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Itinerary “6” 14N/15D

NOTE:

The operator reserves the right to change the itinerary without previous notice due to weather, National Park regulations or notifications and unforeseeable circumstances.

Itinerary “6” 14N/15D DAY BY DAY

FRIDAY DAY 1

Flight from mainland Ecuador (Quito or Guayaquil) to Baltra, with AEROGAL Airlines. Your guide conducts you to the bus and after a short 5-kilometer ride to the pier; we board the Yacht without delay. As the crew weighs anchor, we greet you with our first orientation and we offer a light snack. In the afternoon, we make a dry landing for a walk along the coast and the interior of North Seymour Island, a low, flat island that was uplifted from the sea by underground seismic activity. We observe blue footed boobies (they nest from May to November), marine iguanas, pelicans, frigate birds, shore birds, sea lions and endemic Palo Santo. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/or kayak. We return to the Yacht for welcome cocktail with the entire crew, and dinner.

SATURDAY DAY 2

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Darwin Bay to walk and observe frigatebirds, herons, mockingbirds, boobies, shorebirds, turtles, marine iguanas, etc. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel or kayak. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. Later in the afternoon, we make a dry landing on Prince Phillips's Steps (Barranco), we walk and observe the interesting lives of the birds here. Dinner on the Yacht, and then our orientation about conservation efforts made to protect the Islands.

SUNDAY DAY 3

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on James Bay (Puerto Egas), to walk and observe sponges, snails, hermit crabs, a variety of shore birds, barnacles and the endemic four-eyed blenny, marine iguanas and sea lions. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel or kayak. We return to the boat for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a wet landing on Espumilla, a brown sand beach. This beach is an important site for nesting marine turtles. Here we also observe a lot of land birds like yellow warblers, darwin's finches and Galapagos flycatchers. A trail takes us through a Palo Santo forest. We walk behind the beach and we arrive to a salt-water lagoon, occasionally flamingos are seen; unfortunately, during the last “El Niño” phenomenon, one of the two lagoons in this site, underwent a process of sedimentation, thus causing the disappearance of a representative colony of flamingos. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. Then we visit an abandoned Salt Mines. We return to the Yacht and then navigation around Buccaneer Cove (Caleta Bucanero), an area of steep cliffs and dark beaches. The cliffs and pinnacle are used as nesting areas by several species of seabirds. This was a popular place for 17th & 18th century buccaneers to careen their vessels. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel or kayak. Dinner and our nightly orientation.

MONDAY DAY 4



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After breakfast, we make a panga ride on Punta Vicente Roca to observe plenty of sea lions, marine iguanas, blue-footed and masked boobies, and flightless cormorants. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a dry landing on Punta Espinoza to observe and see a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas and the flightless cormorants and clumps of lava cactus. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

TUESDAY

DAY 5

After breakfast, we make a panga ride on Tagus Cove, a protected cove between the shoulders of two volcanic craters which protect it from the open sea; we observe penguins, marine iguanas, sea lions and a variety of birds including flightless cormorant and blue footed boobies. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/ or kayak. Then, we make a wet landing on Urbina Bay to take a walk and observe a coral area, land iguanas, flightless cormorants and giant tortoises. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/ or kayak. Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, we make a panga ride around the islets of Elizabeth Bay to see marine iguanas, penguins, marine turtles, seabirds and shorebirds, herons and blue-footed boobies. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

WEDNESDAY

DAY 6

After breakfast, we make our first dry landing to the islet Las Tintoreras, the islet has a small bay of completely calm turquoise waters and there we can observe hundreds of marine iguanas, sea turtles, sea lions, Galapagos penguins, rays and white tip sharks can often be seen. Then we make an expedition to Sierra Negra Volcano, considered the oldest of the volcanoes on Isabela, the crater of Sierra Negra has 10 km diameter and it's the second largest in the world; its last eruption occurred in 2005. The Sulfur, iron and the cooled magma make up a colorful landscape. Our adventure begins with a 45 minutes ride on a bus to the highlands of Isabela, we arrive at the "Paradero Sierra Negra", from here we walk through slopes of the Volcano or we can do it by horseback Optional: Our guests could rent the horses (this is not included on the cruise). The trail conducts us to Volcan Chico (on the northeast of Sierra Negra Volcano), a fissure composed of scum and lava. This fissure had its last eruption on 1979 and the volcanic activity lasted for a week. From here we have an amazing view of the north of the island and if the day is clear we have a majestic view of the Perry Isthmus, a surrounding island. This expedition allows us to step through volcanic features and over lava flows formed in very recent years. We also see the formations of petrified lava of many different colors and textures and fumaroles scattered throughout this area. Return to the Yacht for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon we visit the Breeding Center "Arnaldo Tupiza", where we can observe tortoise of different ages and sizes (In total there are 330 between juvenile and adult tortoises) and where we can learn about the reproduction of the giant tortoises, in the Breeding Center we also can see different native plants. After that we visit the Wall of Tears; a historic place in Galapagos Islands, this site was for 13 years a penal colony, where the prisoners built a wall with huge blocks of lava as punishment. There we observe lava lizards, Galapagos finches and hawks. Before returning to the yacht we visit Humadales, where we can see a series of lagoons, mangrove species, flamingos and numerous migratory birds. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

