



## Passion 4 Day East



A five-star luxury yacht, with a panoramic sky lounge and ample deck space, which gives plenty of room to relax and enjoy the views. Launched in 2015, this yacht still retains some original features like its teak wood decks and rose-coloured marble bathrooms and is designed with environmentally friendly cruising in mind. Run by Andando Tours, a local company with a great reputation for quality of service, friendly helpful crews, great food and first-class naturalist guides. The yacht, which is very spacious (with 6 state cabins for 12 guests) also has kayaks on board which can be used in certain sites whilst other guests are snorkelling. This itinerary includes Española, one of the most beautiful islands, as well as a mix of other islands in the Central part of Galapagos.





## Day 1 Santa Cruz – Highlands

The highlands of Santa Cruz are home to two distinct species of Giant Tortoises which are seen roaming around the lush vegetation zone found only on the larger islands. Also in the highlands are the impressive underground lava tunnels formed when the outside skin of a molten lava flow solidified. When the lava flow ceased, the molten lava inside the flow kept going, emptying out of the solidified skin and thus leaving tunnels. Walking through them is a reminder of the volcanic origin of the islands and quite a unique, surreal experience!

**Activities:** Hike (0.9 mi / 1 ½ km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate (depends how far the guide takes you into the tunnel)

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Santa Cruz Giant Tortoises, 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, Mockingbirds, Darwin Finches.

## Day 2 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 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-scared collection of old bulls in various states of recuperation or total retirement!

**Activities:** Hike (0.8 mi / 1.2 km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

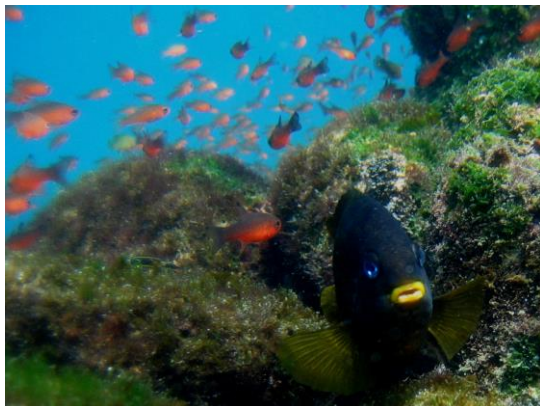
**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Land Iguanas, Sea Lion colony, Galapagos Shearwaters, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs



## Santa Fe

This is the oldest of the Galapagos islands. Its paradisiacal bay offers great possibilities to swim and snorkel in crystal clear waters. A hike inland offers a great chance to see a species of Land Iguanas (*Conolophus pallidus*) which is endemic to Santa Fe Island. In the same area, you'll also see a forest of giant prickly pear cactus. After your visit, you can swim and snorkel.



**Activities:** Hiking, Snorkel

**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.



### 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, 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.



#### Day 4

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 – Los Gemelos** The highlands of Santa Cruz are home to fascinating geological features, like the twin sinkhole craters of Los Gemelos, and are also 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.

**Activities:** Walking

**Difficulty:** Easy (Type of landing: Dry Landing)

**Highlights:** Pit craters, Scalesia forest, finches, flycatchers

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.**



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