



## Galaxy 6 days B

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.

In this excellent 6 day itinerary, you visit the western part of Galapagos with their pristine untouched quality, including Isabela and the Island of Fernandina. A great mixture of Galapagos wildlife, in particular marine life, in the form of Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, and Marine Iguanas. Fascinating geological landscapes and excellent snorkelling.







## Day 2 Isabela

Measuring over 1800 square miles, and accounting for over half the land surface area in Galapagos, at about 80 miles in length, the seahorse shaped Isabela Island is the largest in the Galapagos. Isabela is formed from six separate volcanoes (Alcedo, Cerro Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf). Being the largest island, it has many visitor sites, covering a large diversity of ecosystems, from barren lava flows to evergreen lush forests.

### Las Tintoreras or Shark Reef Canal

Located on the other side of a small bay with completely calm turquoise waters, Las Tintoreras is a great place to see Sea Lions, Sea Turtles and Marine Iguanas as well as other Galapagos wildlife. This site gets its name thanks to a large lava crevice where, at low tide, White-tipped Reef Sharks are found resting or swimming. Most of the trail is lava, except for a white sand beach which is home to a small colony of Sea Lions and a nesting site for Marine Iguanas.

**Activities:** Hike (1 mi / 1.6 km) Snorkel, Dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Dry Landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Reef sharks, Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Sea Lions, Herons.



## Sierra Negra Volcano

This volcano on Isabela Island has one of the largest caldera's in the world measuring over 6 miles across. After a 30 min drive from the town, you will hike for 1 hour to get to the rim of the caldera, from where you can see the lava flow from the most recent eruption in 2005. Along the way you will usually see Vermillion Flycatchers, Galapagos Martins, and Galapagos Hawk. All along the way you will be rewarded with incredible panoramic views of Sierra Negra.



**Activities:** Hiking

**Difficulty:** Moderate/Difficult

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Large caldera, stunning views, Darwin finches, Galapagos Hawks.





## The Wetlands

The wetlands of Isabela Island are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as Black-necked Stilts, Whimbrels, White-cheeked Pintail Ducks, Gallinules and other shore birds.

**Activities:** Hiking (various short trails, each less than 1mi / 1.6km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry Landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Reef Sharks, Flamingos, Herons, coves, large mangrove trees, coastal lagoons, Marine Iguanas, Giant Tortoises.

## Day 3 Isabela - Punta Moreno

With dramatic seascapes and one of the best sunrise areas in the Galapagos, the visit to this site begins with a dinghy ride along the beautiful rocky shores where shore birds, Penguins, cormorants and herons can be spotted. The barren lava fields host a surprising amount of wildlife due to the presence of many sink holes with are home to Flamingos, Stilts and Pintail Ducks.

**Activities:** Hike (1.3 mi / 2.1 km) Snorkelling, dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Moderate/Difficult

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Flamingos, Gallinules, Pintail ducks, Sea turtles, Reef sharks, Penguins.



## Fernandina - Mangrove Point

The youngest of the Galapagos Islands at just over 100,000 years old, this is the most pristine and untouched of all the islands (not just in Galapagos, but in the world). Volcanically it is still active with eruptions occurring every 3 to 5 years. No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island. This visitor site affords a great opportunity to see the Galapagos Hawk and one of the rarities that evolution has produced in the islands: The Flightless Cormorant.

**Activities:** Dinghy ride, snorkel.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Flightless Cormorant, penguins, Marine Iguanas, Galapagos Hawks, herons, sea turtles, rays. Snorkel: sea lions, penguins, cormorants, colourful fish.



## Day 4

### Fernandina - Punta Espinosa

Punta Espinosa, is a truly spectacular visitor site and a real highlight for any visitor to the Galapagos. A narrow strip of land extending out from the base of the Fernandina Volcano, it is home to the largest colonies of Marine Iguanas in the Galapagos. You will also have the chance to see Flightless Cormorants here, sea lions, and Galapagos Hawks often perch on the mangrove trees looking for prey. Along the coast, tidal pools provide a perfect environment for invertebrates and shorebirds, such as Oystercatchers, Plovers, Turnstones and Whimbrels.

**Activities:** Hike of approx. (1.2 mi / 2 km). Snorkel.

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry but sometimes slippery at low tide

**Highlights & Animals:** Sea Lion colony, Flightless Cormorant, vast numbers of Marine Iguanas, Sea Turtles, Sally Lightfoot Crabs, shorebirds, Herons. Snorkel: Penguins, Marine Iguanas feeding underwater, Cormorants, Sea turtles.



## Isabela - Tagus Cove

The walk will take you up the slopes of the Darwin Volcano, along the edge of a salt water lagoon to a small hill from which you will see spectacular views of the northern lava fields of Isabela. Most of the fauna will be observed during a dinghy ride along the coast, with dramatic colours and beautiful tuff formations, Blue-footed Boobies, Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Pelicans and shorebirds.

**Activities:** Long uphill hike (1.1 mi / 1.8 km), Snorkelling, dinghy ride, Kayaking.

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Darwin Finches, lowland native vegetation, beautiful landscapes, Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Blue-footed Boobies, Darwin Volcano & Lake



## Day 5 James – (Santiago) - James Bay (Puerto Egas)

This was the island where Charles Darwin spent the majority of his land visits in Galapagos. At James Bay, the Fur Seal Grottos provide great chances to get close views of both Fur Seals and Galapagos Sea Lions in a series of rocky pools. This visit also provides some of the best opportunities for tide-pooling in the Galapagos, and chances to see shore birds such as Plovers, Sandpipers, Herons and Oystercatchers. The snorkel from the beach is excellent.

**Activities:** Snorkelling, hike (1.2 mi / 2km)

**Difficulty:** Easy /moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights:** Galapagos Fur Seals, Galapagos Sea Lions, tidal pools and “grottos”, Galapagos Hawk, Oystercatchers, Marine Iguanas, finches. Snorkelling: Reef Sharks, Turtles, Rays, nice underwater formations.





### Chinese Hat or Sombrero Chino

Located just off the southeast tip of James Island, this island owes its name to its shape. A truly beautiful island, surrounded by crystal clear waters, this is a great location for sea lions. Perhaps more than any other site, this islet gives you a sense of Galapagos volcanic origins as the beautiful white beach gives way to an almost primeval landscape of volcanic rubble.

**Activities:** Hiking (0.3 mi. / 0.4km) Snorkelling & Kayaking.

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Walk along the shore visiting a small colony of Galapagos Sea Lions. Penguins. Snorkel: Penguins, Reef sharks, Parrotfish, Puffers.



### Day 6

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 - Black Turtle Cove (Caleta Tortuga Negra)

A beautiful mangrove lagoon on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. The yacht anchors just outside the cove and you will enter on a dinghy, paddling through the calm waters of the lagoon, which is a resting site for Green Sea Turtles. A wonderfully quiet journey, through a beautiful and unique habitat. With good luck as well as Marine Turtles you will see different types of sharks and schools of Golden and Eagle Rays swimming just below the surface, whilst Yellow Warblers sing from above.



**Activities:** Boat tour in a lagoon, wildlife observation.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Lagoon surrounded by mangroves. Sharks, rays, sea turtles, pelicans and Blue-footed Boobies

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.*

