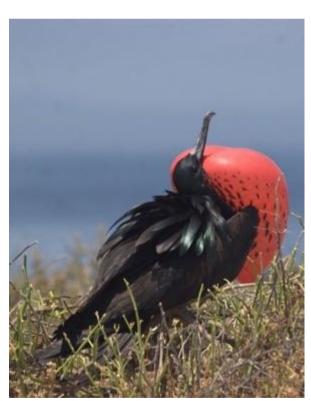


# **Birding Galapagos Island Hopping Tour:**

This group of 13 major islands and dozens of smaller islets and rocks, all the result of volcanic activity, certainly appear to be out of this world. For nature lovers, the perfection is even greater, birds and more birds, playful sea lions, exotic plant life, volcanoes and haunting land seascape.

# **ITINERARY 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS**



# DAY 1: Quito -Galápagos Island

Arrival in the Galápagos – San Cristóbal Highlands & El Junco Lagoon

Early in the morning, you'll need to head to the national airport to catch your flight to the Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival, a local representative will be waiting to assist you through the arrival process. Please note that the Galápagos National Park entrance fee of US\$200 per person (cash only) must be paid upon entry.

Outside the terminal, your guide will meet you for your transfer to the hotel.

After enjoying a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, you'll travel into the highlands of San Cristóbal Island to visit El Junco Lagoon—a remarkable crater lake located within an extinct volcano. As

the only permanent freshwater source in the Galápagos, El Junco is a vital ecological site and a magnet for birdlife. Expect to see Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds as they skim the water's surface to drink. Other waterbirds likely to be spotted include:

The endemic White-cheeked Pintail (Galápagos subspecies) Common Gallinule Potential sightings of migrant waders As we explore the highlands, we'll also search for a variety of Darwin's finches, such as the Small Tree Finch and the ingenious Woodpecker Finch.

A highlight of the day will be the search for the endemic and Endangered San Cristóbal Mockingbird, which is usually found at lower elevations. With luck, we may also encounter the elusive Galápagos Rail, which has been occasionally reported in these highlands.

After the excursion, we return to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno for dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation Options – San Cristóbal Island

#### **Hotel Los Algarrobos**

**Tourist Class** 

Located just 100 meters from Playa Mann Beach, this simple yet comfortable hotel offers single, double, triple, and quadruple rooms. All rooms feature private bathrooms with hot/cold water, air conditioning, cable TV, and Wi-Fi.

# Casa Opuntia

**Tourist Superior Class** 

Set on a scenic waterfront property, Casa Opuntia offers spacious air-conditioned rooms, beautiful gardens featuring endemic Opuntia cacti, a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, and a gourmet waterfront restaurant and bar. A perfect blend of comfort and charm.

#### **Seaside Hotel**

First Class

This modern boutique villa is just steps from Playa Mann and close to major attractions like the Interpretation Center, Tijeretas, and Punta Carola. Rooms feature minimalist design, private bathrooms with fresh towels, air conditioning, TVs, and minibars. Enjoy on-site dining and an outdoor pool.

HOTEL LOS ALGARROBOS, is located in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, just 100 m from Playa Mann Beach. It is a simple hotel with good services, it offers single, double, triple, quadruple rooms with private bathroom, hot/cold water, air conditioner, Cable TV, Wifi. Tourist

CASA OPUNTIA is located in a beautiful water front property in San Cristobal Island, Galapagos. The hotel has been recently refurbished and named after the endemic "Opuntia" cacti featured in the gardens of the Mediterranean style property. Casa Opuntia features ample air-conditioned rooms, exclusive social areas, swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a gourmet waterfront restaurant service and bar. Tourist Superior

**SEASIDE HOTEL,** is a modern, clean-designed villa with 10 rooms, located next to Playa Mann beach and a couple hundred meters away from Centro de Interpretation, from which you can get to many tourist attractions like Tijeretas or Punta Carola. All rooms offer TV and a mini-bar, airconditioner, private bathroom equipped with a shower and fresh towels. Also you have restaurant service and an outdoor swimming pool. **First Class** 







(L.D)





#### Day 2: Española Island - Punta Gardner Suárez & Islet Española.

After an early breakfast, you will set out on an exciting full-day excursion to Española Island, one of the oldest and most ecologically rich islands in the Galápagos.

