



### Day by Day – **OPTION 1**

#### **Wednesday, Day 1.- QUITO**

Meet at Airport and transfer to the city. Accommodation at Alameda Real Mercure Hotel.

#### **Thursday, Day 2.- QUITO (B, L)**

Breakfast. Your tour starts early in the morning to visit Panecillo Hill where you will enjoy a panoramic view of the city and take great pictures. Continues to Quito's Old Town and the Basilica Church, where you will make a brief stop. You will then enjoy walking through the colonial streets and stop at the Independence Plaza admiring the Cathedral, the Government's Palace and Ronda Street. You will also visit La Compania Church, the Sagrario Church and the San Francisco Church, which was built during the 17th century. After lunch (*included*), you will head to the Middle of the World monument, where you can stand right in the middle of the equatorial line and straddle the two hemispheres. In addition, you will have a chance to participate in several experiments at the Intiñan Museum such as watching water go down a drain in a different direction (only inches away from either side of the equator), or balancing an egg on a nail, or using an ancient sun dial and much more. At this complex, you will also be able to visit a fascinating ethno-graphical museum which gives a great overview of the many distinct cultures of this small country. You will also enjoy the amazing landscape in Pululahua inhabited crater just 5 minutes from the Equatorial line, inside of the Pululahua Geobotanical Reserve.

#### **Friday, Day 3.- QUITO – GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

Breakfast. Early in the morning, transfer from your hotel to the Airport to embark on flight (*air tickets included*) to the Enchanted Islands to Baltra, with AVIANCA Airlines; arriving at 09:20 a.m. approximately. Your guide conducts you to a bus and after a short 5-kilometer ride to the pier; we board the Yacht without delay. As the crew weighs anchor, we greet you with our first orientation and

we offer a light snack. After navigating, we disembark on Playa Las Bachas, a place where we can appreciate a Flamingos lagoon. During all walks, your guide will be explaining details about the lives of the birds and animals. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel, in the evening we have an orientation about the Galapagos Islands in general: their origin and evolution. Welcome cocktail with the entire crew, and dinner.

#### **Saturday, Day 4.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast we make a wet landing on Sullivan Bay, a perfect place to get a feel of the volcanic origin of the islands. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. We return to the boat for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a dry landing on Bartholomew Island, to hike to the summit; during the hike we observe colonies of marine iguanas and lava lizards. On the summit we see an impressive view of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. We return to the yacht for a delicious dinner and our nightly orientation.

#### **Sunday, Day 5.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we take a panga ride and we make a dry landing on Prince Phillips's Steps (Barranco), we walk and observe the interesting lives of the birds here. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. Later in the afternoon, we make a wet landing on Darwin Bay to walk and observe frigatebirds, herons, mockingbirds, boobies, shorebirds, turtles, marine iguanas, etc. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel or kayak. Dinner on the Yacht, and then our orientation about conservation efforts made to protect the Islands.

#### **Monday, Day 6.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on James Bay (Puerto Egas), to walk and observe sponges, snails, hermit crabs, a variety of shore birds, barnacles and the endemic four-eyed blenny, marine iguanas and sea lions. Optional: time for those who would like to swim or snorkel. We return to the boat for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we navigate around Buccaneer Cove (Caleta Bucanero), an area of steep cliffs and dark beaches. The cliffs and pinnacle are used as nesting areas by several species of seabirds. This was a popular place for 17th & 18th century buccaneers to careen their vessels. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel or kayak. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

#### **Tuesday, Day 7.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make a panga ride on Punta Vicente Roca to observe plenty of sea lions, marine iguanas, blue-footed and masked boobies, and flightless cormorants. Optional: time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a dry landing on Punta Espinoza to observe and see a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas and the flightless cormorants and clumps of lava cactus. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

#### **Wednesday, Day 8.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Urbina Bay to take a walk and observe a coral area, land iguanas, flightless cormorants and giant tortoises. Optional: time for those who would like to swim or snorkel. Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, we make a panga ride around the islets of Elizabeth Bay to see marine iguanas, penguins, marine turtles, seabirds and shorebirds, herons and blue-footed boobies. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

