



**ANDANDO
TOURS**
Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

FINCH BAY PROGRAM 2017 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS (Shared program)



The perfect escape to the Galapagos, with visits to nearby islands within the National Park coupled with days roaming Santa Cruz Island. Highlights include snorkelling, yacht excursions, and the Charles Darwin Research Station and giant tortoises.

Day 1 - BALTRA – SANTA CRUZ

Arrive at Baltra airport. Shared transfer to hotel
Check-in and enjoy the glorious beach-front location and facilities.
Dinner and hotel accommodation.

Day 2 - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND:

Highlands giant tortoises with lunch (guided):

Depart the hotel towards the Highlands of Santa Cruz. From there a short drive across the farming area will lead us to El Manzanillo at the northern edge of the Giant Tortoise Reserve. El Manzanillo is located on the natural path tortoises take every year as they either migrate to higher moist locations during the garúa season (June-September), or when they descend to the warmer lowlands during the wet season.

The Galapagos giant tortoise (*Chelonoidis nigra*) is the largest living tortoise species, weighing up to 250 kg (550 lb). It plays an important biological role as the top grazer in its habitat. In the wild, these gentle giants slowly barrel their way through the plant cover.

The shape of their carapaces varies from island to island. On Santa Cruz, year round, tortoises can be seen grazing on the surrounding vegetation or wallowing in muddy banks or in a small red-coloured pond (impressively colored by surface red pond-weeds).

The area is teeming with life: chirping vegetarian-, small-tree, large-tree and woodpecker mockingbirds and flycatchers, as well as ducks, herons and gallinules make this an exciting morning visit.

On the return to Puerto Ayora, visit one of the island's lava tunnels, significant geological formations that take us back in time and allow us to remember how lava flows formed the islands. Lunch at El Manzanillo.

OR Tortuga Bay and Charles Darwin Research Station with lunch (guided):

Tortuga Bay is located to the southwest of Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz Island. Its name means “turtle”, and the island received this moniker because it is sea turtles favourite place to lay their eggs.

The stunning white sand beach is considered by many the most beautiful in the Galapagos archipelago.

The beach is reached via a marked and cobbled two kilometer-path that starts at the west end of Charles Binford Street; guests must sign in and out at the National Park control point at the beginning of the path— it is open from 6:00 AM to 6:30 PM daily.

There is excellent bird-watching along the path, with plenty of Darwin’s finches and other sea birds. And for active visitors, it is a great place to kayak, snorkel and surf!

The headquarters of the Galapagos National Park Service and The **Charles Darwin Research Station** are located side by side on the outskirts of Puerto Ayora.

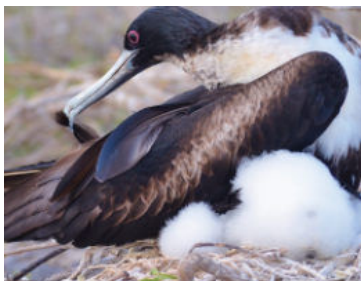
There is an interpretation centre open to the public and also one may view the tortoise rearing program.

Those guests who do not have the opportunity to explore the highlands of Santa Cruz and see tortoises in their natural habitat will have the chance to see tortoises here.

And for those who have already seen them in the wild, a visit to the Centre will expand their knowledge of this unique, iconic Galapagos animal.

Dinner and hotel accommodation

Day 3 and Day 4: Island yacht exploration options (guided)



North Seymour Island: North Seymour was lifted from the ocean floor by a seismic event, and its origins as a seabed give the island its low, flat profile. Cliffs only a few meters high form the shoreline, where swallow-tailed gulls sit among the ledges and rocks. A tiny forest of silver-grey Palo Santo trees stands just above the landing, usually without leaves, waiting for the rains to burst into bloom. This island is teeming with life!



Bartolome Island: Bartolome is famous for Pinnacle Rock, a towering spearheaded obelisk that rises from the ocean’s edge and is the best-known landmark in the islands. Galapagos penguins—the only species of penguin found north of the equator—walk precariously along narrow volcanic ledges at its base. Sea lions snooze on rocky platforms, ready to slide into the water to play with passing snorkelers



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South Plaza Island: South Plaza is a small island full of fascinating wildlife, both along its shore and along its dramatic, wind-swept cliffs: sea lions, land iguanas, swallow-tailed gulls, Opuntia cacti and vegetation that changes colours according to the season. South Plaza is one of Galapagos' most impressive visiting sites.



