

# AXEL TOURS SAC

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## Galapagos Islands

Santa Cruz - Seymour - Santa Fe - Isabela Island

08 Days - 07 Nights

### Day 01: Quito - Guayaquil - Baltra Rancho Primicias & Twin Craters

Upon arrival in Baltra Airport transfer to Santa Cruz, a guide will be waiting for You to take to the hotel, where You can leave your luggage. We will seize the morning to visit the Rancho Primicias in the island's highlands where we will be able to see Giant Turtles in their habitat



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 - Dinner Welcome**

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## Day 02: 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.



After 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



## Day 03: Seymour Island

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We will leave from Puerto Ayora to the Itabaca channel by bus or a van. Once in the channel, we will board the boat for a short boat ride to North Seymour Island. This island is located at the center of the archipelago and has a relatively flat surface because of its formation by an uprising seabed, in comparison to other archipelago islands, which were formed by volcanic eruptions.

Once on the island, we will disembark to walk along the approximately two-kilometer-long trail, which goes through some of the largest frigate colonies in the archipelago. Besides the frigates, blue-footed boobies, seagulls, land iguanas, marine iguanas, and a colony of sea lions inhabit this island too. This is also one of the best places on the islands to see the frigates inflating their distinctive red featherless pouches to attract females. On this island, we will also find the endemic plant *lignum vitae*, a bushy tree that can remain without leaves during the entire summer but that it turns green with the first rains of the year.

After visiting Seymour, we will head to the beach known as Bachas, located in the north of Santa Cruz Island. On this visit site, we will have time to snorkel and enjoy the sea and beach. The name "Bachas" comes from the local pronunciation "barges" because the American army deserted two boats (barges) after the Second World War. Besides snorkeling, this beach is an excellent place to observe wildlife, including Flamingos, zayapas (Galapagos crabs) and many marine birds.

Activities: Walking, swimming, snorkeling (superficial diving) and wildlife observation.

Wildlife: Blue sharks, lava heron, zayapas (Galapagos crab), Galapagos Gaviolan, sea lions, marine iguanas, sea turtles, rays, tropical fish, among others.

**Meals:** Breakfast - Snack



## Day 04: 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

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welcome you. This will be the time to relax on the beach before your return in the late afternoon.

**Meals: Breakfast – Snack**



## Day 05: Santa Cruz Island to Isabela Island ( Flamingos Lagoon & Sea Kayaking with Pinguins )

a.m. Transfer to The Pier to catch the speed Boat to Isabela Island, It's the largest Island of The Galapagos with an area of 4,640 square kilometers ( **1,790 sq mi** ), and length of 100 kilometers ( **62 mi** ) almost four times larger than Santa Cruz, the second largest of the archipelago. It was named after Queen Isabela of Spain. It was originally named *Albemarle* after the Duke of Albemarle. The island strides the Equator. Isabela is also interesting for its flora and fauna. The young island does not follow the vegetation zones of the other islands. The relatively new lava fields and surrounding soils have not developed the sufficient nutrients required to support the varied life zones found on other islands. Another obvious difference occurs on Volcan Wolf and Cerro Azul; these volcanoes loft above the cloud cover and are arid on top. Isabela's rich animal, Bird and Marine life is beyond compare. Isabela is home to more wild Tortoise than all the other islands. Isabela's large size and notable topography created barriers for the slow - moving tortoises; apparently the creatures were unable to cross lava flows and other obstacles, causing several different sub - species of Tortoise to develop. Today, Tortoises roam free in the calderas of Alcedo, Wolf, Cerro Azul, Darwin and Sierra Negra



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

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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 Bobies and much more wildlife as we explore its many small coves and beaches.

**Meals:** Breakfast - Dinner Welcome



## Day 06: Tunnels & Wall of Tears

After breakfast we will go to the pier for a 45 minute fibra ( a small 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 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.



**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



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## Day 07: 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 08: Isabela Island - Baltra Airport - Guayaquil - Home

a.m. After Breakfast transfer to Isabela Airport for your fly to Baltra and go on to Guayaquil - Home, we recommend You seat next to The Pilot for nice pictures on air

**Meals: Breakfast**



## Included:

- 07 Nights accommodation
- All breakfasts and meals as described in the programme
- All transfers and land transportation
- Airfare Guayaquil - Baltra ( **Galápagos Island** ) - Guayaquil
- Speed Local Boat ( **Inter Yacht** ) Santa Cruz to Isabela Island
- Airplane Isabela Island to Baltra Airport
- Kayaking Equipment
- Snorkel Gear
- All applicable taxes

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- All bilingual guided tours ( English - Spanish ) as described in the itinerary

## Not Included:

- International flights
- Alcoholic drinks, soda or bottled mineral water
- Personal expenses
- Tips
- International or National personal telephone calls
- Meals not mentioned
- Galápagos national Park **100USA**
- Transit Card **20\$USA**
- Isabela Park **10\$USA**

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

DWB: **2380\$USA**

TWB: **2300\$USA**

Hostel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Darwin or Similar	Isla Santa Cruz	2023	2023	04
Paraiso d'Isabela	Isla Isabela	2023	2023	03

Price per person in Hotel 3\*:( Tourist Class ) **2590\$USA**

DWB: **2590\$USA**

TWB: **2510\$USA**

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Lobo de Mar	Isla Santa Cruz	2023	2023	04
San Vicente	Isla Isabela	2023	2023	03

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

DWB: 3100\$USA

TWB: 3000USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Angermeyer	Isla Santa Cruz	2023	2023	04
Casa de Marita	Isla Isabela	2023	2023	03

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

DWB: 3950\$USA

TWB: 3840\$USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Finch Bay	Isla Santa Cruz	2023	2023	04
Iguana Crossing	Isla Isabela	2023	2023	03

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