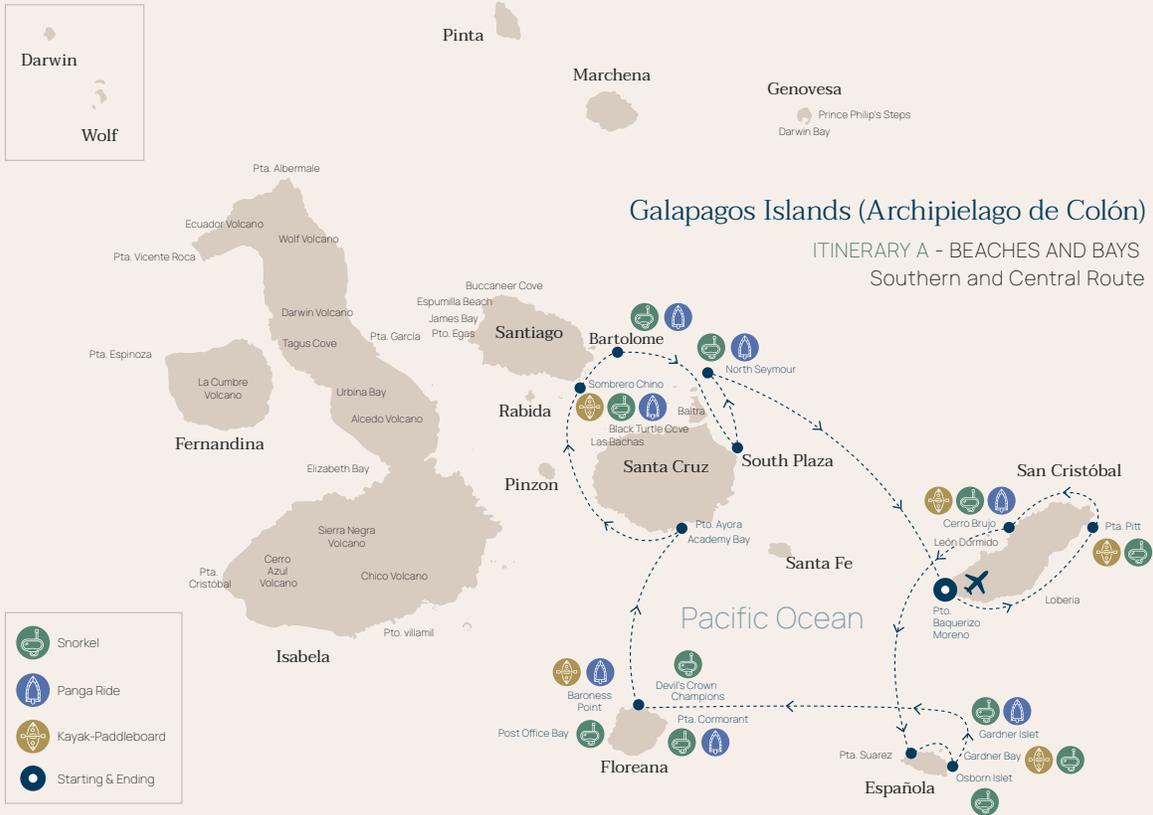


# “Beaches and Bays”

ITINERARY A – SOUTHERN & CENTRAL ROUTE

O · R · I · G · I · N T · H · E · O · R · Y E · V · O · L · V · E



<b>SUNDAY</b>	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, SAN CRISTOBAL (Chatham) Leon Dormido (CN) SAN CRISTOBAL
<b>MONDAY</b>	Punta Pitt, (CA, SN, PR, KY) SAN CRISTOBAL Cerro Brujo (CA, SN, PR) SAN CRISTOBAL
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Punta Suarez (CA), Osborn Islet (SN) ESPANOLA (Hood), Gardner Bay (CA, SN, KY), Gardner Islet (SN, PR) ESPANOLA
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Punta Cormorant (CA, PR), Devil's Crown or Champion (SN), FLOREANA, Post Office Bay (CA, SN), Baroness Point (PR, KY) FLOREANA
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Tortoise reserve & Highlands (CA) SANTA CRUZ Charles Darwin Station (CA) Puerto Ayora, SANTA CRUZ
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Sombrero Chino (SN, PR, KY), Las Bachas (CA, SN) or Black Turtle Cove (PR) Bartolome (CA, PR, SN) Bartolome (CA, PR, SN)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	South Plaza Island (CA) North Seymour (CA, PR, SN)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	Interpretation Center (CA) SAN CRISTOBAL

Activities: circumnavigation (CN), shore excursion (CA), snorkel (SN), kayak/SUP (KY), Panga ride (PR)  
This is a sample itinerary, and the order of the visits and activities may vary depending upon the yacht assigned.

