

## Galapagos Legend 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**

**Thursday - Monday**

**Thursday:**

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

**Friday:**

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

**Saturday:**

- am. Post Office (Floreana Island)
- pm. Punta Cormorant, Devil's Crown (Floreana Island)

**Sunday:**

- am. Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)
- pm. Punta Bowditch (Santa Cruz Island)

**Monday:**

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





**DAY 1 - THURSDAY**  
**am – San Cristobal Airport**

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal in a 2-hour flight. Upon arrival, passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken on a ten-minute bus drive to the pier to board the **Galapagos Legend**.



**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.

**Difficulty level:** difficult

**Type of Terrain:** Rocky

**Duration:** 1-hour visit



**DAY 2 - FRIDAY**  
**am – 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. Darwin's 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



**pm - Punta Suarez (Española 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

**Duration:** 2 ½-hour walk







#### DAY 3 - SATURDAY

##### am - Post Office (Floreana Island)

A very short walk from the beach leads us to the famous Post Office Barrel. Claimed to have been first setup in 1793 by Captain James Colnett it remains the oldest functioning post office in the Pacific. The system was that whalers and fur sealers would leave addressed letters in the barrel to be picked up by homeward bound colleagues. In the spirit of maintaining tradition visitors today will often take letters and hand-deliver them in their home countries.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** sandy

**Duration:** 30-minutes walk / 1-hour snorkeling



##### pm - Punta Cormoran, Devil's Crown (Floreana Island)

**Punta Cormoran:**

On arriving, the observant visitor will notice that olivine, a volcanic crystal, has proffered a subtle green hue on the dark beach. Our walk takes us past island-endemic *Scalesia* plants to a large, shallow, lagoon often inhabited by a variable number of shockingly pink greater flamingoes. We continue through a forest of palo santo trees to arrive at a powdery white beach, a nesting area of green turtles. As we paddle barefoot in the shallow water we will spot diamond stingrays and white-tipped reef sharks.

**Devil's Crown:**

One of the favourite snorkeling sites in the islands. Devil's Crown, an eroded volcanic cone, is home to an abundance of fish and marine animals. We will swim with big schools of yellow-tailed surgeonfish, salemas and creolefish and with luck may spot turtles, spotted eagle rays, parrotfish, and even hammerhead sharks! The jagged crown is a roosting area for boobies, noddies, tropicbirds and frigates.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** sandy & flat

**Duration:** 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



#### DAY 4 - SUNDAY

##### am - Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)

Arriving to a small lava dock our first encounters are with marine iguanas that blend-in perfectly to the dark rock. As we walk past large prickly pear cacti we arrive to one end of a long, sickle-shaped, beach with Dragon Hill standing in the distance. Our walk takes us on a circular path, past a shallow lake where flamingoes frequently come to feed. Waders such as stilts, turnstones and sandpipers work the muddy edges frenetically looking for food as we continue inland to a dry, forested habitat where land iguanas nest and burrow.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate

**Type of terrain:** rocky

**Duration:** 2-hour walk



##### pm - Punta Bowditch (Santa Cruz Island)

Feel the indescribable feeling of being where no one else has. Relax on a powdery beach, snorkel around turquoise water islets and hike beside salt pools and dried white corals. Be one of the first -humans- to visit Punta Bowditch at Legend's South itinerary D.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** sandy

**Duration:** 30-minutes walk / 1-hour snorkeling





## DAY 5 - MONDAY

### pm – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kinds 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 bird watchers' haven since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** flat & muddy sometimes (seasonal conditions)

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



### am \_ Baltra Airport

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