

# NATURE & ADVENTURE

## GALAPAGOS HIGHLIGHT TOURS 2016

*Prepare to be amazed with this unique experience on the Islands that fascinated CHARLES DARWIN!*



### ITINERARY

- DAY 1. - Arrival at **SAN CRISTOBAL**-La Lobería
- DAY 2. - San Cristobal: Kicker Rock
- DAY 3. - Floreana-Isabella
- DAY 4. - Isabella: Volcán Sierra Negra-Concha & Perla (OPTIONAL, CABO ROSA)
- DAY 5. - Isabella-Santa Cruz
- DAY 6. - Bartholomew, Seymour, Plazas or Santa Fe (only one island)
- DAY 7. - Bartholomew, Seymour, Plazas or Santa Fe (only one island)
- DAY 8. - **BALTRA**

#### **The program include:**

- Sharing basis accommodation
- Double or triple rooms
- All meals in the island
- Galapagos National Park naturalist bilingual guide
- Snorkel gear
- ISABELLA port fee
- Itinerary subject to change without previous notice
- Taxes included.

#### **The program does not include:**

- Air ticket to and from Galapagos
- US\$ 20,00 CONTROL TRANSIT CARD -cash payment only
- US\$100,00 Galapagos park fee, 50% off for children
- Personal expenses and tips
- Medical and travel insurance
- Single room with supplementary rate
- Soft and alcoholic drinks.



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## DATES AVAILABLE

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>06 – 13</b>	<b>20 – 27</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>11– 18</b>	<b>25 – 01</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>08 – 15</b>	<b>22 – 29</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>06 – 13</b>	<b>20 – 27 **</b>

### RATES 2016

BASIC HOTELS	US\$ 2428,00	Single supplement US\$ 320,00
SUPERIOR HOTELS	US\$ 2791,00	Single supplement US\$ 559,00
CHRISTMAS TIME**	US\$ 114,00	supplement for this date, per passenger
OPTIONAL TOUR	US\$ 140,00	CABO ROSA-Cash payment please.

**REMARKS:** Original documents are needed.

### HOTELS OF THIS PROGRAM

*Tourist class hotels (or similar)*

Pimampiro <http://hosteriapimampiro.com/>

La Gran Tortuga <http://www.hotelgrantortuga.com/>

Déjà Vu <http://dejavugalapagos.com/>

*Tourist superior class hotels (or similar)*

Casa Playa Mann <http://www.casaisabelaonthebeach.com/>

Casita de la Playa <http://www.casaplayamann.com/>

Villa Laguna <http://www.villalaguna.com.ec/>

If these options are not available at the time of booking, we will find similar hotel and give you the name of the hotels so you can valid our choice.

### Booking Confirmation Policy

In order to confirm your trip, a deposit of 50% of the tour is required and final payment with 60 days prior to tour start.

### Cancellation Policy

More than 90 days before departure of your program: \$ 50 administration fee

89-60 days before departure of your program: 20% of penalty of total amount

59-30 days before departure of your program: 60% of total amount

29 days or less before departure of your program: 100% of penalty of total amount.



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# San Cristóbal



© Magdalena Derda

## DESCRIPTION

**Day 1: SAN CRISTOBAL:** Meet at San Cristobal airport & transfer to the hotel. Get settled and enjoy a nice Ecuadorian lunch.

PM: Visit **Lobería Beach**: A beautiful beach with great snorkeling! During the snorkel you may find sea turtles, rays, sea lions and many species of colorful fish. There is also a nice hike (optional) to a cliff where you can see many birds such as blue footed boobies and frigate birds, fishing during the evening. After that we go back to the hotel to get ready for dinner.

**Meals included:** -/L/D

**Difficulty:** EASY

**Day 2: SAN CRISTOBAL Kicker Rock (León Dormido):** It is a volcanic tuff rock rising at 144 meters above the sea level. A beautiful snorkel site famous because of its rich marine life. You can spot there many tropical fish, sea turtles, sea lions, rays, Galapagos sharks, white tipped sharks and, if lucky, hammerhead sharks! Going around the rock with the boat you can spot masked boobies, blue footed boobies and frigate birds. Lunch will be served on board and then we navigate back to port around 2 PM. The rest of the afternoon is free until dinner. You can use it for shopping or go and visit the Interpretation Center (*free entrance*), Tijeretas, Playa Carola and Playa Mann. You meet for dinner with the whole group where the guide will give you the details for the next day.

