

## **MARY ANNE, 8 DAYS, EAST**

### **DAY 1 – SATURDAY**

#### **A first impression**

**PM** After arriving at Baltra airport we will be greeted by an Angermeyer Cruises representant to then board the Mary Anne and have lunch. After lunch, we will navigate a short distance to **Black Turtle Cove**, a large mangrove lagoon on the north coast of Santa Cruz Island. Pelicans and herons roost on the branches, while marine dwellers such as Green Sea Turtle or Golden Ray may cruise right next to the panga as it makes its way through the mangroves.

### **DAY 2 - SUNDAY**

#### **Up north**

**AM** We travel to Genovesa Island and reach **Darwin Bay** (wet landing), a unique site lined with red mangrove and soft-haired prickly pear cacti where Red-footed Boobies and Great Frigatebirds perch tamely. **PM** At **Prince Philip Steps** (dry landing), we climb the edge of a cliff where Frigatebirds, Nazca Boobies, and Red-footed Boobies nest. We will be seeking out the impressive Red-billed Tropicbird amidst Galapagos Storm Petrels.

### **DAY 3 – MONDAY**

#### **Contours of Sullivan Bay**

**AM** Dry landing at **Bartholomew** to climb up the wooden steps and reach the summit of this spatter cone for a most breathtaking panorama of the islands' well photographed Pinnacle Rock, views of neighbouring Santiago and many other central islands in the distance.

**PM** We head across to **Sullivan Bay** (dry landing) in Santiago to walk over a recent lava flow, including very fresh pahoehoe lava formations, lava bubbles containing crystallized minerals, and pioneer plants. Along the shoreline, we may find Galapagos penguins and herons going after small fish.

### **DAY 4 - TUESDAY**

#### **Mars on Earth**

**AM** Wet landing onto **Rábida's** deep-red beaches to explore the red island's fascinating interior and saltwater lagoon. Darwin's finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, and yellow warblers feed off the vegetation; given the right time of the year brown pelicans nesting on salt bushes that fringe the beach.

**PM** We head across to **Cerro Dragón** on Santa Cruz's north-west shore (dry

landing); we visit a saltwater lagoon, home to Greater Flamingos, Black-necked Stilts, and White-cheeked Pintails. Further inland we find a fantastic land iguana nesting site.

## **DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY**

### **Hidden treasures**

**AM** Bachas beach is a visiting site of Santa Cruz and consists of 2 beaches located at the northeastern coast of the Island. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches there is a small brackish water lagoon, where occasionally it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer and has two old barges that were abandoned during the Second World War, when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategically point to protect the Panama Channel. The name “Bachas” comes from the local pronunciation of the word barges.

**PM** After a leisure lunch, we will hop on board our dinghy to do a panga ride around Punta Carrión to take in the beautiful landscape and observe the wildlife. We will then end the day with snorkelling in these shallow and colourful waters.

## **DAY 6 – THURSDAY**

### **Heading Eastward**

**AM** Dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the Archipelago, colourful **Plaza Sur** is home to vibrant green prickly pears, deep red *Sesuvium* and coppery-orange land iguanas; impressive seaward cliffs are excellent for a variety of coastal birds. This is also a great place to observe the adult and pup sea lions swimming along the shores.

**PM** After a wet landing onto a white beach where sea lions are usually resting, on **Santa Fe**, we will be looking for the endemic species of land iguana, larger and yellower than land iguanas on other islands. The largest prickly pear cacti in the Galapagos are also found here.

## **DAY 7 – FRIDAY From albatrosses to blowholes**

**AM Punta Suárez** (dry landing) is a spectacular walk into the intimacies of life at sea, with nesting sites of Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, as well as the fascinating breeding rituals (April to December) of Waved Albatross. Lined with neon-colored marine iguanas (January), and lazy Galapagos sea lions, we walk up to an amazing viewpoint of the famous blowhole.

**PM** We will spend the day in fantastic Española, starting with Gardner Bay (wet landing), an outstanding beach with sea lions, marine iguanas, and the intrepid

Española Mockingbird.

**DAY 8 – SATURDAY A last goodbye with the tortoises**

**AM** We will visit the Fausto Llerena breeding station, located at 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 tourists. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults. After this visit we will take a bus to Baltra airport for the flight to mainland Ecuador.

**In addition to the land visits we offer a good balance of other activities such as snorkeling, panga rides and kayaking.**