#### **Thursday, Day 9.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make an expedition to Sierra Negra Volcano, considered the oldest of the volcanoes on Isabela, the crater of Sierra Negra has a 10 km diameter and it's the second largest in the world; its last eruption occurred in 2005. The Sulfur, iron and the cooled magma make up a colorful landscape. Our adventure begins with a 45 minutes ride on a bus to the highlands of Isabela, we arrive at "Paradero Sierra Negra", from here we walk through slopes of the Volcano. The trail conducts us to Volcan Chico (on the northeast of Sierra Negra Volcano), a fissure composed of scum and lava. This fissure had its last eruption on 1979 and the volcanic activity lasted for a week. From here we have an amazing view of the north of the island and if the day is clear we have a majestic view of the Perry Isthmus, a surrounding island. This expedition allows us to step through volcanic features and over lava flows formed in very recent years. We also see the formations of petrified lava of many different colors and textures and fumaroles scattered throughout this area. Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon we visit Humedales, where we can see series of lagoons, mangrove species, flamingos and numerous migratory birds. After that, we visit Breeding Center "Arnaldo Tupiza", where we can observe tortoises of different ages and sizes (In total there are 330 between juvenile and adult tortoises) and where we can learn about the reproduction of the giant tortoises, in the Breeding Center we can also see different native plants. Return to the Yacht for a delicious dinner and our nightly orientation.

#### **Friday, Day 10.- GALAPAGOS – AMAZONIA (B, D)**

After breakfast we land at the pier for a visit to the Charles Darwin Station and its Interpretive Center. Then the bus takes us directly to the airport (Baltra). Your guide accompanies you on this ride. Embark on flight (*air tickets included*) to Quito. Arrival at Airport and surface transfer for driving 228 kilometers (141 miles) to Yachana by a 99% asphalt road crossing by the Oriental Sierra and descending later to the amazing Amazonia. If time permits, you will see the spectacular Antisana Volcano 5,753 meters high. Will stop at Hollin Cascade. You will be received at Yachana with a warm welcome from our native staff that will serve you a refreshing beverage and snack while you are introduced to the facilities. Dinner.

#### **Saturday, Day 11.- AMAZONIA (B, L, D)**

You have the option to start your day early by participating in a bird watching excursion or sleep little longer before enjoying a splendid breakfast, the first of the day's Amazon culinary delights. After a traditional breakfast from the Amazon, you will board our ranchera (typical local bus) and accompany your native guide as he leads you on a journey into the rainforest stopping to observe birds, and possibly monkeys, along the way. During your rainforest trek your guide will explain the uses of various medicinal plants and amaze you with his knowledge of the several species of birds and animals that inhabit the rainforest, which he calls home. Return to the Yachana for lunch and an opportunity to rest before the next activity. In the afternoon the administrative will give an explanation about how the Yachana Training Center works and the strong support of the Yachana Foundation with his educational program. After this you will take our ranchera to Agua Santa community in order to board a raft downriver to observe a local family

doing panning for gold. From there, using either inner-tubes, a small rubber raft or just life jackets, you can float/swim as you continue down river enjoy the spectacular scenery that surrounds you. At some point you will get on board of a motorize canoe to head back to Yachana. After dinner in the evening your guide will offer to take you on a night walk to discover a totally different side of the forest that only comes alive after dark. On this walk, you have the chance to see many small insects, amphibians, reptiles and other animals.

**Sunday, Day 12.- AMAZONIA (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, you will onboard our ranchera go to a farm where you can see and harvest so many products you have probably never seen or prepared before. You will be part of a culinary activity fixing your own typical lunch from the amazon under the supervision of our chef. In the afternoon after lunch, you will travel by canoe to the home of shaman and his family to learn about local Kichwa culture and traditions, and to participate in a cleansing ceremony. Afterwards, try your skills on the art of hunting using a typical blowgun and spear. This is a wonderful cultural activity to know a local family and learn more about the kichwa tradition and way of living. Return to Yachana for dinner at 7:00 – 7:30 PM. Rest before dinner and enjoy the sunset from our dining hall. After dinner you will learn how to make chocolate using organic cacao harvested from the local families. Turn the cacao beans into delicious jungle chocolate, one of the main ingredients for several of the delectable deserts served at Yachana. This is one of our highlight as you prepare chocolate in a traditional way.

**Monday, Day 13.- AMAZONIA – QUITO AIRPORT (B)**

After a hearty breakfast, travel by a private car from Yachana back to the city of Coca for your flight back to Quito (*Air tickets included*). END OF OUR SERVICES.

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