



GALAPAGOS DIVING EXPERIENCE SAN CRISTÓBAL & SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS


8 DAYS – 7 NIGHTS

CODE: GD003

Land Tour + 8 Immersions



TRIP SUMMARY

- Day 1** Arrive at **San Cristobal Airport** – Interpretation center / Cerro Tijeretas
- Day 2** San Cristóbal Is: **FULL DAY DIVING** (2 immersions)/ (Box Lunch)
- Day 3** San Cristóbal Is: **FULL DAY DIVING** (2 immersions)/ (Box Lunch)
- Day 4** Transfer to Santa Cruz Island / Free Morning / Visit Highlands (Giant Tortoise)
- Day 5** Santa Cruz Is: **FULL DAY DIVING** (2 immersions)/ (Box Lunch)
- Day 6** Santa Cruz Is: **FULL DAY DIVING** (2 immersions)/ (Box Lunch)
- Day 7** Santa Cruz Is: **FREE DAY**
- Day 8** Transfer out to **Baltra Airport** / *Goodbye Galapagos!*

DIVING SITES – Santa Cruz Island *

	BOAT 1	BOAT 2
Monday	Santa fe	Gordon Rocks **
Tuesday	Gordon Rocks **	Bartolome - Cousins
Wednesday	North Mosquera - Daphne	Seymour Point - South Mosquera
Thursday	Bartolome - Cousins	Beagle - Guy Fawkes
Friday	South Mosquera - Seymour Point	North Mosquera - Daphne
Saturday	Guy Fawkes - Daphne	Punta Carrion – Gordon Rocks**
Sunday	Seymour Channel – Gordon R. **	Floreana

** MINIMUM OF 25 LOGGED DIVES OR THE EVALUATION FROM OUR GUIDES

DIVING SITES – San Cristóbal Island *

Mon	Kicker Rock + Puerto Grande (hike)
Tue & Thu	Kicker Rock + Cerro Brujo (hike)
Wed & Sun	Punta Pitt + Cero Pitt (hike)
Fri & Sat	Kicker Rock + Cerro Brujo + Pt. Grande (hike)

* **NOTE:** Diving Sites are fixed daily and depend on availability

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DAY-BY-DAY TRIP ITINERARY

DEAR TRAVELER:

Please take the time to read thoroughly the following itinerary as many important details and recommendations about the program are explained here. If you should have any questions or concerns after reading this itinerary, please do not hesitate in contacting one of our travel specialists, we will gladly provide you with further information and make any recommendations to make your trip the most suitable possible.

Day 1 Arrive at **San Cristobal** Airport / – Visit Interpretation Center & Cerro Tijeretas

You can arrive to the Galapagos only by flight from either Quito or Guayaquil (air ticket not included). Our guide will be waiting for you at the airport on San Cristobal Island. From the airport you will be taken to the hotel to check in to your rooms and leave your bags. After a rest in the hotel - visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Centre where our guide will explain how the Galapagos Islands were formed, the evolution of species, the migration of the animals, and the human settlements within the Galapagos.

After visiting the Interpretation Center, we will make our way to “Cerro Tijeretas”, or “Frigate Hill”. Here we can encounter marine animals and also do some snorkelling to see colourful fish species, starfish, sea urchins, or to simply enjoy the crystal clear waters. The afternoon continues with a visit to Playa Carola, where you will have time to enjoy the beautiful beach before returning to the hotel. The guide will leave you at the Dive Center to try on your diving gear and hear some instructions for the first diving the next day. Overnight.

Accommodations in the **hotel class of your choice.**



Day 2 **FULL DAY DIVING SAN CRISTÓBAL** (2 immersions)

Diving sites in San Cristobal Island include Kicker Rock, Pitt Point, Bujo Hill and Tijeretas Hill. These are located at approx. 1 hour from San Cristobal by marine transportation (speed boats). These spots are very famous for scuba diving and snorkeling activities. Diving trips include a “check dive” and two immersions in the designated areas (diving sites are fixed daily and depend on availability), the first one in the morning and the second one prior to the return. A box lunch will be served board after the first diving. Diving day-trips will also include a short hike to a nearby beach for relaxing and wildlife viewing. Average hour of return to Puerto Baquerizo is at 16:00 pm.

