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## TOUR DETAILS

### **ISLAND -2-ISLAND HOPPING** **6 days / 5 nights**

Deluxe Galapagos Island Hopping Program – Isabela Island with Scalesia Lodge and Santa Cruz Island with the Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel  
Get the best of both worlds by exploring an active volcano in the Galapagos Islands, together with day trips to rewarding visitor sites of the National Park & Marine Reserve. The **Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel** (Santa Cruz Island *beachfront*) and **Scalesia Lodge** (Isabela Island *Highlands*) have joined forces. And together have developed a 6-day stunning travel program in Galapagos, which includes inter-island flights, day trips onboard Yacht Sea Lion, “glamping” in luxury tents in the highlands of Isabela Island. A visit to remote corners in Galapagos that no other “island-hopping” trip will ever let you experience. Get ready for one of the most highly-anticipated voyages in the Galapagos.

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1 - ISABELA**

(-/L/D)

### **Day 2 – ISABELA EXPLORATION**

Depending on the weekday and availability:

AM: Tintoreras / PM: Los Humedales and Tortoise Breeding Station

AM: Los Tuneles / PM: Beach and activities: biking, surfing or kayaking (B/L/D)

AM: Volcan Chico & Sierra Negra / PM: Cueva de Sucre & Mirador and Beach

AM: Wall of tears / PM: Concha de Perla snorkel and beach activities: biking, surfing or kayaking

### **Day 3 - SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS / ARRIVAL DAY**

Visit the highlands of Santa Cruz to see giant tortoises and eat lunch at a local restaurant (B/L/-)

### **Day 4 – ISLAND YACHT EXPLORATION**

Depending on the weekday and availability, guests will visit North Seymour, Bartolome, South Plaza, or Santa Fe. (B/L/-)

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### **Day 5 – FULL DAY EXPLORATION**

Depending on the weekday and availability, guests will visit Tortuga Bay and the Charles Darwin Research Station or Divine Bay and the Charles Darwin Research Station (B/L/-)

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### **Day 6 – TRANSFER OUT TO BALTRA AIRPORT**

(B/-/-)

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## **DAY BY DAY ITINERARY**

**Please, note that the order of visits to specific visitor sites may change depending on the day of operation and yacht availability.**

### **Day 1**

#### **Arrival day / Galapagos Islands / Isabela Island.**

Fly from Ecuador's mainland to the Galapagos Islands (Baltra Island) and take a very scenic inter-island flight to Isabela Island. Please note that inter-island flights limit passengers' check-in luggage to 22 lb (10 kg). If needed, it is possible to send excess luggage directly to the Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel, where you will arrive on DAY 3. Check in at Scalesia Lodge and eat lunch before heading out on your first afternoon of discovery. Get to know the youngest side of the archipelago while exploring the rewarding visitor sites of the National Park, wetland lagoons, and the giant tortoise-breeding center. Wrap up your day at the stunning white beach of Puerto Villamil before returning to the Lodge for dinner.

(-/L/D)

### **Day 2**

#### **Full day at Isabela Island**

AM: Tintoreras / PM: Los Humedales and Tortoise Breeding Station

AM: Los Tuneles / PM: Beach and activities: biking, surfing or kayaking

AM: Volcan Chico & Sierra Negra / PM: Cueva de Sucre & Mirador and Beach

AM: Wall of tears / PM: Concha de Perla snorkel and beach activities: biking, surfing or kayaking

#### **AM: Tintoreras / PM: Los Humedales and Tortoise Breeding Station**

Enjoy a morning visit to Tintoreras, an islet formed by lava flows located 10 minutes by dinghy from Puerto Villamil. Its name comes from the white tip reef sharks called "Tintoreras" in Spanish, which are frequently seen in this area. This is a perfect place to practice snorkeling and see species such as sea lions, marine iguanas, and penguins. Return to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, visit los Humedales, a complex comprising the four Galapagos mangrove species, solitary beaches, lava tunnels, and natural waterholes. Later, visit the National Park breeding center for turtles in danger of extinction. Overnight at Scalesia Lodge.

