

M/Y PASSION ITINERARY E2 (FULL DESCRIPTION)

PASSION - 5 DAYS

NOTE: Please keep in mind that our East -2 itinerary starts right after you arrive to the islands. If possible, please wear clothes comfortable enough for a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station. You will be reunited with your luggage at around 5:00 in the afternoon when you board the M/Y Passion at Puerto Ayora (Santa Cruz Island).

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY

PM

After arriving at Baltra airport we will be greeted by an Angermeyer Cruises representative to the-board a bus that will take us to Puerto Ayora for the first visit on the islands: the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center.

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.

After this visit, we will have some time to explore the town of Puerto Ayora and its many souvenir shops, before boarding the M/Y Passion for dinner and the evening briefing.

DAY 2 – THURSDAY

AM

Dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the archipelago, colorful **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 on **Santa Fe** onto a white beach where sea lions are usually resting, 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 3 - FRIDAY

AM

At **Punta Suárez** (dry landing), a spectacular walk to give insight 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 the 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 4 - SATURDAY

AM

After breakfast we will disembark in Puerto Ayora and say goodbye to the M/Y Passion, which will continue on. In Puerto Ayora we will hop on our transport, a speedboat, which will take us to the day's adventure: Tortuga Bay.

This beautiful white sand beach has its name for being a nesting site for sea turtles. Once we have disembarked on this magical site, it's up to you to decide among the alternatives: swim or snorkel, observe the marine iguanas and other wildlife, explore the coves surrounded by mangrove trees or simply lay back and relax while enjoying the magical landscape.

Our speedboat will pick us at noon to return to Puerto Ayora and our beach front hotel, where our luggage will be waiting in our rooms as we enjoy a hearty lunch while contemplating Academy Bay.

PM

Our last afternoon on the island is free for you to explore the many highlights in and around Puerto Ayora still to be discovered. (Our cruise director can inform you about the different options for the afternoon). After this leisure time, we will gather to cross the bay to enjoy a final farewell dinner at the exclusive Angermeyer Point, a restaurant located at the historic house of Karl Angermeyer, Galapagos' first artist and true pioneer of the archipelago.

After dinner, our transport will take us back to our hotel for a well-earned rest.

DAY 5 - SUNDAY

After breakfast we will board our transport to the Baltra airport, making a short stop to visit the lava tunnels found in the highlands. These intriguing tunnels were formed by a lava flow that hardened on the outside while still maintaining its fluid scolding state on the inside, leaving hollow tunnels where it passed. We will walk inside one of the tunnels (that is artificially illuminated to help visitors) to have a close look at the formations and learn more about the origin of these very volcanic archipelago.

After this visit we will continue on to the Baltra airport for the flight to mainland Ecuador.