



In the afternoon, when you step ashore on Cerro Dragon (3) (Dragon Hill), you'll have a magnificent panoramic view of the bay and island landscape. You may see flamingos in the brackish lagoon, along with a variety of plants, including opuntia cactus, Palo Santo and Muyuyo trees (*Cordia letea*). As you walk the trail, look for Darwin's finches, Galapagos flycatchers, yellow warblers, and Audubon shearwaters. The guides will also pause to point out birds such as stilts, pintail ducks and sandpipers. Scan the path for yellow Land iguanas, strikingly different from their marine cousins, resting in the sun. These iguanas, which are endemic to the Galapagos, were once part of the Station's breeding program.

After walking the trail, you'll return to the yacht for a briefing and dinner.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Begin your morning with a Zodiac ride at Punta Vicente Roca (1). Your skilled driver will navigate you through the wave-sculpted caves and bring you up close to the tuff walls covered in colorful Sally light-foot crabs. Don't miss the opportunity to snorkel here (2), with penguins diving playfully in the water or grooming themselves on rock formations. Look for sea turtles poking their heads above water before swimming gracefully beneath the surface. After lunch, take a seat on the sun deck to enjoy the scenery as we sail through the Bolivar Channel. In addition to the dramatic scenery, you might get to see whales riding the bow wave or dolphins jumping in graceful arcs. You may even spot the Mola-Mola, an odd-looking giant sun fish with triangular fins on the top and bottom and a short, stubby tail fin.

In the afternoon, you'll disembark at Urbina Bay on ISABELA (2) Island and see some surprising evidence of volcanic activity. Four files of coastal seabed were exposed due to a dramatic uplift during an eruption in 1954, and some of the remaining coral skeletons still stand several feet high. A diverse collection of animal species await on the island as well, including Galapagos land iguanas, marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, and the occasional giant Galapagos tortoise. When you're finished exploring, you'll return to the vessel for your nightly briefing and dinner. After dessert, step outside and observe the pale glow of the Milky Way. As we cross the Equator, you may get a visit from King Neptune himself! Guests of all ages will enjoy this fun filled evening and maritime ritual, our crew dress as pirates and guest participation is optional.

#### THURSDAY:

This morning you're in for another geological wonder. Stop at Punta Espinoza on FERNANDINA (4), the youngest and most pristine Island in Galapagos, formed by active volcanoes that stretch around the coast. With no introduced animals on this island, you can observe the ecosystem at its most pristine. Sea lion harems lie on the beach, with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory and keeping a lookout for sharks that threaten the colony's pups. Hundreds of marine iguanas, forming the largest colony in Galapagos, warm themselves along the rugged shoreline, blending in with the dark rocks. Out on the point, your guide will show you the nests of flightless cormorants, which stay close to shore since they lost their ability to fly. You'll have an opportunity to snorkel here, in the company of the large sea turtles that frequent the area. Return to the yacht for a BBQ lunch served on the sundeck where you'll have a prime view for whale watching.

Your guide will offer an enrichment lecture about Charles Darwin and his Theory of evolution as well as social/environmental projects that benefit the Galapagos. After lunch, you'll get to see some of the human history of the Galapagos when you go ashore on Tagus Cove (5). This was a favorite stopping point for pirates and whalers for centuries, and sections of the rocky cliffs are covered in graffiti from as far back as the 1800s. Hike at a faster pace to a saltwater lagoon and scenic overview, and take in the ocean, lava fields, and volcanic formations. You may choose to explore the shoreline of the secluded cove by kayak or paddleboard. There are many animals to see, including Galapagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds. Tonight, as we sail toward the geographic center of the archipelago, we'll cross the equator for the third and final time.

#### FRIDAY:

This morning, you'll disembark on the dark red beach of RABIDA (Jervis-2). This small island is considered the geographic center of the Galapagos because its volcanic rocks are the most diversified in the archipelago. A short trail will lead you to a



saltwater lagoon filled with greater flamingos. Along the way, look for marine iguanas, mockingbirds and yellow warblers. You may also see Darwin's finches. Over a dozen species of finches live on the islands and observing them contributed to Charles Darwin's ideas that formed the basis for his theory of evolution. If you choose to snorkel this morning (2), you may be able to see a colony of sea lions or rays. Several species of rays live on the Galapagos, but golden rays and spotted eagle rays are the most common.

Guests on the Theory and Letty visit Puerto Egas on SANTIAGO (James) Island-3, where you'll stroll along the shoreline looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life caught in the tide pools. Watch for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. During mating season, green and red algae give the usually black marine iguanas beautiful coloration. The walk ends at the grottos, deep pools of clear water where you'll encounter fur sea lions once on the verge of extinction. Before returning to the yacht, take the opportunity to snorkel from the beach (1). As you sail after lunch, take a seat on deck to view the dramatic landscape and dolphins that are often spotted here. Guests on the Origin have a Zodiac excursion at Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove)-1 through a series of peaceful coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves whose large roots rise out of the water. View pairs of mating sea turtles (Sept to Feb), white-tipped reef sharks and golden cow-nosed rays. We return to the vessel for the Captain's Farewell cocktail with the crew, and dinner as well as a special presentation by your guides.