**AM: Los Tuneles / PM: Beach and activities: biking, surfing or kayaking**

Start the day with a 30 to 40-minute ride that will take us to a unique place where lava flow has been impacted for many years by the ocean's waves, forming the unique tubes and bridges of Los Tuneles. This site is a marine paradise for white tipped reef sharks, Galapagos green sea turtles, Galapagos sea lions, manta rays, parrot fish, yellowtail surgeon fish, etc. It is one of the best places to snorkel in the Galapagos. Its unique geologic formations and lava flows with arches and tunnels serve as a home to numerous animal species. Lunch at the Lodge. In the afternoon, take advantage of your time at leisure to enjoy the magical beach of Puerto Villamil or bike, surf or kayak. Overnight at Scalesia Lodge.

(B,L,D)



**AM: Volcan Chico & Sierra Negra / PM: Cueva de Sucre & Mirador and Beach**

Visit some of Isabela's best attractions: the Sierra Negra and Chico Volcanoes. Sierra Negra is one of the most active volcanoes of the archipelago, with a recent eruption in 2018. The volcano's crater is considered the second largest in the world. Volcan Chico is also an active volcano and sulphur vents can be seen in this area. An approximately 6-hour walking tour is your ticket to truly appreciating the full splendor of the volcanoes. Enjoy a snack during the hike. Lunch at Scalesia Lodge. In the afternoon, visit Sucre's cave, located 8.7 mi (14 km) from Villamil Port in the agricultural area of the island. Enjoy a short walk to view the typical vegetation and endemic plants. Continue to Mirador de Mango from where you will delight in panoramic views of southern Isabela and the agricultural area. This is also a great place for observing finches. Overnight at Scalesia Lodge.



**AM: Wall of tears / PM: Concha de Perla snorkel and beach activities: biking, surfing or kayaking**

Today's morning visit takes you to the Wall of Tears, a historical site located 3.1 mi (5 km) west of Puerto Villamil, built from 1945 to 1959 by convicts from the penal colony on the island. The wall reaches up 65 ft (19.8 m) in height and spans 300 ft (91.4 m). Its construction was dangerous work in ill-equipped conditions, resulting in the deaths of a number of prisoners from both sickness and accidents. In the afternoon, enjoy snorkeling at Concha Perla, located in the Port of Villamil. The bay's calm, shallow, clear waters are ideal for observing the incredible array of marine life. Swim and snorkel alongside tropical fish, sea lions, penguins, and turtles with the possibility of observing up to 20 bird species. Overnight at Scalesia Lodge.

(B,L,D)

**NOTE:** Itineraries subject to change without notice. The sequence of visits might be altered depending on arrival of flights to Baltra or Isabela, weather conditions, or other unexpected circumstances beyond our control.

### Day 3

#### **Santa Cruz Island highlight / Baltra Island**

After breakfast, Scalesia Lodge's staff will bring us back to Puerto Villamil's airport. A short but interesting flight will bring us back to Baltra. Your guide will lead you across the Itabaca Channel to Santa Cruz Island. The day's visit includes a brief exploration of Los Gemelos, a natural volcanic formation in the upper end of the windward side of the island. Surrounded by a forest of high growing endemic daisies, this area is home to some of the most elusive land birds of Galapagos. Then we will visit the Tortoise Reserve and impressive lava tunnels en route to a delicious lunch at a restaurant in the highlands. In the afternoon, you will reach Puerto Ayora's only pedestrian neighbourhood, Punta Estrada, where the Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel is located. Check in and enjoy the hotel's beachfront facilities. Dinner is up to you: choose the hotel's signature cuisine or one of the many options in town. Overnight at the Finch Bay.

(B/L/-)

### Day 4:

#### **A full-day yacht exploration to one of the following islands**

- North Seymour
- Bartolome island
- South Plaza Island
- Santa Fe island

**North Seymour.** Start off the day with a generous breakfast the Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel, featuring local and international favorites, before leaving for Itabaca Channel, 26 mi (42 km) away on the north shore of Santa Cruz. Board Yacht Sea Lion, where your day will include a dry landing and a 1-mi (1.5-km) walk over a mixture of sand and rounded boulders. Be amazed by land and marine iguanas, Nazca- and blue-footed boobies, frigates, sea lions and fur seals. The other highlight is Las Bachas, a stunning white beach with dreamy small brackish lagoons, home to various waders, such as plovers, stilts and flamingos. You have a chance to swim or snorkel here.

