

# YACHT ANGELITO I.

The authentic Galapagos cruise ship with a unique history!

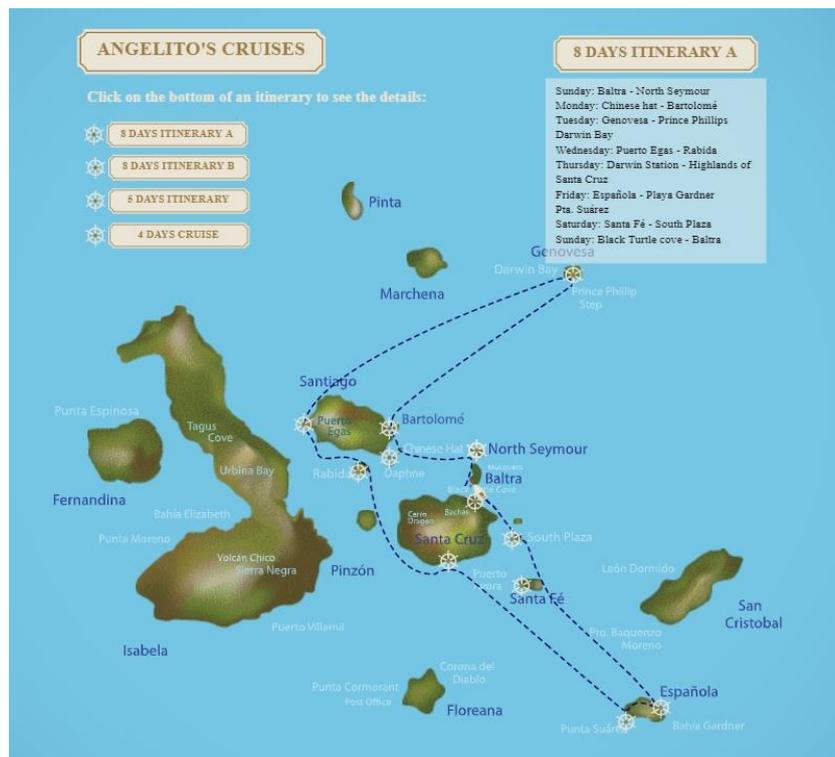
## ITINERARIES

### DAY BY DAY DESCRIPTIONS



### ITINERARY A

1. Sunday: Baltra - North Seymour
2. Monday: Chinese Hat – Bartolome
3. Tuesday: Genovesa Darwin Bay - Prince Philip's Steps
4. Wednesday: Puerto Egas - Rabida
5. Thursday: Darwin Station - Highlands of Santa Cruz
6. Friday: Española Playa Gardner – Punta Suarez
7. Saturday: Santa Fe - South Plaza
8. Sunday: Black Turtle Cove - Baltra



### First, some essential facts:

Your cruise journey starts at the airport of Quito or Guayaquil to take a flight. Galapagos is 1000 km distant from the continent, and visitors can only access it by plane.

To protect the island, you must pass through the special procedure of luggage control before you can go to the airline counter. You also need a visa, called TCT Card or INGALA: its cost is 20\* US\$, to pay in cash at the special counter at the departure's airport.

The flight from Quito to the Galapagos has a duration of 2.5 hours, with a stopover in Guayaquil. We base the yacht's operation on flying the same day as the cruise starts and back, on the last day. Of course, it is possible to fly out before or remain in Galapagos for a longer time.

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Please, do not buy your ticket before making sure that the arrival matches with the cruise departure if you take the flight the same Sunday as the cruise's start. It is recommended to buy it with Angelito's representatives to be on time and help us have an organized cruise start.

When arriving in Galapagos, the visitors have first to pay the entrance fee of 100\* US\$ for the National park. Then, after picking the luggage up, Angelito's guide is waiting for you at the exit of the arrival hall. We take a bus to go to the harbor of Baltra, where the Angelito anchors. The cruise can begin! After the accommodation in your cabin and the lunch on board, we start our first visit!

2

(\*prices are subject to change without previous notification)



#### 1. Sunday: Baltra - North Seymour

**Baltra** is a small island, the only of the Galapagos that is not included in the National Park's area. The Americans built Baltra's airport in 1941-1948, using it as their air force base in the Pacific during the Second World. The airport and harbor are now Ecuadorian military territory. Unfortunately, both of the military presences have left back their traces.

Even if we always speak about Baltra, the airport's official name is South Seymour, and its air code is *GPS*. With an essential reduction of energy consumption for lighting and ventilation, rainwater recovery, waste recycling, and more, the new building of 2013 has been promoted as the first ecological airport worldwide.

**North Seymour:** A beautiful place to start our tour through the Galapagos, just in the north of Baltra. It is a flat, uplifted island in the rain shadow of the island Santa Cruz, and so the vegetation is typical dry of Arid Zone.

The *dry landing* to a small peer is sometimes a bit tricky due to the waves. Dry landing means you will move from the Yacht to the zodiac and onto the island while staying completely dry.