Morning: Punta Suárez

Your first stop is Punta Suárez, a rugged headland known for hosting one of the most impressive and diverse seabird colonies in the archipelago. As you disembark on the beach, you'll be welcomed by a bustling colony of sea lions and the famously inquisitive Hood Mockingbird, endemic an subspecies found only on this island

Along the trail, you'll encounter:

- -Blue-footed Boobies
- -Nazca (Masked) Boobies
- -Waved Albatross (seasonal breeders, with spectacular mating dances)
- -Red-billed Tropicbirds
- -Galápagos Shearwaters
- -Phalaropes and Storm-Petrels
- -Galápagos Hawks
- -Large Cactus Finches

Don't miss the dramatic blowhole, where ocean swells force water high into the air from beneath the volcanic rock—a natural spectacle set against steep southern cliffs where birds soar overhead. Keep an eye out for the striking marine iguanas, tinted in shades of red and green, unique to Española.

Afternoon: Gardner Islet

After lunch onboard, your afternoon adventure takes you to Gardner Islet, an idyllic snorkeling spot off Española's coast. Here, you'll have the chance to swim alongside a fascinating array of marine life, including:

- -Snake eels
- -Marble and diamond rays
- -Galápagos pufferfish
- -Red-lipped batfish
- -And with luck, hammerhead sharks

Following your underwater exploration, you'll return to San Cristóbal Island in the late afternoon. Dinner will be followed by an overnight stay at your hotel. **(B.L.D)** 

### <u>Day 3: San Cristobal - Isla</u> Punta Pitt:

After breakfast, you'll embark on a speedboat journey to Punta Pitt, situated on the northeastern tip of San Cristóbal Island. This remarkable site features eroded volcanic cones and sparse endemic vegetation, creating a



unique environment that supports a diverse array of wildlife. Here, sea lions, lava lizards, marine iguanas, and various seabirds coexist in this protected haven.



Punta Pitt is renowned for being one of the only places in the Galápagos where all three species of boobies—blue-footed, red-footed, and Nazca—nest in close proximity.

This rare occurrence offers an exceptional opportunity for birdwatching enthusiasts. Additionally, the area is home to two species of frigatebirds: the Great and Frigatebird the Magnificent Frigatebird. Other notable avian species include storm-petrels,

shearwaters, phalaropes, lava gulls, lava herons, gray and blue herons, and the Chatham mockingbird.

The beach at Punta Pitt is often bustling with activity, as sea lions bask in the sun and various seabirds soar overhead. If you're fortunate, you might even catch a glimpse of the elusive Galápagos petrel in the distance.

After exploring the area, you'll return to San Cristóbal for dinner and overnight accommodations, reflecting on the day's unforgettable wildlife encounters. **(B.BL.D)** 

<u>Isabel islan</u> After an early breakfast, you'll depart for Floreana Island, arriving at Puerto Velasco Ibarra. From there, a scenic ride will take you to the highlands, where you'll visit Asilo de la Paz.

In the lush Scalesia forests of Asilo de la Paz, you'll have the opportunity to observe the critically endangered



Medium Tree Finch, an endemic species found only in this area. The forest also provides habitat for other species including the Galápagos Flycatcher.

A visit to the tortoise reserve is included, where you can see both native and hybrid Galápagos tortoises.

In the afternoon, you'll travel to Isabela Island, arriving at Puerto Villamil. From there, you'll be transferred to your hotel for dinner and overnight accommodations.

**CORAL BLANCO HOTEL,** is Located at 164 feet from the beach. It offers comfortable accommodations with free WiFi in Puerto Villamil. Continental breakfast is offered and an on-site restaurant is featured. Providing a tranquil environment, the rooms in Hotel Coral Blanco feature private bathrooms, air conditioning, and refrigerators.

