

Itinerary

"A week full of quality diving"

Day	Time	Location	No. of Dives per Day
1. Saturday	PM	Arrival / Check In Lobos Island (Check out dive)	1
2. Sunday	AM / PM	Cape Marshall	3
3. Monday	AM	Wolf Island *	3
	PM	Darwin Island **	
4. Tuesday	AM / PM	Darwin Island **	3
5. Wednesday	AM / PM	Wolf Island *	3
6. Thursday	AM	Roca Redonda	3
	PM	Punta Vicente Roca	
7. Friday	AM	Cousin's Rock	3
	PM	Fausto Llerena Breeding Center	
8. Saturday	AM	Interpretation Center Departure / Check Out	-

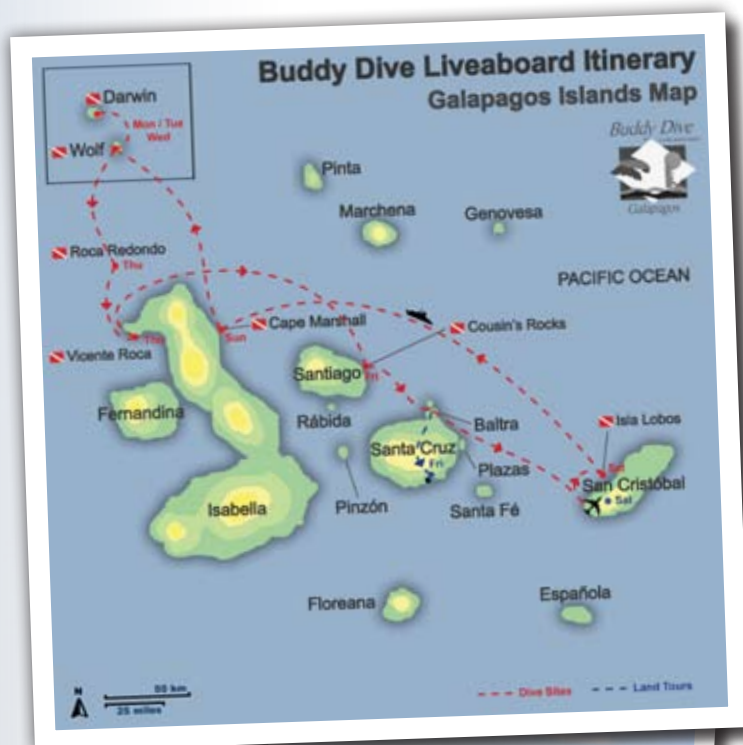
* Possible Dive Sites: El Der-rumbe, Islote La Ventana, La Banana, Punta Shark Bay
** Possible Dive Sites: Darwin's Arch, El Arenal

Isla Lobos

Isla Lobos is named after the sea lions ("lobos marinos" in Spanish), which populate this small flat island, 10 kilometers north of San Cristobal. The name certainly suits the island, for the sea lions are abundant and of all ages. In Lobos Island we'll perform the equipment check dive; here among your dive buddies you'll find the aforementioned sea lions but also marine iguanas, turtles and sting rays. As exciting as this first dive is, it is just a small preview of what you may encounter in your next dives, because, in Sinatra's immortal words, "the best is yet to come".

Cape Marshall

Located at the northeastern shore of Isabela, below the 1707 meter Wolf volcano, Cape Marshall offers drift diving on incredible reefs or near-vertical volcanic walls adorned with black corals. Galapagos rock bass (Camotillo), the gold rimmed surgeonfish, sun fish, sea lions, the harlequin wrasse, large schools of Barracudas and giant mantas gliding by. Occasionally you'll even see orcas here. Also here you'll see schools of Salema fishes so large that words fail to describe them. Here you can use the words "literally" and "millions" in the same sentence without lying; you can enter schools of literally millions of small black-striped salemas, of more than 100 meters wide and so thick that it blocks the sunlight above you. It is like entering cave, a cave with black-striped living walls. The water temperature varies between the 13 and 25 degrees and the depth





of the dives goes from 10 to 120 feet. After Cape Marshall, when heading north toward Wolf, you'll cross the Equator, going effectively from one side of the planet to the other one, geographically speaking.

Wolf Island

Wolf Island, along with its sister Darwin Island, is considered the best diving destination of the world. This small island located more than 100 kilometers to the northwest of the main Galapagos island chain. It takes around 14 hours to get there, but it is more than worth it. Here you'll have it all: schools of hundreds of hammerhead sharks, sea lions, manta rays, turtles, iguanas, Amberjacks, Trumpet Fish, Hogfish, Butterfly Fish, eel, dolphins, eagle rays and, with some luck, whale sharks. Also here you'll find the largest Galapagos sharks, which are as rare to spot as whale sharks. Wolf have the largest Galapagos sharks of the world, they are huge, impressive, and not shy at all, so prepare to be amazed. Wolf Island is also prolific in corals and reef life, with more than 8 species of corals, and the greatest diversity of tropical fish of the island. Some of Wolf Island incredible dive sites are Shark Bay, The Landslide, La Banana and Islote La Ventana. But Wolf is also a great experience above water, for it is the home of literally hundreds of thousands of seabirds such as Red-footed boobies, nazca boobies (also known as masked boobies), frigates, pelicans and swallow-tailed gulls.

