



Galaven 15 Day Itinerary - (Tue-Tue)

(Genovesa, Santiago, Rabida, Santa Cruz, Floreana, Española, San Cristobal Islands)

Galaven
Galapagos Expedition Yacht

Day 1 (Tuesday)

MORNING FLIGHT FROM QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL TO BALTRA (GALAPAGOS) - BLACK TURTLE COVE

Assistance at the airport by our representative for your Galapagos flight.

You will arrive at **Baltra** Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by the Galaven staff and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.

In the afternoon you will visit the **Black Turtle Cove** in the northern part of Santa Cruz. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.

BLACK TURTLE COVE	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy Ride
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	No landing
Highlights & Animals:	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds.

Day 2 (Wednesday)

GENOVESA: EL BARRANCO & DARWIN BAY

Genovesa Island is located at the inner part of Darwin Bay. This area contains an abundance of frigatebirds and other interesting seabirds. Behind the small beach filled with nesting areas for frigates, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls are a number of tide pools. At high tide it is likely that the trail will be covered with water.

Your morning visit is to **El Barranco** which is also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, El Barranco's steep and rocky path leads up to a high cliff-face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to palo santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves.

EL BARRANCO	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0.9 miles / 2 Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry, difficult landing
Highlights & Animals:	Red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves.

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In the afternoon, you will head to **Darwin Bay**. This white-sand coral beach heads a half mile trail (0.5 miles / 0.75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can be spotted here. Further down the path are tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully and at the end there is a spectacular view off the cliff.

DARWIN BAY	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0.9 miles/1.5 km), snorkeling, kayaking & dinghy ride.
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate.
Type of Landing:	Wet landing.
Highlights & Animals:	Nazca boobies, red- footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, mangroves, coral pebble beach, rays, colorful reef fish and hammerhead sharks.

Day 3 (Thursday)

SANTIAGO – SULLIVAN BAY & RABIDA ISLAND

The morning visit heads to **Santiago Island – Sullivan Bay** located on the southeast part of Santiago. This place is interesting for its geology because the area is covered by lava flows. This place has elevations in form of small volcanoes, formed by the lava flows.

SULLIVAN BAY	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0.9 miles / 1.5 km)
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate.
Type of Landing:	Dry landing.
Highlights & Animals:	Lava flows, small volcanoes.

In the afternoon you will visit **Rabida Island (or Jervis)** which is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. You will start on Rabida's famous maroon sandy beach and after an easy hike you will arrive to a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes.

The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some of the rarest species are in abundance such as nine varieties of finches, large-billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.

RABIDA ISLAND (or Jervis)	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & short hike (0.6 miles / 1km)
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	White-cheeked pintail ducks, colorful fish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon, penguins, Galapagos hawk



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Day 4 (Friday)

SANTA CRUZ: FAUSTO LLERENA GIANT TORTOISES BREEDING CENTER & EL CHATO

Today you will visit **Fausto Llerena Giant Tortoises Breeding Center**. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Subspecies of tortoises interact with one another and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept here until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.

FAUSTO LLERENA GIANT TORTOISES BREEDING CENTER	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant Land Tortoises

Afterwards you will enjoy the **El Chato** reserve, which is divided into two areas: Caseta and Chato. The trail begins at Santa Rosa (13.7 miles / 22 km) from Puerto Ayora, with the Caseta route being the most challenging. The reserve allows visitors to observe giant tortoises in the wild during the dry season and is also a good place to spot short-eared owls, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails and paint-billed crakes.

EL CHATO	
Possible Activities:	Walking, bird watching
Difficulty:	Easy / medium
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises, finches, Galapagos rails

Day 5 (Saturday)

SANTA CRUZ: DRAGON HILL / BACHAS BEACH

In the morning you will visit **Dragon Hill** on **Santa Cruz**. The visitors' 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. The beach is very rocky. At high tide it's a nice place for snorkeling. At this visiting site you can find vegetation of the typical intertidal zone and dry zone.

DRAGON HILL	
Possible Activities:	Panga ride & short hike
Difficulty:	Easy.
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Frigatebirds, herons, blue-footed boobies, rays, reef sharks

The afternoon visit, **Bachas Beach**, located on the north shore of Santa Cruz, is a swimming beach. One of the



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few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach.

