



Nemo II – 8 Days South Itinerary



The Nemo II is a trans-oceanic, 72-foot, multihull motor catamaran; a wonderfully stable cruising vessel. Nemo II was specially designed by Lagenvin to take up to 14 passengers, accommodated in seven double cabins, each with a private bathroom. The ingeniously designed salon, vast cockpit and unique exterior surface make this beautiful catamaran a great choice for your Galapagos cruise. They work with very good naturalist guides and have a very good location operation.







Day 1 Baltra - Arrival at the airport in Galapagos

Over the next glorious 8 days you will visit the following islands and visitor sites:

Santa Cruz - Bachas Beach

A beautiful white sandy beach punctuated by lava formations. The wonderfully soft sand here makes it a favourite site for nesting Sea Turtles. Here you will also see White Mangroves, one of the three species found in the Galapagos, as well as Marine Iguanas and Flamingos if you are lucky.



Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Highlights & Animals: World War II remnants, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, Black-necked Stilts, Whimbrels, sea turtles

Day 2 Highlands of Santa Cruz

The highlands of Santa Cruz have some great geological features, like lava tubes and the twin sinkhole craters of Los Gemelos, which are home to some 300 different fern species as well as a forest of Scalesias, a relative of sunflowers. This is an excellent area to look for some elusive endemics like the Woodpecker Finch (one of only a few bird species in the world to use tools), Small Tree Finch, Vegetarian Finch and Galapagos Rail. The highlands of Santa Cruz are one of the best places to see Giant Tortoises in the wild.



Activities: Hike (0.9 mi / 1 ½ km)

Difficulty: Easy /moderate

Type of Landing:

Highlights & Animals: Pit craters, Scalesia Forest, Darwin finches, Warblers, Flycatchers.

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: Walking (1.2 mi/2 km)

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Giant tortoises, land and marine iguanas, variety of birds



Day 3

San Cristobal – Cerro Brujo

The striking, eroded tuff cone was one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin, it has a beautiful white 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 by 'panga' or small dingy where you can explore a tunnel that goes all the way through the eroded rock formation.

Activities: Hike, panga 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: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponge coral



San Cristobal - Leon Dormido

Sometimes called Kicker Rock, Leon Dormido is a huge rock formation that is the remains of an ash cone eroded by the sea, 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 & panga Ride

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: No landing

Highlights: Deep water snorkelling: Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead shark, spectacular rock formations, sea birds: Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies & frigatebirds. Second best place to snorkel.



San Cristobal - Isla Lobos

A perfect place to swim with playful Sea Lions and snorkel. This basalt island outcropping lives up to its name of “Sea Lion Island”. As well as the Sea Lion colony on the beach it is also a nesting place for Blue-footed Boobies.

Activities: Hike (0.5 mi / 0.8 km), dinghy ride, snorkelling

Difficulty: Short but difficult walk.

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Sea lion colony, shore birds, seasonal nesting Frigatebirds, Darwin finches. Snorkelling: Sea lions, fish.

Day 4 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 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, and the Lava Lizards are distinctive too.

Española is home to thousands of nesting seabirds all year, including Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies and Frigatebirds. Between late March and early December, the Waved Albatross, 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 is 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

Type of Landing: Dry Landing

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

During your visit to **Gardner Bay** there's time to hang out with Sea Lions and snorkel, as well as walk the beautiful white sand beach here, arguably one of the most beautiful beaches in Galapagos.



Activities: Snorkelling, panga ride, kayaking, short hike (0.6 mi /1km)

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Highlights & Animals: White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds. Snorkelling: colourful fish, sea lion nursery

Day 5 Floreana

Cormorant Point. 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/1.2km)

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.



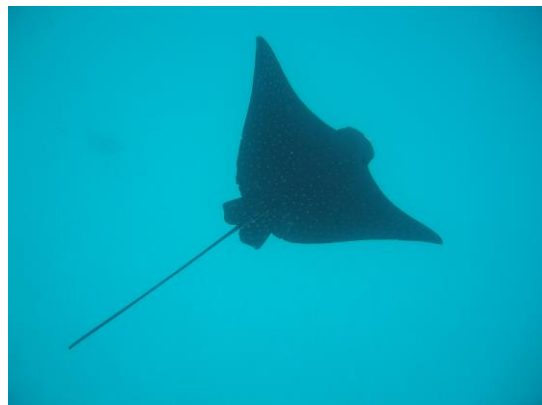
Champion Islet A dinghy ride around this small pristine islet gives you the opportunity to see the elusive Floreana Mockingbird. Excellent snorkel.