The loop trail leads from a small peer along the rocky coast and is full of surprises: sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, sally lightfoot crabs, and marine iguanas, and we walk through the nesting area of blue-footed boobies and frigatebird.

#### 2. Monday: Chinese Hat – Bartolome

**Sombrero Chino:** Only a 200-meters wide channel separates this small island from the big Island Santiago. The shape of the volcanic island looks like a Chinese hat. The scenery is very charming.

The *wet landing* is on a small, white coral beach with many sea lions. Wet landing means you will get your feet and lower parts of your legs wet while exiting the zodiac.

The smooth and short trail leads along the coast with very fragile lava. There are a lot of small lava tubes and tiny but very attractive vegetation. Pillow lava is to see on the turning point of the trail.

First snorkeling of this week! Fantastic and recommendable, even if you never did it before. We include the snorkel equipment in our cruise prices. If you need a wetsuit, you can rent it on board.

**Bartolome:** With the Pinnacle Rock, a classic beauty, and most photographed scenery of the Galapagos! The dry landing is on a jetty, and then the summit trail leads to Bartolome's highest point on a wooden footbridge and steps to protect the fragile environment. The view from the top across Bartolome, Santiago with Sullivan Bay, and the surrounding islands is superb! All the secondary cones, lava flows, and lava tubes mimic a moon landscape.

In the later afternoon, we enjoy a panga ride to look out for the Galapagos penguins; they live and nest in the lava tubes of the rocky shore.

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#### 3. Tuesday: Genovesa: Darwin Bay - Prince Philip's Steps

The bird island Genovesa is low and flat, the most northern and isolated to visit by cruise ships, and one more of the highlights of our itinerary. The longer navigation is during the night, crossing the equator!

**Darwin Bay:** The wet landing is on the small white beach of coral sand. The trail follows the shore vegetation of red mangrove, saltbush, and the unique prickly pear cactus that here often grows like a hanging cactus with soft hairy spines. Under the shore vegetation, the swallow-tailed gulls do nest, and in the bushes and trees nest the red-footed boobies and magnificent frigate birds. A few Nazca boobies nest on the ground.

The trail leads along small tidepools up to the cliff with a spectacular view over the caldera. By low tide, there are thousands of Galapagos fiddler crabs in the sandy ground.

The snorkeling in the blue water of this bay is delicious!

**Prince Philip's Steps:** The dry landing is at the cliff, and the Prince Philip's Steps are the only possibility to climb the steep basaltic cliff.

Then, the easy trail leads first through a small nesting colony of masked boobies and then crosses a low and dense forest of palo santo trees where red-footed boobies have their nests. Arriving on the edge of the island, thousands of small petrels fly around! These little birds have their nests in the crevices and tubes of the fragile lava. They are the favorite food of the short-eared owl. We keep our eyes open to find the hunter; not easy; the owls are well camouflaged! On both sides of the trail are big Nazca booby nesting colonies.

We end the excursion with a panga ride at the foot of the cliffs.

#### 4. Wednesday: Puerto Egas - Rabida

**Puerto Egas, Santiago Island:** The landmark of Puerto Egas is the large tuff formations of cliffs with relief structures. The wet landing is on a black beach. Here, it is an excellent place to discover shore life. The hike with the intertidal life during the constantly changing tide levels shows an unusual, unique fauna. Often, we can observe lava herons fishing in the isolated tidal pools.

We can see Galapagos sea lions, sally lightfoot crabs, and marine iguanas during the whole walk. Depending on the season, many migrant shorebirds are living on these rich coasts during wintertime. On the turning point of the trail is the Fur Seal Grotto, where the Galapagos fur seals have found an ideal living space in the crevices and caves of the rocky lava coast.

**Rabida:** Incredibly unique is the red sand of the beach, contrasting with the saltbush vegetation and the silvery palo santo trees on the slopes. The source of the peculiar red color is the lava that contains a high proportion of ferric oxide. Before the last El Niño, the beach of Rabida had one of the most significant Galapagos sea lion colonies; now, reduced to a small remaining population, they are still recuperating.

There is a small lagoon behind the zone of saltbush vegetation, depending on the season, with flamingos and white-cheeked pintail ducks.

This beautiful beach is another special snorkeling place.

#### 5. Thursday: Darwin Station - Highlands of Santa Cruz

**Island Santa Cruz, Puerto Ayora, and Charles Darwin Research Station:** Puerto Ayora is a small charm town, the largest in the Galapagos and the head of tourism. There are several hotels, bars, restaurants, a hospital, banks, and many small shops. The airport Baltra is in the north, linked by a road to cross the island.

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In Puerto Ayora are also the Galapagos National Park's offices and the Charles Darwin Research Station.

We visit the Station early in the morning to learn about the significant scientific effort to protect the National Park Galapagos. Especially the raising programs of the different subspecies of the giant tortoises are well documented.

The Van Straiten Exhibition Hall offers interesting documentation about the Galapagos Islands, illustrated by photos and diagrams.

The vegetation on the walk to the Station and back is exuberant green, and Darwin's finches are easy to spot.

