

# Coral I & Coral II ITINERARY CD

8 days - 7 nights

Our Galapagos itineraries offer unforgettable experiences, with our weekly departures allowing you to experience tours including: full board, two daily guided excursions with optional activities such as snorkelling, kayaking and dinghy rides.

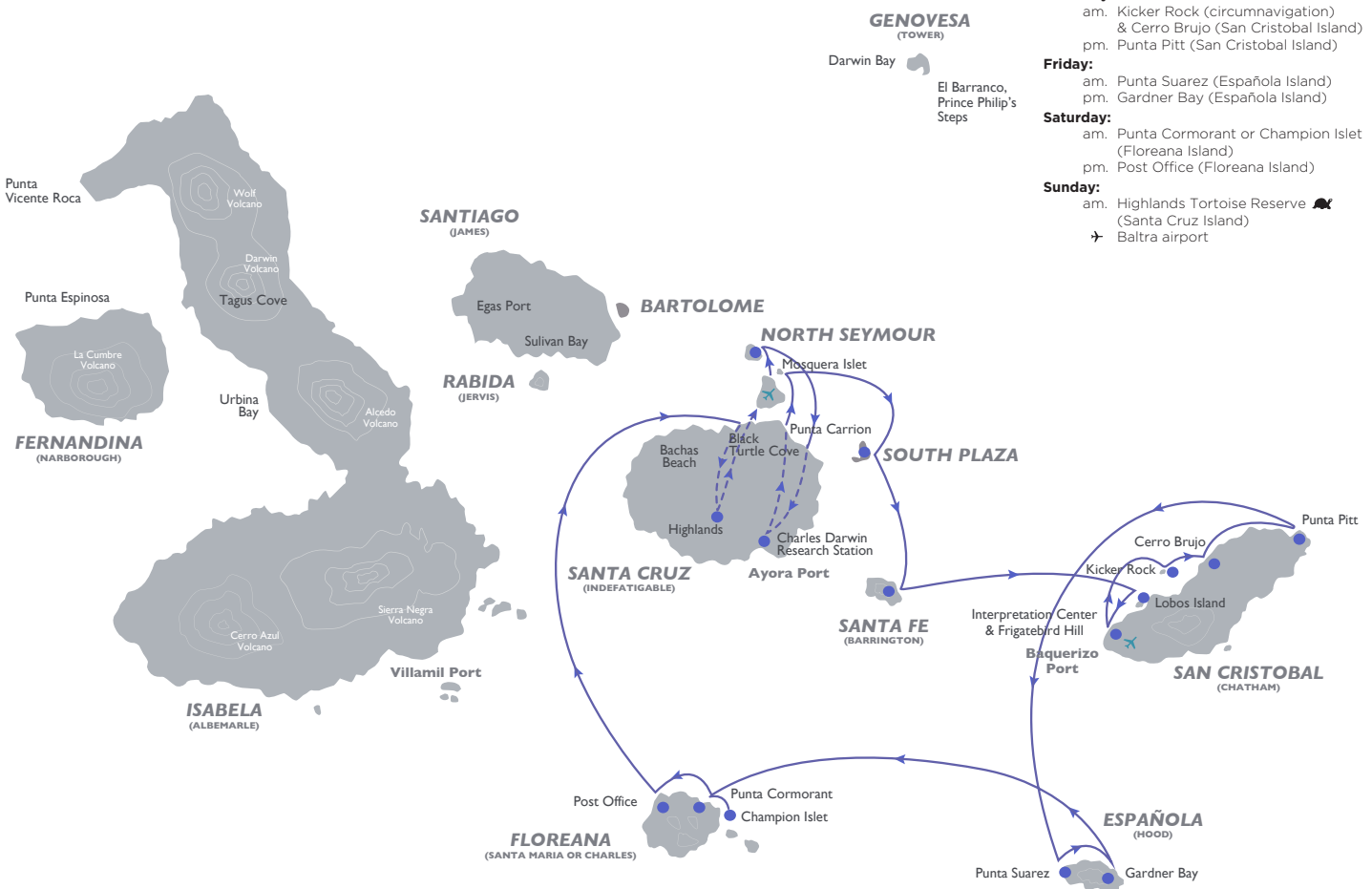
These cruises can be combined with Diving program extensions and additional nights in Galapagos (upon request).