Day by day Description of sites visited with activity approved by the Galapagos National Park

### SUNDAY

Upon arrival in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (SCY) **SAN CRISTOBAL** Island, our guides will be waiting to escort you to your expedition yacht. After a short ride by bus to the dock, and by Zodiac to the yacht anchored in the bay, you'll be shown your cabin and treated to a delicious lunch. There will be a welcome briefing and a brief safety drill afterward you can choose your snorkel equipment and wet suit for the week. You'll have time to settle in after lunch before the yacht leaves the harbor. Within a few hours, we reach Leon Dormido, (Spanish for sleeping lion), a remnant of a vertical tuff cone formation, rising 500 feet from the ocean. Erosion has split the rock providing a spectacular backdrop for photographs at sunset. As we circumnavigate the formation, you'll easily spot blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and frigatebirds on the cliffs. Guests on the Evolve visit *La Galapaguera de Cerro Colorado (David Rodriguez Land Tortoise Breeding Center)-2*. After a briefing on activities for the following day, join our Captain and crew for a cocktail reception. An elegant multi-course dinner, prepared by our accomplished chefs, is served.

### MONDAY

Your first day of exploration starts with a Zodiac ride to look for wildlife at **Cerro Brujo (1)**, which translates to Wizard Hill. Your guide will point out the wide variety of birds soaring overhead, from brown pelicans and brown noddly terns to blue-footed boobies dive-bombing the water as they fish. Look for different color patterns that indicate age - for example, a brown pelican will have a white neck when it's mature. Sally lightfoot crabs, black when they're young but extremely colorful once fully grown, scurry all over the rocks. Your guides will also point out unusual geological formations, including the Cathedral, jokingly called Darwin's Pants. After the Zodiac tour, you'll step ashore at a gorgeous coral sand beach and can explore at your own pace. Take a peaceful walk along the beach, swim with sea lions from the beach. This is a good opportunity to become familiar with your snorkeling gear from the beach (1) before snorkeling in deeper water. Your guides will help you identify the various species of fish you've encountered so far and lend their expertise.

This afternoon, we go ashore at **Punta Pitt (4)** for a hike - parts of the trail are rocky, and there is some climbing involved. This is considered one of the best sites for bird-watching, primarily because it is the only place where you'll see all three species of boobies: blue-footed, red-footed, and the Nazca. Look for baby blue-footed boobies, fully grown after just a couple of months but fluffy and white until their feathers grow in. Your guides will also point out frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls, storm petrels, and brown pelicans. We can snorkel at Pitt Rock (2) with sea lions and colorful fish; King Angel and Surgeon fish. As the yacht sets sail, choose from a selection of guidebooks or fiction from the library, or climb to the top deck for a distant view of "Kicker Rock". Join us on the sundeck for gourmet snacks and sample beer from local breweries in the Galapagos. After dinner, join your guide on deck for an exploration of the Southern skies full of stars.

### TUESDAY

This morning you'll land at **Punta Suarez on Espanola (Hood) Island (5)**. Your guides will point out the large number of endemic species living here, such as the waved albatross. These gorgeous birds spend the first several years of their lives in the open ocean and return to land to mate. If your visit is between April and December, you will witness the well-known courtship dance. As you walk, take care not to step on the marine iguanas sunbathing on the dark lava rocks. These iguanas are usually black but acquire bright red and green coloration during mating season from the algae they eat. Follow the trail to the dramatic ocean blow hole, watch for colorful sally light-foot crabs crawling along the shoreline. We also find Darwin's Finches, Hood mockingbird, Galapagos Doves, red-billed tropicbirds, Galapagos Hawks, Nazca boobies and swallow-tailed gulls, the only nocturnal gull in the world. Return to the yacht for a BBQ lunch served on deck (weather permitting) and learn to make Ecuadorian ceviche in a cooking demonstration.

