

CATAMARAN ARCHIPELL I

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



ITINERARY A MONDAY - MONDAY 8 DAYS - 7 NIGHTS

DAY	VISIT
MON	AM - Arrival at San Cristobal Airport (SCY) PM - Colorado Hill / tortoise breeding centre
TUE	AM - South Plaza PM - Santa Fe
WED	AM - Champion Islet (Floreana) PM - Loberia & Asylum of Peace (Floreana)
THU	AM - Charles Darwin Research Station PM - Highlands (Santa Cruz)
FRI	AM - Tintoreras Islet PM - Breeding Center Arnaldo Tupiza & Humedales
SAT	AM - Moreno Point (Isabela) PM - Elizabeth Bay (Isabela)
SUN	AM - Tagus Cove (Isabela) PM - Espinoza Point (Fernandina)
MON	AM - Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz) PM - Transfer out to Seymour Ecological Airport (GPS)



Itineraries can be set up from 5, 8, 11, 12 up to 15 day cruises. All Galapagos itineraries are subject to change without prior notice due to National Park regulations, weather conditions, and majeure.

CATAMARAN ARCHIPELL

ITINERARY A - MONDAY TO MONDAY

8D / 7N - DAY BY DAY PROGRAM

DAY 1 - MONDAY

AM - ARRIVAL AT SAN CRISTOBAL AIRPORT (SCY)

Arrival at San Cristóbal airport (SCY) Upon arrival at the San Cristóbal Airport, travellers 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 harbour.

PM - CERRO COLORADO (SAN CRISTOBAL)

Cerro Colorado Tortoises Protection and Growing Center, located at 40 minutes approximately by bus to the south east of the island, was built to improve the status of the population of the island tortoises. The center includes a large corral, a Visitors center, breeding center and an interpretative trail. Along this trail, it is possible to see different species of native and endemic plants as well as birds like the San Cristobal Mocking bird, Yellow Warblers, many species of finches and the Galapagos flycatcher.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY

AM - SOUTH PLAZA

South Plaza is located at the east of Santa Cruz Island, and forms part of two islands known as Islas Plazas. Despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the Galapagos are found here. The Plazas land iguanas are smaller than its relatives found on other islands. There are several hybrid iguanas, a result of crossing a male marine iguana and a female land iguana; they are unique, recognizable at first glance by their black/gray color, with a land iguana's crest, but face and tail of the marine iguana. The big population of iguanas is due to the presence of tunas, their favorite food. Swallow Tailed Gulls nesting in the rugged cliffs are seen along with other sea birds such as Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds and brown pelicans.

PM - SANTA FE

Located in the southeastern part of the Galapagos, this island was formed from an uplift instead than from a volcanic origin; this is why it is mostly flat. There are some theories that assure that this could be the oldest island in the Archipelago. Santa Fe is the home of a number of endemic species like the Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, rice rats and one of the two species of land Iguanas of the islands. After disembarkation in the beautiful and clear waters, you will be in contact with one of the many sea lion colonies. Along the trail, many saltbushes can be seen, as well giant Prickly pear cactus. There are great possibilities of snorkeling with playful sea lions and tropical fishes.

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

AM - CHAMPION ISLET (FLOREANA)

Bottlenose dolphins frequently escort our passage to Champion Islet and you can see them from nearby jumping the wakes! Underwater, Galapagos sea lions are playful acrobats that become the number one attraction. There are also lots of reef fish, and perhaps a green Pacific turtle.

An inflatable dinghy ride along the shoreline of this islet offers sightings of lots of sea birds that are endemic to the archipelago, including Galapagos penguins, blue-footed boobies, magnificent frigate birds and red-billed tropicbirds, swallow-tailed gulls and lava herons.

A bird watchers wish is to get a glimpse of the Charles mockingbird on top of prickly pear cacti. This mockingbird is a scientific and historic key species, because it put Darwin on track of his theory of 'adaptive radiation'.

PM - LOBERIA & ASYLUM OF PEACE (FLOREANA)

The Asylum of Peace Island is a historical interest for guests. This hike goes past a mesmerizing cave and visits a fascinating freshwater spring. La Loberia beach is an ideal spot to enjoy the ocean, as well as the cute sea lions that habit there.