Activities: Snorkelling & dinghy ride & hike (1.2 mi/2km)

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: No landing

Highlights and Animals: One of the best snorkelling sites in Galapagos, with sea lions, reef sharks, rays, rock formations and lots of tropical fish.



Post Office Bay.

You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel for use as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home!

Possible Activities: Short hike (less than 0.6 mi / 1km) & snorkelling
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Highlights: Barrel Post Office, nice sandy beach

Day 6

Santa Fe A volcanic uplift, this island offers a great chance to see the Land Iguanas (*Conolophus pallidus*) endemic to Santa Fe Island. Some of these can be 5 feet long and have a beautiful golden-yellow colour that shows off the scales to its advantage. In the same area you'll also see a forest of Giant Prickly Pear Cactus. After your visit swimming and snorkelling will often follow.



Activities: Hiking, Snorkelling
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Highlights: Santa Fe Land Iguanas, Sea lion colony, Galapagos Hawks, Mockingbirds, Giant Prickly Pear Cactus (the tallest in Galapagos). Snorkel: Sea lions, Reef Sharks, Parrotfish, Surgeonfish.

South Plaza This is the best island for observing Land Iguanas, along with Cactus Finches, Tropicbirds and Sea Lions. One of your first stops will be through a small "forest" of Prickly Pear (*Opuntia*) Cactus. The walk along the sea cliffs is a wonderful experience, with Galapagos Shearwaters and Red-billed Tropicbirds gliding by. Towards the end of the walk is a bachelor sea lion colony, with a battle-scarred collection of old bulls in various states of recuperation or total retirement!



Activities: Hike (0.8 mi / 1.2 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Galapagos Shearwaters, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs



Day 7

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 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.



Bartolome

Home to one of the most iconic scenery shots of Galapagos, this small island located off the eastern shore of James Island is home to beautiful panoramic views. The striking volcanic landscape looks almost lunar and provides a great introduction to the volcanic origins of the islands, with spatter cones and cinder cones. You will also see Pinnacle Rock, a striking example of a tuff cone, and good examples of pioneer plants, including some beautiful strands of lava cactus. At sea level, this is a great place for swimming and snorkelling, if you are lucky with Galapagos Penguins.

Activities: Panga ride, snorkelling & hike (0.5 mi / 0.8 km)

Difficulty: Moderate/ difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 114 meters, 375 wooden steps

Type of Landing: Dry and wet landing

Highlights & Animals: Pinnacle rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus. Snorkelling: penguins, reef sharks, rays great colourful fish.



Day 8

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)

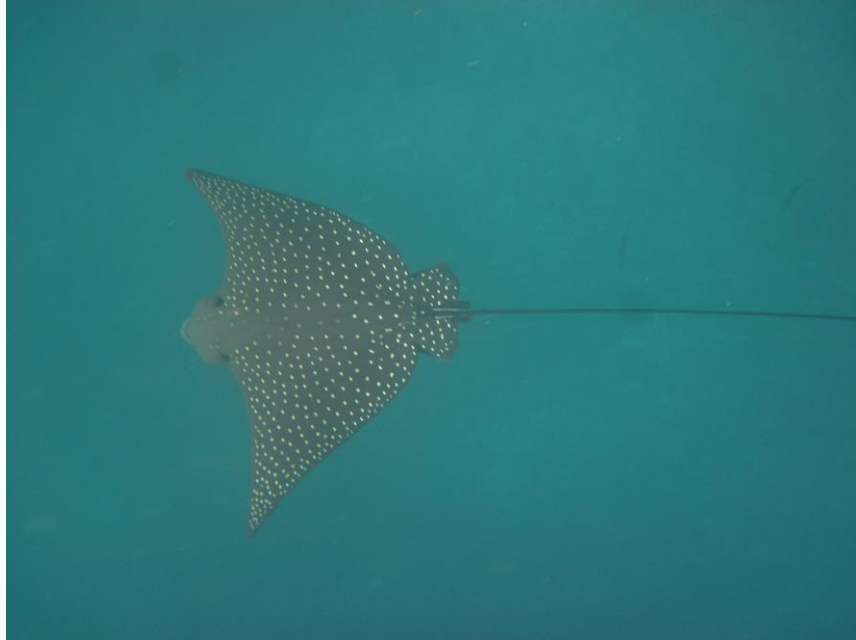
A beautiful mangrove lagoon on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. The yacht anchors just outside the cove and you will enter on a dinghy, paddling through the calm waters of the lagoon, which is a resting site for Green Sea Turtles. A wonderfully quiet journey, through a beautiful and unique habitat. 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 for your flight back to the mainland, or continue your adventure in Galapagos with an extension staying on 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.*



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