

## Galaxy 5 days A

Galaxy is a beautiful motor yacht offering very good value with an excellent crew, good food and very spacious and comfortable interiors. Run by a local company with a very good reputation and has first rate naturalists on board it has been one of our favourite yachts in recent years.

This 5-day itinerary is excellent visiting a great selection of islands including the beautiful Española – and is particularly good when the Waved Albatross are on Española between April and December and has some great snorkelling.





## Day 1 San Cristobal

Arrival at the airport in San Cristobal Island, in Galapagos where you will be met at by representatives from the Galaxy and taken to your yacht and your cruise experience will begin.



## San Cristobal - Leon Dormido

Sometimes called Kicker Rock, Leon Dormido is a huge rock formation near the coast of San Cristobal, an eroded cinder cone with two vertical rocks rising over 150 meters from the ocean, and a favourite spot for tropicbirds along with Great and Magnificent Frigatebirds. You will visit this site by boat and it is a great spot for snorkelling.

**Activities:** Snorkelling & dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights:** Deep water snorkelling: Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, Manta Rays, hammerhead shark, spectacular rock formations, sea birds: Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies & frigatebirds.



## Day 2

### San Cristobal – Cerro Brujo

This striking eroded tuff cone was one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin. It has a beautiful coral sand beach where you can take a leisurely walk (depending on time of year) visited by Brown Pelicans, Blue-footed Boobies, and Swallow-tailed Gulls as well as Marine Iguanas and sea lions. The beauty of this dramatic area can also be explored from the dinghy, exploring caves and looking for sea birds.

**Activities:** Hike along the beach (1 mi / 1.6 km), dinghy ride, snorkelling & kayaking

**Difficulty:** Easy walk along the beach

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, land birds: finches and mockingbirds, snorkelling: sea lions, nice tropical fish, anemones.



### San Cristobal – Punta Pitt

Located in the northwest of the island, this is a large eroded tuff cone with dramatic volcanic scenery and is home to a large colony of Sea lions, as well as a few Red-footed Boobies, Blue-footed Boobies and Nazca Boobies.

**Activities:** Uphill hike (0.9 / 1.5 km), dinghy ride, snorkelling, kayaking.

**Difficulty:** Moderate/difficult

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Wonderful landscape, sea lion colony, three possible species of Boobies. Snorkel: tropical fish, sea lions.



### Day 3

#### Española (Hood)

This island is one of the highlights of any visit to Galapagos. Española is the southernmost island in the Galapagos, and is also one of the oldest. Numerous Sea Lions are seen here, plus hundreds of Marine Iguanas basking on the rocks. Española's Marine Iguanas are unlike other Galapagos Marine Iguanas thanks to their bright colouring. Española is home to thousands of nesting seabirds all year, including Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies and Frigatebirds.

Between late March and December, the Waved Albatross (though the times can change sometimes a little year to year) perhaps the most spectacular of Galapagos birds, returns to Española by the thousands to perform their amazing mating dance and produce the next generation. Almost the entire population breeds on this island during this time, and they spend the rest of the year at sea.





### Punta Suárez

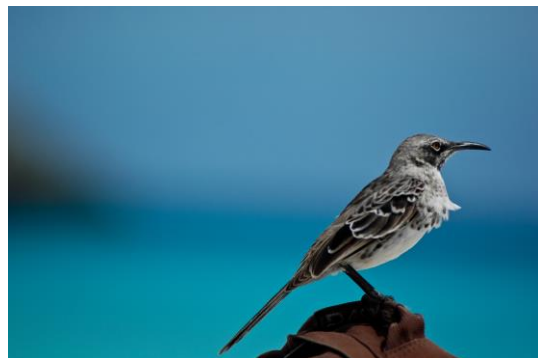
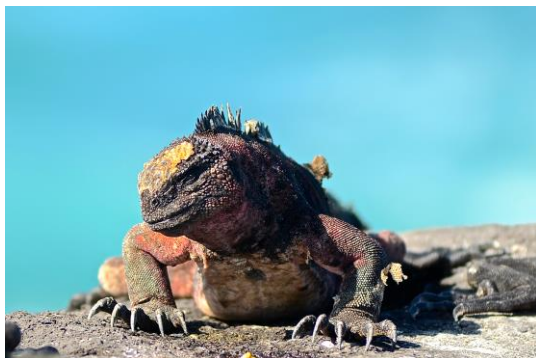
Regarding the amount of wildlife, this one of the best trails in the whole islands. Despite the difficult terrain, the walk is an absolute marvel, as from the beginning to the end you will see large quantities of Sea Lions, Marine Iguanas, Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, gulls, Galapagos Hawks and during most of the year, Waved Albatross. There are spectacular views of flying birds from the cliffs.