Your guide will offer an optional enrichment lecture. Informative and entertaining, the topic is on the marine currents and weather or Geology of the Islands. After lunch, you'll have the option to snorkel at Gardner Islet (2) and explore the caves

covered with invertebrates. Disembark at Gardner Bay (1), site of an expansive white-powder sand beach where colonies of sea lions dot the shoreline. The dominant males of a sea lion colony keep watch over their harems to keep them safe. Here you'll have the option to snorkel from the beach (1), kayak or paddleboard, or take a leisurely stroll, sunbathe or look for wildlife; Darwin Finches, Espanola mockingbird and Galapagos hawks. After the activities, return to the yacht for a briefing and dinner.

### WEDNESDAY

Step ashore at **Punta Cormorant's** olive-sand beach with the sounds of sea lions, lava herons, yellow-crowned night herons and blue-footed boobies as you explore **Floreana (Charles) Island (3)**. The green mineral you'll see on the beach is caused by a high concentration of iron and manganese from the same basaltic lava found in Hawaii. As you walk to a brackish lagoon, home to Bahama ducks, common stilts, Galapagos flycatchers and bright pink American flamingos, the guides will point out the rich variety of plant life, including morning glories, cut-leaf daisies, mangroves (black, red and white), palo verde and Scalesia. The trail leads to a beach where sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and sting rays swim in the shallow water. Don't miss the opportunity to snorkel at **Devil's Crown or Champion Islet (2)**, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral, white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and sea stars. Return to the yacht for lunch and learn about the fascinating human history of the Islands and why this island is sometimes called the Island of Mysteries.

In the afternoon, you'll be able to participate in a thrilling Galapagos tradition. Floreana is home to Post Office Bay (1), the site where English whaling vessels erected a post barrel in the late 18th century. When you drop a postcard in the barrel, no postage is required. You'll search through the postcards left by previous visitors, and if you see one addressed to a location near your home, you may choose to take it with you. However, you must deliver it in person. Similarly, your postcards will be delivered by future visitors. Take a Zodiac excursion or explore by paddleboard at **Baroness Point** to find sea turtles and rays in the shallow lagoon. You'll be busy snapping photos of sea stars and a brilliant array of colorful fish. Return to the yacht and join us on deck for an Espresso Martini made from Galapagos grown coffee, followed by the evening briefing and dinner.

### THURSDAY

You'll awaken in the vibrant harbor of Academy Bay - the social hub of the Galapagos with a population of 24,000 residents. This morning, we'll disembark at **Puerto Ayora, SANTA CRUZ (2)** Island and board a private bus for a scenic excursion to the **highlands of Santa Cruz** traversing diverse vegetation zones with lush greenery at higher elevations. The morning unfolds with an extraordinary visit to *Rancho Primicias or El Chato*, privately-owned ranches where majestic tortoises roam freely in their pristine natural habitat. These gentle giants grow to exceed 500 pounds and offer an awe-inspiring spectacle. The estate unveils enchanting lava tunnels to explore, providing a truly immersive experience.

You'll have the opportunity to join the "Green Team" and participate in a reforestation project by planting a tree courtesy of Ecoventura. Embrace the opportunity to leave a positive legacy for generations to come and discover the vital role native plants provide in nurturing Galapagos ecosystems. Our next destination is Los Gemelos (the twins), a pair of massive volcanic craters that stand as a testament to the island's geological grandeur.

We return to the yacht for a delicious lunch served onboard. Enrich yourself in a fascinating talk on a topic your guide is passionate about and relevant to the Islands. Delve into the fascinating world of Charles Darwin and his Theory of Evolution, or on the arrival and establishment of species to the Islands.

This afternoon, we'll visit the breeding center at **Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena (2)** followed by the **Charles Darwin Research Station** Exhibition Hall - a unique opportunity to witness ongoing conservation efforts. The wooden walkway is adorned with informative exhibits, showcasing hatchlings and miniature tortoises

destined for repatriation by the National Park upon reaching maturity. We pay homage to Lonesome George, the last surviving tortoise from Pinta Island, and a worldwide icon. His extinction emphasizes the crucial need to preserve and protect endangered wildlife. You will encounter several species of tortoises that will be repatriated once they reach maturity. A saddleback tortoise whose species was once reduced to a mere 14 individuals, played a crucial role in its recovery. After being transported from the San Diego Zoo, "Super Diego" fathered hundreds of descendants before returning to Espanola Island, embodying a hopeful narrative in wildlife conservation. Take a leisurely stroll through the seaside village and stop in at boutiques selling local art, jewelry, and souvenirs as you make your way to the pier.

