



CAZHUMA TOURS
TRAVEL AGENCY & TOUR OPERATOR

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Name

YACHT LA PINTA Western Islands 7 Days / 6 Nights (Friday to Thursday)

Description

We're delighted to have you on board for this journey of discovery to some of the most beautiful islands in the Galápagos. This itinerary will take us to the true origins of the archipelago, to a world only recently created by the titanic tectonic upheavals of our Earth's crust, whose volcanic hot spot formed the islands in a blink of an eye in geological time. Fernandina Island is regarded as one of the most pristine island environments anywhere in the world, where life has evolved in its natural state, far from the intervention of man. From the west, we venture back to the Central Islands, landing at the intriguing red beach of Rábida and seeking out the land iguanas of Cerro Dragón. On Santa Cruz, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and get up close to giant tortoises in their natural environment. In the south, we learn about the Galápagos very own "murder mystery", spot flamingos and snorkel at one of the best sites in the archipelago: Champion Islet. Back in the Central Islands, we head back to Baltra Island for the flight back to the mainland. You will find all corners of the Galápagos stunning, and they will delight you in different ways. Rest assured the crew aboard La Pinta will do their utmost to ensure your Galápagos experience is truly deeply moving and memorable.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - SEYMOUR NORTE / SANTA CRUZ (-/L/D)

Day 2 - ISABELA / FERNANDINA (B/L/D)

Day 3 - ISABELA (B/L/D)

Day 4 - RABIDA / SANTA CRUZ (B/L/D)

Day 5 - SANTA CRUZ (B/L/D)



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Day 6 - FERNANDINA / ISABELA

(B/L/D)

Day 7 - BALTRA

(B/-/-)

ITINERARY DESCRIPTION

Day 1 - SEYMOUR NORTE / SANTA CRUZ

(-/L/D)

Friday: Baltra Island/North Seymour Island

Baltra Island

Our adventure begins with a morning flight to Baltra Island and immediate transfer to the dock to board Yacht La Pinta. There's an introductory welcome briefing, boat drill, cabin assignment followed by lunch.

North Seymour Island

Following an afternoon disembarkation, we enjoy a walk along the coast and the interior of this beautiful flat island, observing numerous bird colonies as well as sea lions and land iguanas. There are opportunities for coastal exploration by dinghy. Evening briefing, welcome cocktail and dinner.

Day 2 - ISABELA / FERNANDINA

(B/L/D)

Saturday: Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island)/Punta Espinoza (Fernandina Island)

(Fernandina Island)

Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island)

Since there is no landing site at this location, the coastal exploration is by panga, while the naturalist guide explains the dramatic geology of the area, with remains of lava flows and tuff stone layers. There is abundant wildlife and, depending on the conditions of the ocean, we'll be able to snorkel along the cliffs, hopefully in the company of green sea turtles.

Punta Espinoza (Fernandina Island)

In the afternoon, we visit the youngest and most pristine island of the archipelago, Fernandina, one of many visitors' all-time favourites. Punta Espinoza has an amazing combination of barrenness and abundant wildlife. Highlights include hawks, penguins, flightless cormorants and astounding views of the surrounding volcanic landscapes.

Day 3 - ISABELA

(B/L/D)

Sunday: Urbina Bay/Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)

Urbina Bay (Isabela Island)

After breakfast, we disembark at Urbina Bay, on the western side of Isabela Island, the result of an uplifting of the ocean floor. Here you can see corals, shells, and large and very colourful Galápagos land iguanas, as well as (occasionally) giant tortoises. Navigating the Bolívar Channel, there are good chances of spotting several species of whales.

Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)

On the northwest of Isabela, secluded Tagus Cove provided a favourite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries, and today makes a great visitor site. An uphill hike takes us to the back of Darwin Crater, filled with salt water. We can snorkel or ride kayaks amid the dramatic landscape before going on our hike.

Day 4 - RABIDA / SANTA CRUZ

(B/L/D)

Monday: Rábida Island /Cerro Dragón-Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)

Rábida Island

In the morning, we disembark at Rábida Island's red-coloured beach. A stroll along the beach allows us to observe marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach. For non-snorkelers, we can ride our glass-bottom boat for an exploration of life underneath the waves.

Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) (Santa Cruz Island)

The north shore of Santa Cruz hosts the fascinating landscapes of Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill). Our walk includes circling a brackish water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, while further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as the chance to observe land iguanas.

Day 5 - SANTA CRUZ

(B/L/D)

Tuesday: Puerto Ayora & Charles Darwin Research Station/Highlands of Santa Cruz Island

Puerto Ayora & Charles Darwin Research Station

The morning visit heads to the Charles Darwin Research Station and the giant tortoise pens within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest. These are the Galápagos' headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration. A delicious lunch is served at the poolside of the Finch Bay Eco Hotel.

Highlands of Santa Cruz Island

After lunch, we head up to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island by vehicle. This is a great place to look for the emblematic Darwin's Finches and the endemic Scalesia trees. The highlands are also great for exploring the exuberant vegetation where giant tortoises roam in the wild. This will surely be one of the most remembered visits of the whole voyage.

Day 6 - FERNANDINA / ISABELA

(B/L/D)

Wednesday: Post Office Bay/Punta Cormorant (Floreana Island)

Post Office Bay

After breakfast, we land at Post Office Bay to visit the historic barrel that has served as a post office in the archipelago for over two centuries. Panga rides along the maze of channels on Floreana's north shore can also be enjoyed. Views from La Lobería and the Baroness Viewpoint are quite rewarding. There's great kayaking and swimming from the beach as well.

Champion Islet & Punta Cormorant (Floreana Island)

Before disembarking at Punta Cormorant we can snorkel or ride our glass-bottom boat along the coast of an extinct cone called "Champion Islet". Later in the afternoon, our visit to Punta Cormorant takes in an olivine-crystal beach for an easy walk by a brackish water lagoon where bird species like greater flamingos may be observed. On the other side of the island, we come to a white-sand beach where sea turtles come out at night to nest.

Day 7 - BALTRA

(B/-/-)

Thursday: Baltra Island

Our journey ends at Baltra Island, where we transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the mainland. Baltra's flat substrate (due to its uplifted origin) is the reason why the island was chosen back in the 1940s as the location to building an airport.

Notes

- Please remember that the exact route and programme may vary according to weather and ocean conditions and the wildlife we encounter. It's also subject to change without previous notice due mainly to readjustment of the National Park policies and regulations.

- Dry landing: guests step from the dinghy onto rocks or a dock.

- Wet landing: as the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into around 20 cm (8 inches) of water and wade ashore.

Recommendations

- All your luggage will be sent on board the ship straight to your cabin.

PACKING LIST:

- 1 small backpack
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sneakers with rubber soles
- Shorts
- Long pants
- T-shirts
- Long and short-sleeved shirts
- Windbreaker
- Bathing suit – wetsuit for snorkelling in cold months
- Hat or cap
- Toilette kit (biodegradable shampoo please)
- Sun block
- Sunglasses and strap
- Binoculars
- Camera, underwater camera & camcorder
- Any medicine you may be taking
- Book/ Notebook / e-reader

Included

Accommodation, all meals, soft drinks*, island sightseeing, naturalist guides and lecture services in English/Spanish only, wet suit rental and snorkelling gear, Internet*, taxes and transfers in the islands. Transfer from main hotels in Quito (Casa Gangotena, Hilton Colón, Swissôtel, Marriott, Dann Carlton) and in Guayaquil (Hilton Colón, Oro Verde, Hampton Inn, Sheraton) to airport for flights to / from Galápagos are included in these rates. To coordinate these transfers we must have guest's hotel contact.

* Please note: soft drinks include juices and carbonated drinks, not "virgin" cocktails;

* Internet connections aboard consist of 2 computer stations in the library and Wi-Fi in the yacht's social areas; due to the Galápagos' remote location, internet connections are intermittent and low-bandwidth.

Not Included

Airfare to/from the Galápagos, Galápagos National Park admission fee (US \$100 subject to change without notice), transit Control Card for Galápagos (US\$ 20 per person), alcoholic beverages, tips, gifts and additional items.