



ANDANDO^o
TOURS
Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

M/Y WILDAID'S PASSION

GALAPAGOS ITINERARIES



ITINERARY WEST

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

SATURDAY - SATURDAY



ANDANDO^o
TOURS

Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands



DAY 1 – SATURDAY

SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS & CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION



After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our personnel to then cross the Itabaca channel and reach Santa Cruz Island for our first visit in the Archipelago: The Highlands of Santa Cruz. This area, in contrast to the coastal region, has lush vegetation and forest due to the humidity in the higher regions.

We will visit one of the ranches of the area where it is possible to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. As these animals migrate from the coastal area to the highlands and back, the chosen ranch will depend on the presence of the tortoises since they roam free and change locations. We will then head for the M/Y Passion for lunch and to freshen up to then head back to Puerto Ayora for our second visit of the day, the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here, we will see tortoises from different islands. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults. Afterward, we will head back to Puerto Ayora, where we will have some time to explore the town and shops by ourselves (this is the only chance of shopping during on this itinerary) before boarding the M/Y Passion at around 5:00 p.m.

Once on board, the crew and captain will welcome us, have a short security drill and enjoy dinner and the briefing for the next day's activities.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY

PUNTA CORMORANT, DEVIL'S CROWN, BLACK BEACH & ASILO DE LA PAZ

AM: With a wet landing onto the olivine beaches of Punta Cormorant we will begin a walk on the island looking for Greater Flamingos in a brackish lagoon. We may be able to get a close-up view if we are quiet as the flamingos are shy. The second visit at Punta Cormorant is a back on the other side of the island with fine sand and clear blue waters. Sea turtles nest here, so please do not go off trail. In the shallow water, watch your step as many stingrays and sharks visit regularly. We end the outing with a short *panga* ride to snorkel at Devil's Crown, an old volcanic crater that is now a key snorkeling site with many tropical fish and opportunities to see hammerhead sharks.

PM: In the afternoon we will visit Black Beach on Floreana Island to learn more about the intriguing human history of the island and its first inhabitants. We will ride up into the highlands of the island to visit a freshwater source known as the *Asilo de La Paz* and caves that initially served as hideouts for pirates and the birthplace of the first person to be born in Galapagos. One of the many mysteries on Floreana involves the infamous Baroness Eloise Wagner von Bousquet and her two lovers who inexplicably began to disappear after settling on the island. Following this visit, we will head back to the Passion for dinner and a short briefing on the next day.

DAY 3 - MONDAY

POST OFFICE BAY & AFTERNOON NAVIGATION



AM: In the morning we will visit Post Office Bay with a wet landing. During the 18th century, Galapagos was a strategical stop for whalers and pirates during their long voyages. As these trips could last many months and sometimes years, a group of whalers decided to create an unofficial post system with a wooden barrel. Ships that were bound to return would stop in the bay and pick up the post with their same destination. This tradition has continued to this day, so make sure you are equipped with your letter or note to leave in the barrel for another visitor to deliver for you.

PM: In the afternoon after we've had lunch and rested a bit, we will have the best opportunity for a not-so-common, yet exciting activity in the archipelago: a full afternoon navigation for dolphin and whale watching. The channel between Isabela and Fernandina is a popular whale watching site as the whales use this same route when migrating due to the strong currents. This is an area where even orcas may be seen. The impressive landscapes of Isabela and the Cerro Azul volcano add to the experience.

DAY 4 - TUESDAY

PUNTA MORENO & URBINA BAY

AM: We arrive at Isabela Island, the largest of all within the Galapagos. After breakfast, we step ashore at Punta Moreno onto an enormous pahoehoe lava flow surrounded by giant shield volcanoes in the distance, some of which are still active. From here we will do a short hike along the lava fields to a lagoon where flamingos may be present. The lava fields can make walking difficult; we have walking sticks aboard if needed and sturdy shoes should be used as the lava fields are uneven, rocky, and have sharp and jagged formations.

