



Birding Galapagos island hopping tour

This group of 13 major islands and dozens of smaller islets and rocks, all the result of volcanic activity, certainly appear to be out of this world. For nature lovers, the perfection is even greater, birds and more birds, playful sea lions, exotic plant life, volcanoes and haunting land seascape.

ITINERARY 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY: QUITO – GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Early in the morning you will have to be at the National airport in order to catch your Galapagos flight, at the airport our representative will be there to assist you. At your arrival you will have to pay the Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US\$ 200 cash per person). Outside, your guide will be waiting for you in order to transfer you to your hotel.

After a delicious lunch in a local restaurant, you will depart to the Highlands of San Cristobal Island in order to visit El Junco lagoon that is a crater lake of an extinct volcano rather than a lagoon and it is the only fresh water spring in the Galapagos Islands. The fresh water attracts both Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds that come in to drink. Watching the frigatebirds shear over the water surface is quite a spectacular sight. Other waterbirds that we can expect to see here include the endemic subspecies of White-cheeked Pintail, Common Gallinule and possibly some migrant waders. Darwin finches that we will be looking for in the highlands include the Small Tree Finch and the Woodpecker Finch. The endemic and Endangered San Cristobal Mockingbird is our most important target on this island but the species is usually not too difficult to find at lower elevations. The rare Galapagos Rail has been reported from the highlands of San Cristobal but we will need some luck to find it here. Return to Puerto Baquerizo, diner and overnight.



HOTEL LOS ALGARROBOS, is located in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, just 100 m from Playa Mann Beach. It is a simple hotel with good services, it offers single, double, triple, quadruple rooms with private bathroom, hot/cold water, air conditioner, Cable TV, Wifi. **Tourist**



CASA OPUNTIA is located in a beautiful water front property in San Cristobal Island, Galapagos. The hotel has been recently refurbished and named after the endemic "Opuntia" cacti featured in the gardens of the Mediterranean style property. Casa Opuntia features ample air-conditioned rooms, exclusive social areas, swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a gourmet waterfront restaurant service and bar. **Tourist Superior**



SEASIDE HOTEL, is a modern, clean-designed villa with 10 rooms, located next to Playa Mann beach and a couple hundred meters away from Centro de Interpretation, from which you can get to many tourist attractions like Tijeretas or Punta Carola. All rooms offer TV and a mini-bar, air-conditioner, private bathroom equipped with a shower and fresh towels. Also you have restaurant service and an outdoor swimming pool. **First Class**



(L.D)

DAY 2: THURSDAY: ESPAÑOLA ISLAND: PTA. SUAREZ – GARDNER ISLET BY ESPAÑOLA

After an early breakfast you will depart to Española Island. In the morning you will visit Pta. Suarez, this is a rocky point of land that sustains one of the most impressive and varied colonies of sea birds in Galapagos. Along its southern shore, steep cliffs rise up from the sea, for a spectacular view of soaring birds and the famous blowhole. A noisy colony of Sea Lions and curious mockingbirds (Hood Mockingbird) greet you as you land on their beach. You will meet a multitude of Blue-footed Boobies, Masked boobies, Albatross, Red billed Tropic Birds, Galapagos Shearwater, Phalaropes, Storm Petrels, Large Cactus Finch, Galapagos Hawk and endemic Marine iguanas with unique traces of red and green soak up the heat from the sun.



Lunch on board and in the afternoon, you will visit Gardner Islet (Española), great place for snorkeling, where it is possible to see fascinating creatures including snake eels, marble rays, diamond rays, Galapagos pufferfish, plenty of red-lipped batfish and occasional hammerhead. In the afternoon you will return to San Cristobal to diner and overnight.



(B.L.D)

DAY 3: FRIDAY: SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND: PUNTA PITT

After breakfast you will take a speed boat in order to travel to Punta Pitt located at the north of San Cristobal Island. Punta Pitt is a combination of eroded volcanic cones and scarcely populated by endemic vegetation on the islands, this environment provides protection and warmth for species like sea lions, lava lizards, marine iguanas, frigates, pelicans and boobies. Punta Pitt is one of the two only



places on the Galapagos islands where you can see three species of boobies nesting in the same area, red, blue and Nazca boobies. On the beach you can see dozens of sea lions, frigates, pelicans, herons and lava gulls flying over the site. If you get lucky you might get to see the rare Galapagos Petrel at sea. Return to San Cristobal to the hotel for dinner and overnight.



