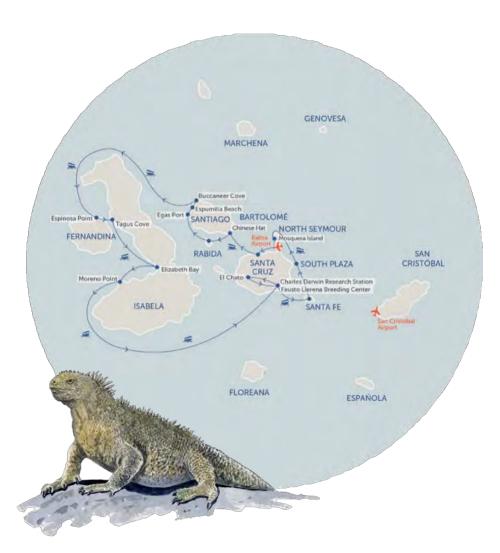
BEST OF THE GALAPAGOS

West itinerary



01

Arrival BALTRA | SANTA CRUZ

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed and transferred to the Galapagos Explorer.

AFTERNOON: Begin your journey exploring Black Turtle Cover located along the northern shores of Santa Cruz Island. Accessible only by panga, Black Turtle Cove is a mangrove estuary. Pristine and naturally secluded, the cove is a haven for rare wildlife and plant species and has been declared a turtle sanctuary.

DAY 02

Chinese hat SOMBRERO CHINO | RABIDA

MORNING: Today you will explore Sombrero Chino Island, otherwise known as "Chinese hat". The island features a gently sloping volcanic cone that emerges from the ocean, resembling the distinctive shape of an old-fashioned Chinaman's hat. In the west you can see lava formations topped with coral heads, which are an indicator that the flows were once formed under the sea. Look out for bright red Sally lightfoot crab, marine iguana and Galapagos sea lion. The lava cactus growing in between the lava cracks is also an incredible sight.

AFTERNOON: Rabida Island is one of the most colourful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago. Its famous red sandy beach and stunning viewpoints provide unmatched photographic opportunities.

03

Iconic fauna and flora

MORNING: Today you will explore Santiago Island's Espumilla Beach. Here you will visit the palo santo forest and the island's beautiful shores which are home to multiple marine turtle nesting sites.

AFTERNOON: Next, discover Buccaneer Cove. Named after the first navigators that used the island as an anchorage place to beach their boats while searching for food and fresh water, today, the cove is home to a variety of marine birds, sea lion and fur seal. Accessible only by panga, look out for pelican, heron, swallow-tailed gulls and boobies.



Pristine ecosystems

FERNANDINA

MORNING: Explore Espinosa Point on Fernandina Island, the perfect spot to see marine iguana, the Galapagos hawk and multiple flightless cormorant nesting sites. No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina and the untouched landscape was created by lava fields of the volcano La Cumbre.

AFTERNOON: An afternoon panga excursion along Tagus Cove provides you with the opportunity to also see the Galapagos penguin and other iconic sea birds up close.

05

Myriad marine life

MORNING: Located on the west shore of Isabela Island at Perry Isthmus is Elizabeth Bay. Enjoy a panga excursion in search of penguin and blue-footed boobies.

AFTERNOON: Punta Moreno is ideal for snorkelling boasting an array of colourful fish, sea lion and even sharks. The coastal lagoons found in the middle of black lava flows are a fascinating sight.

Tortoises and twins

DAY

06

MORNING: Begin your day with a visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the important conservation work taking place in the Galapagos. Next, visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center which was established to protect and preserve the Galapagos' tortoise population. Strolling through the park not only showcases the various tortoises but also the land iguana that are bred and nurtured at the centre.

After lunch, explore the highlands of Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz is the only island in the Galapagos that boasts every habitat type that exists in the archipelago. The journey from the coast into the highlands presents a wonderful opportunity to experience the lush tapestry of plant life that exists on these islands. You will also spend some time at the Tortoise Reserve EI Chato where several subspecies of giant tortoises roam free.

07

DAY

Island hopping

MORNING: Today you will explore Santa Fe Island, a charming little bay with two walking trails leading to a scenic viewpoint upon a craggy cliff and the other to a fascinating prickly pear cactus forest.

AFTERNOON: Later, visit South Plaza Island, a landscape of steep cliffs and Opuntia cacti, and home to playful sea lion and bright yellow and red land iguana.

08

Departure

MOSQUERA | BALTRA

MORNING: The small island of Mosquera with its white sandy beaches, black lava rocks and turquoise waters is the last stop of your Galapagos adventure. Keep an eye out for the island's lively colony of Galapagos sea lion as well as the nesting grounds of the lava gull.

Thereafter, it is time to wave a fond farewell to the Galapagos as you head to Baltra Airport on Baltra Island for your flight onward.



Wildlife highlights in the west

The Galapagos is year-round wildlife destination, with highlights in the west including the lava gull and flightless cormorant.

	BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY	RED-FOOTED BOOBY	NAZCA BOOBY	FRIGATEBIRD	GALAPAGOS HAWK	LAVA GULL	GALAPAGOS PENGUIN	DARWIN' S FINCH	FLIGHTLESS CORMORANT	SANTA FE LAND IGUANA		MARINE IGUANA	 ▲GIANT TORTOISE 	SEA LION	SEA TURTLE	GALAPAGOS FLAMINGO
Baltra				\checkmark												
Santa Cruz		~						\checkmark			~	~	~	~		
Sombrero Chino					~							~	~	~		
Rabida	~		~		~							~			~	~
Santiago	~		~		~			\checkmark				~		~	~	~
Fernandina					~				~			~		~	~	~
Isabela	\checkmark			~	~		~	~	~		~	~	~	~	~	~
Santa Fe								\checkmark		~	~	~		~	~	
South Plaza											~			~		
Mosquera	~					~								~	~	

West itinerary 2024 departure dates

Our west-bound 7-night itinerary sets course every two weeks, departing from Baltra Island.

EMBARK	DISEMBARK
24 June	01 July
08 July	15 July
22 July	29 July
05 August	12 August
19 August	26 August
02 September	09 September
16 September	23 September
30 September	07 October
14 October	21 October
28 October	04 November
11 November	18 November
25 November	02 December
09 December	16 December
23 December	30 December