#### SATURDAY:

When you wake up this morning, your yacht will be one of dozens of boats anchored in the lively harbor of Academy Bay. You'll disembark at Puerto Ayora, SANTA CRUZ (2) Island, the social heart of the Galapagos, with a population of 24,000 residents. This morning, we visit the breeding center Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena (2) and Charles Darwin Research Station where we learn about ongoing conservation efforts from exhibits set up along the wooden trail. You'll see hatchlings and miniature tortoises that will be repatriated by the National Park when grown. The newest exhibit honors Lonesome George, the last surviving tortoise from Pinta Island that tragically died of natural causes. With his species now extinct, Lonesome George has become a worldwide icon, emphasizing the importance of efforts to preserve and protect endangered wildlife. A more hopeful story is Diego, a saddleback tortoise whose species was reduced to 14 individuals before he was transported from the San Diego Zoo and who has since fathered hundreds of

descendants. Afterwards, you'll learn about the history of the settlers of this Island on a guided tour through the back streets of Puerto Ayora. Stroll through town to shop for handmade souvenirs, Ecuadorian chocolate ice cream or coffee grown in Galapagos.

Return to the yacht for lunch and later board a bus for a short ride to a lava tunnel, a hollow formation created when lava on the earth's surface cools and hardens while molten lava continues to flow in the middle. Your next stop will be Los Gemelos (The Twins), a pair of large, deep craters with vibrant plant life at higher elevation. Next stop is at a privately-owned hacienda, where giant tortoises roam freely - some weighing over 500 pounds - in their natural habitat, feeding or resting in shallow pools.

Return to the yacht for dinner or, if you wish, remain ashore on your own at a local restaurant. Your guides or concierge will be glad to provide a recommendation. Zodiac shuttles from the yachts to the main dock will be offered throughout the evening for your convenience.

#### SUNDAY:

Your last morning in the Galapagos we disembark after breakfast and travel by bus to Cerro Tijeretas (Frigatebird Hill-2), where you'll find nesting colonies of both species of frigate birds; Great and Magnificent, lava lizards, medium ground finches and San Cristobal mockingbird. Follow the trail to Punta Carola for a spectacular view. Guests on the Letty have an early morning visit Isla Lobos (5). Before your flight back to the mainland, you'll have time for any last-minute photos or shopping. A short bus ride will get you to the airport with plenty of time for check in.

Ecoventura reserves the right at its sole option and discretion and that of the Captain of the vessel without liability for damages or refund of any kind to deviate from the vessel's advertised or regularly scheduled itinerary. Itineraries are subject to change at any time for any reason including mechanical failure and without prior notice. Ecoventura will not be held responsible for any refunds whatsoever for changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary.

## 7 DAY/ 6 NIGHT CRUISE (SUNDAY TO SATURDAY)

**PASSENGERS CAN DISEMBARK ONE DAY EARLY ON SATURDAY IN BALTRA FOR A SHORTER, 6 NIGHT CRUISE.**

### ITINERARY B - NORTHERN / WESTERN ROUTE

<b>SUNDAY TO FRIDAY</b>	Same as on 7 night itinerary
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Early morning visit to the breeding center (formerly Charles Darwin Station) VIP private Transfer to Baltra airport from Puerto Ayora

For guests who require a private transfer to the airport with a guide, there is an additional charge of \$50 per person or \$200 maximum. Departing passengers are transferred by private vehicle, accompanied by one of our guides or a local guide to the Itabaca canal, followed by a 10-minute ferry crossing, then a 15 minute bus ride to the Baltra airport for check in for your flight departing at 10AM or 1PM.

The return flight from Baltra will incur an additional fee of \$27 per person and is subject to availability and confirmation is requested at the time of booking. For guests who disembark on Saturday and remain in Puerto Ayora, you may disembark after breakfast, and we can provide transportation to the main dock by Zodiac at no charge. You will need to arrange for a transfer to your hotel through the hotel or take a taxi.

### TWO WEEK ITINERARY BACK TO BACK

Book two consecutive weeks back to back for the most comprehensive cruise itinerary, and do not repeat the same visits twice.

### ITINERARY A+B 15 DAY/ 2 WEEK ITINERARY

<b>SUNDAY</b>	La Loberia or El Junco Lake, SAN CRISTOBAL Interpretation Center, SAN CRISTOBAL
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Reserva Ecologica Cerro Mesa, SANTA CRUZ Tortuga Bay, SANTA CRUZ

#### Difficulty level of Guided shore excursions:

- 1- Easy walk on even terrain or beach
- 2- Moderate walk on a trail with mostly firm terrain
- 3- Rocky trail with moderate landing and climbing
- 4- Difficult steep rocky trail or climbing up natural stairs
- 5- Long rocky challenging trail with loose or slippery rocks

#### Difficulty level of snorkeling excursions:

- 1- Enter water from the beach in shallow where you can touch the bottom
- 2- Enter water from Zodiac in deeper water, possible current, requires experience