

# AXEL TOURS SAC

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## San Cristobal - Isabela Island - Santa Cruz Island 11 Days - 10 Nights

### Day 01: Quito - Guayaquil - San Cristobal

Upon arrival in San Cristobal transfer to the selected Hostel or Hotel After checking we will go to: **Galapagos National Park Interpretation Center and Cerro Tijeretas (Tijeretas Hill)**

It is a nice easy trail that offers you various viewpoints where you can admire the iconic Kicker Rock to the west and Shipwreck Bay to the south. It is also a nesting spot for two species of Frigate birds. At the base of Tijeretas Hill, there is a small cove, great place for swimming and snorkeling and where is usual to see sea lions, several species of fish and even sea turtles and reef sharks.

**Meals Included: Dinner Welcome**



### Day 02: Kicker Rock

We will sail from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on a 90-minute journey to Kicker Rock, also known as León Dormido. This ancient volcanic rock, which was shaped by the erosion throughout thousands of years, sticks out of the open ocean, northwest of San Cristobal. It is formed by two rocks, which are approximately 148 m (486 feet) in height. Its name comes from its resemblance to a sleeping lion. Between the rocks of Kicker Rock there is a beautiful channel with calm waters, perfect to swim, snorkel and observe fauna, such as blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, frigates, pelicans and sea lions. In the sea, you can observe hammerhead sharks, Galapagos Sharks, sea turtles, eagle rays and schools of tropical fish. We will get close to the rocks to observe the wildlife and afterward we will snorkel in the channel to observe the marine life.

We will have lunch on board for us to later go to one of these three visitor sites that make up this tour: Puerto Grande, Manglecito, or Cerro Brujo. The choice between these three sites depends on the Galapagos National Park visiting hours.

**Manglecito:** Manglecito has two different areas: the mangroves and the beach. The mangroves area is an ideal place to observe and identify a great variety of aquatic birds, and the beach area is perfect for recreation and relaxation. Kicker rock and Manglecito beach are available on Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

**Puerto Grande:** This bay is famous among the locals as an ideal place for recreational activities, an impressive dune system and coastal plant species, as well as marine birds. Kicker rock and Puerto Grande beach can be visited on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday.

**Cerro Brujo:** Located on the north shore of San Cristobal Island, this site is formed by an eroded tuff cone, and the main attraction is the beach, which has a coral-colored sand with diverse species of flora and fauna. Kicker Rock and Cerro Brujo can be visited on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Meals Included: Breakfast - Lunch**

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## Day 03: San Cristobal - Isabela Island ( Flamingos Lagoon & Kayaking )

a.m. After Breakfast transfer to San Cristobal Airport for your fly to Isabela Island, we recommend You seat next to The Pilot for nice pictures on air



Arrive in Isabela transfer to the selected hostel or hotel after checking we will walk around to Flamingos Lagoon an expansive coastal lagoon that serves as one of the primary breeding grounds for Flamingos



In the afternoon we take our ocean kayaks and paddle out to the pier of Isabela, a set of small islets within Isabela Bay. The islets are filled with wildlife and are home to the Galapagos penguin, the only penguin that lives in equatorial region. We will also see sharks, marine turtles, sea lions, Blue Footed Bobbies and much more wildlife as we explore its many small coves and beaches.

**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner Welcome**



## Day 04: Tunnels & Wall of the Tears

After breakfast we will go to the pier for a 45 minute tour boat ride to a place where Lava flow impacted with the oceans waves to form the stunning tubes and bridges of Los Tunnels. Los Tunnels is a marine paradise for the White tipped Reef Shark, Manta Rays, Parrot Fish, Yellowtail Surgeon Fish, Galápagos Green Sea Turtle and the Galápagos Sea Lion. This site is one of the most spectacular places for snorkeling in Isabela as the water is shallow, clear and calm. This marine sanctuary is characterized by its unique geologic formations. A series of lava flows have produced a number of arches and tunnels both under and above water, where you find a number of animal species that have taken up residence in these magnificent formations. As soon as you get to the intertidal starting point you will be released to snorkel through astoundingly beautiful site.

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Afternoon we will visit by bike **The Wall of Tears** ( Spanish: **El Muro de las Lágrimas** ) is a historical site 5 km west of Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. It was constructed between the years of 1945 and 1959 by prisoners in the Penal Colony on the island, which had been established by President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra in 1944, using infrastructure left by the US military after World War II. The wall is about 25 m ( **65 ft** ) tall and is said to have been the cause of thousands of deaths during its construction. Locals call it the wall of tears because it is said to emanate eerie cries and have a heavy energy surrounding it.