8 days / 7 nights

**C + D  
EAST - SOUTH**

Sunday - Wednesday

- Sunday:**  
→ Baltra Airport  
pm. North Seymour Island
- Monday:**  
am. Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz Island) 🐢  
pm. Mosquera Islet
- Tuesday:**  
am. South Plaza Island  
pm. Santa Fe Island
- Wednesday:**  
am. Lobos Island  
pm. Interpretation Center & Frigatebird Hill (San Cristobal Island)
- Thursday:**  
am. Kicker Rock (circumnavigation) & Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)  
pm. Punta Pitt (San Cristobal Island)
- Friday:**  
am. Punta Suarez (Española Island)  
pm. Gardner Bay (Española Island)
- Saturday:**  
am. Punta Cormorant or Champion Islet (Floreana Island)  
pm. Post Office (Floreana Island)
- Sunday:**  
am. Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island) 🐢  
→ Baltra airport





**DAY 1 - SUNDAY**  
**am – Baltra Airport**

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Island (2 ½-hour flight). Arriving in the Galapagos, passengers are picked up at the airport by our natural guides and taken to a ten-minute bus drive to the pier to board the *M/Y Coral I* or *M/Y Coral II*.



**pm – North Seymour Island**

This flat, uplifted, island is an important spot to see both magnificent and great frigatebird males courting the females by clicking, bill-clapping, shuddering and flapping their wings, all while showing off their grossly inflated, bright red, gular pouch. We will also likely see courting blue-footed boobies displaying their unique feet while edancing to a prospective mate. Sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, crashing surf and distant views of the Daphne Islands top off a great visit.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** rocky ground  
**Duration:** 2-hour walk / 30-minute snorkeling

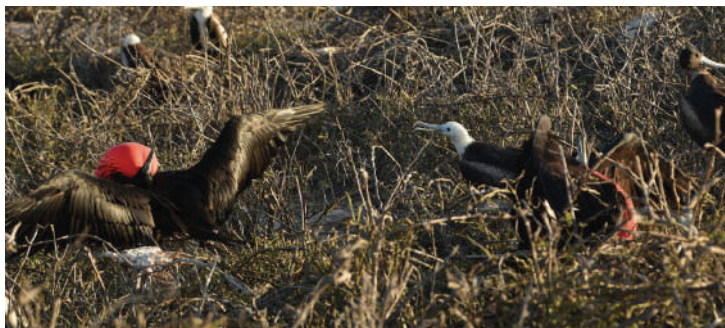


**DAY 2 - MONDAY**

**am – Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz Island)**

Once home to the famous Lonesome George, the last tortoise of the Pinta race, the breeding and relocation center is named in honour of his long-time guardian. The center is set in the Galapagos National Park Service where various interpretative buildings are available to visit. The grounds, with large stands of native vegetation are one of the better places to spot some of the seldom seen Darwin's finches such as the woodpecker, cactus and vegetarian finches.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** flat  
**Duration:** 1 ½-hour visit



**pm – Mosquera Islet**

This tiny, low lying islet, covered in coral sand, is set between North and South Seymour Islands. It is home to a group of sea lions that come to laze on the soft white sand. It is a good spot to observe shorebirds as well as herons, lava gulls and boobies. Snorkeling or diving here one can often see sharks, rays and barracudas.

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** sandy  
**Duration:** 1 ½-hour walk & snorkeling





**DAY 3 - TUESDA**

**am – South Plaza Islet**

Sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls and land iguanas are all present at the landing site. The small island is covered with a carpet of red succulent studded with *Opuntia* cacti. At the cliff edge, we spend time watching birds fly past at eye level in the updraught. These include, frigatebirds, flocks of Galapagos shearwaters and of particular note, flights of displaying red-billed tropicbirds. Back at sea level, we once again encounter land iguanas, some of which have hybridized with their resident marine cousins.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** rocky  
**Duration:** 2-hour walk



**pm – Santa Fe Island**

After a fabulous snorkel in the turquoise waters of the protected bay we may have enjoyed time with sea lions, turtles, reef sharks and spotted eagle rays. Landing onto a sandy beach we are immediately distracted by the abundant sea lions there with us. We begin a walk past a forest of island-endemic giant *Opuntia* cacti. Here we search for another island-endemic the Santa Fe land iguana, paler than its cousins on other islands. Galapagos hawks and even endemic rice rats are also things to look out for.

**Difficulty level:** intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** rocky  
**Duration:** 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour deep-water snorkeling



**DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY**

**am – Lobos Island**

Dry landing: Isla Lobos is approximately 20 minutes by boat from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Once on the island, the trail is about 850 meters and there will be rocky trail and a nice & easy sand trail too. There is a small population of blue-footed boobies and great frigatebirds nests at this site.

You Can also find a colony of sea lions. During the boat ride, you can see brown pelicans and several species of shorebirds.

**Difficulty level:** imoderate  
**Type of Terrain;** rocky terrain-sandy  
**Duration;** 1:30 - hour walk



**pm – Interpretation Center & Frigatebird Hill (San Cristobal Island)**

The interpretation center is full of interesting information and offers the perfect overview to the formation of Galapagos, its significance in the world, threats and conservation efforts. Followed by a hike to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas) we will have great looks at both species of frigatebird, with the bonus of a beautiful view of the bay below.