PM: The following activity in the afternoon will be at Urbina Bay with a wet landing. We walk onto a black sand beach to dry our feet off; it is also a nesting site for green sea turtles so make sure to stay within the trail as to not step on any eggs beneath the sand. We then enjoy a brief hike inland searching for land iguanas and Isabela giant tortoises that may be migrating to the coast from the highlands to breed.

At the beach, we will admire the remains of a geological uplift exposing coral heads and marine fossils, and if the sea conditions and time allows, we will also snorkel in this area.

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY

TAGUS COVE & PUNTA ESPINOSA



AM: In the morning we visit Tagus Cove with a dry landing. This area is known as a historic pirate hideaway where names of countless ships are graffitied on the surrounding cliffs with the year they visited. The very first visitors engraved their name and year higher up at the beginning of the hike. The hike leads us to a beautiful lookout and a viewpoint to Darwin Lake, a salt-water lagoon surrounded by tuff stone.

PM: Once again we are aboard the Passion crossing the Bolivar Channel to Fernandina Island, one of the world's most pristine sites and currently still active with a recent eruption in 2018. We will disembark with a dry landing at Punta Espinosa.

Strolling along the shoreline, we will be on the lookout for flightless cormorants, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos penguins and hawks, sooty-colored marine iguanas and bright red and orange Sally Lightfoot crabs.

DAY 6 - THURSDAY

PUERTO EGAS, BUCCANEER'S COVE & ESPUMILLA BEACH

AM: At Puerto Egas, we arrive by wet landing and disembark on a dark sand volcanic beach with a fascinating history of human settlement. With luck, we will see the Galapagos fur seals lounging on the edges of the lava fields and playful sea lions under arches of lava carved by erosion from the ocean. In these crystalline pools known as "grottos," we walk along the shore observing the abundant marine life and shorebirds they attract.

PM: At Buccaneer Cove we can enjoy a *panga* ride around the beautiful coastline. This place is named so as it was once a refuge for British Buccaneers who anchored here to collect supplies and clean their ships. The cove is scenic with views of the cliffs and a dark beach, and unusual rock formations known as ‘the monk’ and ‘elephant rock.’

After Buccaneer’s Cove, we are en route to central Santiago Island to disembark at Espumilla Beach with a wet landing onto golden-colored sand. This area is also used by green sea turtles as a nesting site. A trail through the forest will take us through some of the largest specimens of Palo Santo on the islands to best observe yellow warblers, the Galapagos flycatcher, and Darwin finches.

DAY 7 - FRIDAY

BACHAS BEACH & NORTH SEYMOUR



AM: This morning we will visit Las Bachas Beach. Located on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island, this quiet little beach is the perfect spot to unwind. It got its name during World War II when the American army abandoned its barges. Two of those barges found their way to the shore of the Galápagos. The locals couldn’t quite wrap their heads around the word “barge” and called them “bacha” instead. This pristine white-sand beach is known for its incredible wildlife. Home to flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and countless birds, this is a nature lover’s paradise.

PM: We disembark on North Seymour Island directly onto this small, uplifted island. We will walk through a large bird nesting colony of the two different species of frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls. Depending on the season we will be able to watch the spectacular mating rituals being displayed.

DAY 8 – SATURDAY

MOSQUERA ISLET & DEPARTURE

AM: Mosquera is a small islet located between Baltra and North Seymour Islands, measuring about 160 meters wide and 600 meters long. We will visit this islet to view the shorebirds and aquatic life that frequent this area.

After this visit, the yacht will sail to Baltra Island where passengers will disembark and be assisted to the airport for their departing flight.

