

EcoAdventures

Galapagos Islands Cruise

M/V ECLIPSE

6 Days/5 Nights with Espanola Island

www.ecoadventures.com/SABrochure/my_eclipse.php

Day 1, Saturday - Arrival

Upon arrival at Baltra travelers pass through an airport inspection point to ensure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands. The park entrance fee of \$100 and \$10 for the INGALA card, which is an identity card that you need, has been prepaid. Guides will meet you, collect your luggage, and escort you on the short bus ride to the harbor. Zodiacs, called 'pangas' will transport you to the M/Y Eclipse and the crew will welcome you onboard. After departure and lunch, the first island visit is made.

PM: Dry landing at North Seymour

North Seymour may very well be the perfect introduction to the Galapagos Islands. Although the island is characterized by arid vegetation, fauna abounds and you will soon find yourself surrounded by sea lions, blue footed boobies, marine iguanas, frigate birds and more. With some luck you may even get to see land iguanas as well. (L, D) **Difficulty level: Moderate**

Day 2, Sunday - South Plaza & Santa Fe Islands

South Plaza Island, although quite small, is actually home to a large opuntia cacti forest, land iguanas and one of the largest sea lion colonies in the central region of the archipelago. An endemic plant, *Sesuvium*, inhabits this island and is a great climate indicator as its color is a greenish-yellowish during the rainy season and a bright red during the dry season. You will also be able to see Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, and other kinds of sea birds as well as different types of finches. **Difficulty level: Moderate**

PM: Santa Fe Island

Formed by uplifting, rather than by a volcano, Santa Fe is known for having one of the most beautiful coves in all the Galapagos. Some of the island's endemic species include the Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos Snake, rice rats, different types of finches, and the Galapagos Mockingbird. The visit includes a hike on a trail past salt bushes where Galapagos hawks as well as the Santa Fe land iguanas tend to roam. Playful sea lions will usually accompany swimmers and snorkelers during beach time. (B, L, D) **Difficulty level: Moderate**

Day 3, Monday - San Cristobal Island

AM: Wet landing and excursion at Punta Pitt.

Punta Pitt is composed of volcanic bluff substrate and is located on the eastern tip of San Cristobal Island. This is the only site in Galapagos where one may have the opportunity to see all 3 species of boobies and both species of frigates. Make sure you keep your eyes peeled, as the Red Footed Booby is not as easy to spot because they prefer to nest in areas of thick brush. You can also enjoy kayaking, snorkeling and panga rides at Punta Pitt. **Difficulty level: Moderate to difficult**

PM: Cerro Brujo

Located on the north coast of San Cristobal Island, this eroding tough cone offers a fantastic landscape as well as wonderful swimming, snorkeling and panga ride experiences. Cerro Brujo's gorgeous beach is also home to many sea lions and it's also the first coast where Charles Darwin first stepped foot on in the Archipelago! You will see a beautiful lagoon used by the locals of Baquerizo Moreno Port for salt mining as well as two different species of halophytes (rare plants that grow in soils with a high salt content) (B, L, D)

Difficulty level: Easy to moderate

Day 4, Tuesday - Floreana Island

AM: Post Office Bay

Floreana is one of the Galapagos most famous, or shall we say, "infamous" of islands due to many strange stories regarding past settlers. There are many wonderful and diverse sites to visit including Post Office Bay and the 'Baroness's Viewing Point'. Marine life also abounds in Floreana's coastal regions making it a fantastic site for snorkeling. Flamingos also populate the island and may be seen during your visit. The Baroness's Viewing Point is the perfect place to take in the special environment that defines Floreana, and a great spot to talk and ponder regarding the intriguing history of the Baroness and her three lovers! **Difficulty level: Easy**

In the 18th century whalers passing through the islands placed a wooden barrel on Floreana Island for use as an unofficial mailbox. The tradition continues today as visitors leave addressed postcards in the barrel and sort through left mail to deliver at home. This is one of the archipelago's most famous spots. Don't forget to look in your logbook for your postcards!

Difficulty level: Easy

PM: Cormorant Point

A great site for bird-watching, Cormorant Point has a large lagoon where everything from Flamingos to stilts and pintail ducks can be observed. The beach nearby is also quite special and known as: The 'Green Beach' named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand. (B, L, D) **Difficulty level: Easy**

Day 5, Wednesday - Isabela Island

AM: Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay is one of the furthest points of the Galapagos that you will visit on the cruise. You will enter a sheltered cove - a wonderful mangrove ecosystem that is a refuge for sea turtles, rays, blue-footed boobies, penguins, herons and more. **Difficulty level: Easy**

PM: Moreno Point

Moreno Point is located just southwest of Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island and is known for large populations of sea birds which can be appreciated during a panga ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves. In the tide pools green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted. (B, L, D)

Difficulty level: Moderate to difficult

Day 6, Thursday - Santa Cruz Island

AM: Academy Bay

On your visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station you will gain insight into the huge efforts being made by scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage site. You will see the famous Galapagos tortoises that are the islands' namesake. Transfer to Baltra Island for your flight to the mainland. (B, Snack) **Difficulty level: Easy**