**Santa Fe.** After breakfast, we will board Yacht Sea Lion minutes away from the hotel at Academy Bay. The yacht will cruise to Santa Fe, an impressive volcanic island 17 nautical miles away from Puerto Ayora. After a wet landing on a fantastic white sand beach amongst basking sea lions, we walk along a rocky terrain to find the island's highlight: the endemic Santa Fe land iguana patiently waiting under the enormous giant cacti for

falling fruits and pads. Other relevant species today are pelicans, boobies and the archipelago's top predator, the Galapagos hawk. Return to the yacht and enjoy one of Galapagos' best snorkeling sites. Lunch on board Yacht Sea Lion. During the ride back to Puerto Ayora, we scan the surface of the water for pelagic birds and whales.

**Bartolome.** The day begins with the Finch Bay's tempting breakfast buffet before setting out for a 26-mi (42-km) drive to Itabaca Channel on the north shore of Santa Cruz, where we board Yacht Sea Lion. A 21-nautical mile sailing stretch is well worth its length. Dolphins or whales are often seen in these waters. A dry landing marks the start of the 1-mi (1.5-km) walk. Much of the trail is over a wooden boardwalk with a staircase of 366 steps. There are several observation platforms on the way up to the summit of Bartolome, standing at 492 fasl (150 masl).

Once atop, you will enjoy one of Galapagos' most famous views: the tilted pinnacle rock, the golden beach of Bartolome and the impressive lava fields of Santiago Island. Upon descending back to the coast, you will have a chance to scan the volcanic shore, in search of flashy Sally Lightfoot crabs and Galapagos penguins, before enjoying a soothing dip at the beach. Lunch on board and a brief exploration of nearby Sullivan Bay before sailing back to the Itabaca Channel for the drive back to the hotel.



**South Plaza.** After breakfast, you will board Yacht Sea Lion (depending on the day, it could be moored in Itabaca Channel or in Academy Bay). Your day includes 2 highlights. One of them, the snorkeling/swimming site known as Punta Carrion, has a name that startles some English speakers, but in this case, it's merely a reference to a family name. And just 8 nautical miles away, South Plaza Island shocks visitors with the sheer volume of amazing wildlife that greets them right upon arrival: dozens of frolicking sea lion pups, patrolling alpha male sea lions, basking marine and land iguanas, stunning red crabs and various Darwin finches await. The trail is over 1 mi (1.5 km) long, over rounded boulders.

All full-day yacht explorations end with a return to the Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel, where you will enjoy the sunset from its beachfront facilities. Don't forget to try one of our signature cocktails as you watch the sun go down over the Pacific Ocean. Dinner is up to you: decide in favor of the hotel's top cuisine or one of the many options in town. Overnight at the Finch Bay.

## Day 5

### Full Day at Tortuga Bay or Divine Bay and the Charles Darwin Research Station

Depending on the weekday and availability, guests will visit either Tortuga Bay and the Charles Darwin Research Station or Divine Bay and the Charles Darwin Research Station

#### **Santa Cruz Coastal Exploration & Charles Darwin Research Station and Tortoise Breeding Facilities:**

After breakfast, we leave for **Tortuga Bay**, voted Ecuador's best beach. We walk from Puerto Ayora's western border, 1.3 mi (2 km) along a fairly flat and straight-paved path, where we explore and understand more about the arid zone's deciduous forest and its inhabitants. First, we arrive at Playa Brava, a stunning 0.6-mi (1-km) long snow-white beach, a seasonal nesting site for the green sea turtles. A few minutes further, we reach Playa Mansa, a secluded natural mangrove cove, with clear and tranquil waters, ideal for swimming, snorkeling, paddling on tandem kayaks, or simply enjoying the landscape from the shade of a mangrove. We will board a small yacht to sail back to the hotel's dock at Academy Bay. Lunch at the Finch Bay. For the afternoon, the grand finale includes strolling around the **Charles Darwin Research Station** where the highlight is the conservation program for the iconic giant tortoises.



