

M/C ATHALA II 7 – NIGHT WITH ESPAÑOLA



SATURDAY ARRIVAL

- Arrival at the airport in Baltra & transfer to the dock
- Check-in to your cabin
- Introductory briefing & safety drill
- Lunch
- Panga ride to Sombrero Chino Island
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Sunday's program
- 20:00 Welcome cocktail
- 20:15 Dinner



Sombrero Chino is a small islet near the southeastern coast of Santiago Island. It's name translated to English means 'Chinese Hat'; a name that makes perfect sense as soon as you take a look at it's unique shape. There are various interesting geological formations which make this island a great visit for scenic photos, but there are also various marine species to observe such as very colorful sally lightfoot crabs and sea lions. Keep an eye out for different species of Darwin's finches as well. **Difficulty level: Easy.**

SUNDAY

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Dry landing at Cerro Dragon and swimming from beach, Santa Cruz Island
- 11:30 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Wet landing on Rabida Island for beach activities, deep water snorkeling, kayaking and excursion
- 17:30 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Monday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



The name Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) stems from the fact that it was one of the few sites on Santa Cruz Island where a healthy population of land iguanas were found in 1975. After landing at a pier, a hike takes to you to a salt water lagoon behind the beach, frequented by common stilts, pintail ducks and occasionally flamingos. A short walk up the hill leads you to a land iguana nesting site, with breathtaking views of the bay. You will have the chance to go swimming after the walk.

Difficulty level: Moderate.

Rábida is a small island with red volcanic rocks surrounding a beautiful red sand beach, where there is a colony of sea lions and a pelican nesting site. The trail leads to a salt water lagoon where shore birds can be seen. Rábida is considered to be one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galapagos Islands, and you will also have the opportunity to go kayaking or on a panga ride. **Difficulty level: Moderate.**



MONDAY

06:45 Wake up call
07:00 Breakfast
08:00 Panga ride to Elizabeth Bay mangroves
11:00 Back on board and lunch
15:00 Dry landing at Moreno Point
16:30 Snorkeling or panga ride
18:00 Back on board
19:30 Briefing on Tuesday's program
20:00 Dinner

Elizabeth Bay is one of the furthest points of the Galapagos that we will visit on our cruise. We will enter a sheltered cove – a wonderful mangrove ecosystem that is a refuge for sea turtles, rays, blue-footed boobies, penguins, herons and more.

Difficulty level: Easy.



Moreno Point is located just southwest of Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island and is known for large populations of sea birds which can be appreciated during a panga ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves. In the tide pools green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted. **Difficulty level: Moderate to difficult.**

TUESDAY

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Dry landing and excursion on Floreana Island, visits to the Baroness's outlook point and Post Office followed by snorkeling or kayak
- 11:30 Back on board and lunch
- 15:00 Punta Cormorant & Champion with snorkeling, kayak or panga ride
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Wednesday's program
- 20:00 Dinner

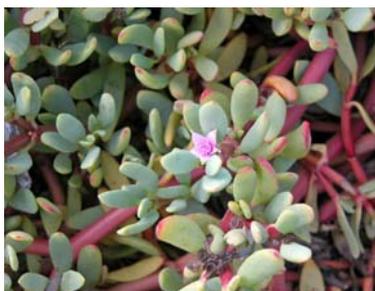
Floreana is one of the Galapagos most famous, or shall we say, "infamous" of islands due to many strange stories regarding past settlers. There are many wonderful and diverse sites to visit including Post Office Bay and the "Baroness's Viewing Point". Marine life also abounds in Floreana's coastal regions making it a fantastic site for snorkeling. Flamingos also populate the island and may be seen during your visit.



