

# M/V Origin Route A

**SUNDAY:** Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **SAN CRISTOBAL**, our crew is waiting at the airport to escort you by bus to the main dock and then by zodiac to your yacht anchored in the bay. After the welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served. We travel by bus to **Cerro Tijeretas or “Frigatebird Hill”** situated on the edge of town. This is one of two sites where you can spot nesting colonies of both species of Frigate birds (Great and Magnificent). The trail leads to Punta Carola where there are beautiful vistas. We find lava lizards, the medium ground finch and Chatham mockingbird. We return to the yacht to join our fellow yacht mates this evening for your briefing followed by our Captain’s welcome cocktail party and dinner prepared by our culinary school-trained chefs.

**MONDAY:** We arrive to **Cerro Brujo**, a breathtaking white coral beach, considered one of the most spectacular in Galapagos and perfect for a peaceful walk with expansive views and good bird watching. We have an opportunity to kayak from the beach or swim with sea lions. A Zodiac ride takes us through a cave called The Cathedral. During lunch, we cruise toward the northeastern tip of **SAN CRISTOBAL** to **Punta Pitt**, a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including all three types of boobies: Blue footed, Nazca and Red-footed boobies, both Frigate species, swallow-tailed gulls, Storm petrels, Shearwaters, Brown pelicans and a colony of sea lions. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for birds and on par with Genovesa (Tower) Island. Here we can snorkel at Pitt Rock with sea lions and colorful fish such as the King Angel and Surgeon fish. We return to the yacht to cruise around **Leon Dormido or “Kicker Rock”**, a vertical tuff cone formation that rises abruptly almost 500 feet out of the ocean. On the cliffs, we spot Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies and Magnificent Frigate birds. We return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

**TUESDAY:** We disembark at Punta Suarez, **ESPANOLA (Hood)**, where we witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet us as we land on their beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at our shoelaces. From April to December, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in “sky-pointing” to show off for potential mates. Nazca boobies busily care for their young. Stunning swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world and fish at night. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. We also find Darwin’s Finches, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks. Observe a unique species of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near to the famous “blow hole”. After lunch we have a wet landing on Gardner Bay, **ESPANOLA (Hood)**, walk along seemingly endless stretch of this white sandy beach where you’ll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore or take a long walk. You may find a Galapagos Hawk, Darwin’s Finches or Hood Mockingbird. Swim with sea lions right from the beach, explore the bay and islets by kayak or just relax on the beach. There’s an excellent snorkeling site off Gardner Islet with a colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock. Explore caves by Zodiac covered with invertebrates. We return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

**WEDNESDAY:** Step ashore at **Punta Cormorant, FLOREANA (Charles)**, one of the few populated islands in the Galapagos. Floreana presents a rich human history with mystery and intrigue. Set foot on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions, lava herons, yellow crowned night heron, blue footed boobies and penguins. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the Bahama ducks, common stilts, Galapagos Flycatcher, Yellow warblers and the Greater Flamingos, the pinkest in the world! Wind your way past a rich variety of plants including Morning Glory, Cut Leaf Daisies, Black, red and white mangroves, Palo Verde and Scaevola. The trail leads to a beach with power soft sand where sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and sting rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, we have an opportunity to snorkel at **Devil’s Crown or Champion**, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral, white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and sea stars. Today our lunch is served on the sundeck if weather conditions permit. After lunch, we visit **Post office Bay**, not the most scenic, but one of the most famous sites in Galapagos. Here is where a post barrel was erected and put into use in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century by English whaling vessels. You are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail from your home area. There is a chance to swim from the beach with sea lions. Late afternoon, we take a Zodiac ride near Baroness Point where we spot sea turtles and rays. We return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

**THURSDAY:** We travel by bus to the **highlands** of **SANTA CRUZ** Island. The scenery gradually changes as we wind our way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Here, we visit the tortoise reserve at “Las Primicias” one of the private farms in the highlands where we encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. We stop at “the tunnels”, the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos. We visit *Los Gemelos*, Spanish for “The Twins”, a pair of large pit craters where we may see the red male vermilion flycatcher. Next, we visit

**Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena** (aka the Charles Darwin Research Station). We visit the tortoise and land iguana corals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated. Lonesome George is no longer with us but there is Diego, "The Professor" who has been more successful at mating. Puerto Ayora is the social heart of the islands with the largest population of 24,000. After lunch and briefing on board, we return to town to shop for souvenirs or stop at an internet cafe. You have the option to remain in town on your own account to stimulate the local economy or you can return to the boat for dinner. There is a schedule for zodiac transportation from the yacht to town later in the evening.

**FRIDAY:** We disembark at BARTOLOME, where it seems like we are walking on the moon. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, we pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, we can gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos Penguins or take a Zodiac ride. After lunch, we visit Las Bachas, Spanish for "barges". There is a long stretch of a soft white sand beach and interior lagoons where we find the Greater Flamingo. There is also a wonderful chance to snorkel here from the beach. Located off the Southern tip of Santiago is Sombrero Chino aka Chinese Hat that owes its name to its shape. After a wet beach landing with sea lion colonies, the trail gives way to a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble including cracked lava formations and lava tubes. We find marine iguanas and pairs of oystercatchers. You can choose to snorkel at a site that is frequented by Galapagos penguins. There is a briefing followed by dinner while we anchor in a calm protected area.

**SATURDAY:** Today we visit SOUTH PLAZA, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views. After a dry landing, the trail leads us through Prickly Pear or Opuntia and Sesuvium. Here we can find the Galapagos Land Iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Toward the end of the hill, we encounter a colony of bachelor sea lions. The dominant bulls are in various stages of recovery from battles lost over prime beach territory. We also find Swallow tailed gulls, Shearwaters and Red-billed tropicbirds who build their nests along the cliffs. After lunch, we have a dry landing at North Seymour, a small geological uplift. We follow a trail that leads us to Swallow-tailed gulls, Blue-footed boobies and the endemic Land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of Magnificent Frigate birds found in Galapagos. As we stroll along the beach, we find Marine Iguanas and sea lions body surf the northern swells. We return to the yacht for the Captain's Farewell cocktail party and dinner as well as a special slide show presentation by your guides.

**SUNDAY:** We visit the Interpretation Center opened on San Cristobal Island in 1999 by bus. Here we gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, we spend time in port before heading to the airport for our flight back to the mainland departing before noon time on Aerogal.

## 7 day/6 night itinerary option

Passengers can disembark on Saturday in Baltra for a shorter, 6 night cruise. This is available on all seasonal and most peak departure dates and not holiday weeks. The 6-night rate is a 10% discount off the 7 night cruise rate and cannot be combined with any other promotional or child discounts. The return flight from Baltra is subject to availability and confirmation is requested at the time of booking. For passengers departing early and requiring a transfer to the airport, there is an additional charge of \$50.00 per person (max \$200 total). Please add \$15.50 for the Baltra Airport surcharge. For passengers who disembark on Saturday and remain in port, there is no additional transfer charge. Drop off is at the Itabaca Canal at 6AM local time and passengers will need to arrange for transportation to Puerto Ayora through their hotel.

### 6 NIGHT ITINERARY

<b>Sunday</b>	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, SAN CRISTOBAL (Chatham) Cerro Tijeretas & Leon Dormido, SAN CRISTOBAL
<b>Monday</b>	Cerro Brujo (SN, PR, KY) SAN CRISTOBAL Punta Pitt, (SN, PR, KY) SAN CRISTOBAL
<b>Tuesday</b>	Punta Suarez, ESPANOLA (Hood)

Gardner Bay (SN, PR, KY) ESPANOLA (Hood)