**Meals included:** B/L/D

**Difficulty:** MEDIUM (*snorkeling in open water*)

### Day 3: FLOREANA

Breakfast at 6AM, at 06:30 we meet at the pier and at 7AM we depart for **Floreana**. The ride last 2h30. Upon the arrival, we will snorkel at Loberia beach and then visit the highlands, a place called "**Peace Asylum**" where the first colonists of the islands settled. The guide will tell you about the history of the colonists. We will also spot Galapagos giant tortoises on the way. Lunch will be served in the small village of Velasco Ibarra.

Afterwards we will continue to **Isabella** island –1h30m ride. Isabella is a beautiful island with port is located near a clear bay and a long white sand beach. At arrival the bus will pick us up and we will reach the flamingo lagoon to spot these beautiful animals at sunset.

**Meals included:** B/L/D

**Difficulty:** EASY

### Day 4: ISABELA: Options: by land or by sea

**Cabo Rosa** (with a supplement, look at the *Price* section) (best season December–May)

Isabella is the biggest island but only a really small part of it can be visited, the rest is entirely protected by the National Park and visits are forbidden.



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**Option 1 - VOLCANO HIKE:** Early in the morning we will reach by bus the highlands: we will begin a trekking (6 hours!) to the Sierra Negra and Chico volcano. **Sierra Negra** has the second largest active crater in the world: 10km round. We will continue to **Chico volcano**, which is a cone of Sierra Negra. We will walk through moon-like sceneries and have great views of nearby Fernandina Island and the north of the island. This gives us an idea of how the islands looked at their creation. Lunch will be served in a local farm which is also a tortoise reserve. We will be back around 3:30PM and we will end the day with a nice swim and snorkel at Concha de Perla lagoon.

**Difficulty:** MEDIUM

**Option 2 - CABO ROSA TUNNELS:** *THIS OPTION HAS AN EXTRA COST.* If you are okay with another boat ride (1 hour each way) you can take the excursion to Cabo Rosa tunnels. This is an amazing place where the volcano activity created lava tunnels going under and over the sea level. We can spot penguins, blue footed boobies, and we will have great snorkeling too! Back to port at around 2PM, late lunch and then meet the other group at around 3:30PM to swim/snorkel at Concha de Perla lagoon.

*Why is this tour not included?* Because you will go apart from the rest of the group that will go to the volcano. Not everybody wants to ride a boat every day and people also like a full land day so we opt for the volcano as the main guided excursion. So you pay for the boat tour to the Tunnels and go with another group of people. You'll meet with your group again for the afternoon excursion to Concha de Perla. Cabo Rosa is a great excursion but limited to 10 people per boat so we cannot include it for our 16 people group.

**Meals included:** B/L/D

**Difficulty:** EASY

#### **Day 5: ISABELA-SANTA CRUZ**

In the morning we will have a great **kayak** ride in the bay. There will be single or double kayaks (mainly double kayaks) and it will be an easy ride. Kayak is the perfect way to observe the small penguins, the turtles, the rays as you go silently on the water. Back to port and at around 11h30 departure to Santa Cruz by boat. Arrival at 2PM, lunch and hike the **Tortuga Bay** beach to enjoy a last swim into the Galapagos waters and spot a huge iguana colony. The walk to Tortuga Bay is 3km each way, passing through a giant endemic cactus and sandalwood forest.

**Meals included:** B/L/D

**Difficulty:** EASY TO MEDIUM DIFFICULTY

#### **Day 6: UNINHABITED ISLAND**

To complete the tour, you will visit some uninhabited islands such as Bartholomew, Seymour, Plazas or Santa Fe. Each one has its own character and species (Seymour–Plazas–Santa Fe has endemic species of land iguanas, Bartholomew has penguins and amazing views).

Note that you will be traveling with another people/guide than you were on the tour, as those day tours have strict restrictions and just a few boats have the permit therefore we have to work with them.

The tour consist in reaching the Itabaca channel by bus (except for Santa Fe which is South), and then board a yacht to navigate to the island. Hike and snorkel, lunch on board. We are usually return at around 5PM to the hotel.

**Meals included:** B/L/D

**Difficulty:** EASY (exc. for Bartholomew where the hike is uphill, a bit longer than other hikes, to reach the top).



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**Day 7: UNINHABITED ISLAND**

Today we will visit another island: different to the previous day of course. Hike and snorkel, back to port at around 5PM.

**Meals included:** B/L/D

**Difficulty:** EASY (except, again, Bartholomew).

**Day 8: BALTRA**

In the morning we will reach the airport passing by a lava tunnel that we will visit going entirely through it. We can spot there sometime an owl.

**Meals included:** B/-/

**Difficulty:** EASY



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