The Baroness's Viewing Point is the perfect place to take in the special environment that defines Floreana, and a great spot to talk and ponder regarding the intriguing history of the Baroness and her three lovers! **Difficulty level: Easy.**

In the 18th century whalers passing through the islands placed a wooden barrel on Floreana Island for use as an unofficial mail box. The tradition continues today as visitors leave addressed postcards in the barrel and sort through left mail to deliver at home. This is one of the archipelago's most famous spots. Don't forget to look in your logbook for your postcards! **Difficulty level: Easy.**

A great site for bird-watching, Cormorant Point has a large lagoon where everything from Flamingos to stilts and pintail ducks can be observed. The beach nearby is also quite special and known as: The "Green Beach" named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand. **Difficulty level: Easy.**



WEDNESDAY

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Disembark at Cerro Brujo for excursion, beach activities, snorkeling and panga ride.
- 11:30 Back on board and lunch
- 15:00 Disembark at Isla Lobos for excursion. On the way to Isla Lobos, sail by Kicker Rock Islet
- 17:30 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Thursday's program
- 20:00 Dinner

Located on the north coast of San Cristobal Island, this eroding tough cone offers a fantastic landscape as well as wonderful swimming, snorkeling and panga ride experiences. Cerro Brujo's gorgeous beach is also home to many sea lions and it's also the first coast where Charles Darwin first stepped foot on in the Archipelago! You will also see a beautiful lagoon used by the locals of Baquerizo Moreno Port for salt mining as well as two different species of halophytes (rare plants that grow in soils with a high salt content) **Difficulty level: Easy to moderate.**



Isla Lobos is named after its large colony of sea lions (also called "lobos", or wolves in Spanish). Usually visitors may have close encounters with sea lion pups, especially while snorkeling. However, this small islet offers much more including blue footed boobies, frigates and even a glimpse at the second type of sea lion species found in Galapagos: the Fur Sea Lion. **Difficulty level: Easy.**

THURSDAY

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Dry landing at Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Station
Afterward bus ride to the highlands of Santa Cruz to see wild giant tortoises
- 13:00 Back on board & lunch
- 15:30 Optional afternoon activities
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Friday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



On your visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station you will gain insight into the huge efforts being made by scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see the famous Galapagos tortoises that are the islands' namesake. **Difficulty level: Easy**

After the visit we drive to the green highlands of Santa Cruz, where you will visit a tortoise reserve to search for giant tortoises in their natural surroundings. **Difficulty level: Easy to moderate.**

FRIDAY

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Dry landing at Punta Suarez, Española Island
- 11:00 Back on Board
- 11:30 Towel folding lesson
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Wet landing at Gardner Bay on Española Island for swimming and snorkeling from the beach or kayaking
- 16:30 Deep water snorkeling
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:15 Departure briefing
- 19:45 Farewell cocktail
- 20:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Please settle your bills

Punta Suárez is one of the most popular and attractive sites in the Galapagos. Due to its isolation from other islands, it has a high proportion of endemic fauna. A few steps inland from the landing site, groups of Española marine iguanas bask in the sun. Further inland, Nazca and blue-footed boobies nest near the trail, Galapagos doves peck around unaware of visitors and finches go about their day to day business. The trail continues towards a blowhole, which is a fissure in the lava where water spurts high into the air like a geyser. The cracks in the cliffs are home to swallow-tailed gulls and red-billed tropicbirds. Further up the cliff in an area of low-lying trees you will find waved albatrosses nesting. The 15,000 to 17,000 pairs of albatrosses on Española represent almost the entire population of this species on the planet. They perform one of the most spectacular courtship rituals of the animal world. **Difficulty level: Difficult**





Gardner Bay offers the chance to enjoy a wonderful white sandy beach. It is home to one of the most important colonies of sea lions, and it is also a nesting site for sea turtles. Throughout the morning there are opportunities for swimming, snorkeling and kayaking. **Difficulty level: Easy**

SATURDAY DEPARTURE

- 05:45 Optional wake up call by phone
- 06:00 Circumference ride around Daphne Major
with briefing by your guides from the M/C Athala's deck
- 07:15 Official wake up call
- 07:30 Breakfast
- 08:00 Luggage out & vacate cabins
- 09:45 Snack in the al fresco dining area
- 10:00 Disembark for airport transfer
- 12:30 Plane departs

Daphne Major is located between Santa Cruz and Santiago Islands and is a spectacular bird-watching as well as scientific research site. A select handful of scientists have long studied bird life on these islands, especially Darwin's finches. So important are these populations that this little island became famous after many publications made by well-known researchers, Peter and Rosemary Grant. Your guide will point out the bird-life as well as explain some of the important research carried out on the islands from the vantage point of the yacht's decks as visitors are not allowed to walk on these islands due to their very fragile nature. **Difficulty level: Easy.**

