

## TOUR DETAILS

### Tour Name

YACHT LA PINTA Eastern Islands – 5 Days / 4 Nights (Thursday to Monday)



### GALÁPAGOS BIG 15

| Galapagos Albatross      | Blue-footed Booby        | Razor Booby              | Red-footed Booby         | Flightless Cormorant     | American Flamingo        | Frigatebirds: Great and Magnificent | Galapagos Hawk           | Land Iguana              | Marine Iguana            | Santa Fe Iguana          | Galapagos Penguin        | Galapagos Sea Lion       | Galapagos Fur Seal       | Galapagos Giant Tortoise |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
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### Description

We're delighted to have you on board for this journey of discovery to some of the most beautiful islands in the Galápagos. Our itinerary together begins on Baltra Island, a former military base during World War II, and now an Ecuadorian naval and air force station. Once all formalities are completed, we venture east along the volcanic shores of North Seymour and Santa Cruz Islands, until we reach the Plazas Islands. Our adventures start with a dry landing at a manmade jetty on South Plaza Island. During the next day, we will explore Santa Fe Island and San Cristóbal Island, home to the provincial capital of the Galápagos province. Then, we sail south to Española Island, with its remarkable visitor site (a favourite of many visitors): Punta Suárez. Here, we'll wander along the rugged coastline, home to hundreds of marine iguanas, sea lions, marine birds, and even albatross (during much of the year). In the afternoon, Gardner Bay provides a wonderful setting for a combination of beach-time, swimming, snorkelling or exploring aboard the glass-bottom boat. We end on Monday with a visit to the world-famous Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island, the most populous in the archipelago.

Wherever we sail, whatever we do, the entire crew aboard La Pinta will do our utmost to ensure your Galápagos experience is truly deeply moving and memorable.



## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1 - BALTRA & SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

(-/L/D)

Thursday: AM Arrival at Baltra Airport / PM South Plaza Island. Walk.

### Day 2 - SANTA FE & SAN CRISTOBAL

(B/L/D)

Friday: AM Santa Fe: Walk, snorkelling, glass-bottom boat ride, kayaking / PM Cerro Colorado Tortoise Habitat (Highlands of San Cristóbal): Walk, guided bus ride through the highlands.

### Day 3 - SAN CRISTOBAL

(B/L/D)

Saturday: AM Punta Pitt: Walk, snorkelling. / PM Cerro Brujo: Beach walk, swimming, panga (dinghy) ride.

### Day 4 - ESPAÑOLA

(B/L/D)

Sunday: AM Punta Suárez: Walk. / PM Gardner Bay: Walk, snorkelling, kayaking, glass-bottom boat.

### Day 5 - SANTA CRUZ / BALTRA

(B/-/-)

Monday: AM Visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station, transfer out to the airport.

## ITINERARY DESCRIPTION

### Day 1 - BALTRA & SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

(-/L/D)

#### Thursday: Baltra Airport & South Plaza Island

Our adventure begins with a morning flight to Baltra Island and immediate transfer to the dock to board Yacht La Pinta. There's a welcome introductory briefing, boat drill, cabin assignment and then lunch. We weigh anchor and start sailing for our first afternoon outing.



### South Plaza Island

The turquoise waters of the channel here contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline, while a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus beyond, populated by yellow-grey land iguanas. Along the coastline one finds sea lion colonies, while sea birds play with the thermals that form along the cliffs of this small but spectacular island

### Day 2 - SANTA FE & SAN CRISTOBAL

(B/L/D)

#### Friday: Santa Fe Island / Cerro Colorado Tortoise Habitat (San Cristóbal Island)

##### Santa Fe Island

We take the dinghy over to this idyllic sandy-white beach populated by colonies of sea lions. Galápagos hawks are often easily observed, perched atop salt bushes. The Santa Fe land iguana, unique to just this island, may be spotted during the walk. Following the walk, we can snorkel and swim along a natural wave barrier or ride the glass-bottom boat.



