

Explore Galapagos

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DARWIN



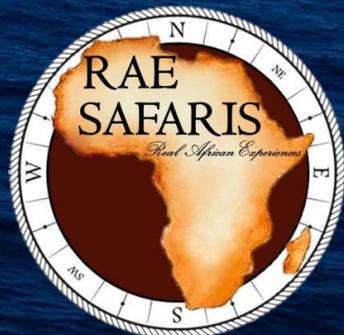
Map Destinations

13TH – 20TH MARCH 2024



BELUGA
"FERNANDINA" ITINERARY
Start: Baltra / End: Baltra
Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

- Day 1 Baltra / Santa Cruz: Highlands & Charles Darwin Station
- Day 2 Sombrero Chino / Rabida
- Day 3 Isabela: Sierra Negra & Puerto Villamil
- Day 4 Isabela: Elizabeth Bay & Pta. Moreno
- Day 5 Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove
- Day 6 Fernandina: Pta. Espinoza / Isabela: Pta. Vicente Roca
- Day 7 Santiago: Playa Espumilla / Bartolome
- Day 8 North Seymour / Baltra



DAY 01: BALTRA AIRPORT - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra (approx. 2 and half hour flight).

HIGHLANDS

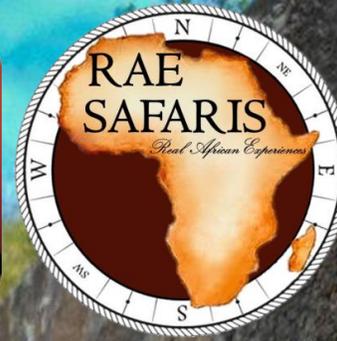
The highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green, contrasting beautifully with many of the dry, lower islands. Famous for the underground lava tubes, over half a mile long, and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience.

CHARLES DARWIN STATION

The Charles Darwin Research Station is in the town of Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island.

Here you'll experience some of the conservation and research efforts focusing on the Galapagos Islands. Tour the Van Straelen Exhibit Hall. This may be your only opportunity to see the giant Galapagos tortoises.

The Charles Darwin Research Station conducts and facilitates research on the Galapagos Islands and the Galapagos Marine Resources Reserve of Ecuador. The station is a part of the Charles Darwin Foundation, an international non-profit organization dedicated to scientific research on the Galapagos Islands since 1959.



The Darwin Station provides:

- Information and technical assistance for the Galapagos National Park Service and other branches of the government of Ecuador.
- Support for resident and visiting scientists who work in Galapagos.
- Environmental education for island communities and schools and for the visitors that come to Galapagos each year.
- Hands-on training in science, education, and conservation for Ecuadorian university students who participate in the Darwin Station's volunteer and scholarship programs.



DAY 02: SOMBRERO CHINO ISLAND AND RABIDA ISLAND

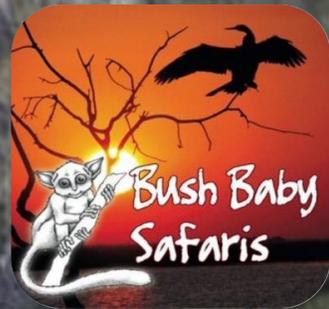
Chinese Hat is a tiny Island just off the southeastern tip of Santiago Island. It is a wonderful example of a volcanic cone. Opposite Sombrero Chino, on the rocky shoreline of nearby Santiago, Galapagos Penguins are often seen.

There is a small sea lion cove on the north shore, where boats anchor and land at the visitor site.

A 400-meter trail goes around the cove and through a sea lion colony - Marine Iguanas cover the landscape. The volcanic scenery is attractive, and there are good views of the cone. There are also snorkeling and swimming opportunities in the cove.

RABIDA

Rabida Island (Jervis) is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago and a great snorkeling site. It is famous for maroon sandy beach and stunning viewpoints. The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some of the archipelago's rarest species are to be seen here in relative abundance.



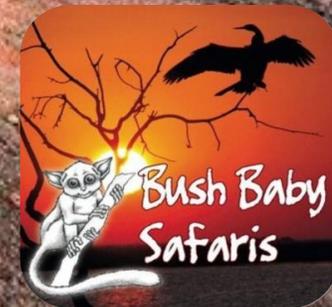
DAY 03: ISABELA ISLAND: Sierra Negra
and Puerto Villamil

AM: SIERRA NEGRA

Located in the southern part of Isabela between the volcanoes Alcedo and Cerro Azul. Sierra Negra's caldera is the largest in the Galapagos and the second largest in the world. The journey up to the crater begins at Puerto Villamil. The landscape along the way is beautifully picturesque. The views from the top are quite spectacular.

PM: PUERTO VILLAMIL

This port is home to many native Galapagenians. The port is surrounded by extensive, white sandy beaches with lagoons and wetlands. It is a great place to absorb history and culture and to enjoy some shopping.



DAY 04: ISABELA ISLAND: Elizabeth Bay and Punta Moreno

AM: ELIZABETH BAY

Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. Penguins and Blue-footed Boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling.

PM: PUNTA MORENO

Is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along the path are a birdwatcher's delight. In the tidal pools green sea turtles and white-tip sharks are often seen.

