

Coral I & Coral II ITINERARY D

5 days - 4 nights

Our Galapagos itineraries offer unforgettable experiences, with our weekly departures allowing you to experience tours including: full board, two daily guided excursions with optional activities such as snorkelling, kayaking and dinghy rides.

These cruises can be combined with Diving program extensions and additional nights in Galapagos (upon request).

5 days / 4 nights

D | SOUTH EXPEDITION

Wednesday - Sunday

Wednesday:

- ✈ San Cristobal Airport
- pm. Interpretation Center & Frigatebird Hill (San Cristobal Island)

Thursday:

- am. Kicker Rock (circumnavigation) & Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)
- pm. Punta Pitt (San Cristobal Island)

Friday:

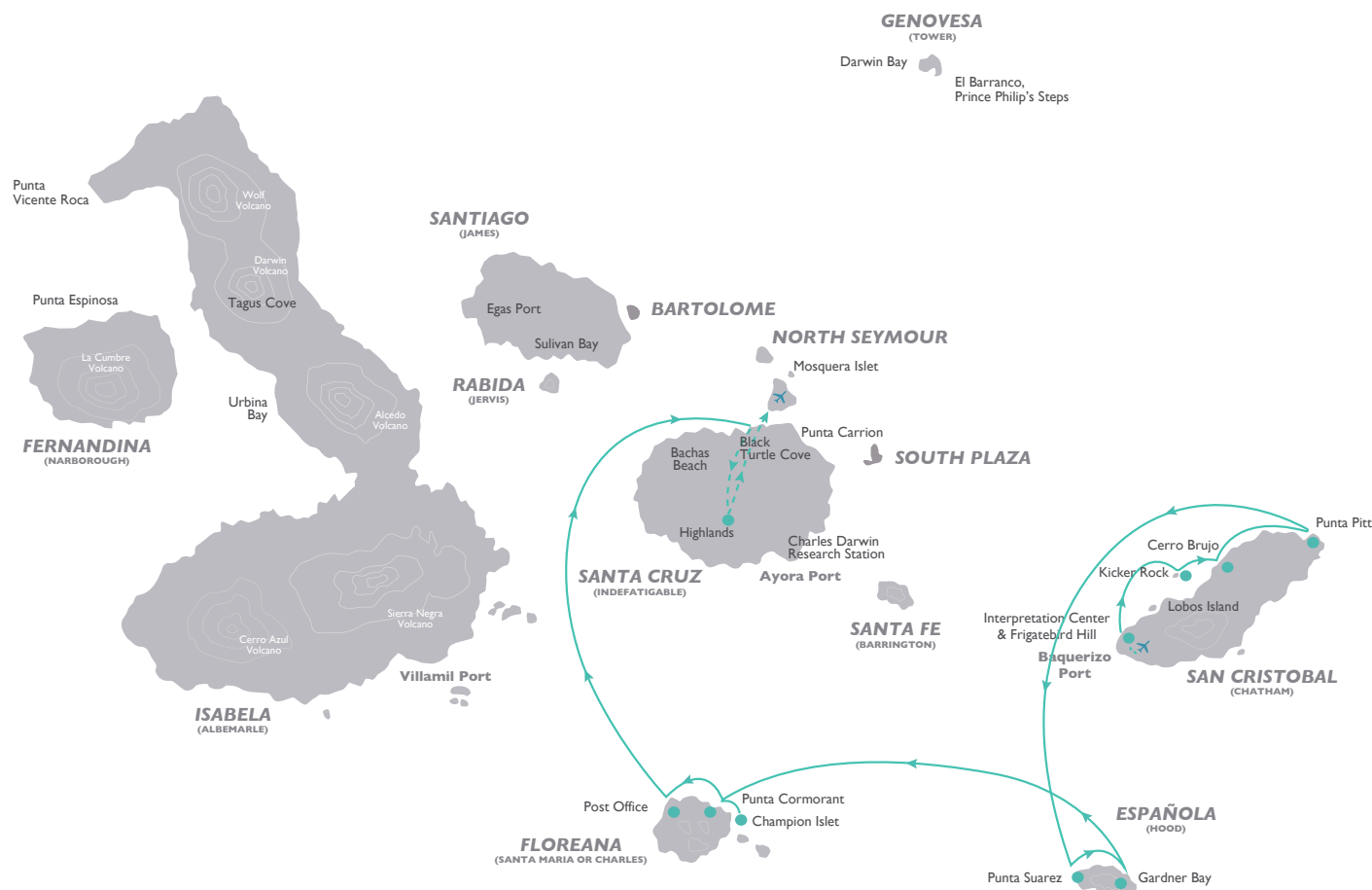
- am. Punta Suarez (Española Island)
- pm. Gardner Bay (Española Island)

Saturday:

- am. Punta Cormorant or Champion Islet (Floreana Island)
- pm. Post Office (Floreana Island)

Sunday:

- am. Highlands Tortoise Reserve 🐢 (Santa Cruz Island)
- ✈ Baltra airport





DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY

am- San Cristobal Airport

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal (2 1/2 hours flight). Arriving in Galapagos, passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken to the pier to board the *M/Y Coral I* or *M/Y Coral II*.



pm – Interpretation Center & Frigatebird Hill (San Cristobal Island)

The interpretation center is full of interesting information and offers the perfect overview to the formation of Galapagos, its significance in the world, threats and conservation efforts. Followed by a hike to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas) we will have great looks at both species of frigatebird, with the bonus of a beautiful view of the bay below.