ITINERARY EAST

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS



ANDANDO^o
TOURS

Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

SATURDAY - SATURDAY



DAY 1 – SATURDAY

MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA & BLACK TURTLE COVE

PM: After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our naturalist guide to then board the M/Y WildAid's Passion and have lunch. Following our meal, we will navigate a short distance to Black Turtle Cove, a large mangrove lagoon on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. Pelicans and herons roost on the branches, while marine dwellers such as green sea turtles and golden rays may cruise right next to the *panga* as it makes its way through the mangroves.

The day ends with dinner and a briefing for the next day's activities on board the yacht.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY

DARWIN BAY & EL BARRANCO



AM: We travel to Genovesa Island and for a wet landing on Darwin Bay, a unique site with a beautiful beach, lined with red mangroves and soft-haired prickly pear cacti, where red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds perch tamely.

PM: After a dry landing at El Barranco, we will climb to the edge of a cliff where frigatebirds, masked boobies, and red-footed boobies make their nests. The trail will take us to the inner part of the island, populated by *palo santo* trees and cacti. We will be seeking out the impressive red-billed tropicbird amidst Galapagos storm petrels and the endemic short-eared owl.

DAY 3 - MONDAY

PUNTA ESPEJO & SULLIVAN BAY

AM: Today we will have the opportunity to observe the abundant marine life of Punta Espejo, on Marchena Island. This site is reserved for snorkeling and diving only, and it is safe to say that it is one of the best spots in the Galapagos for these activities. This location is known for having dolphins and hammerhead sharks, as well as the vast quantities of coral heads, allowing for a much higher concentration of coral than the rest of the archipelago. We will have two snorkeling activities during this morning, to have more time and opportunities to observe the marine life.

After snorkeling, we will return to the yacht for an in-depth briefing about the ocean currents and their effect on the archipelago's flora and fauna while we navigate to our next destination.

PM: We will have a dry landing in Santiago Island's Sullivan Bay, where we will walk over a recent lava flow with fresh pahoehoe lava formations, lava bubbles containing crystallized minerals, and pioneer plant fossils. Along the shoreline, we may find Galapagos penguins and herons going after small fish.

DAY 4 - TUESDAY

BARTOLOME & DRAGON HILL



AM: We will have a dry landing on Bartolome, followed by a mild climb up a set of wooden steps to reach the summit of a spatter cone for a breathtaking panorama of the island's iconic Pinnacle Rock and views of neighboring Santiago, and other central islands in the distance. Afterward, we will visit the white sand beach used as a nesting site by sea turtles, followed by snorkeling in the waters of Bartolome Island, where it is not unusual to spot Galapagos penguins.

PM: In the afternoon, we navigate a short distance to Cerro Dragon on Santa Cruz's northwestern shore with a dry landing to visit a saltwater lagoon, home to greater flamingos, black-necked stilts, and white-cheeked pintails. Further inland we will find a fantastic land iguana nesting site.

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY

SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS & DARWIN RESEARCH STATION

AM: We will spend this day visiting Santa Cruz Island's most famous highlights. We will have a dry landing at the dock of Puerto Ayora to then board our transportation and head to the island's highlands. This area, in contrast to the coastal region, has lush vegetation and forest due to the humidity in the higher regions.

We will visit one of the ranches of the area where it is possible to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. As these animals migrate from the coastal area to the highlands and back, the chosen ranch will depend on the presence of the tortoises since they roam free and change locations. This is also a good place to see the ground finch of the Island, which populates these forests where it is also possible to see the yellow warbler.

PM: We will return to the ship for lunch and to freshen up to then head back to Puerto Ayora for our second visit of the day, the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here, we will see tortoises from different islands. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults.

DAY 6 - THURSDAY

PLAZA SUR & SANTA FE ISLAND



AM: We will have a dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the archipelago on colorful Plaza Sur, home to vibrant green prickly pears, deep red Sesuvium, and coppery-orange land iguanas. Impressive seaward cliffs make the perfect perching spot for a variety of coastal birds. This is also a great place to observe the sea lion adult and pups swimming along the shores.