You have the option to remain in town to sample the local cuisine and Puerto Ayora at night on your own account. Transfers are provided by Zodiac to and from the yacht. This is dependent upon the captain's discretion and sea conditions in the harbor. Otherwise, guests can expect a grand multi-course dinner – a culinary extravaganza featuring the finest ingredients and artful presentation.

## FRIDAY

When you wake up this morning, you'll be in solitude once again. There are two options for a morning activity. Today's hike is a challenge, with about 400 wooden steps winding around **Bartolome island (4)**, ending in a gorgeous panoramic view of Pinnacle Rock. Your guide will stop along the way to describe the geology of the landscape; mini lava cones and lava bombs formed by flowing magma from past volcanic eruptions. If you'd rather skip the hike, enjoy a Zodiac ride around the island to look for penguins. You'll see these adorable animals, the second smallest type of penguin, swimming and diving playfully or grooming themselves on rocks. Crystal clear water beckons you to wade in from the beach (1). Snorkel with schools of tropical fish, white-tipped reef sharks and Galapagos Penguins. Return to the vessel for a lunch on deck (weather permitting) of meats grilled on the BBQ and a cooking demonstration.

The itinerary for this afternoon varies depending on your yacht, but all visitors will enjoy lovely views and some of the Galapagos' renowned wildlife. Guests on the Origin go ashore on **Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat)**, a small island off the southern tip of Santiago that owes its name to its shape. Sea lions await on the beach, and as you explore, you'll see marine iguanas and oystercatchers. Along the trail (3), you'll see remnants of the island's geological history, with volcanic rubble and cracked lava formations. Snorkeling here, often with penguins, is not to be missed. Guests on Theory visit **Playa Las Bachas (1)**, on the northern side of Santa Cruz. You'll also have a wonderful opportunity for snorkeling after exploring interior lagoons with vivid flamingos. Guests on the Evolve have a Zodiac excursion at Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. You'll navigate slowly along the shoreline, listening for the telltale deep inhale of a sea turtle and watching for the wings of a school of golden rays. We'll meet on the sundeck for gourmet snacks featuring an Ecuadorian cocktail and a briefing. Following dinner, join your crew in a fun pirate themed party – participation is optional.

## SATURDAY

This morning you'll head out on **South Plaza (3)**, a small islet with tall cliffs and a trail with a variety of plants and animals. This island's species of "Opuntia" or prickly pear cactus has been decimated by invasive species, so you'll see young plants surrounded by nets to protect them. Look for nests for a variety of birds, such as swallow-tailed gulls, shearwaters, small ground finches, and red-billed tropicbirds. This geological uplift is home to a colony of bachelor sea lions, with dominant bulls in various stages of recovery from battles over prime beach territory. You'll also have an opportunity to see land iguanas up close, and your guide will describe what differentiates them from marine iguanas.

During lunch, you'll sail to **North Seymour Island (3)**, where a spectacular sight awaits: frigate birds with red sacs on their chests inflated, seeking mates. At the height of mating season, you'll be surrounded by dozens, but no matter what time of year you visit, there will be individuals seeking mates. The Galapagos Islands are home to two different species of frigates, Great and Magnificent, and your guides

will teach you how to identify them. You'll have a final opportunity to snorkel in deeper water (2). Look for sharks, sea lions, and starfish, along with a variety of tropical fish.

The Captain hosts a poignant farewell gathering with a champagne toast, and a moment for reflection, and gratitude. Finally, a grand multi-course dinner unfolds, a culinary masterpiece showcasing the finest ingredients and meticulous presentation. The evening crescendos with a captivating presentation, a nostalgic journey through the highlights of the week enveloped in absolute paradise.

## SUNDAY

This morning you'll disembark after breakfast. As a perfect way to summarize the trip, you'll visit the **Interpretation Center on San Cristobal (1)** to discover more about the human history of the Galapagos Islands. There is a paved trail where you can enjoy a brief walk before returning to the seaside village. Ecoventura provides guests with a comfortable venue to relax with refreshments. Think of this as our private VIP Lounge before you are transferred to the airport. It's a quick flight back to the mainland, and you'll be bringing lifelong memories with you.



