

## Route B Galaxy

### **SATURDAY: BALTRA ISLAND – SANTA CRUZ: HIGHLANDS**

Arrive to Baltra Island. This island is known to be inhabited by militaries only. On this island is located one of our main Galapagos airports. Once you arrive your guide will be waiting for you. Transfer to Santa Cruz Island, we cross the Itabaca Chanel (from airport to this place is around 15 minutes), after this we take our private bus to Puerto Ayora.

Once we arrive to Puerto Ayora, we will go direct to Galaxy Yacht: cabin accommodation and take lunch. After lunch, our first visit is HIGHLANDS OF SANTA CRUZ, where we have a trekking and we will find the giant tortoises in their natural habitat, this is a natural spectacular. For this visit we recommend to use sport shoes, long pants, raincoat, hat and sun block. Back to Puerto Ayora. At the night we have a welcome cocktail and the formal presentation of our crew by Capitan. Briefing for next day.

### **SUNDAY: ISABELA ISLAND**

**TINTORERAS:** Located in the bay of Puerto Villamil, this small island surrounded by calm turquoise waters has an easy trail with great landscapes and very interesting fauna. Along the trail we will see large numbers of Marine Iguanas basking in the sun, lava lizards, herons, gulls and sea lions. In the coves, it is easy to find Sea Turtles, rays and even Penguins. Among the many cracks and channels in the coast sometimes we can see White-tipped Reef Sharks (in Spanish "Tintoreras"). After the visit, we will snorkel in a sheltered area where it is possible to see many tropical fish, Rays, Sea Turtles, Reef sharks and with a bit of luck, penguins. Return on board for lunch.

**PM BREEDING CENTER – HUMEDALES & WALL OF TEARS:** The Breeding Center is located 1.5 Km from Puerto Villamil. This place is dedicated to the reproduction of several species of tortoises in captivity; we will find 330 tortoises between youthful and adult. The Breeding Center has beautiful gardens composed by native plants. Visit Humedales: complexes of paths which include sites like: The Orchilla Hill, from this viewpoint you can admire the bay, Puerto Villamil, Volcano Sierra Negra, islets and rocks. El Estero, Poza Escondida, Poza Redonda, Tunel Del Estero are others paths located in Humedales area, each one with its beautiful landscape and characteristic. After that we have a walking to Wall of Tears, a big wall build by prisoners; in our pathway to this site, we will see land tortoises.

### **MONDAY: ISABELA ISLAND**

**ELIZABETH BAY:** This is one of the island's breeding sites for penguins. Located on the west coast of Isabela, Elizabeth Point is a marine visitor site. Visit red mangrove cove Brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays and

**URBINA BAY:** This place is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano between Elizabeth Bay and Tagus Cove. Wet landing. Trail length is around 3.20 Km; during this walking we can observe land iguanas, hawks, tortoises; also it is possible to see red and blue lobsters.

## **TUESDAY: ISABELA ISLAND & FERNANDINA**

**ISABELA ISLAND: TAGUS COVE:** It is located at west of Darwin Volcano in Isabela Island. During our walking we will find several inscriptions (names of boat's pirates) since 1800. Tagus Cove name has its origin of an England ship which crossed the island looking for Galapagos tortoise to feed the crew. From this area we can admire the Darwin Lake which has salt water and its deep is 9metes approximately, there are no fishes. It is very easy to see different species of birds. Lunch

**FERNANDINA ISLAND – ESPINOZA POINT:** Fernandina is the 3<sup>rd</sup> island bigger of Galapagos and has just one visit place: Espinoza Point.

Espinoza Point is famous site because you will find big colonies of marine iguanas and to be the unique place where the flightless Cormorant lives, Galapagos penguin, hawk, snakes of Galapagos and many other. From Espinoza Point we can admire Fernandina Island and its volcano which last eruption was on May 2005.

Fernandina is the only island that doesn't have any mammal introduced and the open areas are very fragile. In nesting time of marine iguana (January to June) we have a lot care when we are walking. Return to Galaxy.

## **WEDNESDAY: SANTIAGO ISLAND**

**SANTIAGO ISLAND: EGAS PORT:** In this site we find a black sand beach; at south of this beach there is a volcano called Pan de Azucar, it has volcanic deposits which have contributed to the formation of this black sand beach.

The crater of this volcano has a salt lake which in warm time becomes dry and it is possible to appreciate a salt mine. Between 1928 and 1930 there were some explorations to this mine but they didn't function; additionally, it caused damages to the environment because of workers use endemic woods. It is not allowed go down to salt mine.

Return to Galaxy. Lunch

**SANTIAGO ISLAND: ESPUMILLA BEACH & CALETA BUCANERO:** One of the main attractions of this site is a Palo Santo wood, the beach and landscape; the beach is a very important site for tortoises because they use this place for nesting.

Once time, the pigs were the main predatory of tortoise's eggs; pigs were eradicated with the creation of Isabela Project.

## **THURSDAY: DAPHNE MAYOR OR DRAGON HILL – TRANSFER OUT**

**DAPHNE MAYOR:** is a volcanic tuff cone, formed by successive explosions produced by the mixture of lava and water. Galaxy will navigate around the Island.

**OR**

**DRAGON HILL:** The visitor's site at Dragon Hill is located in northwestern Santa Cruz Island, and consists of a trail that runs through three different environments at just 1,600 m long.

Transfer to the airport

**\*\* ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\***