PM: After a wet landing on Santa Fe, we will encounter a white beach where sea lions are usually resting. We will be looking for the endemic species of land iguana, which is larger with a deeper shade of yellow than land iguanas on other islands. The biggest prickly pear cacti in the Galapagos are also found here.

DAY 7 - FRIDAY

GARDNER BAY & PUNTA SUAREZ

AM: Following a wet landing, we will spend the morning in Española Island's Gardner Bay, an outstanding beach with sea lions, marine iguanas, and the bold Española mockingbird. Close to Española, there is a beautiful array of islets ideal for observing marine life. While snorkeling at one of these locations, we will come face to face with the marine reserve's endemic species including the playful sea lions.

PM: After this visit, we will head to Punta Suarez, one of the most popular landing sites in Galapagos. The highlights include: sea lions near the landing place (sometimes seen body-surfing in the large breakers) large marine iguanas, with red-colored males in the breeding season, oystercatchers, blue-footed and masked boobies, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos doves, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds, and three species endemic to Española: the waved albatross (present only from April to December), the Española mockingbird, and the Española lava lizard. The trail ends in *El Soplador*, a blowhole that sprays water some 25 meters (75 feet) into the air.

DAY 8 – SATURDAY

TWIN CRATERS & DEPARTURE

AM: This is our last day on the islands. After breakfast we will disembark in Puerto Ayora to take our transport to the Baltra airport, making a short stop to visit the Twin Craters. The *Gemelos* are two deep craters located to the side of the road that leads from Puerto Ayora to the other side of the island in order to arrive to the airport. These huge holes were most likely created in a volcanic explosion or by magma chambers having collapsed underneath the island's surface. This is also an excellent place to see the Galapagos hawk and the Santa Cruz barn owl. The surrounding forests are also filled with birds such as the vermilion flycatcher and the yellow warbler.

After this visit, we will continue our way to the Baltra airport for the departing flight to mainland Ecuador.

ITINERARY E1

5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS

SATURDAY - WEDNESDAY



ANDANDO^o
TOURS

Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands



DAY 1 – SATURDAY

MORNING FLIGHT TO BALTRA & BLACK TURTLE COVE

PM: After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our naturalist guide to then board the M/Y WildAid's Passion and have lunch. Following our meal, we will navigate a short distance to Black Turtle Cove, a large mangrove lagoon on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. Pelicans and herons roost on the branches, while marine dwellers such as green sea turtles and golden rays may cruise right next to the *panga* as it makes its way through the mangroves.

The day ends with dinner and a briefing for the next day's activities on board the yacht.

DAY 2 - SUNDAY

DARWIN BAY & EL BARRANCO



AM: We travel to Genovesa Island and for a wet landing on Darwin Bay, a unique site with a beautiful beach, lined with red mangroves and soft-haired prickly pear cacti, where red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds perch tamely.

PM: After a dry landing at El Barranco, we will climb to the edge of a cliff where frigatebirds, masked boobies, and red-footed boobies make their nests. The trail will take us to the inner part of the island, populated by *palo santo* trees and cacti. We will be seeking out the impressive red-billed tropicbird amidst Galapagos storm petrels and the endemic short-eared owl.

DAY 3 - MONDAY

PUNTA ESPEJO & SULLIVAN BAY

AM: Today we will have the opportunity to observe the abundant marine life of Punta Espejo, on Marchena Island. This site is reserved for snorkeling and diving only, and it is safe to say that it is one of the best spots in the Galapagos for these activities. This location is known for having dolphins and hammerhead sharks, as well as the vast quantities of coral heads, allowing for a much higher concentration of coral than the rest of the archipelago. We will have two snorkeling activities during this morning, to have more time and opportunities to observe the marine life.

After snorkeling, we will return to the yacht for an in-depth briefing about the ocean currents and their effect on the archipelago's flora and fauna while we navigate to our next destination.

