

# Comfortable Hiking Holidays

Hike an adventure. Rest in Comfort.

## Trip Itinerary: Galapagos Islands - NW Holiday

November 7 to 19, 2021

- Day 1** ARRIVAL INTO QUITO
- Day 2** LEISURE DAY IN QUITO
- Day 3** QUITO TO GALAPAGOS  
BOARD THE YACHT  
MOSQUERA - Imagine sand grains as soft as sugar. Now imagine a sea lion colony and a fabulous sunset. You are here!
- Day 4** GENOVESA  
AM: DARWIN BAY  
PM: PRINCE PHILIP'S STEPS  
Considered a birding paradise, the volcanic sea cliffs offer prime breeding places for frigate birds, swallow-tailed gulls, storm petrels, tropic birds and the largest colony of red-footed boobies. It is home to Darwin Bay and the popular hiking trail Prince Phillips Steps.
- Day 5** MARCHENA  
AM: PUNTA MEJIA  
PM: PLAYA NEGRA  
The Galapagos National Park Service granted us the opportunity to snorkel and kayak along Marchena's magical shorelines. Punta Mejia is one of the best sites in the Archipelago to snorkel. Apart from great fish diversity, when we snorkel we often see rays, reef sharks and sea turtles.
- Day 6** ISABELA  
AM: PUNTA ALBEMARLE  
PM: PUNTA VICENTE ROCA  
Human history has left its footprint on this small corner of the Galapagos. Punta Albemarle, the northernmost point of Isabela, was an important US radar station trying to prevent any Japanese attempt to destroy the Panama Channel. In addition to the ruins of the radar base, the lava flows are the nesting ground of the only flightless cormorant in the world. Punta Vicente Roca offers an overwhelming diversity of geological formations. We will admire the dramatic structures from our dinghies, as we also enjoy watching the Galapagos penguins, blue-footed boobies and other marine life. When the waters are calm enough, the snorkelling is fascinating. The walls of the tuff cones are full of colourful invertebrates and rich in algae giving us a chance to watch sea turtles feeding.
- Day 7** FERNANDINA AND ISABELA  
AM: PUNTA ESPINOZA, Fernandina Island  
PM: URBINA BAY, Isabela Island  
Fernandina is the youngest island in the archipelago and one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. At Punta Espinoza the shoreline is teeming with life. Reptiles, birds and mammals all coexist, singing and sexing. Snorkeling with turtles, iguanas, cormorants and plenty of fish is the best way to refresh after the lava walk. Urbina Bay was created when a volcanic eruption in 1954 lifted a chunk of seabed, including a coral reef, 6m above the water's surface. The brand new land became the perfect nesting terrain of the most beautiful land dragon - the land iguanas of Isabela (the largest in the

Galapagos).

## Day 8

ISABELA

AM: ELIZABETH BAY

PM: PUNTA MORENO

Elizabeth Bay is the only place on the Earth where old tropical mangrove forests and penguins can be talked about in the same sentence. The ecosystem is also home to spotted eagle rays, sea turtles and a nursery for fish and marine invertebrates.

At first glance, Moreno Point appears to be a lifeless lava flow. But our walk will reveal where lava tunnel roofs have collapsed and brackish water has accumulated, giving life to greater flamingoes, moorhens, black-necked stilts and Galapagos Martins.

## Day 9

FLOREANA

AM: ASILO DE LA PAZ & CERRO ALIERI

PM: DEVILS'CROWN

In the highlands of Floreana, climb Cerro Alieri to a breathtaking view of the fantastic landscape before continuing on to Asilo de Paz to learn about the Floreana "affair".

In the afternoon, snorkel at one of the best spots in the world - Devil's Crown, a volcanic crater that has been eroded away by the waves. Inside the crown is an underwater oasis of coral reefs, playful sea lions, angel fish, eels, white-tipped sharks, and sea turtles.

## Day 10

SANTA CRUZ

AM: CHECK OUT

HIGHLANDS & EL CHATO TORTOISE RESERVE

Morning disembarkation and then off to explore the Highlands of Santa Cruz, including Los Gemelos and El Chato Tortoise Reserve where giant tortoises roam in the natural habitat.

## Day 11

PUERTO AYORA (Santa Cruz)

This is a free day in Puerto Ayora and a perfect opportunity to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station.

## Day 12

FLIGHT TO QUITO