Difficulty level: easy /intermediate

Type of terrain: flat/stairs

Duration: 1-hour visit / 1-hour walk

Frigatebird Hill

Involves a high-intensity walk amidst beautiful landscape and a magnificent view at the foot of a frigate birds nesting colony.

Involves Difficulty level: difficult

Type of Terrain: Rocky

Duration: 1-hour visit



DAY 2 - THURSDAY

am – Kicker Rock & Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)

Kicker Rock Circumnavigation (San Cristobal Island) This ancient and eroded volcanic tuff lava named Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock it is formed by two rocks approximately 148 m, named for its resemblance of a sleeping lion.

Activity : Circumnavigation

From our pangas, as we head to shore, we are first humbled by the immensity of the stunning cliffs of eSorcerer's Hill. We can enjoy simply sharing the beach with sea lions, snorkeling from shore or take a walk to a hidden lagoon where we might spot black-necked stilts, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels and white-cheeked pintails.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: sandy

Duration: 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



pm – Punta Pit (San Cristobal Island)

Sea lions will greet us as we land on the beach and prepare for our climb to a high point on the steep eroded tuff cone. This is the only place in the islands where we will enjoy the chance to see all three of the booby species in the same place. The red-foots will be perched on the Cordia lutea and small trees, the Nazca's on the ground near the cliff edge while the blue-foots will be a little further inland. Frigatebirds will be all around and the views are breathtaking.

Difficulty level: difficult

Type of terrain: rocky

Duration: 2½-hour walk/ 40-minutes snorkeling or kayaking





DAY 3 - FRIDAY am – Punta Suarez (Espanola Island)

One of the highlight visits of the trip. Punta Suarez seems to have everything - a naturalists paradise. A slew of marine iguanas and sea lions greet us at the landing site from where our walk continues with close encounters of boobies, endemic lizards, gulls and even a dramatic blow hole. The oldest extant island in the archipelago it is our only opportunity to commune with the endemic waved albatross during their breeding season between April and December. With luck, we can watch their complex courtship display.

Difficulty level: difficult
Type of terrain: rocky ground
Duration: 2 ½-hours walk



pm – Gardner Bay (Española Island)

One of the most stunning beaches in all of Galapagos. The long, white, sandy beach, lapped by turquoise waters is home to a colony of Galapagos sea lions, indifferent to the humans that walk amongst them. The Hood mockingbirds, endemic to this particular island, will be eager to inspect the visitors and satisfy their innate curiosity. Darwinis finches may also join the throng including the reclusive warbler finch. We can also snorkel here from the beach, in the shallows of the bay

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: sandy
Duration: 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



DAY 4 - SATURDAY am – Punta Cormorant / Champion (Floreana Island)

Wet landing, on an olivine green, sanded beach. We hike from the black mangrove beds to a brackish lagoon, which usually holds one of the largest flamingo populations in the Galapagos. This island features some endemic plants such as *Scaevola villosa*, white and black mangrove, and holy stick. The trail continues to a beautiful white sandy beach, one of the most important nesting sites of Green Pacific Sea Turtles. It is important to avoid walking in the water due to the Sting Rays that may be hiding in the sand, which can be dangerous if accidentally stepped on. From the beach, one can spot sea turtles, blue-footed boobies plunging into the water, and small reef sharks floating along the shoreline in the search for food.

This coral-sand beach marks the end of our trail, and we head back to the olivine beach we landed on, to swim or snorkel amongst sea turtles, reef fish, sea lions and, on a good day, white-tipped reef sharks. A small colony of penguins resides on Floreana and can sometimes be observed as well.

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: sandy & flat
Duration: 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



pm – Post Ofce (Floreana Island)

Wet landing. Located on the north side of Floreana, the bay was named because in 1793 Captain James Colnett installed a wooden barrel which served as an informal post office for sailors passing through, who would take letters with them back to their destinations. Today, visitors continue the tradition by placing unstamped postcards inside the barrel, hoping that some other traveler, going to the letter destination, will take it back for free. The chances are that the letter posted can take a long time to arrive at its destination. However, there have been cases where it has arrived before the sender.

We may also encounter Darwin's finches, Yellow Warbler and Lava Lizards. Great snorkeling opportunities with Green Pacific Sea Turtles. As well, the island is best known for its endemic vegetation: *Scaevola villosa*, *Lecocarpus Pinnatifidus*, and the Galapagos Milkwort. Snorkelers can practice on the main beach among playful sea lions.

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: sandy
Duration: 30-minutes walk / 1-hour snorkeling



DAY 5 - SUNDAY

am – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kind of birds, such as: tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell!). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos Giant Tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: flat & muddy (depending on season)

Duration: 45-minute drive / 1 ½-hour walk



am– Baltra Island Airport

After the visit, passengers will be transferred to the airport for their return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.