#### **Divine Bay and Charles Darwin Research Station**

Just a short distance away from Academy Bay and the bustle of Puerto Ayora lies the quiet and wildlife-rich Divine Bay. Named after one of the islands' first settlers, this cove is protected from the swells by natural volcanic reefs on one side, by a gallery of mangrove trees on the other, and by cliffs created eons ago by the uplift of the lava plateau. The whole provides a wonderful natural shelter for wildlife. Beneath the sea, sea turtles graze on sea weed, hundreds of reef fish species swim about the lava crevices, and young reef sharks and rays employ the brackish streams as havens from large predators while they mature. A refreshing short walk (0.3 mi/0.5 km) takes us to "Playa de los Perros" (Dog Beach) for a view of marine iguanas in their nesting sites and white tipped reef sharks. We will also explore the coast on our *pangas* (dinghies). And for those who like to snorkel, there is a chance to explore a calm but active sector of the cove. Have lunch at the Finch Bay before heading out on an afternoon excursion to the world-renowned Charles Darwin Research Station where we will have the opportunity to learn about the giant tortoise-rearing program and visit the tortoises in person. Dinner is up to

you: decide in favor of the hotel's top cuisine or one of the many options in town. Overnight at the Finch Bay.

**Note:** The expedition team may decide to reverse the day's program, based on the tides, in order to maximize guests' experience.

(B/L/-)

## Day 6

### Baltra airport

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Baltra Island and airport by hotel staff.

#### Itineraries:

Itineraries are subject to change without notice. The sequence of visits might be altered depending on arrival of flights to Baltra or Isabela Islands, and/or yacht availability, National Park requirements, weather conditions, or other unexpected circumstances beyond our control.

#### IMPORTANT BAGGAGE NOTES

If necessary, please separate luggage for the first 2 nights at Scalesia Lodge, since the inter-island flight luggage restriction is half the weight permitted by regular commercial flights to Galapagos:

- ❖ **FLIGHTS TO GALAPAGOS: 50 lb (23 kg) for checked bags, 17 lb (8 kg) for carry-on**
- ❖ **INTER-ISLAND FLIGHTS: 20 lb (9 kg) for checked bags** (airline allows an additional 5 lb/pax at US\$ 2.00 per pound) and **5 lb (2.3 kg) allowance for carry-on /pax.**

Upon arrival in Baltra, Scalesia Lodge staff will collect the luggage for transfer to the Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel. On DAY 3, upon check in, you will find this luggage in your room.

#### Recommendations:

##### Packing List

- 1 small backpack
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sneakers (trainers) with rubber soles
- Shorts
- Long pants
- T-shirts
- Long and short sleeved shirts
- Wind breaker
- Bathing suit (+wetsuit for snorkeling in colder months, April-December)
- Hat or cap
- Sunblock and insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Camera & video recorder
- Any medicine you may be taking
- Book/Notebook
- Flashlight (torch) and batteries
- Sandals for wet landings
- Plastic bags to protect cameras, binoculars, film, etc. from rain

## **Included**

- Inter-island flights and local Galapagos transfers
- Overnights in hotels, guided excursions & all meals described in program itinerary
- Snorkeling gear at Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel and on Yacht Sea Lion
- Rubber boots and rain ponchos at Scalesia Lodge
- Wi-Fi (limited and intermittent broadband only due to Galapagos' poor satellite connection)

## **Not Included**

- \* Air transportation to/from Galapagos and airport taxes (subject to change without previous notice)
- \* Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US\$ 100.00 subject to change without previous notice)
- \* Migration Control Card (US\$ 20.00 subject to change without previous notice)
- \* Municipal fee to Puerto Villamil (US\$ 10.00 subject to change without previous notice)
- \* Meals not mentioned in program itinerary
- \* Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- \* Gratuities
- \* Gifts and additional items
- \* Optional multisport activities (sea kayaks, diving, mountain biking)
- \* Travel insurance
- \* Laundry service
- \* Any item not mentioned previously
- \* Tips suggested:  
USD 15 for crew members per guest, per day  
USD 10 for your guide, per person, per day  
USD 10 for barman onboard & USD 5 for hotel barman