

# GALAPAGOS

DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 4



NEW YEAR | NEW HORIZONS | NEW FRIENDS





# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | DECEMBER 28

Arrival on the islands. Check-in. Free time. Dinner together (location TBD).

## DAY 2 | DECEMBER 29

### CHARLES DARWIN STATION + BAY TOUR

The morning visit heads to the Charles Darwin Research Station and the giant tortoise pens within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest. These are the headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration. Visiting Galapagos should always start here, so the visitors would better understand the rest of their trip and the ecosystem they will be in.

#### THE BAY: MEET GIANT MARINE IGUANAS

The tour around the bay will start onboard a yacht, with a visit to "La Lobería", named like this because of the presence of sea lions. Here you will swim or snorkel. Then we proceed to the "Canal del Amor", a marvelous site where nature gives us an unforgettable view, followed by a viewpoint where we can observe reef sharks. We'll continue with a short walk to see the giant marine iguanas that inhabit in "Playa de los Perros". Punta Estrada and Grietas (photo, up) will also be visited. Pick-up is at 9AM. Price is \$55/person. Bring sun protection, bathing suit, comfortable shoes. Snorkeling gear is included.





### DAY 3 | DECEMBER 30

## SANTA FE SNORKELING TRIP + PLAYA ESCONDIDA

Santa Fe offers one of the more beautiful and sheltered coves in the islands. Its turquoise lagoon is protected by a peninsula of tiny islets forming an ideal anchorage. The island lies to the southeast of Santa Cruz within sight of Puerto Ayora. Like North Seymour, Santa Fe has been uplifted seismically, and you can see underwater lava formations. Schedule:

8AM: Pick-up at hotel, start activity at the dock.

9AM: Marine birds, sea lions, manta rays.

10AM: Snorkeling, rays, swim with sea lions, sharks and turtles.

Noon: Lunch on board (included)

1.30PM: Playa Escondida, secrete beach, mangroves, relaxing time.

3.30PM: Navigation back to Puerto Ayora.

Price: \$125/person.





**DAY 4 | DECEMBER 31**

## **NORTH SEYMOUR & BACHAS TOUR**

This is considered by many the best location in the Galapagos. A must do. North Seymour Island was lifted from the ocean floor by a seismic event, and its origins as a seabed give the island its low, flat profile. Cliffs only a few meters high form the shoreline, where swallow-tailed gulls sit perched in ledges.

This island is teeming with life! You might have to give way to a passing sea lion or marine iguana; blue-footed booby nests sit beside the trail where mating pairs perform their courtship dance. Further along, the rocky shore displays white sand and large flocks of pelicans mass for a dive-bomb feeding frenzy, rendering a tableau for us from ages long past. The trail turns inland to reveal the largest nesting site in the Galapagos of the "magnificent frigate bird." These giant, dark acrobats have two-meter wingspans, and males, with puffed-up scarlet throat sacks, sit precariously perched in low bushes to watch over their equally large chicks.

### **LAS BACHAS: FLAMINGOS & EGG-LAYING SITE**

Las Bachas is a sandy white-coral beach, a major egg-laying site for sea turtles. There are many marine iguanas on the shore, and in the lagoon, flamingos are commonly seen. This beach is also a good place for swimming and snorkeling.

Pick-up is at 8AM, lunch is also included. Price: regular \$220/person (on website), special \$175/pp for us.



**DAY 5 | JANUARY 1**

## **NORTHLAND TOUR**

This time, we will avoid the marine life and will go inland, where we expect to see thousands of creatures and the famous giant turtles Galapagos is known for. This will be an afternoon tour, which will start at 2.30PM.

Price is \$35/person.







## DAY 6 | JANUARY 2

### TORTUGA BAY

Tortuga Bay is a one-hour walk west from Puerto Ayora on a marked cobbled path. The path is suitable for birdwatching; it is easy to spot several species of finches as you walk along the way. Start at the west end of Charles Binford Street; The sunsets here are spectacular. Also, take care of the powerful undertow at the main beach, mainly used for surfing.

The surf is calmer on the next cove to the west. This is the swimming area and an excellent spot for relaxing. The white sand beach is considered by many the nicest of the archipelago.

Its name comes from the sea turtles that go there to lay their eggs. Other species include pelicans, blue-footed boobies and marine iguanas.

Price: \$65/person.





**DAY 3 | DECEMBER 30**

## **PINZON TOUR**

Pinzón Island is one of the few places in the Galapagos where you have the opportunity to view Penguins. During the scenic cruise down the west coast of Santa Cruz, you also may have the chance to see Manta Rays, turtles, sharks and Whales (hopefully we're lucky).

On this tour, you also pass Nameless Island, which is in the middle of a large Tuna run. After open-water snorkeling in the protected bay near Pinzón island, you will motor back to Las Palmas Beach for lunch aboard your vessel. Following lunch (included), you can snorkel from the beach. A relaxing cruise back to Puerto Ayora ends the day. We start at 8AM. Price is \$135/person.







**DAY 8 | JANUARY 4**

## **GOODBYES**

Time to leave Galapagos with a million memories, a bunch of friends and looking forward to a new and fabulous 2022!

Lorem Ipsum

## **AIRPORT PICK-UPS & DROP-OFFS**

Our guide Jonathan could arrange airport pick-ups and drop-offs for \$25/person all the way (hotel-plane). Let Sorin know if you are interested.

\*\*The prices for the tours are payable individually (per party) but we need to inform Jonathan as soon as possible if we do them because it's the busiest time of the year and he is constantly getting requests from tourists RIGHT NOW - but he has been booked himself off for us.