#### **Tourist**

CORMORANT BEACH HOUSE HOTEL is a small, laid-back retreat right on a stretch of white sand on Isabela Island. With just ten rooms, it offers clean, simple comfort—no frills, just natural light, open spaces, and quiet beach vibes. The design is minimalist and grounded in the island's environment, making it a perfect spot to slow down, relax, and enjoy a peaceful, unhurried stay **Tourist Superior** 





IGUANA CROSSING is Isabela Island's newest and most innovative hotel, offering a minimalist design and superior service for a privileged experience on this sparsely populated island. Located between Isabela's expansive white sand beaches and directly behind a wildlife-filled lagoon, the hotel provides an oceanfront swimming pool, Jacuzzi, 12 fully equipped rooms, and a master suite. Guests can enjoy a tranquil atmosphere with panoramic views of the surrounding natural beauty. First Class



(B.L.D)



# <u>Day 5: Isabela Island: Sierra</u> <u>Negra- Volcano - Marshlands</u>

After an early breakfast, your guide will meet you to begin the day's adventure to Sierra Negra the Volcano, of most one impressive volcanoes in the Galápagos. You'll embark on a hike to the caldera, the largest of Galápagos volcanoes, all the measuring approximately 10 km in width. This area is renowned for its offerina biodiversity, rich opportunities to observe endemic species such as the Galápagos Galápagos Martin, Rail. Woodpecker Finch, Green Warbler Finch, Small Tree Finch, and Galápagos Flycatcher.

Due to the delicate nature of the Galápagos ecosystem, all visitors

must be accompanied by a certified naturalist guide when hiking Sierra Negra, as mandated by Galápagos National Park regulations. This ensures both your safety and the protection of the environment.

Along the way, you'll pause at Campoduro for a delicious lunch. Afterward, the journey continues with a visit to the Flamingo Pond, a serene spot where you can observe these elegant birds in their natural habitat.

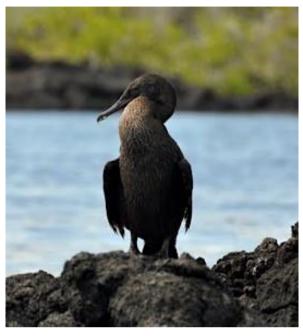
In the afternoon, you'll explore the Isabela Island Wetlands (Los Humedales), a pristine ecosystem of tidal lagoons that serve as habitats for flamingos and migratory birds. The area is also home to all four species of mangroves found in the Galápagos. This is an excellent location to spot various species of Darwin's finches, Mangrove Warblers, and other native wildlife.

After a day filled with natural wonders, you'll return to your hotel for dinner and overnight accommodations. (B.L.D)

### <u>Day 6: Isabela Island: The</u> Flightless Cormorant

After an early breakfast, your guide will escort you to the pier, where a small speedboat will be awaiting to take you to several sites around Isabela Island. Here, you'll have the opportunity to observe one of the Galápagos' most remarkable endemic species: the flightless cormorant. This unique bird is the only known cormorant species that has lost the ability to fly, a fascinating adaptation to its environment.

In addition to the flightless cormorant, you may encounter other seabirds such as the Galápagos penguin (not visible from June to August),



frigatebirds, shearwaters, phalaropes, and greater flamingos. The waters around Isabela are rich in marine life, providing excellent opportunities for snorkeling. A box lunch will be provided during the excursion. In the afternoon, you'll enjoy snorkeling in the crystal-clear waters, offering a chance to observe the vibrant marine ecosystem.

After a day filled with wildlife encounters and underwater exploration, you'll return to Puerto Villamil for dinner and overnight accommodations. **(B.BL.D)** 



# <u>Day 7: Navigation Isabela -Santa Cruz</u> Island: Highlands.

At 5:30 AM, you'll be transferred to the pier, where a speedboat will await to transport you to Santa Cruz Island.

After arriving in Puerto Ayora, you'll enjoy a hearty breakfast before heading to the highlands. Your drive will take you through seven distinct vegetation zones, showcasing the island's rapidly changing ecosystems. In this cooler, lush region, you'll pause at a private tortoise reserve to observe giant tortoises

roaming freely—often accompanied by the Vegetarian Finch. With some luck, you may also spot the elusive Paint-billed Crake, typically found in dense wetland thickets .

While in the highlands, you'll search for the secretive Galápagos Rail, an endemic species that thrives in the moist understory.

In the afternoon, you'll return to Puerto Ayora for dinner and overnight accommodations.