### Difficulty level of Guided shore excursions:

- 1-Easy walk on even terrain or beach
- 2-Moderate walk on a trail with mostly firm terrain
- 3-Rocky trail with moderate landing and climbing
- 4-Difficult steep rocky trail or climbing up natural stairs
- 5-Long rocky challenging trail with loose or slippery rocks

### Difficulty level of snorkeling excursions:

- 1-Enter water from the beach in shallow water where you can touch the bottom
- 2-Enter water from Zodiac in deeper water, possible current, requires experience.

Ecoventura reserves the right at its sole option and discretion and that of the Captain of the vessel without liability for damages or refund of any kind to deviate from the vessel's advertised or regularly scheduled itinerary. Itineraries are subject to change at any time for any reason including mechanical failure and without prior notice. Ecoventura will not be held responsible for any refunds whatsoever for changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary.

## 7 day/ 6 night cruise (Sunday to Saturday)

Passengers can disembark on Saturday in Baltra for a shorter, 6 night cruise.

### Itinerary A – Southern/ Central Route

**SUNDAY TO FRIDAY** Same as on 7 night itinerary

**SATURDAY** Drop off Itabaca Canal 6 AM and private transfer to Baltra airport for an early flight or visit South Plaza and transfer to Baltra airport at 11:30 AM (transfer is not included).

For guests who disembark on Saturday and require a private transfer to the airport with a guide, there is an additional charge of \$50 per person or \$200 maximum. The return flight from Baltra will incur an airport surcharge of \$30 and is subject to availability.

For passengers who disembark on Saturday and remain in Santa Cruz, there is no additional charge.

Drop off is at the Itabaca Canal at 6 AM or 11:30 AM and guests will need to arrange for transportation through their hotel.



## Two week itinerary back-to-back (B2B)

Book two consecutive weeks B2B for a comprehensive two-week cruise itinerary. As an added perk, laundry service is included (standard limitations apply).

Guests on itinerary A+B (14 nights) will not have to repeat any visitor sites. An alternative excursion is provided during the second week on the days we are in port. Our naturalist guides can help you choose the most suitable option based on your preferences once on board.

These visits to the growers of local products have a positive impact on the local economy. You will gain insight into the Galapagos culture and how the community lives through their work as part of our commitment to social responsibility.

### SATURDAY IN SANTA CRUZ:

#### Cerro Mesa (2) and Santa Cruz Brewery (1)

Cerro Mesa is an ecological reserve suited for adventurous guests who enjoy hiking and birdwatching. From the top of the hill, you will have a spectacular view of the entire Island of Santa Cruz. There is a pit crater, one of the largest on the Island, and trails for exploring the flora and fauna by bicycle or on horseback.

In the afternoon, visit the first microbrewery in Santa Cruz and discover the art of crafting artisanal beers on the island. Immerse yourself in the fascinating beer-making process, from the ingredients and raw materials to the grinding, in an immersive experience. Sample their seasonal brew from Pale Ale, Red IPA, Belgian to Porter made with Galapagos coffee.

#### Trapiche (1) and Islander Coffee (1)

Community-based rural tourism and an agritourism experience that is suitable for all guests. At Trapiche (sugar cane mill), you will learn how sugarcane liquor or "agardiente" is made. There is also a demonstration on how chocolate is collected and processed. At Islander Coffee, you can sample locally grown coffee from the highlands. They produce coffee at Hacienda Ochoa, located at the highest point of the island. After the coffee tasting, you can visit the plantation.

### SUNDAY IN SAN CRISTOBAL:

#### Finca La Voluntad de Dios & Puerto Chino (2)

Combine both Agrotourism and a beach favored by locals. Take a refreshing dip at the fabulous Puerto Chino beach. Soak in the stunning scenery and tranquility of a white sand beach washed by turquoise waters, complete with island wildlife. Delve into the island's rural life with a visit to a local farm "La Voluntad de Dios", an impressive plantation that cultivates pineapple, papaya, coffee, passion fruit and more. Savor the delicious flavors of freshly picked fruit from the farm.