**Meals: Breakfast & Snack**



## **Day 05: Sierra Negra Volcano**

Early morning around 07.00 a.m. we will have a tours to Sierra Negra Volcano it's one of the five volcanoes on the island of Isabela, and boasts the second largest volcanic caldera in the world ( **Yellowstone National Park in the United States is the largest in case You were wondering** ). On the sierra Negra Volcano You hike to the rim of the six miles wide crater and then trek across an alien landscape of lava fields and fumaroles. The Sierra Negra is one of the most active volcanoes in the Galapagos, with the last eruption in 2005 Though You probably won't see any lava flowing, You will have the opportunity to explore thermal vents and other fascinating geologic features before stopping for a snack near volcano Chico. The vistas from this spot are among the most breathtaking in Isabela and on clear afternoons afford views of the northern volcanoes on Isabela and Fernandina. A savory hot lunch at Campo Duro rounds out this challenging but rewarding day

**Meals: Breakfast, Snack**



## **Day 06: Free day or Fishing tour optional**

Isabela Island free day or Fishing tour optional approximately 6:00 am You will be on your way to the eastern side of the Galapagos which is known as one of the best fishing areas in the archipelago, you can expect to catch Striped, Blue, and Black marlin, depending on the season, however since the water temperature in the Galapagos is pretty much constant all year around you can find bill - fish pretty much every month of the year. You will spend the night in one of the nicest hotels in town.

**Meals: Breakfast**

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## Day 07: Isabela Island - Santa Cruz Island by speed Boat

a.m. Transfer to The Pier to catch the speed Boat to Santa Cruz Island, Santa Cruz Island is one of the Galápagos Islands with an area of 986 km<sup>2</sup> (381 sq mi) and a maximum altitude of 864 metres (2,835 ft) Situated in the center of the archipelago, Santa Cruz is the second largest island after Isabela. Its capital is Puerto Ayora, the most populated urban centre in the islands. On Santa Cruz, there are some small villages, whose inhabitants work in agriculture and cattle raising.

The island is an oval-shaped, 32 km (20 mi) long and 40 km (25 mi) wide shield volcano. Its summit contains a shallow caldera that has been largely buried by youthful pit craters and cinder cones with well-preserved craters.



## Grietas & Tortuga Bay

After breakfast we will Hike through a forest of enormous cacti and over rugged lava rock formations to one of the most unique swimming holes in the Galapagos Islands. Las Grietas, which translates literally to mean " **The Cracks**," is a series of volcanic crevices that were formed during the cooling of molten lava. The porous lava stone of the island allows water to filter down from the highlands into Las Grietas where it mixes with sea water filtering in from the ocean. The resulting azure waters are crystalline and refreshing Las Grietas is a popular swimming destination for locals and visitors alike. Float blissfully in the cool water -- or get your adrenaline pumping by jumping from the new wooden platform. A Naturalist Guide is not required to visit as the trail has been improved, but it is not recommended to travel alone as the jagged lava rocks en route can be tricky.



After Lunch we will walk to Tortuga Bay It's located on the Santa Cruz Island, about a 20 minutes' walk from the main water taxi dock in Puerto Ayora, The walking path is 1.55 miles ( **2,490 m** ) and is open from 06.00 to 18.00 p.m evening, we must sign in and out at the start of the path with The Galapagos Park Service Office, Tortuga Bay has a gigantic, perfectly preserved beach, that is forbidden to swimmers and is preserved for the wildlife where many Marine Iguanas, Galapagos Crabs and Birds are seen dotted along the Volcanic Rocks. There is a separate cove where You can swim and where it's common to view White Tip Reef Sharks swimming in groups & on occasion Tiger Shark The Genus, Galeocerdo, is divided from the Greek galeos, which mean Shark and The Latin Cerdus, The Word for the hard hairs of Pigs. It is often colloquially called the Man – Eater Shark. The Galapagos Shark a top other species of Shark that are found in The Galapagos Islands, There are always a large variety of small fish and Birds

**Meals: Breakfast - Dinner Welcome**

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## Day 08: Rancho Primicias & Twin Craters

El Chato Galapagos is a protected place where Galapagos giant tortoises roam. The 12 hectare area is perfect tortoise habitat – lush green pasture and Scalesia forest combined with muddy pools where tortoises love to escape the hot midday sun. The El Chato Galapagos tortoises are perfectly happy in human company, providing wonderful photo opportunities for visitors.

El Chato is also an interesting place for Galapagos bird watching. Darwin Tree and Ground finches flit between the trees. Vermilion flycatchers and yellow warblers add a splash of color to the scene. Short-eared owls can sometimes be spotted by keen eyed tourists. White-cheeked pintails, Cattle egrets and Galapagos rails also call Santa Cruz highlands home.