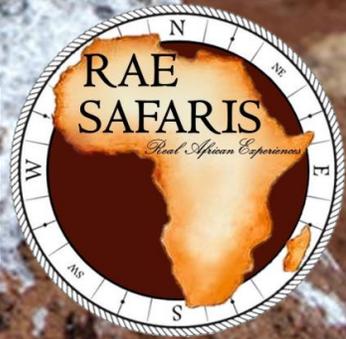
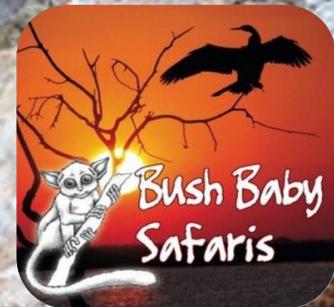
DAY 05: ISABELA ISLAND: Urbina Bay and FERNANDINA ISLAND: Tagus Cove

AM: URBINA BAY

Lying at the foot of Alcedo Volcano, south of Tagus Cove, is Urbina Bay. Here you can see Penguins, Noddy Terns, Marine Iguanas and a host of other species.

PM: TAGUS COVE

Lying directly east of Fernandina is the narrow channel of Tagus Cove. The cove's quiet waters make for an ideal panga ride beneath the sheltered cliffs, a well-known breeding site for several endemic bird species.



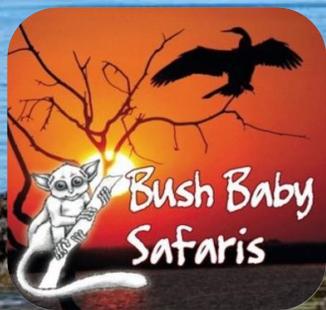
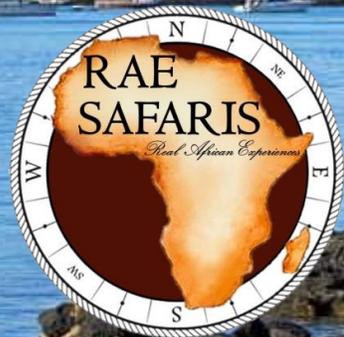
DAY 06: FERNANDINA ISLAND: Punta Espinoza
and ISABELA ISLAND: Punta Vicente Roca:

AM: PUNTA ESPINOZA

Flightless Cormorant, Pelicans, Sea Lions, Sally Light Foot Crabs and an abundance of Marine Iguanas can be seen along the shores of one of world's most active volcanoes.

PM: PUNTA VICENTE ROCA

Punta Vicente Roca is a wonderful snorkeling site. After the snorkeling we venture out on a panga. Nazca Boobies, pelicans, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Marine Iguanas, Flightless Cormorants and penguins are often seen in the area.



DAY 07: JAMES ISLAND: Playa Espumilla / Caleta Bucanero and BARTOLOME ISLAND

AM: Playa Espumilla / Caleta Bucanero (JAMES ISLAND)

Here you will see Galapagos Fur Seals and there is a good chance of spotting the Galapagos Hawk, the Galapagos Dove and Vermilion Flycatcher. Tucked behind Espumilla Beach are salt-water lagoons where Flamingos and White Cheeked Pintail Ducks may be seen.

Caleta Bucanero, is located on the northwest side of Santiago and takes its name from the fact that the first navigators, pirates, Buccaneers and later, whalers, used the island to beach their boats, look for fresh water and catch giant tortoises for food.

The island Bucanero is now home to a great variety of marine birds, sea lions and fur seals.

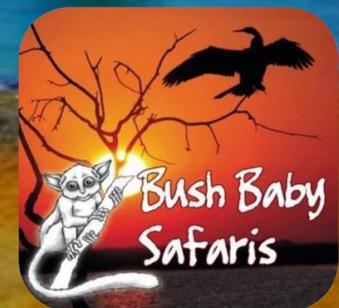
PM: BARTOLOME ISLAND

Nowhere else is the geological history of the Islands better portrayed than here. The most impressive volcanic scenery.

DAY 08: NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND and BALTRA AIRPORTAM: NORTH SEYMOUR

North of Baltra (South Seymour) is the small islet of North Seymour. The largest colony of Magnificent Frigate Birds is found here, as well as nesting Blue footed Boobies and Swallow-Tailed Gulls

Transfer to Baltra Airport for departure flight to the mainland.



RATES

US\$ 7500.00 per person sharing

EARLY BOOKING INCENTIVE – 15% discount

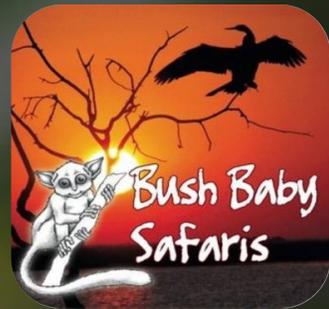
Ends: 31 December 2022

Inclusions:

All accommodation
local flights, all meals, transport,
fuel and tolls, bed levies, professional guides
(Pierre Duval and Andrew Rae),
excursions, conservation fees.

Exclusions:

International flights and airport taxes, drinks and
hotel extras,
items of a personal nature, travel insurance and
gratuities.



WHAT TO PACK

Comfortable neutral clothing, avoiding white and bright colours. Expect hot days and cooler mornings/evenings.

A mixture of summer and winter clothing is ideal, and a warm hat, jacket and gloves will keep you warm on night game drives when the wind chill factor in a moving open vehicle can make life a little chilly!

Other essentials include comfortable, durable walking shoes, hat and sunscreen, camera and binoculars, toiletries, insect repellent, hand sanitizer, etc.

Important: don't forget to bring any prescription medication along with a broad-spectrum antibiotic, medication for nausea and stomach problems and antihistamine cream for insect bites and scratches

Please provide details of any allergies and specific dietary requirements or preferences, e.g., vegetarian.

