GALAPAGOS LAND TOUR: OCEANO PROGRAM

Visiting: ***Santa Cruz Island, Isabela Island + Navigable Island Site***

5 DAYS | **4 NIGHTS**

CODE: OP001

** Hotels depend on the category you choose – see alternatives bellow **
Hotels are subject to availability

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 **Baltra** / Ride to Puerto Ayora **Santa Cruz Is.** / Visit the Highlands (Tortoise)

You can arrive to the Galapagos Islands only by flight from either Quito or Guayaquil (air ticket not included). Our English-speaking guide will be waiting for you at the Baltra Airport in Galapagos. He will then lead you to the port of ***Puerto Ayora*** *(Santa Cruz Island) for lunch.*

Afterwards, we will take a short rest before making our way to the ***Highlands of Santa Cruz.*** *Here you will have the unforgettable opportunity to observe the famous Galapagos* ***Giant Tortoises*** *in their natural environment. The Islands themselves were named after these species. You 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 incredible encounter with the Giant Tortoises, we will return to Puerto Ayora. Dinner will be served local-style menu in the specified restaurant.*

Accommodations in Santa Cruz Island in the ***hotel class of your choice****.*

Day 2 — ***Full Day Navigable Tour*** to: *Plazas Is.* **OR** *Seymour Is* **OR** *Santa Fe Is* **OR** *Batolomé Is.**

** **NOTE:** You may choose **ONE** of these navigable sites.*

Depending on the dates and/or navigable site chosen, pick-up from the hotel will be early in the morning (either 5 or 8 AM) to take you to the small vessel (16 passenger capacity) at the embarkation point (either Puerto Ayora dock or Itabaca Channel). The destination will be to any of these islands, all of these sites are inhabited and offer a unique close-up with wildlife and endemic vegetation.

*The destination can be **Santa Fe, South Plazas, North Seymour or Bartolomé**. 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 where you can relax and later on have dinner at the restaurant specified by the guide.*

IMPORTANT NOTE!!

*You may choose **ONE** of the navigable sites above. However, the visits to these are established by the Galapagos National Park and are subject to availability. Let us know what site you like better. **We will advise on availability** and arrange your trip as best as possible. **In case none** of the sites are available, an alternative itinerary will be used and a discount applied.*

*Accommodations in Santa Cruz Island in the **hotel class of your choice***

Day 3 Charles Darwin Station/ Transfer to **Isabela Island**

*The guide will have specified the hour to meet to begin the visit to the **Charles Darwin Research Station**. After breakfast we will head to this spot. The Station is populated by a variety of Giant Tortoise representing their fellow specie, one of each island in the archipelago. Here 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. After this we will make a short visit to the **Art Galleries of Puerto Ayora** and then eat lunch. Return to the hotel to rest before heading for lunch at a local specified restaurant.*

*After lunch we will begin the journey from **Puerto Ayora to Isabela Island** at 2:00pm (subject to change) via **public speedboat** (approx. travel time 2 ½ to 3 hrs.) A guide will be waiting for you in Puerto Villamil and then lead you to check in at the hotel. At the Isabela Island dock, one of our representatives will pick you up to transfer you to the hotel of your choice. On the way to the hotel you will be given instructions for dinner and other activities for the day and the following days.*

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

Day 4 **Isabela Island**:
OPTION 1: Hike Sierra Negra + Chico Volcanoes
***OPTION 2**: Full Day: Visit* Cabo Rosa aka. Tuneles **(extra cost – please ask us)**

***OPTION 1**: Early in the morning (8:00 am), after breakfast, get ready for the **Sierra Negra Volcano hike** (comfortable clothes, walking shoes and a light rain jacket are recommended). Make sure your camera is stored in waterproof bags, wear some sunscreen, bring water, and*

*a hat! Yourself will prepare your box lunch at the hotel with the foodstuff of your choice. We will then travel approximately 45 minutes by truck or bus to begin the 12 km hike (approx. 4 hours). The hike is long in terms of distance, but not very difficult as the inclines and declines are quite gradual. (**There is an option to ride horses for an additional cost, if interested please let us know beforehand).** Sierra Negra Volcano has the second largest crater in the world, measuring approximately 6 miles in diameter and 300 feet deep. We will then reach **Volcan Chico**, which should provide a spectacular view of the islands.*

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace and discover the wonders this natural paradise has to offer.

***OPTION 2*: (extra cost – please ask us for more info)**

***There are two departure times for this tour**, one at 08:00 am with return time at 13:00 pm approx., and one at 11:00 am, with return time at 16:00 pm. approx. The chosen departure time for your tour might vary; hence, you will be notified on the departure time for this day trip on the night before the tour.*

***Cabo Rosa aka. Los Tuneles._** is perhaps one of the most beautiful sights in the archipelago. Continuous volcanic eruptions petrified into tunnel-like lava formations right in the middle of the sea, and crystal clear turquoise water allows an amazing view of marine vegetation and playful sea lions. The tour begins early at 8:00am via speedboat and the first stop is a small islet in the middle of the ocean, home to pelicans, blue-footed boobies, and sea lions. **Finados** snorkeling site is the next stop, where you can swim next to sea turtles, **Tintoreras** sharks (endemic to the islands), trumpet fish and surgeonfish. With some luck, eagle and golden rays will come to this site too. Getting to Los **Tuneles** will take around 1 ½ - 2 hrs. Once there, the speedboat will navigate through various spots in and around the Lava Tunnels. Here you get the chance to do some more snorkeling and enjoy some short walks while observing the landscape and wildlife inhabiting the area. **A box lunch** on board will be provided for this day. Dinner will be served at the local specified restaurant.*

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

Day 5 Transfer out **Baltra Airport** (Visit "The Twins" on way out) / Goodbye Galapagos!

