

## **8 DAYS NATURALIST - DAY BY DAY**

<b>Day 1 – AM:</b>	Arrive to Baltra airport
<b>Day 1 – PM:</b>	Santa Cruz Island, Black Turtle Cove
<b>Day 2 – AM:</b>	South Plaza Island
<b>Day 2 – PM:</b>	Santa Fe Island, Barrington bay
<b>Day 3 – AM:</b>	San Cristobal Island, Jacinto Gordillo Breeding Center
<b>Day 3 – PM:</b>	San Cristobal Island, Hill Witch
<b>Day 4 – AM:</b>	Floreana Island, Bahía Post Office
<b>Day 4 – PM:</b>	Floreana Island, Punta Cormorant
<b>Day 5 – AM:</b>	Santiago Island, Sullivan Bay
<b>Day 5 – PM:</b>	Bartolome Island
<b>Day 6 – AM:</b>	Rabida Island
<b>Day 6 – PM:</b>	Santiago Island, Chinese Hat
<b>Day 7 – AM:</b>	Eden Island
<b>Day 7 – PM:</b>	Whale Bay
<b>Day 7 – PM:</b>	Santa Cruz, Fausto Llerena Breeding Center
<b>Day 8 – AM:</b>	Santa Cruz, Playa Las Bachas
<b>Day 8 – PM:</b>	Baltra - Flight back to Quito or Guayaquil

### **Tuesday**

Once you arrive to the airport our transportation will be prepared to transfer you to our great vessel Danubio Azul, ready start this exciting adventure.

PM: Santa Cruz Island, Black Turtle Cove

Your visit to Black Turtle Cove will be done through our motor panga ride service which will allow you discover the mangrove inlets. These lagoons provide a refuge to the rays, sharks, and sea turtles that are clearly visible alongside the boat. Once the engine is turned off, you will slowly approach the different species that live in this peaceful place.

### **Wednesday**

AM: South Plaza Island

The dry landing takes you to its brilliant combination of life and colors. Ground iguanas wondering through bright red carpet weed, Swallow tailed gulls nesting around the overhang tops and red-billed tropicbirds and shearwaters flying with dancing displays. Mind the pirates of the sky; they will strike if you drop your guard. It is one of the best spots in the archipelago to see land iguanas and swallow-tailed gulls, both indigenous to the Galapagos. There are iguana nests scattered all over the hill. The sheer cliffs of the southern shore are a perfect bird habitat, making it an unparalleled bird observatory for

especially swallow-tailed gulls, Audubon shearwaters, and red-billed tropicbirds.

PM: Santa Fe Island, Barrington bay

The bay looks as if artist had ornamented it. Barrington Bay is one of the most picturesque inlets of all visitor sites of the Galapagos. The white sand on the seabed reflects the light to turn the calm waters turquoise. A small forest of gigantic prickly pear cactus grows on a peninsula that keeps the bay sheltered. All that has been mentioned before are suitable conditions for a large sea lion colony. Santa Fe is an ancient extinct volcano and it has been isolated from other island long enough to have an endemic land dragon. Paler in color than its relatives, the Barrington terrestrial iguana has a primitive morphology. Galapagos Hawks, mocking birds, finches and endemic rice rats make company to yellowish monster. The snorkeling won't disappoint you.

### **Thursday**

AM: San Cristobal Island, Jacinto Gordillo Breeding Center

Located at the southeast of San Cristobal Island; Here you can see the giant tortoise in a semi-natural habitat. The objective of this place is to preserve and rescue the population of these species of turtle which before used to be on the whole Island. You will see from the just born tortoise until the ancient, you will also be explained about their live through the exhibition room placed at this rescue center.

PM: San Cristobal Island, Witch Hill

Located on the north coast of San Cristobal Island, Witch Hill's main attraction is a paradisiacal white sandy beach which separated by the lava flow, at the same time this separated the two salt water lagoons, which is also an attractive as well as other flora and fauna.

In the lagoon, locals historically mined for salt to preserve their food, and today it is a great place for birdwatching. In addition, Witch Hill's landscape allows a perfect viewpoint of Kicker Rock, the southern part of Upper San Cristobal and the adjacent coastline. It is a perfect place to do long walk, panga ride, and snorkeling.

### **Friday**

AM: Floreana Island, Bahía Post Office

Survival, mystery and murder are the main history ingredients for our next stop which will become our expedition an entire adventure. Post Office Bay has left a legacy of pirates, whalers, scientific expeditions and intense stories of slay and constant ambiguity. After a wet landing we walk a very short distance

to be part of the most important Galapagos tradition. Later we will ride our panga to the west. We will go through a small set of islets with a sea lion colony, boobies and mangroves. Finally, following our ride we will land at the Baroness lookout. On top of this eroded spatter cone we will embrace the vivid obscurity of the human history of "Las Enchanted".

PM: Floreana Island, Punta Cormorant

Punta Cormorant lies on the northern shore of Floreana and is the house of greater flamingos and sea turtles. On one side, the point is partially flooded with a brackish lagoon where flamingos nest and feed. Whimbrels, herons and stilts are other common shore and migratory birds of the wetlands. On the other side sea turtles use every corner of a white sand beach to deliver their eggs. You often see stingrays and reef sharks from the shore and if you are lucky turtles ending basking.

### **Saturday**

AM: Santiago Island, Sullivan Bay

The genesis of the islands is easy to acknowledge at Sullivan Bay. The coiled shiny structures of the pahoe-hoe lava appear as if they were formed yesterday. Located on the east shores of Santiago Island these 131 years old lava flow has intact dribble cones. Older cinder cones were flooded by the rivers of lava and are a great example of aging igneous rocks. The contrast of colors and shapes of the basalt and the distinction of rust and shine of its surface will take you back to Mars, if you've been there before.

PM: Bartholomew Island

Bartolome Island offers an explosive volcanic landscape. Get ready to climb above 270 feet to admire the dramatic spatter cones and the view of Pinnacle Rock that everyone wants. Later, take a walk on magical golden beaches where sea turtle nest (December to March). Don't forget to make time to swim near penguins, sharks and lava tubes.

### **Sunday**

AM: Rabida Island

Galapagos offers a diversity of geological formations without boundaries. The island of Rabida has lavas rich in iron and after millions of years of exposure to air they have turned red. The rusted volcanic material has eroded to form a beautiful crimson sand beach, lovely for a walk. The protected shore provides excellent conditions for a Galapagos sea lions nursery and brown pelicans use the nearby saltbushes as a resting and nesting area. Hawks and mocking birds

are common visitors of the lowlands. Furthermore, you will find that snorkeling of the beach can be very exciting; sharks, rays and many colorful fish are often visible.

PM: Santiago Island, Chinese Hat

Chinese Hat is a little island shaped as its name implies which sits off the southeastern tip of Santiago Island. Its small white beaches have a sea lion colony. Snorkeling is usually very good, and with luck you might see the Galapagos penguins in the water.

## **Monday**

AM: Eden Island

PM: Whale Bay

It is a small islet that is near the Island of Santa Cruz. To the south of our island we have Whale Bay and an extension of both the island of Pinzón and its channel. Its diameter is 600 meters and its highest score is 77 meters of altitude.

These places are famous for their turtles and have 9 types of them so in which site you enjoy to watch them.

## **Tuesday**

AM: Santa Cruz, Las Bachas Beach

The visit conduces us naturally toward the opposite borders of the beach Las Bachas, where we can go through lagoon paths visited by flamencos and a diversity of shore birds.

After this last visit our transportation will be waiting for you to give you the ride back to the airport.