### Cerro Colorado Tortoise Habitat

After lunch, we disembark at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the island's capital, and drive 40 minutes to the island's southern shore. At Cerro Colorado, we visit the breeding centre for highly endangered giant tortoises in the midst of a fantastic deciduous forest, home to dozens of bird species, including the San Cristóbal mockingbird, and the San Cristóbal lava lizard, both island endemics.

### **Day 3 - SAN CRISTOBAL**

(B/L/D)

#### **Saturday: Punta Pitt (San Cristóbal Island)/ Cerro Brujo (San Cristóbal Island)**

##### **Punta Pitt**

We land at the eastern tip of San Cristóbal Island this morning. The trail that ascends from the beach provides spectacular views of the shoreline; we can observe frigates, plus a colony of bachelor sea lions. After the walk, if conditions are favourable, there is a chance to swim from the beach and snorkel.



##### **Cerro Brujo**

In the afternoon following lunch on board, a dinghy ride along the shores of tuff-stone layers takes us to Cerro Brujo's expansive, white coral beach, great for walking, with rewarding bird-watching featuring seabirds and shore birds. Also, look out for Galápagos sea lions. These are the same shores that Charles Darwin walked upon, back in September 1835.

### **Day 4 - ESPAÑOLA**

(B/L/D)

#### **Sunday: Punta Suárez/Gardner Bay (Española Island)**

##### **Punta Suarez**

Our morning outing at Punta Suárez provides an exciting walk on lava/boulder terrain to visit its unique sea bird colonies, including the waved albatrosses (April - January), boobies, swallow-tail gulls, and the famous "blowhole" lava formation. Also, look for red-green-black marine iguanas. Many regard this site as the best in the Galápagos. Back on board for lunch.

##### **Gardner Bay**

In the afternoon, we set down at this beautiful, white coral beach for a short walk to observe the sea lions, mockingbirds, finches, or enjoy the beach. There is great snorkelling in this area, or else there's time to kayak or ride the glass-bottom boat.

## Day 5 - SANTA CRUZ / BALTRA

(B/-/-)

### Monday: Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz Island)/ Baltra Airport

Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz Island)/ Baltra Airport

Disembarking in the morning, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the captive rearing programme for the giant tortoises. Here we witness the efforts and results of Galápagos fieldwork and study done in the name of science. We transfer via bus across Santa Cruz Island and a short ferry ride to Baltra. Our journey ends at Baltra Island, where we transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the mainland. Baltra's flat substrate (due to its uplifted origin) is the reason why the island was chosen back in the 1940s as the construction site for an airport.



### Notes

- Please remember that the exact route and programme may vary according to weather and ocean conditions and the wildlife we encounter. It's also subject to change without previous notice due mainly to readjustment of National Park policies and regulations.

- Dry landing: guests step from the dinghy onto rocks or a dock.

- Wet landing: as the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into around 20 cm (8 inches) of water and wade ashore.

### Recommendations

#### Included

Accommodation, all meals, soft drinks\*, island sightseeing, naturalist guides and lecture services in English/Spanish only, wet suit rental and snorkelling gear, Internet\*, taxes and transfers in the islands. Transfer from main hotels in Quito (Casa Gangotena, Hilton Colon, Swissôtel, Marriott, Dann Carlton) and in Guayaquil (Hilton Colón, Oro Verde, Hampton Inn, Sheraton) to airport for flights to / from Galápagos are included in these rates. To coordinate these transfers we must have guest's hotel contact.

\* Please note: soft drinks include juices and carbonated drinks, not “virgin” cocktails;

\* Internet connections aboard consist of 2 computer stations in the library and Wi-Fi in the yacht's social areas; due to the Galápagos' remote location, Internet connections are intermittent and low-bandwidth.

**Not Included**

Airfare to/from Galápagos, Galápagos National Park admission fee (US\$ 100, subject to change without notice), Transit Control Card for Galapagos (US\$ 20 per person), alcoholic drinks, tips, gifts, and additional items.