

**GALAPAGOS CORAL I
NOVEMBER 2016 CHARTER SPECIAL:**

November 9 – SAN CRISTOBAL AIRPORT

Departure from Quito to San Cristobal (2 ½ hours flight). In Galapagos passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken on a ten minute bus drive to the pier to board the ^{M/Y} Coral I.

PM - Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve (San Cristobal Island)

Dry landing in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Passengers visit the San Cristobal Tortoise Breeding and Rearing Center for young tortoises called “Jacinto Gordillo” located in the vicinity of Cerro Colorado, from which it derives its name. This is one of the few places where you can see Calandrinia galapagosa, a plant endemic to San Cristobal. Passengers can learn about the National Park’s conservation programs and also about an assisted reproduction program that started after the birth of a little turtle in captivity. If time permits, passengers will have the opportunity to visit the port village, have a drink or shop for arts and crafts and other souvenirs.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Duration: 40 minutes bus drive to the Reserve / 1 hour visit

Meal Plan: B/L/D

November 10- THURSDAY – CERRO BRUJO (San Cristobal Island)

Wet landing. Cerro Brujo is an eroding tuff cone that at several locations is composed of *aa* lava formations, and a beautiful white sand beach, great for snorkeling and sunbathing. We visit a lagoon where migratory bird species can be seen: Black-necked Stilts, Ruddy Turnstones, Whimbrels, other sandpiper species and White-cheeked Pintails. Cerro Brujo offers beautiful views of Kicker Rock, the southern part of San Cristobal and the adjacent coast.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: sandy

Duration: 1 hour walk / 1 hour snorkeling

PM - Pitt Point & Pitt Islet (San Cristobal Island)

Wet landing followed by a high intensity hike on rocky terrain. The trail includes an olivine beach of 90 meters long and a path that climbs to the top of a volcanic tuff, through several magnificent viewpoints. This is probably the only site where the three booby species of the Galapagos can be seen together: Nazca, Blue-footed, and Red-footed; as well as the two species of Frigate birds and a Sea Lion colony; it is also excellent for dinghy rides and snorkeling, where a good range of sea birds can be observed.

Difficulty level: demanding

Type of terrain: rocky and steep

Duration: 2h30 walk

Meal Plan: B/L/D

November 11- FRIDAY – MOSQUERA ISLET

Wet Landing, Mosquera Islet is located between North Seymour and Baltra Islands, this flat, sandy island has a large colony of Sea Lions. It is also an excellent site for observing shorebirds such as Herons and Lava Gulls. There is no trail on Mosquera Island, so any visitor can enjoy the open area. Most of the islet is covered with sand and barren lava rock. Very little *Sesuvium portulacastrum* grows on the sand.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: sandy

Duration: 1h30 walk & snorkeling

PM - Bartolome Island

Dry landing. We discover a fascinating moonscape formed by different volcanic parasitic cones - lava bombs, spatter, cinder cones - as we hike to the summit for impressive views of the surrounding islands. Bartolome offers the best views of the Galapagos, including fascinating geological formations such as Pinnacle Rock, the most photographed site of the islands. We also encounter Marine Iguanas and Lava Lizards.

Beach time is a great opportunity to snorkel and see (perhaps swim with) Galapagos Penguin, Sea Turtles and White-tipped Reef Shark, among a great variety of colorful fish. For many visitors, this may turn out to be one of the best of snorkeling experiences; the water here is generally clear, without too much surf and full of marine life.

Due to its geographical location, the lack of vegetation is immediately noticeable. Pioneer plants are observed, so called because they are the first to establish roots on new ground. They include *Tiquilia nesiotica* (which is endemic to the island) and *Chamaesyce* (known as sand mat or spurge in English), lava cactus, and *Scalesia* bushes. Behind the beach we have dunes covered by mangroves.

Difficulty level: intermediate.

Type of terrain: trail made of steps (370 steps)

Duration: 1h30 walk / 1 hour snorkeling/swimming

November 12-: SATURDAY RABIDA ISLAND

Wet landing. Dark-red sand covers these unique beaches with incredible landscape; Rabida is considered the epicenter of the Galapagos Islands due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. Nesting Brown Pelicans are found from July through September and nine species of the famous Darwin Finches can be seen. We will also take a dinghy ride along cliffs to observe nesting seabirds, and snorkel off the coast, where marine life is particularly active.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: sandy

Duration: 1h30 walk / 1 hour snorkeling / ½ hour dinghy ride

PM - Chinese Hat Islet

Located off the Southeastern tip of Santiago Island, separated by a small channel of turquoise waters, this islet is shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from distance. A nice scenic hike is taken starting from a white sandy beach around the cove where a colony of Sea Lions can be seen along with American Oystercatchers, Marine Iguanas, Lava Lizards and Sally Lightfoot crabs, then follow the trail through delicate well preserved remnants of volcanic rock that are not found elsewhere in this condition, this visit

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provides an excellent opportunity for the interpretation of geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows. The islet itself is beautiful and is definitely worth a trip, there are strict restrictions on number of visitors to this site so not many people get the chance to explore it. The snorkeling is fantastic, you have the opportunity to swim among colorful tropical fish, Sea Lions, Galapagos Penguins and White-tipped Reef Sharks. Mating Eagle Rays flopping in the water might also be seen.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Type of terrain: rocky

Duration: 1 hour walk / 1 hour snorkeling

November 13: SUNDAY- "EL CHATO" RESERVE SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / QUITO

Dry landing. We will reach the Santa Cruz highlands and visit a private farm and natural tortoise reserve "El Chato" / "Primicias", where Giant Tortoises are found in their natural habitat, as well as land birds such as Tree and Ground Finches, Vermillion Flycatchers, Paint-billed Crakes, Yellow Warblers and Cattle Egrets. The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the islands offer in regard of variety of ecosystems, life and geology, the road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense forests of the highlands that emerge from a light fog. Often, tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the agricultural zone. Land birds can also be observed along the excursion, this visit is actually of important interest for birdwatchers since they can observe here almost every land bird present in the islands.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: flat & muddy sometimes (depending on season)

Duration: 45 minutes drive / 1h30 walk

Baltra airport

Transfer to the airport for return flight to Quito.

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE TWIN ACCOMODATION: \$3000 USD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1495 USD

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 5 Days / 4 Nights Cruise on-board the M/Y Coral I
- 3 daily meals on board the M/Y Coral I
- Free drinking water, coffee or tea on board the yacht.
- Activities in Galapagos, escorted by an English speaking Naturalist Guide.
- Airplane tickets Quito-Galapagos-Quito
- Galapagos fuel surcharge. \$90 USD.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Galapagos National Park entrance fee
- INGALA Card.
- Personal expenses
- Tips

*Please contact request more information and payment and cancelation policies upon booking.

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