

## **Adventure to the Galapagos Islands – 7 Day 6 Night Trip**

### **Group Trip Details:**

Date: November 26 – December 2, 2023

Group Size: 15 Traveler Limit

Difficulty: Moderate

Staff: Amazonia Tour Leader Edward Yount

### **Trip Overview:**

The Galapagos Islands are a nature lover's paradise and visiting them is the world's greatest experience for close-up wildlife encounters. Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and other great explorers to experience the legendary biodiversity that these incredible, remote islands have to offer. Discover the islands' famous wildlife including Giant Tortoises, Galapagos Sea Lions, Galapagos Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Blue-Footed Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds, and more. Not only will we experience the islands legendary biodiversity, but we will also have the chance to learn about the unique history of these incredible islands.

### **Why Travel with Amazonia to the Galapagos Islands?**

1. We work with small & local Galapagos owned businesses. Unfortunately, over the past several years there has been a large push from large international corporations entering the tourism market with huge cruise ships & chain hotels which has been to the detriment of small locally run operators & the fragile environment. By traveling with us you can ensure you are visiting the islands in the most sustainable way for the local people & the environment.
2. Our Galapagos tours allow you to explore the best of the Galapagos Islands during the day and sleep on dry land in comfortable, eco-lodges at night. Here we will have homecooked local meals made to our liking every day and experience the incredible hospitality of the Galapagos people.
3. The trip is wildlife focused, we will be working with some of the best naturalist guides on the island and we always keep in mind to try and see the best wildlife and target species on the islands. This is not a "luxury" trip, but you are still seeing the best that the Galapagos Islands has to offer at an excellent quality and price.

### **Accommodations:**

Family run ecolodge located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island in the peaceful community of Bellavista. This community is one of the oldest of the original settlements on the Island of Santa Cruz. Located approximately only 6 km from the tourist center of Puerto Ayora.

**Flights:** It is recommended to book a flight with an early arrival time (before appx. 11:00am) to the Galapagos Islands: Baltra Airport (GPS). Departure time from the Galapagos Islands can be anytime on the final day. We can try to be flexible, but late arrivals on the first day mean you might miss some activities.

## **Expedition to the Galapagos Islands – 7 Day 6 Night Trip**

### **26 November – Arrival to Santa Cruz Galapagos**

Arrival to Baltra Airport – Galapagos (GPS). You will meet our staff at airport exit area (outside baggage claim). Here you will begin transfer to ecolodge located on Santa Cruz. Arrive to the lodge for lunch and time for a short rest or to explore the local area.

After lunch we take a visit to the **Twin Craters**, these are geological formations, craters of volcanic origin. Take a short walk through the native Scaevola Forest to see the Craters. Several species of birds can potentially be found here, including the Witch Bird (Darwin's Flycatcher) Woodpecker Finch, Galapagos Mockingbird, etc.

**Tortoise Reserve & Lava Tunnels** – after visiting the craters we head over to a private Tortoise Reserve of 150 acres, adjacent to the territories of the Galapagos National Park. Here, giant tortoises migrate from the park to this property in certain seasons. On the property there is also a **Lava Tunnel** nearly 300 meters long which we can explore.

Accommodation: Local Ecolodge

Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner

### **27 November – Bartolome Island – Sullivan Bay**

Early morning bus transfer to Itabaca Canal to board the yacht that will take us on the tour of this island with turquoise waters and beautiful white sand beaches. Leave early in the morning with approximately 2-hour navigation to reach the volcanic shores of Bartolome. This is one of the youngest islands of the Galapagos Archipelago where we can see fascinating formations of lava flows, lava bombs and volcanic cones.

Upon arrival, climb a staircase and from the top, you will see a spectacular landscape of two beautiful bays. This is one of the most representative images of the Galapagos archipelago. Near Pinnacle Rock you can also see two beautiful beaches in the form of a crescent. After hiking, you will have the opportunity to snorkel in the bay, where we can hopefully observe sea turtles, sharks, white tip reef, tropical fish, sea lions and many other unique marine species. Also, this is the perfect area to observe the **Galapagos Penguins**.