Accommodations in the **hotel class of your choice.**



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Day 3 FULL DAY DIVING SAN CRISTÓBAL (2 immersions)

Diving sites in San Cristobal Island include Kicker Rock, Pitt Point, Bujo Hill and Tijeretas Hill. These are located at approx. 1 hour from San Cristobal by marine transportation (speed boats). These spots are very famous for scuba diving and snorkeling activities. Diving trips include a “check dive” and two immersions in the designated areas (diving sites are fixed daily and depend on availability), the first one in the morning and the second one prior to the return. A box lunch will be served board after the first diving. Diving day-trips will also include a short hike to a nearby beach for relaxing and wildlife viewing. Average hour of return to Puerto Baquerizo is at 16:00 pm.

Accommodations in the **hotel class of your choice.**



Day 4 Transfer to **Santa Cruz Is.** – Free Morning / Visit Highlands (Giant Tortoise Center)

At 6:00 a.m. get ready to go to the dock (wake-up at 5:00 AM). We will take the Public speedboat, which leaves at 7:00 a.m. (subject to change), to Puerto Ayora (2 hour estimated travel time). Upon arrival the guide will take us to eat breakfast, after which you will have the morning free to relax. After lunch (not included in the cost of the trip), take a short rest before making our way to the Highlands of Santa Cruz. Here we will have the amazing opportunity to observe the famous Giant Tortoises in their natural environment, which also known as Galapagos, it is from that the Islands get their name. We will also be able to see the famous Galapagos Finches, Bird Wizards, as well as endemic vegetation such as Escelacias forests and Matazarnos. After this close encounter with the Giant Tortoises, return to the hotel to rest before heading to the Scuba Diving center where you will also try on your diving gear for next days. Overnight.

Accommodations in the hotel class of your choice.



Day 5 FULL DAY DIVING EXCURSION (2 immersions)

After breakfast, meet at **Scuba Dive Center** at 7:20AM or the hour established the day before. You will hear some last instructions before departing via sea and land to the diving site. After a weight check you will go for the **first immersion** (20 - 25 m deep). A surface interval for one hour is scheduled to have snack-lunch and enough energy for the **second immersion** (depth 15 -23 m). **Depending on the dive site**, you will be able to observe: **sea lions, Galapagos sharks, white tip reef shark, hammerhead shark, mobulas, turtles, reef fishes, sting rays, eagle rays, Galapagos eel, barracudas, sea horses, barracudas, sea lions, variety of invertebrates and coral walls.** Some wildlife can be observed during surface interval as well. We will have a snack before returning to Puerto Ayora around 16:30pm to get ready for our diving next day.





Accommodations in the **hotel class of your choice.**



Day 6  **FULL DAY DIVING EXCURSION** (2 immersions)

After breakfast, meet at the **Scuba Dive Center** at 7:20AM or the hour established the day before. You will hear some last instructions before departing via sea and land to the diving site. After a weight check you will go for the **first immersion** (20 - 25 m deep). A surface interval for one hour is scheduled to have snack-lunch and enough energy for the **second immersion** (depth 15 -23 m). We will have a snack before returning to Puerto Ayora around 16:30pm to the hotel.

Accommodations in the **hotel class of your choice.**



Day 7 FREE DAY or guided day trip: Option 1 or 2 (extra cost)

In your last day you can either choose a **FREE DAY** or ask us to arrange for a guided visit to Charles Darwin Station in the morning and Tortuga Bay in the afternoon or a navigable tour, for an extra cost.

Option 1: In the Charles Darwin Research Station you will find a large variety of tortoise's species coming from each island on the archipelago. You can also listen about the ongoing conservation efforts directed at preserving the Giant Tortoises, as well as the environment of the archipelago as a whole. The afternoon hike to Tortuga Bay beach could be the perfect ending to your trip. Abundant wildlife inhabits the place and the view is astounding as it is considered one of the most beautiful beaches in Galapagos.

Option 2: A full-day navigable tour. The destination can be **Santa Fe, South Plazas, North Seymour or Bartolomé Island**. The activities will include hiking, snorkeling, swimming and breathtaking sightseeing. After land and sea excursions, we will return back to the hotel in Santa Cruz.

**** Note **** If you choose either Option 1 or 2, **please let us know before booking your trip.** This way we can arrange and check availability in order to arrange your itinerary in the best way possible.

Accommodations in the **hotel class of your choice.**



Day 8 Transfer out Baltra Airport - Goodbye Galapagos!

After breakfast, the guide will pick you up to guide you to Baltra airport so you can catch your flight back to the mainland to either Quito or Guayaquil.