**Difficulty level:** easy /intermediate  
**Type of terrain:** flat/stairs  
**Duration:** 1-hour visit / 1-hour walk

**Frigatebird Hill**

Involves a high-intensity walk amidst beautiful landscape and a magnificent view at the foot of a frigate birds nesting colory.

Involves **Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of Terrain:** Rocky  
**Duration:** 1-hour visit







**DAY 5 - THURSDAY**

**am – Kicker Rock & Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island)**

Kicker Rock Circumnavigation (San Cristobal Island) This ancient and eroded volcanic tuff lava named Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock it is formed by two rocks approximately 148 m, named for its resemblance of a sleeping lion.  
Activity : Circumnavigation

From our pangas, as we head to shore, we are first humbled by the immensity of the stunning cliffs of Sorcerer's Hill. We can enjoy simply sharing the beach with sea lions, snorkeling from shore or take a walk to a hidden lagoon where we might spot black-necked stilts, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels and white-cheeked pintails.

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** sandy  
**Duration:** 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**pm – Punta Pitt & Islet (San Cristobal Island)**

Sea lions will greet us as we land on the beach and prepare for our climb to a high point on the steep eroded tuff cone. This is the only place in the islands where we will enjoy the chance to see all three of the booby species in the same place. The red-foots will be perched on the Cordia lutea and small trees, the Nazca's on the ground near the cliff edge while the blue-foots will be a little further inland. Frigatebirds will be all around and the views are breathtaking.

**Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of terrain:** rocky  
**Duration:** 2½-hour walk/ 40-minutes snorkeling or kayaking



**DAY 6 - FRIDAY**

**am – Punta Suarez (Espanola Island)**

One of the highlight visits of the trip. Punta Suarez seems to have everything - a naturalists paradise. A slew of marine iguanas and sea lions greet us at the landing site from where our walk continues with close encounters of boobies, endemic lizards, gulls and even a dramatic blow hole. The oldest extant island in the archipelago it is our only opportunity to commune with the endemic waved albatross during their breeding season between April and December. With luck, we can watch their complex courtship display.

**Difficulty level:** difficult  
**Type of terrain:** rocky ground  
**Duration:** 2 ½-hours walk



**pm – Gardner Bay (Española Island)**

One of the most stunning beaches in all of Galapagos. The long, white, sandy beach, lapped by turquoise waters is home to a colony of Galapagos sea lions, indifferent to the humans that walk amongst them. The Hood mockingbirds, endemic to this particular island, will be eager to inspect the visitors and satisfy their innate curiosity. Darwin's finches may also join the throng including the reclusive warbler finch. We can also snorkel here from the beach, in the shallows of the bay

**Difficulty level:** easy  
**Type of terrain:** sandy  
**Duration:** 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling







**DAY 7 - SATURDAY**

**am – Punta Cormorant / Champion (Floreana Island)**

Wet landing, on an olivine green, sanded beach. We hike from the black mangrove beds to a brackish lagoon, which usually holds one of the largest flamingo populations in the Galapagos. This island features some endemic plants such as *Scalesia villosa*, white and black mangrove, and holy stick. The trail continues to a beautiful white sandy beach, one of the most important nesting sites of Green Pacific Sea Turtles. It is important to avoid walking in the water due to the Sting Rays that may be hiding in the sand, which can be dangerous if accidentally stepped on. From the beach, one can spot sea turtles, blue-footed boobies plunging into the water, and small reef sharks floating along the shoreline in the search for food.

This coral-sand beach marks the end of our trail, and we head back to the olivine beach we landed on, to swim or snorkel amongst sea turtles, reef fish, sea lions and, on a good day, white-tipped reef sharks. A small colony of penguins resides on Floreana and can sometimes be observed as well.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** sandy & flat

**Duration:** 1-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**pm – Post Office (Floreana Island)**

Wet landing. Located on the north side of Floreana, the bay was named because in 1793 Captain James Colnett installed a wooden barrel which served as an informal post office for sailors passing through, who would take letters with them back to their destinations. Today, visitors continue the tradition by placing unstamped postcards inside the barrel, hoping that some other traveler, going to the letter destination, will take it back for free. The chances are that the letter posted can take a long time to arrive at its destination. However, there have been cases where it has arrived before the sender.

We may also encounter Darwin's finches, Yellow Warbler and Lava Lizards. Great snorkeling opportunities with Green Pacific Sea Turtles. As well, the island is best known for its endemic vegetation: *Scalesia villosa*, *Lecocarpus Pinnatifidus*, and the Galapagos Milkwort. Snorkelers can practice on the main beach among playful sea lions.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** sandy

**Duration:** 30-minutes walk / 1-hour snorkeling



**DAY 8 - SUNDAY**

**am – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)**

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kind of birds, such as: tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos Giant Tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Type of terrain:** flat & muddy (depending on season)

**Duration:** 45-minute drive / 1 ½-hour walk



**am – Baltra Airport**

After the visit, passengers will be transferred to the airport for their return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.