This day it is possible to see Storm Petrels, Shearwaters, Phalaropes, Lava Gull, Lava Heron, Gray Blue Heron, Nazca Boobies, Blue Footed Boobies, Red Footed Boobies, Peregrine Falcon (M), Galápagos petrel, Great Frigate Bird, Magnificent Frigate Bird, Chatham Mockingbird, Small Ground Finch, Dark Billed Cuckoo, Large Ground Finch, Large Cactus finch and others.



(B.BL.D)

DAY 4: SATURDAY: SAN CRISTOBAL – FLOREANA – ISABELA ISLAND

After an early breakfast, departure to Floreana island, arrival to Puerto Velasco and then you will depart to Asilo de la Paz in the highlands of Floreana island. Here we will target another rare species, the Critically Endangered Medium Tree Finch, which is only found here. We will also pay a visit to the tortoise reserve which is generally good for Tree Finches. Galapagos Flycatcher is also around. In the afternoon you will depart to Isabela, arrival to Puerto Villamil and transfer to the hotel to diner and overnight.



CORAL BLANCO HOTEL, is Located at 164 feet from the beach. It offers comfortable accommodations with free Wi-Fi in Puerto Villamil. Continental breakfast is offered and an on-site restaurant is featured. Providing a tranquil environment, the rooms in Hotel Coral Blanco feature private bathrooms, air conditioning, and refrigerators.
Tourist



CORMORANT BEACH HOUSE HOTEL Sitting at the shore of white sand on Isabela Island, this beautiful hotel offers a joyful and yet calm slice of sober minimalism with an emphasis on nature and its equilibrium. An airy refugee, our 10-room hotel is a place where guests can discover the long-forgotten rhythms of the paused and lingering days.
Tourist Superior



IGUANA CROSSING is Isabela’s newest and most innovative hotel. Its minimalist design and superior service offer guests a privileged experience in this scarcely populated Island. Iguana Crossing is located in between of Isabela s extensive white sand beaches and directly behind a wildlife-filled lagoon. Iguana Crossing offers an oceanfront swimming pool, Jacuzzi, 12 fully equipped rooms and a master suite.
First Class



(B.L.D)

DAY 5: SUNDAY: ISABELA ISLAND: SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO –MARSHLANDS

After an early breakfast depending on Galapagos National Park regulations and established schedule for our excursion, your guide will be waiting for you in order to depart to Sierra Negra Volcano, that is one of the most impressive volcanoes in the archipelago. You will hike up the trail to the caldera, which is the largest of all of the Galapagos volcanoes (c. 10km wide). The caldera is our best place to look for the Galapagos Martin, besides in Sierra Negra it is possible to find Galapagos Rail, Woodpecker Finch, Green Warbler Finch, Small Tree Finch and Galapagos Flycatcher. On route you will stop in Campoduro where a delicious lunch will be waiting for you. Then on the way back to Puerto Villamil you stop at the Flamingo pond.

In the afternoon you will visit Humedales or Marshlands, this place has a pristine ecosystem of tidal lagoons that is the habitat of flamingos and migratory birds. Four species of mangroves can be finding here. This is a great place to see several species of Darwin Finches, Mangrove Warbler and others. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

(B.L.D)

