

AXEL TOURS SAC

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Santa Cruz - Isabela Island

07 Days - 06 Nights

Day 01: Quito - Guayaquil - Baltra Rancho Primicias & Twin Craters

Upon arrival in Baltra Airport transfer to Santa Cruz, a guide will be waiting for You to take to the hotel, where You can leave your luggage. We will seize the morning to visit the Rancho Primicias in the island's highlands where we will be able to see Giant Turtles in their habitat



Then we go on to Lava Tunnels “ **There are eight lava tubes on Isla Santa Cruz** “ The largest lava tubes in the Galapagos are on Santa Cruz Island, it's estimated that the last eruptions occurred around a million and a half years ago. There is a gigantic lava tunnel that is over 2000 meters long on the Island that many tourist visit and walk through



Los Gemelos (**Twin Craters**) are located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. They are not actual craters caused by impact, but are sink holes that were created when the volcanic roof of empty magma chambers collapsed from tectonic shifts and erosion over time. This area has very different climate from other parts of the island and are surrounded by scalesia (**scalesia pedunculata**) forests, which our tour guide kept calling “ **broccoli trees.**” It is the habitat for bromeliads, orchids, mosses, lichens and many birds. Here, you are able to find the famous vermilion flycatcher, 8 species of Charles Darwin finches, and every so often short - eared owls.

Meals: Lunch - Dinner Welcome

Jr. E. Guzman Barron # 3816 Urb. Condevilla Señor SMP Phono: 0051 – 01 – 5693311 **Whatsapp:** +51 – 982290111 **info@perutouristinformation.com**
msn: engreidos2@hotmail.com **Booking2:** axel_tippe@yahoo.es
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Day 02: Grietas & Tortuga Bay

After breakfast we will Hike through a forest of enormous cacti and over rugged lava rock formations to one of the most unique swimming holes in the Galapagos Islands. Las Grietas, which translates literally to mean "The Cracks," is a series of volcanic crevices that were formed during the cooling of molten lava. The porous lava stone of the island allows water to filter down from the highlands into Las Grietas where it mixes with sea water filtering in from the ocean. The resulting azure waters are crystalline and refreshing Las Grietas is a popular swimming destination for locals and visitors alike. Float blissfully in the cool water -- or get your adrenaline pumping by jumping from the new wooden platform. A Naturalist Guide is not required to visit as the trail has been improved, but it is not recommended to travel alone as the jagged lava rocks en route can be tricky.



After Lunch we will walk to Tortuga Bay It's located on the Santa Cruz Island, about a 20 minutes' walk from the main water taxi dock in Puerto Ayora, The walking path is 1.55 miles (**2,490 m**) and is open from 06.00 to 18.00 p.m evening, we must sign in and out at the start of the path with The Galapagos Park Service Office, Tortuga Bay has a gigantic, perfectly preserved beach, that is forbidden to swimmers and is preserved for the wildlife where many Marine Iguanas, Galapagos Crabs and Birds are seen dotted along the Volcanic Rocks. There is a separate cove where You can swim and where it's common to view White Tip Reef Sharks swimming in groups & on occasion Tiger Shark The Genus , Galeocerdo, is divided from the Greek galeos, which mean Shark and The Latin Cerdus, The Word for the hard hairs of Pigs. It is often colloquially called the Man – Eater Shark. The Galapagos Shark a top other species of Shark that are found in The Galapagos Islands, There are always a large variety of small fish and Birds

Meals: Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner

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Day 03: Santa Cruz Island to Isabela Island (Flamingos Lagoon & Sea Kayaking with Pinguins)

a.m. Transfer to The Pier to catch the speed Boat to Isabela Island, It's the largest Island of The Galapagos with an area of 4,640 square kilometers (**1,790 sq mi**), and length of 100 kilometers (**62 mi**) almost four times larger than Santa Cruz, the second largest of the archipelago. It was named after Queen Isabela of Spain. It was originally named *Albemarle* after the Duke of Albemarle. The island strides the Equator. Isabela is also interesting for its flora and fauna. The young island does not follow the vegetation zones of the other islands. The relatively new lava fields and surrounding soils have not developed the sufficient nutrients required to support the varied life zones found on other islands. Another obvious difference occurs on Volcan Wolf and Cerro Azul; these volcanoes loft above the cloud cover and are arid on top. Isabela's rich animal, Bird and Marine life is beyond compare. Isabela is home to more wild Tortoise than all the other islands. Isabela's large size and notable topography created barriers for the slow - moving tortoises; apparently the creatures were unable to cross lava flows and other obstacles, causing several different sub - species of Tortoise to develop. Today, Tortoises roam free in the calderas of Alcedo, Wolf, Cerro Azul, Darwin and Sierra Negra



Arrive in Isabela transfer to the selected hostel or hotel after checking we will walk around to Flamingos Lagoon an expansive coastal lagoon that serves as one of the primary breeding grounds for Flamingos



In the afternoon we take our ocean kayaks and paddle out to the pier of Isabela, a set of small islets within Isabela Bay. The islets are filled with wildlife and are home to the Galapagos penguin, the

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only penguin that lives in equatorial region. We will also see sharks, marine turtles, sea lions, Blue Footed Bobies and much more wildlife as we explore its many small coves and beaches.