Then we go on to Lava Tunnels “ **There are eight lava tubes on Isla Santa Cruz** “ The largest lava tubes in the Galapagos are on Santa Cruz Island, it’s estimated that the last eruptions occurred around a million and a half years ago. There is a gigantic lava tunnel that is over 2000 meters long on the Island that many tourist visit and walk through



Los Gemelos ( **Twin Craters** ) are located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. They are not actual craters caused by impact, but are sink holes that were created when the volcanic roof of empty magma chambers collapsed from tectonic shifts and erosion over time. This area has very different climate from other parts of the island and are surrounded by scalesia ( **scalesia pedunculata** ) forests, which our tour guide kept calling “broccoli trees.” It is the habitat for bromeliads, orchids, mosses, lichens and many birds. Here, you are able to find the famous vermilion flycatcher, 8 species of Charles Darwin finches, and every so often short - eared owls.

**Meals: Breakfast**



## Day 09: North Seymour

The North Seymour topography consists of gradual steps off the island shoreline declining 8 meters to a beautiful rock reef, before reaching the sandy bottom at 16- 18 meters. Diving at Seymour provides the opportunity to swim with many white and black tip reef sharks, as well as being a favourite resting place for large numbers of green sea turtles. Though Seymour does not have the notoriety for hammer head sharks, it is still possible to see small schools at both

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Seymour sites, swimming through the channel and around the point through the current. Large schools of barracuda, snapper and other reef fish are also in abundance, and the rock reef is an excellent place to search for the well camouflaged octopi. A personal favourite however, are the schools of spotted eagle rays that glide through the channel along the sand, occasionally joined by devil and manta rays. Location: North of Santa Cruz Island, 2 dive sites located 30 minutes from Itabaca Channel (**North side of Santa Cruz Island**). Site Conditions: For all levels of divers, although sometimes there can be strong currents. Platform reefs with a diversity of species.

**Activity:** Cleaning station, sea lions, and many kinds of sharks including Galapagos, white tip reef and hammerhead, mobula rays (small mantas), turtles, reef fishes, sting rays, eagle rays, Galapagos eel, barracudas, variety of invertebrates.

Dive difficulty: Seymour is a good place for beginners and experienced divers alike. Though the currents can be moderate to strong on occasion, it is on the whole suitable for people with limited experience. Drift dive.

**Meals:** Breakfast - Box Lunch



## Day 10: Santa Fe Island

Our Santa Fe Island Tour is the ultimate destination to see Galapagos Sea Lions and a prime opportunity to swim with these amazing animals. Young sea lions are very friendly and they love to imitate swimmers. Often they play and do tricks under the water and they offer a very unique wildlife experience. After snorkeling, lunch will be your own catch on board the Tesoro. You can enjoy your catch grilled or raw. Departing, we will pass along the cliffs of Santa Fe, looking for Blue Footed Boobies and Frigate Birds. It will take approximately 25 minutes to get to Playa Escondida; where mangroves, and beautiful white sand beach and the famous Galapagos Marine Iguanas will welcome you. This will be the time to relax on the beach before your return in the late afternoon.

**Meals:** Breakfast - Snack



## Day 11: Santa Cruz - Baltra - Guayaquil - Quito

On time required transfer to Baltra Airport for your fly to Guayaquil - Quito

**Meals:** Breakfast



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## Tours Include:

- All land transfer
- 10 nights hostel or hotel accommodation
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily tours per itinerary
- English guide spoken
- Snack – Box Lunch & Dinner mentioned in local restaurant
- Airfare Quito - Galápagos - Quito
- Speed Local Boat ( **Inter Yacht** ) Isabela Island to Santa Cruz
- Airplane San Cristobal Island - Isabela Island
- Kayaking Equipment
- Snorkel Gear
- Mask & Fins
- Personal assistance
- Axel Tippe Tour leader

## Tours no Include:

- Galapagos entrance **100\$USA**
- Transit Card **20\$USA**
- Isabela Entrance **10\$USA**
- Bevarage
- Phone calls
- Tips
- International Airfare

**Price per person in Hostel 3\*:( Backpacker Class )**

**DWB: 3160\$USA**

**TWB: 2980\$USA**

Hostel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
La Casa de Laura	San Cristóbal	2023	2023	02
Darwin Cerro Azul	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04
Darwin	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	04

**Price per person in Hotel 3\*:( Tourist Class )**

**DWB: 3520\$USA**

**TWB: 3340\$USA**

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Eco Friendly	San Cristóbal	2023	2023	02
San Vicente	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04
Lobo de Mar	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	04

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Price per person in Hotel 4\*:( First Class )

**DWB: 4250\$USA**

**TWB: 4050\$USA**

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Galápagos Sunset	San Cristóbal	2023	2023	02
La Casa de Marita	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04
Sol y Mar	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	04

Price per person in Hotel 5\*:( First Class )

**DWB: 5650\$USA**

**TWB: 5450\$USA**

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Golden Bay Gps	San Cristóbal	2023	2023	02
Iguana Crossing	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04
Finch Bay	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	04

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