

# Comfortable Hiking Holidays

Hike an adventure. Rest in Comfort.

## Trip Itinerary: Galapagos Islands - SE Holiday

November 9 to 20, 2024

This trip is full but we will be glad to add your name to the waitlist.

- Day 1** ARRIVAL INTO QUITO
- Day 2** LEISURE DAY IN QUITO
- Day 3** QUITO TO GALAPAGOS  
HIGHLANDS & EL CHATO TORTOISE RESERVE  
Morning flight to Baltra and then off to explore the Highlands of Santa Cruz, including Los Gemelos and El Chato Tortoise Reserve where giant tortoises roam in the natural habitat.
- Day 4** PUERTO AYORA (Santa Cruz)  
BOARD THE YACHT  
This is a free day in Puerto Ayora and a perfect opportunity to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. Regroup later in the day to board the yacht.
- Day 5** FLOREANA  
AM: PUNTA CORMORANT & CHAMPION  
PM: POST OFFICE BAY & THE BARRONESS LOOKOUT  
At Punta Cormorant, a flamingo lagoon can be found behind white and black mangroves, and the snorkeling around Champion is extraordinary - lots of fish, rays, sharks and the playfulness of the Galapagos sea lions.  
Floreana is also home to Post Office Bay, where 18th-century whalers used a barrel as an unofficial mail drop. The custom continues to this day between Galapagos visitors!
- Day 6** ESPANOLA  
AM: PUNTA SUAREZ  
PM: GARDNER BAY & GARDNER ISLAND  
Espanola is the oldest of the islands, and the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. The trail to get there passes by a beach occupied by lots of sea lions and large and colorful Espanola Lava Lizards.  
Gardner Island has one of the most beautiful white sand beaches in all of Galapagos and kayaking and snorkeling at Gardner Bay is spectacular!
- Day 7** SAN CRISTOBAL  
AM: KICKER ROCK  
PM: PUNTA PITT  
Kicker Rock is an outstanding volcanic feature with vertical walls of over 135m and great numbers of sea birds nesting and resting on it. Snorkeling can be amazing; we are likely to swim with Galapagos sharks, sea turtles, and eagle rays around the colorful drop off that is also full of fish.  
Punta Pitt has a mind-blowing landscape and its protected cove offers a great chance to kayak. Disembarking onto the small beach, you're confronted by the strong stench and cacophony of barking sea lions; this is a bachelor colony. A steep gully leads up the cliff to a breeding ground for boobies of all three varieties - Red-footed, Blue-footed and Nazca. It's the only place in the Galapagos where you can see all three species nesting together.

## Day 8

SANTA FE & PLAZAS  
AM: BARRINGTON BAY  
PM: SOUTH PLAZA

Barrington Bay is one of the most picturesque inlets. The white sand on the seabed reflects the light to turn the calm waters turquoise. A small forest of gigantic prickly pear cactus grows on a peninsula that keeps the bay sheltered. All this are ideal conditions for a large sea lion colony.

On South Plaza, land iguanas wander through bright red carpet weed. This is one of the best spots in the archipelago to see land iguanas and swallow-tailed gulls. The sheer cliffs of the southern shore are a perfect bird habitat, making it an unparalleled bird observatory.

## Day 9

CHINESE HAT & BARTOLOME  
AM: CHINESE HAT  
PM: BARTOLOME

Chinese Hat is named for its volcanic cone shape that also resembles, you guessed it, a Chinese style hat! The small channel of turquoise water provides a beautiful snorkeling site, where it is possible to see sharks, sea lions, penguins, and rays.

Bartolome Island offers an explosive volcanic landscape. Get ready to climb above 82m to admire the dramatic spatter cones and the view of Pinnacle Rock that is the iconic image of the Galapagos.

## Day 10

RABIDA & JAMES  
AM: JAMES BAY  
PM: RABIDA

The shorelines of James Island are a combination of tuff cone, lava flows and sand. A rocky coast with a very gentle slope is used by a great number of shore birds and reptiles. Large lava tunnels, that are partially collapsed, house the Galapagos fur seals. The snorkeling here can be one of the best - sea turtles, parrot fishes, damsel fishes, white tipped reef sharks and more...

The island of Rabida has lava rich in iron and after millions of years of exposure to air they have turned red. The rusted volcanic material has eroded to form a beautiful crimson sand beach, lovely for a walk.

## Day 11

NORTH SEYMOUR & DISEMBARKATION  
FLIGHT TO QUITO

The visit to North Seymour is the best way of saying goodbye to the Galapagos. At sunrise, we will walk among the largest blue-footed booby colony on the Islands.

Afterwards, we disembark from the yacht and go directly to the airport for the flight back to Quito.