



STAGNONE NATALIE X 9

Services	Service Begins	Service Ends	Pick Up Time	#Pax
AIDA MARIA ITINERARY C (5D/4N FROM SUNDAY TO THURSDAY)	Sun 25 Aug, 2019	Thu 29 Aug, 2019		9
5 Standard Lower Deck Bunk Beds Single ;				

ITINERARY

DAY 1

Baltra Island, Las Bachas Beach (wet landing)

Fly from the Ecuadorian mainland to the islands on an early morning 90-minute flight. As you prepare to land in Baltra, look out the window. The landscape below will seem otherworldly - you'll truly be landing in a place like no other. The Galapagos Islands are completely unique and you're about to see why. Your bilingual naturalist guide will greet you at the airport and meet you after customs. During lunch he/she will introduce you to the islands, specifically the flora and fauna that you will encounter at our first destination, Las Bachas Beach.

On the sandy white beaches of Las Bachas you will get a close look at a sea turtle nesting area as well as a lake frequented by pink flamingos and other migratory birds. Afterwards, you'll cool off with a dip in the beautiful, blue Pacific Ocean. As this is the first evening together, the crew will invite everyone to a pre-dinner cocktail on the yacht before the welcome dinner. If the night is clear, as it usually is, the stars above will sparkle; look for the Southern Cross, the Big Dipper (turned up-side down!) and Orion.

DAY 2

Genovesa Island: Darwin Bay (wet landing)/ El Barranco (dry landing)

Early in the morning you'll have breakfast and then you'll disembark at Genovesa "Tower" Island, which is located in the northeastern part of the Galapagos (less than half a degree north of the equator).

At "Tower" Island you'll anchor at Darwin Bay, which is located on the southern part of the island, and is actually the caldera of an extinct, partially eroded volcano, with the surrounding cliffs forming the inner lining of the rim. While the origin of the name "Tower" is not known, one can imagine it had something to do with these towering cliffs. The tour will be a long, fairly-easy walk, but it is usually hot and dry here, so you may want to carry some water. After a wet landing on a coral beach the trail begins in an area where there are several swallow-tailed gulls. As you walk back from the beach, you'll see a variety of Opuntia cactus and mangroves

Tower is an outpost for many sea birds (as Española is in the south). Interestingly, there are almost no land reptiles on Tower, only very small marine iguanas. This is attributed to the direction of the ocean currents, which wouldn't have carried the terrestrial animals here.

Visit El Barranco during the afternoon then return to the boat for dinner.

DAY 3

BARTOLOME / SULLIVAN BAY

Bartolome Island, which at its highest point is 114 meters, is one of the most photographed vistas in the archipelago. This island is quite young and quite volcanic, therefore, it's relatively unpopulated; only a small handful of die-hard plant and animal species have survived long enough to call this lava-land home.

After the visit to Bartolome Island you'll visit nearby Sullivan Bay. At the turn of the century a huge lava flow spilled right down to the sea and today you can stroll across this black volcanic expanse, admiring its time-frozen ripples, bubbles and ropes.

DAY 4



STAGNONE NATALIE X 9

DAPHNE / BLACK TURTLE COVE / CERRO DRAGON

Early in the morning you'll arrive to Daphne Island, a cone formed by the accumulation of volcanic ash, which is home to thousands of birds such as blue footed boobies, frigate birds, tropic birds, and many more. We won't go ashore here, but we'll navigate around this volcanic cone, so binoculars are recommended to get a good look at the birds. Daphne has been a great research site on which many scientists have spent years studying the behavior of Darwin's finches.

After this visit you'll move on to our next site, Black Turtle Cove, which is a red mangrove lagoon on Santa Cruz and is a nursery for many sharks and rays. It's also a great location to observe mating turtles around this time of year. You'll see large groups of resting White-Tip Reef Sharks, schools of Golden Rays and Spotted Eagle Rays, and a few juvenile Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks and Black-Tip Sharks. The water very calm so we often used paddles instead of the loud panga engines to move around the area.

After lunch you'll navigate for a couple of hours to Cerro Dragon, where you'll make a dry landing on lava rocks. Cerro Dragon is a small bay on the west coast of Santa Cruz and got its name from the many land iguanas that live in the area. Land iguanas are endemic to the Galapagos Islands where they have found good mating and nesting areas.

DAY 5

Santa Cruz Island (dry landing)

Charles Darwin Station. After breakfast you'll sail to Santa Cruz Island, where you'll visit the world-famous Charles Darwin Station, a non-profit institution that dedicates itself to studying and protecting the flora and fauna of the Galapagos. This is one of the best places to see land tortoises, including Lonesome George, the last survivor of his subspecies.

Then you'll visit the station's Tortoise Rearing Center. Here you can find baby, hand-sized tortoises, between the ages of one and five, and marvel at how they achieve such large sizes as adults (500 lbs. or more!). Galapagos tortoises are believed to have a lifespan of over 100 years, so the young ones have a long life ahead of them as long as they receive the protection they need.

Transfer to the airport for flight back to mainland.

* This itinerary is subject to change without previous notice; due to seasonal changes, weather conditions or Galapagos National Park policy. *

INCLUDED:

- Transfers as specified throughout the itinerary.
- #Days /#Nights cruise on the - ITINERARY . Includes accommodations, all meals, and all shore excursions.
- Migratory Transit Control card.
- Roundtrip Galapagos Airfare.

NOT INCLUDED:

- International airfare
- Galapagos National Park Fee USD\$100 per person (cash only)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary, beverages with meals
- Alcoholic drinks
- Bus tickets from Baltra airport USD\$5 per person, only in cash (each way)
- Insurance cancellation (medical/travel) Alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer
- Personal expenses

Tips

COLUMBUS TRAVEL ECUADOR

Carlos Del Salto (Emergency Number)
Email: landoperations1@columbusecuador.com
Phone: (593-99) 9244769

Gabriela Fuentes: (Sales)
Email: Salesb2c3@columbusecuador.com



STAGNONE NATALIE X 9

Phone: (1) 9802513538

Address: Av. 6 de Diciembre N33-55 and Av. Eloy Alfaro. Torre Blanca 8th floor.

Website: www.columbusecuador.com

Emergency Phone: (593-99) 9244769

HAVE A WONDERFUL TOUR AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR CHOOSING OUR SERVICES!

IF YOU NEED ADITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS VOUCHER SERVES AS PROOF OF ALL SERVICES RENDERED BY COLUMBUS TRAVEL ECUADOR. PLEASE PRINT OUT AND KEEP THIS DOCUMENT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.