



## ***M/V ECLIPSE CRUISE ITINERARY***

From your comfortable base aboard the Eclipse, you will be able to explore the best visitor sites in the islands. There are many opportunities to hike, swim, snorkel, kayak, bird-watch and take great close-up photographs of the flora and fauna.

The Eclipse anchors off-shore at two visitor sites per day. Passengers are divided into groups of a maximum of twelve people, each with its own naturalist guide. All our guides are certified Class II or III naturalists and speak fluent English.

On the islands you will follow marked trails, walking at a leisurely pace, with your guide explaining the unusual sights you see. You will spend 3 to 4 hours at each site, allowing plenty of time to explore the abundant wildlife.

Our snorkeling schedule allows five immersions during the 5 night cruise. The use of our snorkeling equipment and wetsuits is complimentary. Most of the snorkeling activities take place before or after island excursions, so that you will not miss the hikes.

Additionally the Eclipse carries 4 double kayaks for a maximum number of 8 passengers that can be used at certain sites permitted by the National Park.



## ***SATURDAY***

- Arrival at the airport in Baltra & transfer to the dock
- Check-in to your cabin
- Introductory briefing & safety drill
- Lunch
- Wet landing at Las Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz Island
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Sunday's program
- 20:00 Welcome cocktail
- 20:15 Dinner

After an initial briefing and a safety drill, we will take you on your first excursion to the beautiful white, sandy beach, where you will have your first contact with the Galapagos wildlife.

Las Bachas Beach is located in the north of Santa Cruz Island. Its soft, white sand is derived from decomposed coral, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind the beach there is a small brackish lagoon, where it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels.



## **SUNDAY**

- 06:30 Wake up call
- 06:45 Breakfast
- 07:30 Wet landing at Puerto Egas, Santiago Island
- 10:00 Swimming and snorkeling from the beach
- 11:00 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Wet landing on Bartolomé Island for shallow water or deep water snorkeling
- 16:00 Back on board
- 16:30 Dry landing on Bartolomé for hike, or panga ride
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Monday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



Puerto Egas (James Bay) is located on the northwest side of Santiago Island. The landing is on a black beach with eroded rock formations in the background. The trail crosses the dry interior, where the remains of a salt mining enterprise can still be seen, and then continues along the coast. Tidal pools are home to a variety of invertebrate organisms, including sea urchins, octopus and starfish. The trail leads to the Fur Seals Grotto, one of the only places in the islands where they can be seen.

After the walk, you will have time to swim or snorkel off the beach, where you will see sea lions, fish and maybe some turtles and reef sharks.

Bartolomé is a small island that has two visitor sites. At the first site, you can snorkel around Pinnacle Rock, where penguins are usually seen. Back on board for a quick change of clothes and then it is a short dinghy ride to a dry landing for a climb to the highest point on the island. On the way up, you will encounter different volcanic formations, including spatter and tuff cones, lava flow and lava tubes. From the summit you will have a wonderful view of Sullivan Bay. For those not interested in the hike, there is the option of a panga ride.



## **MONDAY**

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Dry landing at Cerro Dragón, Santa Cruz Island
- 10:30 Swimming from the beach
- 11:30 Back on board
- 11:45 Culinary Art "Ecuadorian Ceviche" lesson
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Wet landing on Rábida Island for beach activities, deep water snorkeling or kayaking
- 15:30 Back on board
- 16:00 Wet landing on Rábida Island for hiking, kayaking or panga ride
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Tuesday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



The name Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) stems from the fact that it was one of the few sites on Santa Cruz Island where a healthy population of land iguanas were found in 1975. After landing at a pier, a hike takes you to a salt water lagoon behind the beach, frequented by common stilts, pintail ducks and occasionally flamingos. A short walk up the hill leads you to a land iguana nesting site, with breathtaking views of the bay. You will have the chance to go swimming after the walk.

Rábida is a small island with red volcanic rocks surrounding a beautiful red sand beach, where there is a colony of sea lions and a pelican nesting site. The trail leads to a salt water lagoon where shore birds can be seen. Rábida is considered to be one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galapagos Islands, and you will also have the opportunity to go kayaking or on a panga ride.



## **TUESDAY**

- 06:00 Optional wake up call by phone
- 06:30 Dry landing at Tagus Cove, Isabela Island for power hike, or kayaking
- 07:45 Official wake up call
- 08:00 Breakfast
- 08:45 Kayaking
- 09:00 Panga ride along the cliffs
- 09:45 Deep water snorkeling
- 11:00 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Panga ride along Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island
- 17:00 Back on board
- 18:00 Galapagos film shown in the main lounge
- 19:30 Briefing on Wednesday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



Tagus Cove was historically used as an anchoring place for pirates, buccaneers and whalers. Here you will see the names of hundreds of ships painted on the high ridges (a practice now forbidden). On the hike, the trail goes through an area of vegetation and the volcanic landscape of Darwin volcano. At the top of the trail, you will enjoy an incredible view of the whole cove and Darwin Lake.

The early morning activity is followed by kayaking or a panga ride, where you will have the opportunity to see a large number of blue-footed boobies perched on the ledges of the cliffs, as well as marine iguanas, penguins, brown pelicans, brown noddy terns and swallow-tailed gulls. While exploring the channel between Fernandina and Isabela Islands, we sometimes encounter dolphins and whales.

Elizabeth Bay is one of the furthest points of the Galapagos that we will visit on our cruise. We will enter a sheltered cove – a wonderful mangrove ecosystem that is a refuge for sea turtles and rays.





### **WEDNESDAY**

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Dry landing at Punta Espinoza, Fernandina Island
- 11:00 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Panga ride along Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela Island, or deep water snorkeling
- 16:30 Back on board
- 17:30 Equator Line crossing – snack at the stern of the ship
- 19:30 Briefing on Thursday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



Fernandina last erupted in 1995. La Cumbre Volcano dominates the landscape, with lava fields stretching towards the ocean from its base. Punta Espinoza is a narrow piece of land where some of the most unique Galapagos species can be seen, including the flightless cormorant, Galapagos snakes, marine iguanas, penguins and the Galapagos hawk.

Punta Vicente Roca is a wonderful snorkeling site, where you can usually see turtles as well as all kinds of fish. For those who do not snorkel, a panga ride will give you the opportunity to study some of the Galapagos' spectacular geological rock formations. Nazca boobies, pelicans, swallow-tailed gulls, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants and penguins are often seen in the area.



### **THURSDAY**

- 06:00 Wake up call by phone
- 06:30 Breakfast
- 07:00 Dry landing at Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Station
- 09:00 Bus ride across the highlands to the northern side of Santa Cruz Island. Transfer to the airport on Baltra Island



On your visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station you will gain insight into the huge efforts being made by scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see the famous Galapagos tortoises that are the islands' namesake.

After the visit transfer to Baltra's Airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.