

Galápagos short trip (5 days/4 nights)

The Central Islands

Itinerary E (from Baltra to San Cristóbal)

1 Day: Monday

Your flight arrives at noon from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra.

After lunch on board you already anchored off the island of **North Seymour**. Here is the largest colony of frigate birds, with swallow-tailed gulls and pelicans. The island is also home to a group of large, old iguanas that were brought here many years ago from Baltra. *Bursera malacophylla*, a small endemic Palo Santo tree, found only here and on three small neighboring islands. In the afternoon you will witness a special spectacle: Sea lions surfing on big, oncoming waves from the west.

Dinner and overnight on board.

2 Day: Tuesday

The small barrier island Bartolome, east of Santiago, is because of its pinnacle, one of the most photographed places in the archipelago. This young Island keeps a series of dramatic volcanic formations, a moon-like landscape with small tuff cones and lava tubes. The rocks have served the pilots of the U.S. Air Force as targets for target practice during the World War II. The two beaches are separated by a narrow mangrove belt. While swimming and snorkeling on the northern beach, one often sees penguins. On the south coast are living reef sharks and rays. And from January to March are nesting green turtles here. The Sullivan Bay in the east of Santiago Island is known for its distinctive forms of lava. In the evening you can swim again swim in the sea or snorkel with the sea lions.

Dinner and overnight on board.

3 Day: Wednesday

A morning visit takes you to the Bachas beach on the north coast of Santa Cruz Island. It is one of the most important nesting beaches for sea turtles. Behind the dunes, in the small lagoon, flamingos, stilts and bahama ducks can be observed. The wide beach is ideal for swimming and snorkeling.

After lunch on board, the navigation goes southwest to Dragon Hill (Cerro Dragon). Here, in a unique vegetation, are living the last land iguanas of Santa Cruz Island.

Dinner and overnight on board.

4 Day: Thursday

At dawn you reach Plaza Island. Thanks to the powerful *Opuntia* cacti and bright orange-red *Sesuvium* shrubs, it's a surprisingly colorful island, where the land iguanas dominate the field. A small sea lion colony lives at the cliffs on the south coast. The avifauna offers the brown pelican, tropic birds, swallow-tailed gulls, frigate birds, Blue-footed-boobies and Nazca-boobies.

You will spend the afternoon on the Santa Fe Island. This is one of the most picturesque anchor places of the archipelago, where you can swim with sea lions and sea turtles. Dinner and overnight on board.

5 Day: Friday

Your final visit is in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno: the administrative center of the archipelago of San Cristóbal. You will visit the newly built Visitor Center. It shows an excellent exhibition about the nature and settlement history of the Galapagos.

And around midday your flight brings you from the island of San Cristobal back to the continent, to Guayaquil or Quito.