - ARRIVAL AT SEYMOUR ECOLOGICAL AIRPORT (GPS)

Upon arrival at the Seymour Ecological Airport, travelers pass through an airport inspection point to make sure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands, and to pay the park entrance fee of \$100 (unless it has been prepaid). A guide will meet you, help you collect your luggage, and escort you on a short bus ride to the harbor.

##### PM - NORTH SEYMOUR

This islet is one of most visited sites, and it is overloaded with bird life. An easy circular path takes you through the archipelago's most extensive colonies of blue-footed boobies and frigate birds. At the beginning of the breeding season, adult frigatebird-males blow up their vivid red pouches to impressive football-sized balloons. This is one of the few spots where you can compare the magnificent and the great frigatebird breeding next to each other.



#### DAY 2 - TUESDAY

##### AM - BARTOLOME

The beautiful volcano islet of Bartolome is among the youngest of the islands, and on a geological scale was just recently born out of fire. Although at first sight lifeless, Bartolome offers some of the wildest landscapes and best panoramas in the entire archipelago. To enjoy the postcard view of the idyllic 'Pinnacle Bay' you have to climb the stairs to the viewpoint on top of the island (114m/375ft). Enter a dramatic world of threatening (though extinguished) nearby spatter cones, craters, and lightweight lava droplets that have been spewed out by fiery fountains. The Summit Trail is also ideal to witness how scanty pioneer vegetation such as lava cactus is struggling to take root in the bare virgin lava fields.

##### PM - ESPUMILLA BEACH, BUCCANEER COVE

Espumilla Beach is an important breeding site for turtles, as it is no longer suffering from digging wild pigs. The turtles return year after year to bury their eggs into the cinnamon colored sand dunes. About two months later (roughly from February to August) the eggs hatch.

The beach ridge hides a mangle with two lagoons on the backside. A colony of American flamingos and aquatic birds used to be its main attraction, but after the climate phenomenon of El Niño, strong sedimentation altered the water environment, and now no longer contains their food.

Vegetation zones are very close by, providing great scenic contrasts. During the climb up a hill, you will be rewarded with a beautiful overview of the transitions from sea to beach and from mangrove to a dry palo santo forest.

At the nearby Buccaneers Cove, you have a great snorkeling opportunity.

## **DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY**

### **AM - PUERTO EGAS (SANTIAGO)**

Puerto Egas is a black beach located at the west side of Santiago Island. Volcanic tuff deposits formed this special black sand beach and made it the main attraction of the Island. This site is called Puerto Egas because Hector Egas attempted to exploit the salt, which failed because the price of salt on the continent was very cheap.

### **PM - RABIDA**

Rábida Island is unique because the red color of the rocks and sand. The volcanic material in this island is very porous and external factors as rain, salt water and sea breeze have acted as an oxidizing agent. A short walk along a trail leads us to a coastal lagoon behind the beach that allows the observation of land birds as finches, doves, yellow warblers and mocking birds. Meanwhile, at the lagoon there is a colony of flamingos.

## **DAY 4: THURSDAY**

### **AM - CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION**

Although the great majority of Galapagos visitors come here to observe and appreciate natural wonders, it is also interesting to learn how the protection and conservation of the islands are done. The main attractions are the National Park information center, the Van Staelen Exhibition Hall, the Breeding and Rearing Center for young tortoises, and adult Galapagos tortoises in captivity.

### **PM - TRANSFER OUT TO SEYMOUR ECOLOGICAL AIRPORT (GPS)**

Assisted by the naturalist guide and some crewmembers, the dinghy will bring you and your luggage to the Seymour Ecological Airport, where we will take the shuttle back to the airport.