**DEJA VÚ,** is a establishment located in Puerto Ayora, equipped with free WiFi, restaurant and an outdoor pool. The hotel also has a bar and a gym. The rooms have flatscreen TVs. Rooms include private bathroom with bathtub or shower. There are also free toiletries and a hairdryer. The accommodation offers 24- hour reception, night entertainment and car rental service. **(Tourist)** 

**HOTEL LA ISLA** is a bright, relaxed stay in Puerto Ayora, just steps from the island's main shops, restaurants, and the waterfront. The hotel is modern and features five king-size rooms (three of which can be arranged as twins), each with air-conditioning, private bathrooms with hot water, cable TV, and free Wi-Fi.

Heading up to the social space on the upper floor, you'll find a welcoming lounge area, water dispensers (hot and cold), and a rooftop terrace great for enjoying the views from Puerto Ayora.

Hotel La Isla offers a warm, no-fuss atmosphere that combines comfort and convenience. **Tourist Superior Ikala Hotel** is located in the small city of Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. The hotel is just one block away from the main pier and the main street where you will find plenty of shops, restaurants, bars and other facilities. The hotel offers a lovely swimming pool, bar area, and a beautiful terrace located on top of the main building with an amazing view of the harbor. All suites offers private bathroom, hot/cold water, air conditioning, silent fans, and amenities.

**First Class** 





(B.L.D)



# <u>Day 8: Galapagos Charles Darwin</u> <u>Station-Flight back to Mainland.</u>

After breakfast, your guide will escort you to the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora. This facility is central to the conservation efforts in the Galápagos, focusing on the protection and restoration of the islands' unique biodiversity.

Giant Tortoise Conservation

At the station, you'll witness the breeding programs dedicated to the Galápagos giant tortoises. These programs aim to restore tortoise populations that have been impacted by human activity. You'll have the

opportunity to observe hatchlings and juveniles, some of which are being prepared for reintroduction into their natural habitats. Darwin's Finches.

The station also offers a chance to observe Darwin's finches, a group of 18 species endemic to the Galápagos. These finches are renowned for their role in the study of evolution, exhibiting a remarkable diversity in beak form and function. Species such as the Small, Medium, and Large Ground Finches, along with the Galápagos Mockingbird, are commonly found in the vicinity of the station.

### **Departure**

Following your visit, you'll be transferred to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland.

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#### **END OF SERVICES!!**

#### A NOTE ON THE ORDER OF THE ITINERARY:

Itinerary subject to change based on local conditions and Galapagos National Park regulations. The Hotels are subject to availability, we will provide you the hotels mentioned in this itinerary or similar according each category

B: Breakfast; L-Lunch; BL-Box lunch; D-Dinner

PRICE PER PERSON 2025 IN USD						
HOTEL CATEGORY	2-3 PAX	4-5 PAX	6-7 PAX	8-9 PAX	10-11 PAX	Sing Sup
Tourist	\$ 7.870	\$ 4.758	\$ 4.620	\$ 3.820	\$ 3.330	\$52
Tourist Sup.	\$ 8.326	\$ 5.164	\$ 5.004	\$ 4.150	\$ 3.648	\$725
First Class	\$8.566	\$ 5.449	\$ 5.305	\$ 4.416	\$ 3.930	\$1.249
PRICE PER PERSON 2025 IN USD WITH 1 TOUR LEADER FREE						
HOTEL CATEGORY	2-3 PAX	4-5 PAX	6-7 PAX	8-9 PAX	10-11 PAX	Sing Sup
Tourist	\$ 8.864	\$ 5.240	\$ 4.844	\$ 3.980	\$ 3.450	\$52
Tourist Sup.			<u> </u>	<b>.</b>	4	<b></b>
Tourist Sup.	\$ 9.806	\$ 5.906	\$ 5.374	\$ 4.448	\$ 3.922	\$725

**IMPORTANT:** in case of 1 to 5 passengers the services are based on sharing (Punta Pitt, Española, Cormorant beach tours) and private services.

<u>PRICE INCLUDES:</u> Transfers airport – hotel – airport, transportation (bus, boat), local guide, bilingual naturalist guide specialized on birdwatching, accommodation based on double rooms in all hotels mentioned in the itinerary or similar depending on availability, all excursions, meals as described on the itinerary, basic snorkel gear, Ingala migration card, Isabela tax.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Local flights: Quito- Galapagos – Quito (\$570.60 subject to change), Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US\$ 200), meals not specified, alcoholic drinks, tips, and personal expenses.