When this visit ends:

- **Our passengers on an eight-day cruise** have some time to visit the town. After being only on inhabited islands, a short moment of free time offers the opportunity to walk around and drink a coffee or buy a souvenir. The meeting to go back on board for lunch is at 11:30 at the harbor.
- **If we have passengers ending their five-day cruise**, we escort them to the Itabaca Channel from where they go to Baltra to catch the flight back to Ecuador's Mainland.
- **If we have passengers starting our four-day cruise, they usually arrive from the Mainland with one of the first flights in the morning and the meeting for them also is at 11:30 am at the harbor of Puerto Ayora.**

**Highland Santa Cruz:** The drive up to the highlands takes approximately a half-hour. In this short time, we can observe the changes between the different vegetation zones, from the Arid zone to the Transition zone, and up to the Scalesia zone, which is also agricultural. Here, the problems of introduced animals and plants are pretty noticeable. On the highest point of the road, the National Park area starts again.

In the highlands, we visit the Rancho Primicias to enjoy the Galapagos tortoises living here in liberty; these are easy to view in this small farm where they are refreshing in the water pools or taking a snore in the shadow.

#### 6. Friday: Española Playa Gardner – Punta Suarez

Española belongs to the oldest islands of the Galapagos. Because of its geographic isolation, many endemic species are to find the island, making our visit especially attractive. Additionally, Española is the only place worldwide where the endemic waved albatrosses come for breeding from April to December.

**Playa Gardner:** We have a wet landing on a splendid, long, white beach of coral sand. For this visit, you do not need shoes. There is no trail, and the open beach offers the opportunity to observe finches and mockingbirds in the saltbush vegetation, so as Galapagos sea lions sleeping in the sun.

It is an excellent place for swimming and snorkeling from the beach!

**Punta Suarez:** Loop trail with a smooth, dry landing on a jetty. The walk on stony, rocky ground is longer and more challenging.

Even at the first steps of the trail, the colorful Española marine iguana and Galapagos sea lions welcome us. Everywhere the curious Española mockingbird approaches the visitors. The path leads through the nesting colonies of blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and waved albatrosses. Also, the big Española lava lizards are to find everywhere.

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### ITINERARIES

### DAY BY DAY DESCRIPTIONS



5

The low cliff of the whole south coast is an ideal nesting place for the endemic Galapagos albatross; here, it is the only place in the world where, from April to December, we can see these big, beautiful birds. Then, another resting spot close to a cliff with an incredible landscape offers the observation of all the different marine birds flying along the coast. An albatross during his ungainly landing or the spectacular take-off from the cliff, to start its elegant flight, are fantastic events to witness.

Our next stop is at the blowhole: the waves push the seawater through a fissure in the cliff, depending on the strongness and tide level, till 80 feet/24m high in the air!

#### 7. Saturday: Santa Fe - South Plaza

**Santa Fe:** Santa Fe has a large colony of sea lions living in this beautiful bay. After the wet landing on the beach, the trail leads through dry vegetation of the Arid zone to a beautiful cliff with notably high prickly pear cactus, then back to a second beach.

Only very attentive visitors may detect the endemic land iguanas of Santa Fe because their camouflage is perfect, and their territories are quite significant!

Who wants, can end the morning with snorkeling at this new special place!

**South Plaza:** It is a small uplifted island with a cliff of 25 meters altitude on the island's southern side. The whole flat, rocky northern coast has a big colony of Galapagos sea lions and, on the East-point, lives a colony of bachelor sea lions.

The loop is easy, with a dry landing on a jetty.

Incredibly attractive are the beautiful prickly pear cactus trees and, of course, the big colony of land iguanas. Depending on the season, the sesuvium ground vegetation changes its color from intense green in the rainy season to orange and purple in the dry season.

#### 8. Sunday: Black Turtle Cove - Baltra

**Black Turtle Cove:** Before breakfast, we leave the boat to enjoy a beautiful panga ride into the big, protected mangrove cove. In the far away, small corners, we turn the motor off to row noiselessly and observe the marine turtles: many of them are in this cove during their mating and nesting season from December to February! But even out of season, we always find some turtles staying back in the mangroves. So early in the morning, there is high activity, and we observe golden rays, spotted eagle rays, white-tipped reef sharks, and young Galapagos sharks.

After breakfast on board, it is time to say goodbye to the staff and leave the Angelito. We disembark at the harbor of Baltra.

**Baltra:** With the bus, drive to the airport for a morning flight back to the continent. Our guide takes care until the last minute!

Meantime, the Angelito is thoroughly cleaned and prepared to be ready for the next group, which arrives on the same flights as the leaving group flies out!



- ➔ The captain of the boat and/or the tour operator or third-party providers reserve the right to change or cancel any part of the itinerary or services, without giving previous notice, in case of unforeseen circumstances such as change of National Park regulations or other decisions of Public Authorities, weather, natural disasters, sanitary emergencies, social and political conditions or instability, inability to obtain supplies or other situations beyond of the control of the companies, including force majeure or any other extreme circumstances or unforeseen event.