Accommodation: Local Ecolodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **28 November – Transfer to Isabela Island**

Early morning water transfer to Isabela Island. Upon arrival we will take a short boat ride to the Cabo Rosa Tunnels. This is one of the best places for snorkeling on the Galapagos Islands. Cabo Rosa is the result of lava platforms that collapsed into the sea, which created a unique landscape of hundreds of lava tunnels and bridges of lava. The tunnels are a marine paradise and home to many species such as white tip reef sharks, manta rays, seahorses, galapagos penguins, sea turtles, sea lions, giant mantas, colorful fish, blue-footed boobies, and more.

Accommodation: Hotel on Isabela Island (walking distance to beach)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **29 November – Isabela Island**

Breakfast and then head snorkeling in the nearby bay, however, if you want to take some more relaxed time to enjoy walking along the pristine beach or explore the island... it is up to you. Those who venture out on some of the trails near the hotel will discover a unique wetland ecosystem which is home to a variety of interesting wading birds and other wildlife. After taking the morning to enjoy the island we return to the hotel for a quick shower and lunch.

Lunch and transfer back to Santa Cruz Island. In the afternoon we can take some time to explore local lava tunnels or take a taxi into town to wander the shops & boardwalk in Puerto Ayora.

Accommodation: Local Ecolodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **30 November – North Seymour**

Morning bus transfer to Itabaca for an appx. 1.5-hour navigation to North Seymour Island, which is a great place for hiking. Here there is a circular path about 2 miles long that crosses through the interior of the island and takes us to explore its unique ecology. This trail will take you through some of the largest seabird colonies in the Galapagos Islands.

Here you may have the opportunity to observe the courtship behavior Magnificent Frigatebirds inflating their balloon-like gular sacs & if you are lucky the courtship dance of Blue-footed Boobies. These are some of the more curious attractions of the Galapagos. After lunch, we have the chance to snorkel at a nearby beach which is frequented by sea turtles.

We will return at appx. 5pm for transfer back to the lodge.

Accommodation: Suymar Ecolodge.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **1 December – Santa Fe Island – Hidden Beach**

Morning transfer to Puerto Ayora for an appx. 1.5-hour navigation to Santa Fe Island. As we navigate near the island's huge precipices, we can observe a forest of giant endemic cactus and colonies of seabirds, including pelicans, boobies and gulls. On the north end of the island, we will arrive to a calm turquoise bay, inhabited by a large number of sea lions. This is an ideal place to snorkel, swim with sea lions, tropical fish, and occasionally observe and swim with sea turtles.

Lunch on board.

After lunch we will visit the Hidden Beach where we have the opportunity to enjoy the marine iguana population on the beach and explore this unique coastal ecosystem.

Farewell dinner in Puerto Ayora and time to buy any last-minute souvenirs.

Accommodation: Local Ecolodge.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **2 December – Return to Baltra Airport**

Breakfast and morning departure from Suymar Ecolodge to Baltra Airport (GPS) in time for your departing flight.

Included: Breakfast

END OF TOUR

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## **Pricing**

Booking Deposit: USD \$750.00 per person

Total Cost: USD \$3095.00 per person in double occupancy room

Single in room add USD \$500.00

## **Included:**

- Accommodation on Santa Cruz & Isabela Island
- All transfers in Galapagos
- Daily tours as listed on itinerary
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner as listed on itinerary
- Local Naturalist Guides (English speaking)
- Shuttle costs from Galapagos Airport to Ferry
- Baltra Ferry Fees
- Isabela Island Entry Free

## **Not Included:**

- Air Ticket to Galapagos
- Entrance Fee to Galapagos National Park – USD \$100.00 per person (subject to change)
- Tourism (INGALA) Transit Control Card – USD \$20.00 per person
- Optional Expenses:
  - Tips for Guides, Boat Crew, Hotel Staff,
  - Extra Meals & Drinks – beer, sodas, wine
  - Other Personal Expenses
  - Any extra activities not listed on the itinerary

## **Notes on Daily Boat Tours**

All boat tours are on a shared basis. Capacity for boats to Bartolome Island, Plazas, North Seymour Island are between 16-20 passengers. Day trip boats to Cabo Rosa & Santa Fe are smaller and hold between 10-12 passengers.

**Daily Boat Tours on Santa Cruz will include:**

- English Speaking Naturalist Guide
- Snorkeling Gear – Mask, Snorkel, Fins
- Snacks
- Drinks
- Towels
- Lunch

**Note:** Itinerary subject to changes only if out of our control. Example: changes/delays to flights, changes in boat schedules, changes due to weather/marine conditions, and/or changes in conservation policies of the Galapagos National Park for the protection of the islands.