

INDEPENDENT TRIPS

## Galapagos Island Hopping Adventure 5D/4N

Nature & Adventure

5 Days / 1 Country

**Ecuador**

Departure city: **Baltra, Ecuador**

End city: **Galapagos Islands, Ecuador**

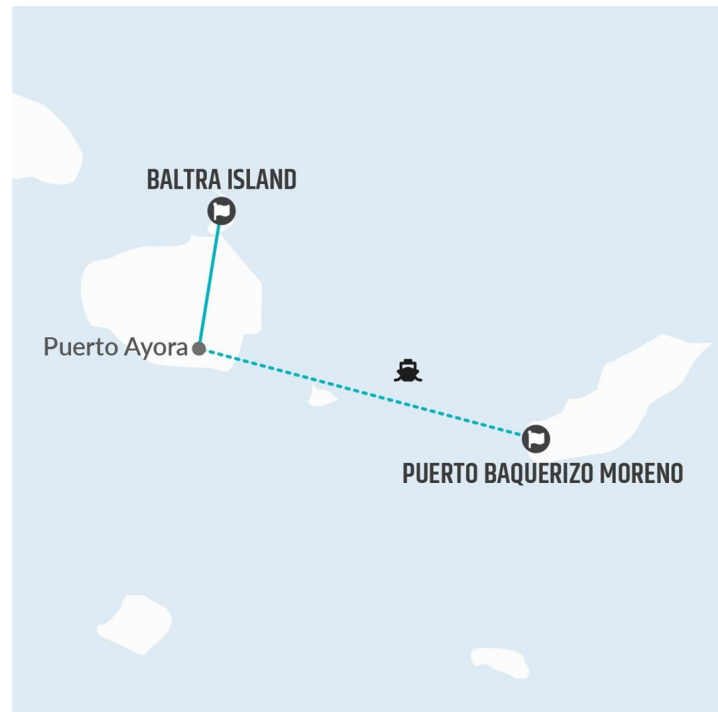


### HIGHLIGHTS

- Go snorkeling among sea lions, rays and turtles
- Spot blue footed boobies and frigate birds
- Relax on beautiful white sandy beaches
- Swim in crystalline turquoise waters

Discover the incredibly diverse marine life endemic to the Galapagos Islands on this 5-day island hopping adventure with included flights. Take a boat ride to nearby islands to see native birds and get the opportunity to swim next to seals and turtles.

### MAP



## What is included



### Independent Trips

Include all of your accommodation, transport and experiences on a pre-set trip that you can customize to perfectly suit your travel needs.



### Accommodation: 4

- 4 nights budget, standard or superior accommodation



### Transport: 4

- Airport pick-up/drop-off, tour transport Ferry Santa Cruz - San Cristobal
- Baltra airport pick-up Transfers Between harbour and accommodation at different islands
- San Cristobal airport drop-off



### Meals: 6

- 4 Breakfast(s), 2 Lunch(es),



### Guides:

- English-speaking guides on tours

## What is not included

- \*Flights
- \*Small Taxi Boat Transfers Between Harbour and Ferry Boats (+/- \$0.60 pp, Cash Only)
- \*Other Meals & Drinks
- \*Galapagos Fees: INGALA Migration Control Card (\$20 USD), Isabela Dock Fee - \$10 USD, Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (\$100 USD) & Bus from Balta airport to Itabaca Canal (\$5 USD), Ferry ticket to cross the Itabaca canal (\$1 USD)
- \*Note: Please Plan Ahead as There are No ATMs on the Island
- \*Wetsuits (Bring Your Own or Rent in Puerto Ayora)
- \*Optional Activities
- \*Personal Expenses
- \*Tips
- \*Travel Insurance

\*Prices for optional activities are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Please confirm these prices before departing on your trip.

## Additional information

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Snorkelling Equipment:** Although basic snorkel equipment is included during day trips. We strongly recommend that you also bring your own equipment (or at least mask and tube) so that you can enjoy snorkelling off the beaches during your free time as well, as it is easy to see marine life.

DAY TOURS:

### Santa Fé Island

Santa Fe Island has an interesting volcanic composition, where a forest of giant Opuntia Cactus grows over volcanic rocks. The island is located southeast of Santa Cruz and is an island with an area of 24 Km<sup>2</sup>, with a maximum height of 259 meters. After a boat ride to the island, visit two

snorkel sites around the coast of Santa Fe. They are generally great places to snorkel with the playful Galapagos sea lions. You can also see many reef fish, and sometimes turtles, reef sharks and rays. Then we will disembark and spend some time on the beach 'Playa Escondida'. If you're lucky you could spot some of the wildlife that inhabits Santa Fé: land iguanas, galapagos hawk, finches, doves, mockingbirds, endemic rice rat and the harmless Galapagos snake.

### **Plazas Island**

There are actually two islands, Plaza Norte and Plaza Sur. Only Plaza Sur, the southern bigger island is visited by tourists. This island has a lot to offer. The flora and fauna will astonish you. This island is mostly known for the many land iguanas that live on it. When you are a little further from the coast, it looks like you've walked into the movie "Jurassic Park", because you will be eye to eye with beautiful green, yellow and orange land iguanas. This is all surrounded by beaches, beautiful cactus and in the background the blue sea. At the coast the male sea lions live in peace. The militant lifestyle is only maintainable for males who are in their prime. The elder spend their last days in colonies, of which one can be found at Plaza Sur. It is sensational to see how the sea lions and iguanas mix. They play together as real pals. This island also offers a lot to bird lovers and a so called "birdwatchers paradise" can be found, a steep cliff with swallow tailed gulls, masked boobies, blue-footed boobies, tropical red bill birds, frigatebirds, pelicans and Audubon's. The gulls, partners for ever, are always here cuddling or nesting.