*On the final day we recommend waking up at 5:00 am to have enough time to get ready for the transfer-out from **Isabela to Puerto Ayora**. We will take the **public speedboat**, which leaves from the dock at 6:00 am (subject to change), and arrive in Puerto Ayora (approx. 2 ½ hrs. depending on the tide). We will eat breakfast there, and then depart for **Baltra** where you will catch your return flight to either Quito or Guayaquil*

NOTE: Itinerary 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 hotel that you choose. Once you choose the hotel class of preference, we will specify to you which hotels are available for the dates of your trip. Hotels are categorized in the following classes: **Economic Class**, **Tourist Class**, **Tourist Superior Class**, and **First Class**. All the hotels we work with have been carefully chosen by us after close inspection. Nature Galapagos & Ecuador is the proud owner of the *Hotel San Vicente Galapagos* (Tourist Class), and *La Laguna Galapagos* (Tourist Superior Class), both of which are located on Isabela and for both the quality of service can be assured.

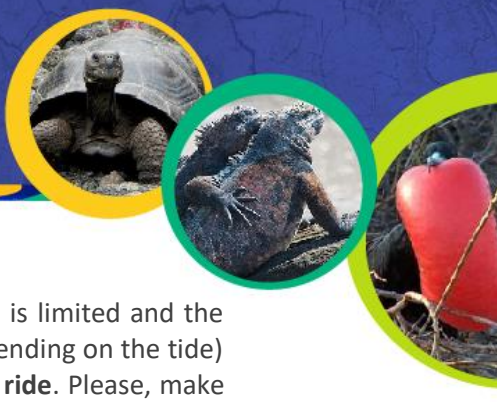
- **AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED:** The price of the tour does not include air tickets. We will gladly help your with the booking of the ticket from Quito or Guayaquil to Galapagos. You may also book the flights on your own if cheaper. PLEASE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT in which island you will arrive and leave from, and if you choose to book your own flight please try to book your arrival in the morning (before 11am) and your departure in the afternoon (12 pm or after) so that you don't miss any part of the tour. You can book your flight either through TAME, AEROGAL, LAN, or TAME (recommended).

- **RESTAURANTS:** We work with both hotel and local restaurants alike for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. This also depends on the chosen hotel class, as some hotels have restaurant services, **in which case food will be served on the hotel restaurant**. Meals are served in the "meal of the day" style. In case food is not served at the hotel, the guide will specify the chosen restaurant **(no transfers to and from the restaurants to the hotels are included in the cost of the program. However, distances are all at a minimum walking distance in Galapagos).**

- **LUNCH AND DINNER** during our tours consist on the meal of the day (not a la carte). Most provisions are bought in form the mainland to Galapagos; hence, a limited variety of food can be found. If you require vegetarian meals, let us know ahead of time so we can make all arrangements necessary within the possibilities.

- **GUIDES:** We organize excursion with local naturalist guides for each island (and sometimes for each activity). The guides will accompany you throughout all excursions, give explanations of the islands (flora and fauna) and coordinate the activities each day. Regarding lunch and dinner, the guide will specify the restaurant designated but he will not accompany you during this time. The guide's activities will start and end with each daily excursion. The guide will not go with you on the speedboats between islands either. The guides are 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 to help improve the quality of service in the islands.

- **PUBLIC SPEEDBOATS:** We recommend that you take a seasickness pill before each ride between islands if you are prone to seasickness. It is also recommended that you carry small plastic bags with you in case of seasickness. The speedboats are not completely covered so please make sure that valuable objects and electronics are stored in a plastic bag. The **guide will not go with you on the speedboats** but a new guide will greet you on



the other side. There are no services onboard as the speedboat space is limited and the journey is relatively short. 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. ***This is a Public service out of our control.***

- **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 specify what time each activity will start. The transfers between islands on the public speedboats are the only activities that have fixed departure times.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

THE RATE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Accommodation in selected class hotels and rooms
- ✓ All meals (breakfast – lunch – dinner)
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Snorkeling Equipment (mask, fins, tube)
- ✓ Transfer Puerto Ayora – Isabela – Puerto Ayora by Public speedboat
- ✓ Transfer Baltra – Puerto Ayora – Baltra (by truck or by bus depending on group size)

THE RATE EXCLUDES:

- × Air Ticket
- × Galapagos National Park Entry Fee - $200.00 US pp.
- × Isabela Dock Fee - $10.00 US pp.
- × Migratory Control Card - $20.00 US pp.
- × Transportation Baltra Airport – Itabaca Channel - **USD 5,00 per person** (subject to change).
- × Transportation Itabaca Channel – Baltra Airport - **USD 5,00 per person** (subject to change).
- × Water taxi from dock to speedboat (Isabela, Santa Cruz, Floreana Islands - depending on the tide) - **$ 1.00 US per person per ride**
- × Cost of the transfer between the hotels and the restaurants designated for the meals in each island
- × Soft-drinks and alcoholic beverages
- × Tips.

Note: Ask about rates with full meals or breakfast only.