Meals: Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner



Day 04: Tunnels & Wall of Tears

After breakfast we will go to the pier for a 45 minute fibra (a small boat) ride to a place where Lava flow impacted with the oceans waves to form the stunning tubes and bridges of Los Tunnels. Los Tunneles is a marine paradise for the White tipped Reef Shark, Manta Rays, Parrot Fish, Yellowtail Surgeon Fish, Galápagos Green Sea Turtle and the Galápagos Sea Lion. This site is one of the most is one of the most spectacular places for snorkeling in Isabela as the water is shallow, clear and calm. This marine sanctuary is characterized by its unique geologic formations. A series of lava flows have produced a number of arches and tunnels both under and above water, where you find a number of animal species that have taken up residence in these magnificent formations. As soon as you get to the intertidal starting point you will be released to snorkel through astoundingly beautiful site.



The Wall of Tears (Spanish: El Muro de las Lágrimas) is a historical site 5 km west of Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. It was constructed between the years of 1945 and 1959 by prisoners in the Penal Colony on the island, which had been established by President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra in 1944, using infrastructure left by the US military after World War II. The wall is about 25 m (65 ft) tall and is said to have been the cause of thousands of deaths during its construction. Locals call it the wall of tears because it is said to emanate eerie cries and have a heavy energy surrounding it.

Meals: Breakfast - Lunch & Dinner

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Day 05: Sierra Negra Volcano

Early morning around 07.00 a.m. we will have a tours to Sierra Negra Volcano it's one of the five volcanoes on the island of Isabela, and boasts the second largest volcanic caldera in the world (**Yellowstone National Park in the United States is the largest in case You were wondering**). On the sierra Negra Volcano You hike to the rim of the six miles wide crater and then trek across an alien landscape of lava fields and fumaroles. The Sierra Negra is one of the most active volcanoes in the Galapagos, with the last eruption in 2005 Though You probably won't see any lava flowing, You will have the opportunity to explore thermal vents and other fascinating geologic features before stopping for a snack near volcán Chico. The vistas from this spot are among the most breathtaking in Isabela and on clear afternoons afford views of the northern volcanoes on Isabela and Fernandina. A savory hot lunch at Campo Duro rounds out this challenging but rewarding day

Meals: Breakfast - Box Lunch - Dinner



Day 06: Free day or Fishing tour optional

Isabela Island free day or Fishing tour optional approximately 6:00 am You will be on your way to the eastern side of the Galapagos which is known as one of the best fishing areas in the archipelago, you can expect to catch Striped, Blue, and Black marlin, depending on the season, however since the water temperature in the Galapagos is pretty much constant all year around you can find bill - fish pretty much every month of the year. You will spend the night in one of the nicest hotels in town.

Meals: Breakfast

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Day 07: Isabela Island - Baltra Airport – Guayaquil - Home

a.m. After Breakfast transfer to Isabela Airport for your fly to Baltra and go on to Guayaquil – Home, we recommend You seat next to The Pilot for nice pictures on air

Meals: Breakfast



Included:

- 06 Nights accommodation
- All breakfasts and meals as described in the programme
- All transfers and land transportation
- Airfare Guayaquil - Baltra (**Galápagos Island**) - Guayaquil
- Speed Local Boat (**Inter Yacht**) Santa Cruz to Isabela Island
- Airplane Cesna Isabela Island to Baltra Airport
- Kayaking Equipment
- Snorkel Gear
- All applicable taxes
- All bilingual guided tours (**English - Spanish**) as described in the itinerary

Not Included:

- International flights
- Alcoholic drinks, soda or bottled mineral water
- Personal expenses
- Tips
- International or National personal telephone calls
- Meals not mentioned

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- Galápagos national Park **100USA**
- Transit Card **20\$USA**
- Isabela Park **10\$USA**

Price per person in hostals 3* Dólares:

DWB: **1990\$USA** per person

TWB: **1850\$USA** per person

04 - 06: **1690\$USA** per person

08 - 10: **1630\$USA** per person

Up 12: **1615\$USA** per person

Up 16: **1600\$USA** per person

Hostel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Darwin o similar	Isla Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
Tintorera o Similar	Isla Isabela	2022	2022	04

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Price per person in Hotel 3*:

DWB: 2295\$USA per person

TWB: 2150\$USA per person

04 - 06: 1990\$USA per person

08 - 10: 1930\$USA per person

Up 12: 1920\$USA per person

Up 16: 1900\$USA per person

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Lobo de Mar	Isla Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
San Vicente	Isla Isabela	2022	2022	04

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Price per person in Hotel 4*:

DWB: 2850\$USA per person

TWB: 2665\$USA per person

04 - 06: 2520\$USA per person

08 - 10: 2460\$USA per person

Up 12: 2450\$USA per person

Up 16: 2420\$USA per person

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Angermeyer	Isla Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
Casa Marita	Isla Isabela	2022	2022	04

Price per person in Hotel 5*:

DWB: 2995\$USA per person

TWB: 2850\$USA per person

04 - 06: 2700\$USA per person

08 - 10: 2640\$USA per person

Up 12: 2630\$USA per person

Up 16: 2620\$USA per person

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Finch Bay	Isla Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
Iguana Crossing	Isla Isabela	2022	2022	04

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When is The Best Time to Visit Galapagos ?

The Galapagos is a place that can be visited at any time. There are two seasons. the warmest is between **December** to **May** when the sky is always clear and the sun shines strongly. If you love to dive, the best time to visit is between **June** and **November** because the temperatures are a bit cooler, and you will have a better chance to observe the Galapagos' famous marine life.

Galapagos Island Weather

- ✓ Good Weather for visiting all year round.
- ✓ Galapagos is on the Equator but the weather is not tropical.
- ✓ Temperatures range from 69°-84°F / 21°-30°C.
- ✓ Warm season is from January to June.
- ✓ Dry season is from July to December.

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