Darwin Island

Considered to be the best place to dive in the world, Darwin Island (formerly known as Culpepper Island) marks the end of the archipelago to the North West. The island is barely over 1 km² in size and 168 meters at its highest point. Darwin Island is a diver's dream come true. Also in the amazing dive site you may encounter blue-spotted jacks, scorpion fish, rainbow runners, hogfish, big eye

jacks, sailfish, trumpet fish, parrotfish and many other different species of marine life. Here you'll have the unique opportunity of swimming with dolphins, spotted morays, manta rays, hammerhead sharks, silky sharks, pilot whales, melon-headed whales and endless schools of Creole fish. Among the sea giants; Galapagos Sharks, Whale Sharks and even orcas are spotted in this site occasionally. The Theater is a terrace at approximately 18 meters of depth. The name suits the place perfectly; here divers can hold on to the rocks and behold the most impressive nature show in the planet: all the creatures mentioned above passing by few meters away. There is no dry access to the island for it emerges vertically, but from the Yacht you'll be able to spot the endemic Darwin Mockingbird, fur seals, red footed boobies and masked boobies. Another famous attraction of this island is the Darwin's Arch, an impressive arch-like stone formation emerging in the middle of the ocean.

Roca Redonda

Roca Redonda, located 25 miles northwest of Isabela, is the summit of an underwater volcano rising almost 3000 meters from the sea floor. This island has a surface of approximately 3 acres and has a very distinctive plateau-like shape. Several lava flows can be observed on the island and in the shallow water and there are various caves, inhabited by several unique kinds of seabirds, such as the night-feeding gull. This remote and small island is a good place to find schools of scalloped hammerheads, yellow tailed surgeonfishes, barracudas, jacks, Galapagos grunts, king angelfishes, mantas, and even the huge sunfish, the giant tail-less fish. A special attraction is on the Southeast Side of the island. There are several underwater fumaroles (steam vents) in the shallows (12 to 18m) and you can see gas bubbles rising to the surface, which suggests that perhaps the volcano is not quite extinct.



Punta Vicente Roca

Isabela is the biggest island of the archipelago, and it is shaped roughly as a seahorse. On its northwestern, in what would be the “mouth” of the seahorse, is Vicente Roca’s Point (locally known as Oreja de Burro or Donkey’s ear). This is one of the most especial places in Galapagos. Here the remains of Volcano Ecuador form two coves with a bay protected from the ocean swells. Part of the volcano slid into the ocean, leaving a spectacular cutaway view of the volcanic caldera. Punta Vicente Roca is in the center of one of the world’s most active volcanic areas; here, at the sight of 5 active volcanoes in one place, you’ll feel as if you were in a land before time. The upwelling of Cromwell current, one very rich in nutrients, give rise to an abundance of marine life which, in combination with the protection of the coves, make Punta Vicente Roca one of Galapagos’ top diving destinations. Here, as well as in Roca Redonda, water is usually cold (54-56F, 12 to 14C), so suit accordingly. Seahorses, sea lions, turtles, puffer fish, Marlin, Galapagos’ penguins and, with some luck, even the Galapagos’ bullhead shark. Among the smaller fishes Punta Vicente Roca offers you frogfishes, electric rays, seahorses and the red lipped batfish. Mola or Sunfish, the largest vertebrate fish of the ocean, is also usually spotted in this site. Do not chase, it will drive them (and potentially you) away. Instead if you find a rocky ledge (please never grab corals) hang on to it and the Mola Mola will come to you. Also here you can sometimes spot penguins along the Isabela shore. These are the only native penguins on the planet living north of the equator.

Cousin’s Rock

Cousin’s Rock is located off the east coast of Santiago (north of Bartolome) and it rises barely 10 meters out of the water. The combination of coral covered rocks sheltering a variety of smaller creatures, a huge variety of tropical fishes and the presence of large animals make Cousin’s Rock one of the favorite sites in Galapagos. Black corals, small hard corals, sea fans, hydroid bushes and red sponges grow in every direction, and because of the many ledges on the wall small fauna populates this site. Among your small companions you’ll find hawkfish, nudibranchs, Galapagos seahorses, Octopuses, and even frogfishes. Among the larger exemplars you’ll see mobula rays, mantas and sharks (white tipped reef and hammerheads), sea lions and large groups of spotted eagle rays.

Breeding Center “Fausto Llerena”

The breeding center “Fausto Llerena” is responsible for the reinsertion of over 2000 galapagos in the archipelago, and is currently raising 400 more. A wooden walking platform guides you through its several stations; from it you can observe the turtles from La Española and even Lonesome George, the only surviving specimen of Pinta Tortoise. At the end of the tour you’ll be in the exhibition pen, the turtles there are used to people, which makes it a great photo opportunity.

Please remember:

- NEVER touch or feed the turtles.
- Do not stand on the feeding platforms.
- Opening pens’ gates or jumping over corrals’ fences is STRICTLY forbidden.

Interpretation Center

The Interpretation Center of San Cristobal allows the visitor to better understand the history of Galapagos from natural, conservational and humane perspective. The “Natural History” wing explains the volcanic origins of the islands, the marine currents surrounding the archipelago, its weather and the settling of several species, among other things. The “Human History” wing narrates the most significant historic events of the discovery and colonization of Galapagos. There’s also an area dedicated to Galapagos present challenges and the people coping with them. The Interpretation Center also offers an outdoor theater, a ship scale models exhibition, a 3D map of the archipelago and a projection room where documentaries about Galapagos are regularly shown. Also it is surrounded by beautiful landscapes and walking trails. Don’t forget to take your passport with you to have the Official Seal of Galapagos National Park stamped on it.

Permitted Uses

- Educational visits
- Photography and Filming