BACHAS BEACH	
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	World War II remnants, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles

Day 6 (Sunday)

FLOREANA ISLAND: POST OFFICE BAY & CORMORANT POINT OR DEVIL'S CROWN

There are two visiting sites on **Floreana Island**. In the morning you will visit the famous **Post Office Bay**. You will land on the beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel for use as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So do not forget your postcards, and do not be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home!

POST OFFICE BAY	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (less than 0.6 miles / 1km) & snorkeling
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Post office barrel, nice sandy beach.

In the afternoon, you will head to **Cormorant Point**. Here you will enjoy a hike to a salt-water lagoon which is home to flamingos. You will also get to swim in the crystal clear waters of the **Devil's Crown**. This extinct volcano peaks out of the waters just off of Floreana's coast and offers a magnificent snorkeling experience.

CORMORANT POINT	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling & panga ride & hike (1.2 miles / 2km)
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Flamingos Ocasionalmente, Devil's Crown: The best snorkeling site in the Galapagos Islands with sharks, rays, rock formations, lots of tropical fish.

Day 7 (Monday)

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND: SUAREZ POINT & GARDNER BAY

Española Island is the southernmost island of the Galapagos and is the breeding site of nearly all of the waved albatrosses in the entire world. Española is densely populated with mockingbirds, blue-footed and Nazca boobies, Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, hawks, red and green marine iguanas, and colonies of sea lions.



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The morning trip will start with **Suarez Point** and a trail where you will have the chance to see blue-footed boobies, albatrosses and Nazca boobies. It is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of Waved Albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! The landscape is great for photography and you will also have the chance to see the famous blowhole.

SUAREZ POINT	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1.9 miles / 3 km)
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Hood mockingbird, Nazca boobies, waved albatross, red-billed tropic birds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawk, blue-footed boobies, blow hole, amazing landscape

In the afternoon, you will visit the spectacular **Gardner Bay**. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You can also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.

GARDNER BAY	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride, kayaking, short hike of (0.6 miles / 1km)
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds. colorful fish, sea lion nursery.

Day 8 (Tuesday)

INTERPRETATION CENTER & PUERTO CHINO OR JACINTO GORDILLO BREEDING CENTER

In the morning we'll visit **The Interpretation Center** which was opened in 1998 as a phase of the project "Interpretation and Environment Education Project." Visitors enjoy expositions on natural history, human history, and conservation. The conservation efforts represent the movement to protect the wildlife and natural environment through means of population and tourist control. The Interpretation Center has an outdoor stadium, audio-visual equipment, and meeting rooms.

THE INTERPRETATION CENTER	
Possible Activities:	Short Hike
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Information and history about the Galapagos Islands.



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In the afternoon you will visit **Puerto Chino** located (15,2 miles / 24.5 km) away from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and a few miles from the Breeding Center Cerro Colorado, this walk takes approximately 30 minutes to the beach.

PUERTO CHINO	
Possible Activities:	Hiking, swimming, snorkeling
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, marine birds, snorkeling

The **Jacinto Gordillo Breeding Center** is a new visitor site in the northeast part of San Cristóbal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. In the Breeding Center you will be able to admire the hatchling turtles, from their birth until they are 3 days old when the grown turtles are taken to their natural habit.

JACINTO GORDILLO BREEDING CENTER	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1Km)
Difficulty:	Easy / Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises in captivity, snorkeling with sea lions, land and sea birds, blue-footed boobies, hatchling turtles.

Day 9 (Wednesday)

SANTA FE & SOUTH PLAZA ISLANDS

Your morning visit is to **Santa Fe Island** (Barrington) which is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails: one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.

SANTA FE	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, giant Opuntia cacti

In the afternoon, you will head to **South Plaza Island**. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is Sesuvium. During the rainy season, its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.



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SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
Difficulty:	Moderate.
Type of Landing:	Dry landing.
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

Day 10 (Thursday)

SANTA CRUZ: FAUSTO LLERENA GIANT TORTOISES BREEDING CENTER & TWIN CRATERS

Today you will visit **Fausto Llerena Giant Tortoises Breeding Center**. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Subspecies of tortoises interact with one another and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept here until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.