- Wednesday** Punta Cormorant (PR), Devil's Crown or Champion (SN), FLOREANA  
Post Office Bay (PR, SN), FLOREANA (Charles)
- Thursday** Highlands of SANTA CRUZ (Indefatigable)  
CCFL (Darwin Station), SANTA CRUZ (Indefatigable)
- Friday** Bartolome (PR, SN)  
Las Bachas (SN) or Black Turtle Cove (PR) or Sombrero Chino (PR, SN)
- Saturday** Drop off Itabaca Canal 6AM (transfer to Baltra or Puerto Ayora not included)

Departing passengers are transferred to the Itabaca Canal at 6AM local time (7AM boat time) where those departing today from Baltra airport must wait for the first public bus at 8AM for a 15 minute ride to the airport to check in for their flight departing Baltra (GPS) at 10AM or 1PM with Aerogal. Those passengers remaining in Santa Cruz will be dropped off at the Itabaca Canal at 6AM local time and will need to arrange for transportation to Puerto Ayora through their hotel.

## 14 night itinerary A+B combination

Book two consecutive weeks back to back, and take 5% discount applicable on any week (excluding holiday weeks).

- Sunday** Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, SAN CRISTOBAL (Chatham)  
Cerro Tijeretas & Leon Dormido, SAN CRISTOBAL
- Monday** Cerro Brujo (SN, PR, KY) SAN CRISTOBAL  
Punta Pitt, (SN, PR, KY) SAN CRISTOBAL
- Tuesday** Punta Suarez, ESPANOLA (Hood)  
Gardner Bay (SN, PR, KY) ESPANOLA
- Wednesday** Punta Cormorant (PR), Devil's Crown or Champion (SN), FLOREANA  
Post Office Bay (PR, SN), FLOREANA (Charles)
- Thursday** Highlands of SANTA CRUZ (Indefatigable)  
CCFL (Darwin Station), SANTA CRUZ (Indefatigable)
- Friday** Bartolome (PR, SN)  
Las Bachas (SN) or Black Turtle Cove (PR) or Sombrero Chino (PR, SN)
- Saturday** South Plaza Island  
North Seymour (PR, SN)
- Sunday** La Loberia or El Junco Lake, SAN CRISTOBAL  
CCJG (La Galapaguera Cerro Colorado), SAN CRISTOBAL
- Monday** Darwin Bay (SN, PR, KY), GENOVESA (Tower)  
Prince Philip's Steps (SN, PR, KY) GENOVESA (Tower)
- Tuesday** Las Bachas (SN) or Black Turtle Cove (PR)  
Cerro Dragon (SN) SANTA CRUZ
- Wednesday** Punta Espinosa (SN), FERNANDINA (Narborough)

Urbina Bay, ISABELA (SN) (Albemarle) or Punta Vicente Roca

<b>Thursday</b>	Elizabeth Bay, ISABELA (PR) Tagus Cove, ISABELA (SN, PR, KY)
<b>Friday</b>	Puerto Egas, SANTIAGO (SN) (James) Rabida Island (SN, PR, KY) (Jervis)
<b>Saturday</b>	Reserva Ecologica Cerro Mesa, SANTA CRUZ Tortuga Bay, SANTA CRUZ
<b>Sunday</b>	Interpretation Center, SAN CRISTOBAL (Chatham)

## **14 night combination with Galapagos Sky**

We do not currently offer any options for scuba diving on Eric, Flamingo or Letty. For scuba divers who want to combine diving with land visits, we offer one week on our dive vessel, the Galapagos Sky combined with one week on Eric, Flamingo or Letty. Take 5% discount on both the EFL and SKY rates when two weeks (one week on EFL and one week on SKY) are booked in combination back to back on selected departure dates only.

### **Highlights on Itinerary A:**

- Pinnacle Rock on Bartolome
- All three boobies (Nazca, blue and red footed)
- Marine and land iguanas
- Great and Magnificent Frigatebirds
- Snorkel with Galapagos penguins
- Giant tortoises in the highlands
- Waived Albatross on Espanola
- Kayak and swim with sea lions at Cerro Brujo and Gardner Bay