

**ARCHIPELL**  
DAY BY DAY  
PROGRAM

**ITINERARY A2**  
THURSDAY-MONDAY  
5 DAYS – 4 NIGHTS



**THURSDAY: Baltra Airport – Highlands – The Charles Darwin Research Station**



Our guide will be waiting for you at **Baltra Airport** and once the group of passengers is completed he/she will accompany you to the Archipell Catamaran which anchors in Puerto Ayora harbor. After arrival on board, we will check in and give you general information. You will have lunch.

Afterwards on your first excursion you will visit the **Highlands** and you will see incredible areas of vegetation. Later you will visit the private farm "Las Primicias". This reserve offers you one of the best possibilities to see giant Galapagos tortoises of Santa

Cruz Island in their natural habitat. You can observe them from a very close distance.

**Charles Darwin Research Station** features an information center, a museum, a library and a tortoise breeding station. In the tortoise breeding station you can encounter tortoises of different subspecies, which get prepared for reintroduction to their natural habitats. This was the home of the famous Lonesome George turtle. **(L, D)**

**FRIDAY: Isabela Island – Tintoreras –Breeding Center Arnaldo Tupiza – The Wetlands**

**Isabela Island** is the largest island in the Galapagos with a surface of 4588 sq.km. It engages more than half of the land area of the archipelago. You will reach the small island of **"Tintoreras"**. There you will take an easy walk through the bizarre landscape of lava with its huge colonies of marine iguanas and sea lions. Often you can observe white tip sharks resting in the flat water near the shore.

**Breeding Center Arnaldo Tupiza** is the Tortoise Breeding Center of Isabela and is located 1.5 km from Puerto Villamil. You can walk or drive. In this Breeding Center populations from South Isabela (Sierra Negra Volcano, Cerro Azul): Cazuela, Cinco Cerros, Roca Union, San Pedro, Tables and Cerro Paloma have been reproduced in captivity. In total there are 330 between juvenile and adult tortoises. The Breeding Center has beautiful gardens consisting of native plants, such as manchineel (poisonous apple tree), mesquite, prickly pear, holy stick, lime prickly-ash, thorn shrub, Galapagos croton, Glorybower, Sea Island or Creole cotton, radiate-headed plants, yellow cordia, snowberry or milkberry, myrtle, nickerbean or nickernut and Darwin's Daisy.



**Humedales (The Wetlands)** is a 6Km trails complex, located south of Isabela Island. It has a wide variety of flora and fauna, as well as breathtaking scenery of the bay, the town of Puerto Villamil, volcanoes, islets, and rocks. Isabela wetlands feature both natural and introduced species. **(B, L, D)**

**SATURDAY: Isabela Island – Moreno Point – Elizabeth Bay**



**Moreno Point** has water pools and lagoons. There you can find flamingos, bahama ducks and other birds. Later you will go to the mangrove area of Elizabeth Bay with little off-shore islands. There you can see dwarf penguins as well as schools of manta rays, turtles and other giants of the ocean such as whale-sharks and others. The mangrove woods are home to different seabirds and herons.

**Elizabeth Bay** is a marine visitor site. The excursion is carried out in a zodiac because there is no landing point. Your zodiac ride starts with a visit to the Marielas islets where the largest and most important penguin colony in the Galapagos Islands lives. The excursion continues into the

cove that is surrounded by red mangroves where you are able to observe sea turtles, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans, and sea lions. **(B, L, D)**.

**SUNDAY: Isabela: Tagus Cove – Fernandina: Espinoza Point**

At **Tagus Cove** a tour along the cliffs in a zodiac will give the visitors a good opportunity to see the Galapagos penguin, the flightless cormorant and other sea birds. From the landing dock it is about a 30 minute hike along the trail up to the top of the cliff from where you can overview Darwin Lake, an uplifted ultra saline lake (saltier than the sea). You can also see several volcanoes from this spot.



**Espinoza Point** is one of Fernandina's visiting points and it is situated within fascinating lava scenery with Lava-Cactuses and on the surface of the lava growing mangroves. The highlights are sea lions, penguins, the flightless cormorant (especially in spring and summer) and one of the biggest iguana colonies of the Galapagos. You cannot miss a snorkeling trip to explore the beautiful underwater world.

**(B, L, D)**

**MONDAY: Las Bachas Beach – Baltra Airport**



**Las Bachas** is a beautiful white-sand beach located at the northeastern coast of Santa Cruz Island. It features two beaches that have a combined length of about 1Km long. The name "Las Bachas" originates from the Second World War, when the American army left two barges discarded on the beach, the first settlers could not pronounce the name correctly in English, which resulted in Las Bachas Beach. The predominant vegetation is of the coastal zone. It represents one of the main nesting sites of sea turtles on Santa Cruz Island. It is a good place to see flamingos, as well as migratory and aquatic birds. Afterwards, you will be transferred to Baltra's Airport to fly back to mainland Ecuador. **(B)**

**Notice: According to the Galapagos National Park, itineraries are subject to change.**

**(B)** = Breakfast

**(L)** = Lunch

**(D)** = Dinner

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