FAUSTO LLERENA GIANT TORTOISES BREEDING CENTER	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant Land Tortoises

The afternoon visit is to a site called **Los Gemelos (The Twins)**. Los Gemelos wait for you at the end of a short hike. These sinkholes are often referred to as craters, though the term is only descriptive, not literal. They were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The endemic Scalesia forest surrounds the site where you may see vermilion flycatchers, short-eared owls, and finches.

LOS GEMELOS (THE TWINS)	
Possible Activities:	Short hiking
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Pit craters, Scalesia forest.

Day 11 (Friday)

ISABELA: SIERRA NEGRA & WETLANDS, THE WALL OF TEARS OR BREEDING STATION

The morning will consist of a visit to **The Sierra Negra Volcano** which is the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos at 9 x 10 km. The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to 7 species of finches and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005.



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SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO	
Possible Activities:	Hiking, horseback riding, walking
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Basaltic caldera, stunning views, finches

The afternoon visit will head to the **Wetlands** of Isabela Island which are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path through the swamps.

WETLANDS	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant mangroves, shore birds

The Wall of Tears (El Muro de las Lagrimas), is 65-feet / 25-meters high and an important piece of the island history. A penal colony existed on Isabella from 1945-1959, and the prisoners were forced to build the wall, stone by stone, while in isolation from the rest of the world and thousands died during the construction. Many claim to feel the heavy energy of this historical site, and locals claim to hear cries in the wind.

THE WALL OF TEARS	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Historic site

The Tortoise Breeding Station was created to protect animals in their first years of life from the threats of foreign species such as pigs and donkeys. Giant tortoise eggs are collected and brought to the center where they are hatched and kept for five years before being released to their natural environment.

TORTOISE BREEDING STATION	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Two of the five subspecies of the giant tortoise



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Day 12 (Saturday)

ISABELA ISLAND: MORENO POINT & TAGUS COVE

In the morning you will visit **Moreno Point** located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

MORENO POINT	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 miles / 2km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Flamingos, gallinules, pintail ducks, turtles, white-tip reef sharks.

In the afternoon, you will visit **Tagus Cove** on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.

Tagus Cove	
Possible Activities:	Long hike, snorkeling, panga ride
Difficulty:	Moderate / Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, flightless cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

Day 13 (Sunday)

FERNANDINA ISLAND - ESPINOSA POINT & ISABELA ISLAND - VICENTE ROCA POINT

In the morning you will visit **Fernandina Island**. No foreign species have ever invaded this island, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. Fernandina is the youngest island in the Galapagos. Access to this site is extremely restricted by the Galapagos National Park, and you will be one of those very lucky visitors. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean.

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at **Espinosa Point**, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you'll reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

ESPINOSA POINT	
Possible Activities:	Hike of approx. (1.2 miles / 2 km)



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Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry and slippery at low tide
Highlights & Animals:	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'a lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre"

In the afternoon, you will head to **Isabela Island**, which is the largest in the archipelago. This seahorse-shaped island is also one of the youngest and most volcanically active.

The afternoon visit is at **Vicente Roca Point**. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sunfish).

VICENTE ROCA POINT	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling & panga ride
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	No landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions, sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

Day 14 (Monday)

SANTIAGO – ESPUMILLA BEACH OR BUCCANEER COVE & BARTHOLOMEW ISLANDS

Your morning visit is to **Espumilla Beach** where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could find yourself face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish.

ESPUMILLA BEACH	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling and swimming
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Snorkeling

In the afternoon you will head for **Bartholomew Island**, home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. You will take a trail of stairs to the summit of the volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you will enjoy one of the best views of the islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation found on this barren island. The beach is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see the Galapagos penguins.

BARTHOLOMEW ISLAND



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Possible Activities:	Panga ride, snorkeling & hike (1.2 miles / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 114 meters, 375 wooden steps
Type of Landing:	Dry and wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus. Reef sharks, rays, great colorful fish.

Day 15 (Tuesday)

NORTH SEYMOUR - DEPARTURE

North Seymour. Here you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigatebirds which are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

NORTH SEYMOUR	
Possible Activities:	Panga ride & hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions. rays, reef sharks, colorful fish, garden eels.

After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra's airport in time for your flight back to the mainland