**Activities:** Hike (1.2 mi / 2 km)

**Difficulty:** Difficult, rocky terrain.

**Type of Landing:** Dry Landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Española Mockingbird, Nazca Boobies, Waved Albatross, Red-billed Tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos Hawk, Blue-footed Boobies, blow hole, amazing landscape.



## Gardner Bay

This beautiful bay is nestled between Gardner islet and the beautiful coral sand beach in Española. You will visit a spectacular white sand beach, home to one of the largest Sea Lion colonies in the islands, where you can also see endemic Española Mockingbirds and with some luck, Galapagos Hawks.

**Activities:** Snorkelling and kayaking. Short hike along the beach (0.6 mi / 1km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** White sandy beach, Sea Lion colony, Mockingbirds Galapagos Hawks. Snorkelling: colourful fish, Sea Lion nursery.



## Day 4

### Floreana - Punta Cormorant

At Punta Cormorant you will walk on an olivine beach (a mineral known for its olive-green quality, that is found in meteorites, the moon and mars as well as on earth), visit a large lagoon where Greater Flamingos sometimes nest, and walk over to Flour Beach, a beautiful white sandy beach to look for Green Sea Turtle nests.

**Activities:** Hike (0.7 mi / 1.2 km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights and Animals:** An easy walk along a coastal lagoon where Flamingos are often found, along with Stilts and Ducks. White sand beach.



### Floreana – Devil's Crown

One of the highlights of this area is snorkelling at Devil's Crown, a partially submerged crater teeming with Parrotfish, Wrasse, Surgeonfish, and Damselfish among many other varieties of tropical fish.

**Activities:** Snorkel

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Strong current

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights and Animals:** One of the best snorkelling sites in the islands, but a strong current can be a challenge for very inexperienced divers. Sea lions, reef sharks, sea turtles, hammerhead sharks, rays, many fish.





## Floreana - Post Office Bay

The famous Post Office Bay is where people leave their mail to be picked up and delivered by others in the “post office” barrel—a time-honoured tradition begun by whalers more than two hundred years ago.

**Activities:** Short hike (less than 0.2 mi / 0.3km), lava tunnel & snorkelling

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights:** Barrel Post Office, lava tunnel inland (difficult access), nice sandy beach

## Day 5

You will have an early start this morning, and the visit will be a relatively short one as the yacht must then return to Baltra where the cruise will end in time for guests to take their connecting flight back to mainland Ecuador.

## Santa Cruz - Charles Darwin Research Station

The Charles Darwin Research Station offers a great chance to learn about the work being done to conserve and protect the islands wildlife. For some visitors (depending on the time of year) this is the only time to see Giant Tortoises and certainly the closest range opportunity. It is also a great chance to see the Tortoise Rearing Centre.

**Activities:** Walk

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Giant Tortoises, Land and Marine Iguanas, Mockingbirds, Darwin Finches.





After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra's airport for your flight back to the mainland, or you could continue your Galapagos adventure with a stay in one of the inhabited islands.



**Please note:** *Itineraries are unlikely to change significantly but are subject to change. Weather, wildlife breeding, instructions from the Galapagos National Park, specific abilities and interests of passengers as well as operational matters may cause your guide or captain to change the times or nature of your visits. Your guide will always endeavour to have the best itinerary for you within these constraints.*

