

The Highlights of Santa Cruz – Land Base Package

5 days and 4 nights



The Galápagos Islands, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, are one of the world's most extraordinary natural destinations. Located about 1,000 km off the coast of Ecuador, this volcanic archipelago is famous for its unique biodiversity, pristine landscapes, and its role in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. **Home to species found nowhere else on Earth—such as giant tortoises, marine iguanas, and blue-footed boobies**—the Galápagos offer an unparalleled opportunity to witness nature in its purest form. Visiting these islands is not just a journey through breathtaking scenery but also a chance to experience conservation efforts that protect this fragile ecosystem for future generations.

On our **5-day tour**, you'll spend **four nights in Puerto Ayora** on **Santa Cruz Island**, using it as your base to explore the breathtaking Galápagos. You'll visit nearby islands with **pristine ecosystems**, enjoy **full-day excursions aboard Galaxy Daily**, and discover **Puerto Ayora's charm**. Experience **stunning beaches, top snorkeling and hiking adventures**, and encounter incredible **wildlife and bird species** in their natural habitat like the Giant Tortoises, Blue-footed Boobies, Galapagos Penguins, Marine Iguanas and more!

Date	Activities	Hotel	Meals
Day 1	Arrival at Baltra Airport - Highlands – El Chato reserve	Selected hotel	- /L/-
Day 2	Daily Tour - South Plazas - North Seymour - Santa Fe or Bartolome (subject to availability)	Selected hotel	B/L/-
Day 3	Daily Tour - South Plazas - North Seymour - Santa Fe or Bartolome (subject to availability)	Selected hotel	B/L/-
Day 4	Tortuga Bay Hiking, Charles Darwin Scientific Station and Garrapetero Beach	Selected hotel	B/L/-
Day 5	Transfer Hotel – Baltra Airport	*****	B/-/-

ITINERARY

DAY 1. FLIGHT TO BALTRA, TRANSFER TO SANTA CRUZ, EL CHATO RESERVE



Flight from Quito to Baltra not included. Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, your guide will greet you and begin your Galápagos adventure. You'll take a short bus ride to the Itabaca Channel, followed by a 5-minute ferry transfer to **Santa Cruz Island**. From there, enjoy a scenic one-hour drive to Puerto Ayora, with a special stop at **El Chato Reserve** in the lush highlands. Here, you'll have the incredible opportunity to observe giant Galápagos tortoises in their natural habitat and explore fascinating lava tunnels, a unique geological formation of the islands. Late afternoon arrival to your hotel and leisure time. Dinner on your own.

Possible Fauna: Giant Tortoises, Sea Lions, Bird Species: Smooth billed Ani, Common Gallinule, Cattle Egret, Galapagos Flycatcher, Galapagos Mockingbird, Yellow Warbler, Green-warbler Finch, Woodpecker Finch, Small Tree-finch, Small Ground-finch, Medium Ground-finch, White-cheeked Pintail, Galapagos Rail, Barn Owl, Comb Duck, Galapagos Hawk, Striated Heron, Great Blue Heron and others.

- Accommodations: Selected Hotel Category, Meals Included: Lunch
- Guide: Private Naturalist Guide

DAY 2: FULL DAY NORTH SEYMOUR AND BACHAS BEACH (IF APPLIES)

Pick up from your hotel and continue to Itabaca Channel, where we will board the **Galaxy Daily**. After arriving in **North Seymour**, we will have a **dry landing and immediately start hiking on a 2.5 km trail** where we can go clockwise along the coast or head inland first to visit the **colony of blue-footed boobies**. Get ready to spot land iguanas and marine iguanas; also, a colony of sea lions, lava lizards, frigates, and pelicans! Lunch on-board and **afternoon snorkelling in Bachas Beach**.

Possible Fauna: Lava Lizards, Green Sea Turtles, Rays, Galapagos Penguin, Sooty Shearwater, Magnificent Frigatebird, Great Frigatebird, Blue-footed Booby, Nazca Booby, Red-footed Booby, American Flamingo, Brown Noddy, Galapagos Petrel, Common Cactus Finch, Red-billed Tropicbird, Black-bellied Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Brujo Flycatcher, Galapagos Hawk.

- Accommodations: Selected Hotel Category, Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch on board
- Guide: Shared Naturalist Guide





Note: Depending in your final dates it could be this tour or another visit to other island like Bartolome, Plazas, Santa Fe or other.