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 - HIGHLANDS (SANTA CRUZ)

The road to the highlands leaves from Bellavista, a small village located at a 15-minute drive from Puerto Ayora and passes through the agricultural zone, near the National Park boundary, the Miconia Zone, and then goes to the Fern and Sedge zone. With clear weather, this area gives you beautiful scenes of rolling hills and extinct volcanic cones covered with grass and lush greenery all year round. Here you will visit the Twin Craters, which are two pit craters, as well as a local ranch where we can observe the Giant Tortoise specie of Santa Cruz Island in its natural habitat.

DAY 5 - FRIDAY

AM - TINTORERAS ISLET

"Tintoreras" are small islands in front of the Puerto Villamil coast. There are Herons on the lookout on mangrove branches, Galapagos Penguins and sea lions that often pop out on shore. White-tipped reef sharks (in Spanish: Tintoreras) are common in the archipelago and are very commonly found resting in the shallow waters.

PM - BREEDING CENTER ARNALDO TUPIZA & HUMEDALES

Breeding Center Arnaldo Tupiza is the Tortoise Breeding Center of Isabela and is located 1.5 km from Puerto Villamil. You can walk or drive. In this Breeding Center populations from South Isabela (Sierra Negra Volcano, Cerro Azul): Cazuela, Cinco Cerros, Roca Union, San Pedro, Tables and Cerro Paloma have been reproduced in captivity. In total there are 330 between juvenile and adult tortoises. The Breeding Center has beautiful gardens consisting of native plants, such as manchineel (poisonous apple tree), mesquite, prickly pear, holy stick, lime prickly-ash, thorn shrub, Galapagos croton, Glorybower, Sea Island or Creole cotton, radiate-headed plants, yellow cordia, snowberry or milkberry, myrtle, nickerbean or nickernut and Darwin's Daisy.

Humedales (The Wetlands) is a 6 Km trails complex, located south of Isabela Island. It has a wide variety of flora and fauna, as well as breathtaking scenery of the bay, the town of Puerto Villamil, volcanoes, islets, and rocks. Isabela wetlands feature both natural and introduced species.



DAY 6 - SATURDAY

AM - MORENO POINT (ISABELA)

Moreno Point is located on the north coast of Isabela Island between the volcanos Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul. The trail runs along a solidified lava flow called "Pahohoe", into a complex of coastal lagoons. Its main attraction are several species of birds, which are found around the lakes and mangroves.

PM - ELIZABETH BAY (ISABELA)

This is a marine visitor site, so the excursion has no landing point. Your zodiac ride starts with a visit to the Marias islets where the largest and most important penguin colony reside in the Galapagos Islands. The excursion continues into the cove that is surrounded by red mangroves where you can admire their red roots and green leaves. Here, you are able to observe sea turtles, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans and sea lions. Frequent visitors have been able to see Galapagos Hawks soaring overhead whilst schools of Pompano and Dorado fish swimming down below.

DAY 7 - SUNDAY

AM - TAGUS COVE (ISABELA)

Tagus Cove, a tour along the cliffs will give the visitors a good chance to see the Galapagos penguin, the flightless cormorant and other sea birds. From the landing dock, it is about a 30-minute hike along the trail up to the top of the cliff from where you can view Darwin Lake, an uplifted lake saltier than the sea. You can also see several volcanoes from this location. Look carefully at the graffiti on the surrounding cliffs of the cove, it has been written by pirates, whalers and buccaneers in past centuries!

PM - ESPINOZA POINT (FERNANDINA)

Fernandina is the third largest island in the archipelago and has a single visitor site: Punta Espinoza located at the northeastern tip of the island. Here, marine iguanas conglomerate in larger groups than in any other island. They bask around in the sand, swim near the shore and sometimes, block the way at the landing dock. Among the unique species found here, we can find the Flightless Cormorant.

DAY 8 - MONDAY

AM - BACHAS BEACH (SANTA CRUZ)

These two small beaches are found to the West of Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, and a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches there is a small blackish water lagoon, where it is occasionally possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, but it has two old barges that were abandoned during the World War II, when USA used Baltra Island as a strategic point to protect the Panama Channel.

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.