THURSDAY

DAY 7

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Point Cormorant for a short walk to the Flamingos Lagoon of this island. Then we continue the walk until we reach the beach called "La Picon" to see marine turtles and their spawning grounds. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. Later, we make a panga ride on Champion Islet, a small island off the Coast of Floreana Island. The principal attraction of Champion Islet is the nearly-extinct Charles (Floreana) Mockingbird. Visitors can also observe bird species such as Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies or Brown Noddies. It is a great place for snorkelling; we will see sea turtles, reef fishes, Galapagos Penguins and white-tipped reef sharks. Optional: time for those who would like to



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swim and/or snorkel. Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon we make a wet landing on Post Office Bay, a historic site that recalls the days of the whalers, who presumably placed a wooden barrel in the 18th century to use it as a post office. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. Later, we take a bus for a short ride from the small town Puerto Velasco Ibarra to the Asilo de la Paz. This is a human historic site, this area was inhabited by the early settlers who found a freshwater spring and refuge in the "cave of pirates", this was the home of the first settlers of the island, Patrick Watkins lived there first, then Dr. Ritter and his companion Dora Strauch and then the Wittmer family. We walk through a path and we visit the cave of pirates and a corral built by the National Park Service where we can see Galapagos tortoises (from various islands) in captivity. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

FRIDAY

DAY 8

After breakfast, we disembark and a bus takes us to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a visit to the native forests and twin craters. Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon we land at the pier for a visit to the Charles Darwin Station and its Interpretive Center. Return to the Port for a walk through the little town to appreciate various handicrafts. We return to the Yacht for a delicious dinner and our nightly orientation.

SATURDAY

DAY 9

After breakfast, we make an early dry landing on Punta Suarez to walk along lava beds where we will observe unique colonies of marine birds, including Albatross (May - December). Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, we make a wet landing in Gardner Bay for a walk on the beach and observe a colony of sea lions, which inhabit the beach in great quantity during the breeding season; this is also an important nesting area for sea turtles. We then make a panga ride around the Osborn Islet and the islets of Gardner. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

SUNDAY

DAY 10

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Punta Pitt in San Cristobal Island; the trail includes an olivine beach approximately 90 meters and a trail that ascends to the top of a volcanic tuff hill passing through several natural viewpoints. Punta Pitt is composed of volcanic tuff substrate. High winds present there have led to natural erosion. This is the only site in the Galapagos Islands, where you can watch the three species of boobies and 2 species of frigates nesting in the same area. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. Later in the afternoon, our experienced Captain sails easily around Kicker Rock (León Dormido), a massive tuff-rock that juts abruptly almost 500 feet straight from the ocean. Kicker Rock serves as nesting place for many sea birds. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/ or snorkel. Then we make a wet landing on Cerro Brujo to walk on a white sand beach and observe sea lions, brown pelicans, marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/ or kayak. We return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

MONDAY

DAY 11

After breakfast, we make an early wet landing on Mosquera Island, a reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) and a great white sand beach and tide pools. We observe colonies of sea lions, brown pelicans, blue footed boobies and sally light-foot crabs, the contrast between these bright red crabs on top and blue on the bottom and the black lava is stunning. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a panga ride on Black Turtle Cove, series of mangrove-surrounded coves and islets; here we can observe white-tipped sharks, marine turtles, spotted eagle rays, and yellow cow-nosed rays. We board the Yacht for dinner and the first of our nightly orientations.



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TUESDAY

DAY 12

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Chinese Hat (Sombrero Chino), a small island off the coast of Santiago Island, we can observe on the rocky shoreline: Galapagos penguins, eagle rays, sea lions and marine iguanas. This is an excellent snorkeling site. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/ or Kayak. Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, we make a wet landing on Rábida, to walk and observe marine iguanas and sea lions, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, masked boobies and brown pelicans. We walk and we arrive to a small saltwater lagoon where we can see pink flamingos. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/ or kayak. We return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

WEDNESDAY

DAY 13

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Sullivan Bay, a perfect place to get a feel of the volcanic origin of the islands. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. We return to the boat for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a dry landing on Bartolomé Island, to hike to the summit; during the hike we observe colonies of marine iguanas and lava lizards. On the summit we have an impressive view of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. We return to the yacht for a delicious dinner and our nightly orientation.

THURSDAY

DAY 14

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Santa Fe Island to visit the cactus forest and a colony of land iguanas native from Santa Fe. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/or kayak. Return to the Yacht for lunch and sail to South Plaza, where we make a dry landing on the pier of the island, there we can enjoy the antics of the sea lions. A walk through a cactus forest allows us to observe land iguanas and many species of tropical birds. At the end of the afternoon, we return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

FRIDAY

DAY 15

After breakfast we make an early disembark on Las Bachas Beach, a place where we can appreciate a Flamingos lagoon. During all walks, your guide will be explaining details about the lives of the birds and animals. We return to the Yacht for disembarking on the pier at 09:00. Your guide accompanies you on the bus ride directly to the airport.

Program Includes

- Snorkel equipment
- Kayaks
- International and Ecuadorian food
- Water
- Coffee & Herbal tea
- Personalized service
- Air ticket

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