DAY 3. FULL DAY BARTOLOME ISLAND AND SULLIVAN BAY (IF APPLIES)

This island, with its iconic pinnacle, is located northwest of Santa Cruz. Upon arriving at Bartolome, we will have a **dry landing**. Then, we will begin the walk along a path that will take us to the top of the island, through its 395 steps that will end with a spectacular panoramic view of the island and its pinnacle. During the walk, we will observe small lava tunnels that are the product of the last eruption and where endemic vegetation grow, such as lava cacti and tiquilla plants, generally surrounded by Darwin's finches. **Afternoon snorkelling** near Bartolome Island for possible Sea Turtles and **Galapagos Penguins**.



Possible Fauna: Galapagos Penguin, Blue-footed Booby, Galapagos Hawk, American Oystercatcher, Lava Gull, Magnificent Frigatebird, Great Blue Heron, Striated Heron, Laughing Gull, Galapagos Dove, Swallow-tailed Gull, Galapagos Petrel, Franklins Gull, Least Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Red Phalarope, Large-Tree Finch and White-tipped Shark, Rays, Sea Turtles.

- Accommodations: Selected Hotel Category, Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch on board
- Guide: Shared Naturalist Guide

Note: Depending in your final dates it could be this tour or another visit to other island like Bartolome, Plazas, Santa Fe or other.



DAY 4. FULL DAY TORTUGA BAY & GARRAPETERO BEACH, CHARLES DARWIN SCIENTIFIC STATION – A Day of Nature and Adventure

Tortuga Bay is one of the most breathtaking beaches in the Galápagos, located on Santa Cruz Island. This pristine, white-sand paradise is not only a spectacular place to relax but also **an important nesting site for sea turtles**, offering a rare opportunity to witness their nesting and hatching cycles.

The **hike to Tortuga Bay from Puerto Ayora** takes about 1.5 to 2 hours, winding through a **scenic dry forest filled with opuntia cacti, palo santo trees, and possible sightings of giant tortoises** along the way. As you arrive, you'll be greeted by the stunning contrast of turquoise waters, powdery white sand, and vibrant marine life.





Once at the bay, you can enjoy a variety of activities:

- Swimming in the calm waters of the mangrove-fringed cove.

After refreshing time at Tortuga Bay, return to Puerto Ayora for a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, enjoying fresh seafood and Ecuadorian flavors.

In the afternoon, embark on a short hike to Charles Darwin Scientific Station and nearby beaches for shore-birds, marine iguanes, Heron and others. After a day of exploration, return to Puerto Ayora to relax and soak in the beauty of the Galápagos Islands.

- Accommodations: Selected Hotel Category, Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch
- Guide: Private Naturalist Guide



DAY 5. TRANSFER TO BALTRA AIRPORT, FLIGHT TO QUITO.

Enjoy your last look at the "enchanted islands", a unique and wonderful paradise! You will then be escorted to the Baltra airport for your flight back to Quito.

- Meals Included: Breakfast

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Roundtrip Flights Quito-Baltra-Quito: USD +/- \$450 per person**
- **Exclusive Bonus: Get 1 FREE night at Jimenita Lodge in Quito after your Tour—the perfect way to start or end your Galapagos Trip in comfort!**



- **Luxury Stay:** Enjoy an Overnight in a Twin Suite with a cozy chimney
- **Hassle-Free Transfers:** 24/7 roundtrip airport transfers included
- **Warm Welcome:** Complimentary welcome drink upon arrival
- **Breakfast and Dinner**
- **Nature Experience:** Free entrance to our private birding reserve
- **Stay Connected:** Complimentary WiFi

Don't miss out—secure your Galápagos adventure today and take advantage of this exclusive offer!



Ecuador Birds Tours – Tailor made Itineraries
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Select your hotel Category

ISLAND	TOURIST HOTEL	TOURIST SUPERIOR HOTEL	FIRST HOTEL	LUXURY HOTEL
Santa Cruz	Fiesta Hotel Standard room	Angermeyer Waterfront Inn Standard room – not available	Ikala Galapagos, or Acacia Hotel Suite room	Finch Bay Hotel Suite Garden View

**** Selected hotels or similar ****

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single/double room accommodations. • Private transportation • Professional guide • All excursions described in the itinerary. • Meals as indicated in the itinerary • Snorkeling equipment • 10 USD per person Transportation Airport - Canal / Canal - Airport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air ticket to/from Galapagos. • Entrance fee to Galapagos National Park \$ 200 (foreign passengers) • Ingala card \$20 • Wetsuit \$10per day • Tips and gratuities • Personal expenses • Alcoholic beverages • Medical insurance