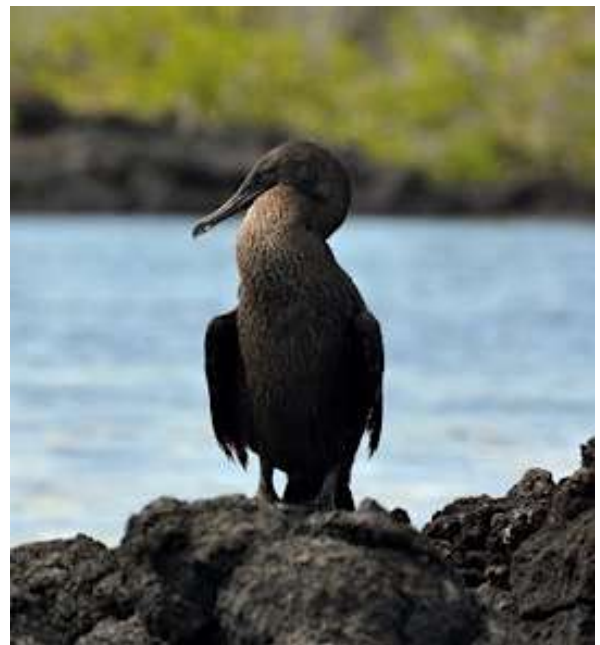


DAY 6: MONDAY: ISABELA ISLAND: THE FLIGHTLESS CORMORANT

After an early breakfast your guide will transfer you to the pier where a small speedboat will be waiting for you in order to depart to couple sites around Isabela where you will have the opportunity to see one of the most amazing endemic species of Galapagos, the Flightless Cormorant, this amazing Galapagos endemic is the largest specie of cormorant in the world, it is unique because it has lost its ability to fly.

Also you can see other bird species like the incredible Galapagos Penguin (except from June to August), Frigate Birds, Shearwaters, Phalaropes, Flightless Cormorant, Greater Flamingo and some species of finches. Box lunch en route and in the afternoon you will enjoy of snorkeling, then you will return to Puerto Villamil where you will dinner and overnight.

(B.BL.D)



DAY 7: TUESDAY: NAVIGATION ISABELA – STA CRUZ ISLAND: HIGHLANDS

At 5h30 you will be transferred to pier where a speedboat will be waiting for you in order to navigate to Santa Cruz Island.

Once in Puerto Ayora you will enjoy of a delicious breakfast and then you will travel to the highlands of Santa Cruz that is continually changing and you will ascend through all seven different vegetation zones. There you are able to see the Giant tortoises in the wild at a private farm where you will lunch. This is a good place to see the Vegetarian Finch and with luck the Paint-billed Crake.

In the afternoon you will continue looking for Galapagos Rail and then you will return to Puerto Ayora where you will diner and overnight.



DEJA VÚ, is a establishment located in Puerto Ayora, equipped with free WiFi, restaurant and an outdoor pool. The hotel also has a bar and a gym. The rooms have flat-screen TVs. Rooms include private bathroom with bathtub or shower. There are also free toiletries and a hairdryer. The accommodation offers 24- hour reception, night entertainment and car rental service. **(Tourist)**



HOTEL LA ISLA is located in the Santa Cruz Island, a few kilometers from the most important points of visit of the island. Newly very modern and cozy, quiet rooms for rest undisturbed, completely new furniture and very good quality. We have 5 comfortable king size bedrooms, 3 with twin chances of being. Internet access in rooms, restaurant and reception area. Room with AA, hot water, TV cable TV. Social area on the upper floor, water dispenser with hot and cold. **Tourist Superior**



Ikala Hotel is located in the small city of Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. The hotel is just one block away from the main pier and the main street where you will find plenty of shops, restaurants, bars and other facilities. The hotel offers a lovely swimming pool, bar area, and a beautiful terrace located on top of the main building with an amazing view of the harbor. All suites offers private bathroom, hot/cold water, air conditioning, silent fans, and amenities. **First Class**



(B.L.D)

DAY 8: WEDNESDAY: GALAPAGOS: CHARLES DARWIN STATION – FLIGHT BACK TO MAINLAND

After breakfast your guide will be waiting for you in order to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station where you will learn at first hand of the conservation and research efforts in the islands seeing the tortoise hatchlings and breeding programs, which are saving several races of tortoises from extinction.

You will have the last chance to look for some of the finches that surround the Charles Darwin Station, species like Small, Medium and Large Ground Finches and Galápagos Mockingbird can be found here. Transfer to Baltra airport in order to catch your flight back to mainland.

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