### **Bartolomé Island**

Bartolomé has a surface area of only 1,2 Km<sup>2</sup> and the highest point of the island is at 114 meters. You can reach this point by taking a path through an almost surrealistic landscape and past recent signs of volcano eruptions. After a walk which is definitely worth it, you will reach the highest point of the island with a spectacular view over the lava in different colours, the many volcanoes and the deep blue sea as well as the famous "Pinnacle Rock". In 1993 they constructed stairs on this path because it began to erode due to so many visitors. The beach at "Pinnacle Rock" is also worth a visit. Here you can find, from December till April, green sea turtles who come ashore to lie in the sun. This is special because in other places the turtles only come ashore at night to lay eggs. During the day they are staying in the safe water. Snorkelling is almost a must here. With a little luck you will see the "Moorish Idol", this is the most beautiful fish from the Galapagos.

### **North Seymour Island**

North Seymour is located north of the island Baltra. The island has a surface area of only 1,9 Km<sup>2</sup> and is almost totally flat. At this island there are the breeding colonies of the frigatebirds, the blue-footed boobies and the swallow tailed gull. To impress the female frigatebirds, the male blows up his red throat bag. To attract more attention they fly around in the surroundings of the female. You can imagine that this is not too easy with a blown-up throat bag, because they lose their balance quicker. It makes up quite a funny scene.

### **Isla Lobos**

You will have the opportunity to walk around this wonderful little island. There, marvel at the sea lion colonies, seabirds such as: blue footed boobies, migratory birds, frigates nesting or courting with that impressive red balloon, and nazca boobies also can be found. Go to Canal Lobos, a great place for snorkeling or swimming in turquoise waters with sea lions, tropical fish, rays, sea turtles. After this amazing experience, we sail to Playa Ochoa or Manglesito (according to the tide) where we have our box lunch and relax ourselves on a beautiful white sandy beach.

### **Kicker Rock**

The boat will transport us to the beautiful rock in the middle of the ocean, which according to the "isleños" looks like a sleeping sea lion. The boat will take you around the rock to spot different nesting seabirds and will stop at the entrance of the canal from where you will snorkel. During this snorkel adventure you can spot sharks (white tipped, galapagos and hammerhead), sea turtles, rays and more. After this wonderful experience we sail to Playa Ochoa or Manglesito (according to the tide) where we have our box lunch and relax ourselves on a beautiful white sandy beach.

# Itinerary

## Day 1: Baltra Island - Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador

Baltra Airport Pick-Up & Transfer to Santa Cruz Island

Upon arrival to the Baltra Island, you will get picked up from the airport and transferred to the harbour in Puerto Ayora. You will be met by your contact person who will explain the programme for the coming days and you will receive recommendations on restaurants and things to do on Santa Cruz. In the afternoon you have free time to explore different sites of Santa Cruz. You can walk through the beautiful dry tropical forest leading up to Tortuga Bay, visit the Charles Darwin Station to learn about the Galápagos' ongoing conservation efforts, or rent a mountain bike to go up to the highlands of Santa Cruz on your own.

## Day 2: Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador

Day Tour to a Nearby Island (Santa Fé, Plazas, Bartolome or North Seymour) (B/L)

Today is an early rise for a day tour of Santa Fé Island. Enjoy snorkeling among abundant marine life and relax on board the boat taking in the beautiful surrounding views. Explore the islands to try and spot land iguanas, and go bird watching. Your day tour includes a lunch on-board. Santa Fe Island has an interesting volcanic composition, where a forest of giant Opuntia Cactus grows over volcanic rocks. The island is located southeast of Santa Cruz and is an island with an area of 24 Km<sup>2</sup>, with a maximum height of 259 meters. After a boat ride to the island, visit two snorkel sites around the coast of Santa Fe. They are generally great places to snorkel with the playful Galapagos sea lions. You can also see many reef fish, and sometimes turtles, reef sharks and rays. Then we will disembark and spend some time on the beach 'Playa Escondida'. If you're lucky you could spot some of the wildlife that inhabits Santa Fé: land iguanas, galapagos hawk, finches, doves, mockingbirds, endemic rice rat and the harmless Galapagos snake.

## Day 3: Santa Cruz Island - San Cristobal Island, Ecuador

Ferry to San Cristobal Island (B)

You will have a free morning today. Take advantage of it to visit the sites of Santa Cruz that you did not visit on the first day. Then make your way to the harbour from where the ferry to San Cristobal Island leaves at 14:00 pm. You will arrive around 16:00 – 16:30 pm at San Cristobal where you will be met by your contact person at the harbour and will be taken to your accommodation. Your contact person will explain your programme on San Cristobal and you will receive recommendations on restaurants and things to do on San Cristobal. During the rest of the afternoon, you can stroll the boulevard and watch the many sea lions that sleep there or go relax on one of the nearby beaches.

## Day 4: San Cristobal Island, Ecuador

Day Tour to Isla Lobos or Kicker Rock (B/L)

Today you will go on a day tour to either Isla Lobos or Kicker Rock, depending on availability. Lunch is included on this day tour. Return to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno at 16:00 pm.

Isla Lobos

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## Day 5: San Cristobal Island, Ecuador

### San Cristobal Airport Drop-Off (B)

Enjoy your free morning before departing the Galapagos Islands. You will be transferred to the San Cristobal Airport 1.5 hours before departure. We wish you safe travels.