Santa Fe Island: Santa Fe offers one of the more beautiful and sheltered coves in the islands. Its turquoise lagoon is protected by a peninsula of tiny islets forming an ideal anchorage. The island lies to the southeast of Santa Cruz within sight of Puerto Ayora. Like North Seymour, Santa Fe has been uplifted seismically, and you can see underwater lava formations

Dinner and hotel accommodation

Day 5 –Departure: Breakfast. Shared transfer out to Baltra airport

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

INCLUDES:

- ✓ Airport Assistance in Guayaquil / Quito (available only for flights designated for these programmes)
- ✓ Ground transfers in/out in Galapagos (shared service)
- ✓ All meals (buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- ✓ 4 nights of accommodation in the selected room
- ✓ 2 full day island yacht explorations (North Seymour, South Plaza, Santa Fe and Bartolome; islands will be confirmed upon booking aboard the hotel's own yacht, the Sea Lion or similar craft)
- ✓ 1 full day land exploration with lunch
- ✓ Arrival day visit with lunch
- ✓ Snorkel & Kayak Equipment

NOT INCLUDED: (*Subject to change without previous notice)

- ✓ Air transportation (international and domestic) to/from Galapagos and airport taxes*
- ✓ Galapagos National Park entrance fee US\$ 100 per person*
- ✓ Transit Control Card US\$ 20 per person*
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages, gratuities/tips, laundry or valet services and additional items
- ✓ Travel insurance
- ✓ Optional activities - **additional cost:** kayaking, mountain biking, diving and surfing.
- ✓ Any item not mentioned previously



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IMPORTANT NOTES:

During Peak Season

- Christmas & New Year's Eve dinners supplement \$80 per guest/per dinner
- No discounts apply

Children Policy:

- Children under 12 sharing room with their parents 25% off (Applies only to one child per two adults paying full fare)
- Yacht Excursions: minimum age 6 years old.

Recommendations:

- For excursions, please take solar protection, cap or hat, bathing suit, long-sleeved shirt, water bottle, snorkelling gear (if you have your own; mask, snorkel and fins are provided free of charge), camera, appropriate shoes for wet landings and hikes on lava terrain (sneakers or similar) with thick soles.
- Expedition staff will give further details and recommendations, as well as more natural history background, the night before.
- Lunch is served on board the yacht during excursions. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions

PAYMENT POLICIES

- On all Finch Bay Eco Hotel Galapagos products (accommodation and packages) Individuals (FIT's) and Groups, a US\$ 200.00 non-refundable deposit per guest is needed for us to confirm any reservation. Full Payment is needed 60 days prior to the date our services are scheduled to begin.
- Full pre-payment is required for us to reconfirm any reservation / provide services.

CANCELLATION POLICIES

- Prior to acknowledging a cancellation request, we encourage our guests to reutilize reschedule the booking for another date within 1 (one) year.
- If cancellation is received between the dates of booking until 61 days before the date our services are due to begin, we will charge 15% or minimum US\$ 200 as cancellation fees. This deposit cannot be transferred to another booking.
- If cancellation is received between 60 and 0 days before our services are due to begin, full payment is non-refundable (100% cancellation fees).

For cancellations during peak season (December 15th to January 10th):

If cancellation is received between the dates of booking until 121 days before the date our services are due to begin, we will charge 15% or minimum US\$ 200 as cancellation fees. This deposit cannot be transferred to another booking.



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- If cancellation is received between 120 and 91 days before the date our services are due to begin, we will charge 25% or minimum US\$ 200 as cancellation fees. This deposit cannot be transferred to another booking.
- If cancellation is received between 90 and 0 days before our services are due to begin, full payment is non-refundable (100% cancellation fees).

Land tours & Yacht tours:

- On all Groups and/or Individuals cancellations for land services / daily yacht tours received between 30 and 16 days before the date our services are due to begin a US\$ 100 cancellation fee per guest will be charged.
- On all Groups and/or Individuals cancellations for land services / daily yacht tours received between 15 and 0 days before the date our services are due to begin, full payment is non-refundable (100% cancellation fees).