**** NOTE **** *Itinerary and diving sites are subject to change without prior warning depending on seasonal changes, weather conditions, and adjustments in policies set by the Galapagos National Park, and other unforeseen circumstances that may arise.*





IMPORTANT REMARKS:

- ❖ **HOTEL SELECTION:** The hotel selection depends on the category of hotels you choose. We will indicate to you which hotels are available for the dates of your trip. Hotels are categorized in: Economic Class, Tourist Class, Tourist Superior Class, and First Class. All the hotels that we work with have been closely inspected by us. Nature Galapagos & Ecuador is the proud owner of the Hotel San Vicente Galapagos, and La Laguna Galapagos, located on Isabela.
- ❖ **AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED:** The price of the tour does not include air tickets. We can help with booking your ticket. You may book flights on your own as well. **Please note** on what island you will need to arrive and leave from, please try to book your arrival in the morning (before 11 am) and your departure in the afternoon (12 am or after) so that you will not miss any part of the tour. You can book your flight through either TAME, AEROGAL, LAN. TAME (recommended).
- ❖ **GUIDES:** You will have local guides for each island and sometimes one for each activity. The guide will accompany you throughout all excursions and visits, give explanations and education on their knowledge of the islands, flora, and fauna, and coordinate the activities each day. In reference to lunch and dinner, the guide will also indicate which restaurants will be selected for the meals, but he will not go with you to the restaurants during mealtime. Guided activities end after each excursion. Distances are short in the Galapagos, and as and it is safe to walk around any time of day with normal precaution. We work with local and independent guides certified by the Galapagos National Park - if you feel that their guidance does not meet your expectations, feel free to leave a complaint at the National Park Direction, if possible at the time of the tour, to help improve the quality of service in the islands.
- ❖ **LUNCH AND DINNER:** These have been excluded from the program. Only breakfast (which will be served either on your hotel of stay or the restaurant specified by the guide) and a box lunch (served only during the diving excursions) are contemplated in the cost of the tour. As for lunch and dinner, we can gladly recommend a list of restaurants you may use. The cost of the transfer between the hotel and the restaurants is not included.
- ❖ **PUBLIC AND DIVING SPEEDBOATS:** We recommend that you take a seasickness pill if you are sensitive to seasickness before all navigations. Also carry small plastic bags in case of seasickness. The speedboats are not completely covered so please make sure that valuables and electronics are stored in a plastic bag, **this is a Public service out of our control**. Dive speedboats are fiber glass boat measuring 10 m long and 2 m wide approx. with capacity of 8 -12 passengers. The **guide will not go with you on the speedboats** but a new guide will greet you on the other side. A water taxi ride is sometimes required (depending on the tide) from the dock to the speedboat; the cost is **1 USD** per person and **per ride**. Please, make sure you bring cash in small denominations in case this expense is needed.
- ❖ **SCHEDULE OF EXCURSIONS:** The schedule of the excursions will be coordinated and determined locally through the guide and those responsible for the operations. The guide will indicate what time





- ❖ each activity will start. The transfers between islands on the public speedboats are the only activities that have fixed departure times.
- ❖ **DIVING CERTIFICATE:** only certified divers are allowed to do this program – a diving license is required at the time of the booking of this tour. Minimum age required for diving is 13 years.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

RATES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Accommodation in selected class hotels - double rooms
- ✓ 7 Breakfasts
- ✓ Box Lunch (**ONLY** during diving excursions)
- ✓ 4 Full-Day diving excursions (8 immersions)
 - **Complete Dive Gear:** 7mm wetsuit, Regulator, BCD, mask, fins, hood, gloves, weight belt and tanks (does not include dive computer)
- ✓ All land and sea transportation within the Galapagos during the program
- ✓ Bilingual naturalist guides for each island and all activities
- ✓ Excursions and visits during the program- as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Snorkel equipment according to itinerary (masks and fins).
- ✓ Transfer-in from San Cristobal Airport by truck or by bus depending on group size.
- ✓ Transfer between San Cristobal and Santa Cruz by public speedboat.
- ✓ Transfer Puerto Ayora – Baltra by truck or by bus depending on group size.

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

- ✗ Air Ticket to/from Galapagos
- ✗ Lunch and Dinner
- ✗ Galapagos National Park Entry Fee - USD \$200.00
- ✗ Water taxi from dock to speedboat (Santa Cruz and San Cristobal Islands - depending on the tide) - **USD \$ 1.00 per person per ride**
- ✗ Migratory Control Card - USD \$20.00
- ✗ Transportation Itabaca Channel – Baltra Airport - **USD 5,00 per person** (subject to change).
- ✗ Extra meals
- ✗ Soft-drinks and alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Tips and single supplement (in case of solo travelers - ask for rates)