PM: We will have a dry landing in Santiago Island's Sullivan Bay, where we will walk over a recent lava flow with fresh pahoehoe lava formations, lava bubbles containing crystallized minerals, and pioneer plant fossils. Along the shoreline, we may find Galapagos penguins and herons going after small fish.

DAY 4 - TUESDAY

BARTOLOME & DRAGON HILL



AM: We will have a dry landing on Bartolome, followed by a mild climb up a set of wooden steps to reach the summit of a spatter cone for a breathtaking panorama of the island's iconic Pinnacle Rock and views of neighboring Santiago, and other central islands in the distance. Afterward, we will visit the white sand beach used as a nesting site by sea turtles, followed by snorkeling in the waters of Bartolome Island, where it is not unusual to spot Galapagos penguins.

PM: In the afternoon, we navigate a short distance to Cerro Dragon on Santa Cruz's northwestern shore with a dry landing to visit a saltwater lagoon, home to greater flamingos, black-necked stilts, and white-cheeked pintails. Further inland we will find a fantastic land iguana nesting site.

DAY 5 - WEDNESDAY

SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS & DEPARTURE

AM: This is our last day in the islands. After breakfast we will disembark in Puerto Ayora to take our transport to the Baltra airport, making a short stop to visit the highlands. We will visit one of the local ranches where it is possible to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. As these animals migrate from the highlands to the coastal areas and back, the chosen ranch will depend on the presence of the tortoises since they roam free and change locations. The farms are also great places to see the Santa Cruz ground finch which populates these forests, where it is also possible to see the yellow warbler.

After this visit, we will make our way to the Baltra airport for the flight back to mainland Ecuador.

ITINERARY E2

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



ANDANDO^o
TOURS

Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY



DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY

SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS & DARWIN RESEARCH STATION

After arriving at Baltra airport, we will be greeted by our personnel and have a short transfer to the Itabaca channel, where we will board a ferry to reach Santa Cruz Island, where another transport will take us to Puerto Ayora, where the M/Y Passion is anchored. Once in Puerto Ayora, we will board the yacht and have time for a short snack, before departing for our first visit to the islands, the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here, we will see tortoises from different islands. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the visitors. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults. Afterward, we will head back to Puerto Ayora, where we will have some time to explore the town and shops by ourselves (this is the only chance of shopping during on this itinerary) before boarding the M/Y Passion at around 5:00 p.m.

Once on board, the crew and captain will welcome us, have a short security drill and enjoy dinner and the briefing for the next day's activities.

DAY 2 - THURSDAY

PLAZA SUR & SANTA FE ISLAND



AM: We will have a dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the archipelago on colorful Plaza Sur, home to vibrant green prickly pears, deep red Sesuvium, and coppery-orange land iguanas. Impressive seaward cliffs make the perfect perching spot for a variety of coastal birds. This is also a great place to observe the sea lion adult and pups swimming along the shores.

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DAY 3 - FRIDAY

GARDNER BAY & PUNTA SUAREZ



AM: Following a wet landing, we will spend the morning in Española Island's Gardner Bay, an outstanding beach with sea lions, marine iguanas, and the bold Española mockingbird. Close to Española, there is a beautiful array of islets ideal for observing marine life. While snorkeling at one of these locations, we will come face to face with the marine reserve's endemic species including the playful sea lions.

PM: After this visit, we will head to Punta Suarez, one of the most popular landing sites in Galapagos. The highlights include: sea lions near the landing place (sometimes seen body-surfing in the large breakers) large marine iguanas, with red-colored males in the breeding season, oystercatchers, blue-footed and masked boobies, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos doves, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds, and three species endemic to Española: the waved albatross (present only from April to December), the Española mockingbird, and the Española lava lizard. The trail ends in *El Soplador*, a blowhole that sprays water some 25 meters (75 feet) into the air.

DAY 4 – SATURDAY

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After this visit, we will continue our way to the Baltra airport for the departing flight to mainland Ecuador.