

# GALAPAGOS LAND-BASED SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

## 5 days / 4 nights

AGGRESSOR  
ADVENTURES 



### **Wednesday:** *Disembark Aggressor, transfer to chosen hotel*

After you have finished all your dives and excursions with Aggressor, you will be transferred to chosen hotel in Puerto Ayora / Santa Cruz Island.

### **Thursday:** *Full day shared excursion to Plazas Island*

PLAZAS ISLAND - South Plazas was formed by lava upstreaming from the bottom of the ocean. Despite its small size, it is home to a large number of species making it very popular with visitors. On the steep banks it is possible to see a great number of birds such as nesting red-billed tropicbirds and swallow-tailed gulls. You can also enjoy the beautiful view from the steep banks and stroll along the base of the cliff for an extremely pleasurable view. In the morning between 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. we will pick you up at your hotel in Puerto Ayora / Santa Cruz Island. Then we will take a bus or truck for about 45 minutes towards Itabaca Channel, from where we will board the boat to sail to South Plazas Island. South Plaza Island has an area of 13 hectares and a height of 25 meters above sea level. The dock is usually invaded by sea lion families with a colony of 1000+ individual, so the guide will assist on clearing a path for the guest. Upon landing you will also be greeted by land iguanas, usually placed under the shadow of Opuntia Cacti. This species of land iguanas is the smallest subspecies of iguanas that exist in Galapagos. They usually nest during the hot season, and throughout the island some hybrid iguanas have been seen as result of crossing a male marine iguana with a female land iguana. The trail takes us through an arid coastline that covers most of the island with vegetation: Sesuvium, leather leaf (Maytenus), thorny bushes (Scutia pauciflora), Opuntia Cacti... Land Iguanas favorite yellow flowers (Portulaca howelli). This island is a good place to see Darwin Finches as well feeding on the flowers! The trail reaches a platform of petrified volcanic magma, where we find the beach with a colony of old male sea lions who have lost their harems, many with scars from fights with other males to keep territories or shark bites. You can also see marine iguanas all over the coast line.

### **Friday:** *Full day shared excursion to Santa Fe Island*

SANTA FE ISLAND – A small island with a size of 24 square kilometers, which lies in the center of the Galapagos archipelago, to the south west of Santa Cruz Island. Geologically it is one of the oldest, considering some volcanic rocks date back 4 million years. Santa Fe was formed from an uplift (rather than a volcanic eruption), giving the island a relatively flat surface instead of the typical conical shape of the other islands. The vegetation of the island is characterized by the presence of a dense forest of the largest species of cacti, the opuntia. Santa Fe is home to two endemic species to the Galapagos: the Barrington land iguana (*Conolophus pallidus*) and the Santa Fe rice rat (*Oryzomys brauni*). Cliffs provide a haven for swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, and shearwaters petrels. The species of land iguana found in Santa Fe are easy to see on the trails, as well as lava lizards. Santa Fe Island is home to one of the most beautiful coves in all the Galapagos. The visitor site is a wet landing located in Barrington Bay on the northeastern side of the island. Large numbers of sea lions are found on the beaches in the bay, occasionally occupying to the two trails leading from the beach to the trails. The departure from the hotel is at 7:30 AM, the navigation on board to Santa Fe is about 60 minutes approximately per way. Colonies sparrow-hawks are usually seen flying over Santa Fe and fearless of humans, so very easy to photograph. The trails lead to areas where land iguanas are present that feed mostly from the leaves and fruits of the large-thick endemic opuntia cacti. Crabs, night herons, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, and many other birds species, are seen frequently on the trails. After the hike on the trail we will go back on board for lunch, to end the day snorkeling and swimming; you may encounter sea turtles, rays, white tip reef sharks, and many fish species.

### **Saturday:** *Full day shared excursion to North Seymour Island*

NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND - Is located approximately 7 km north of Baltra Island and is home to one of the largest and most active sea bird breeding colonies in the islands. It is a very dry island with no natural sources of water, leaving the animals, namely land iguanas, to rely on the succulent flowers of the cactus plants for nourishment. Whatever time of the year, there is always some kind of courtship, mating, nesting or chick rearing to observe.

The tour begins with a guided tour by a National Park certified guide on an approx. 2.5 km trail through nesting sites and one of the largest breeding colonies in the islands of blue-footed boobies, the magnificent and the great frigate birds, and the swallow-tailed gull. There is also an opportunity observe sea lions, the Galápagos land iguanas, the Galápagos snake, Galápagos marine iguanas, lava lizards and pelicans.



(continued)

# GALAPAGOS LAND-BASED SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

## 5 days / 4 nights (continued)

**Sunday:** *Transfer to Baltra Airport, Baltra Island for national flight.*

In the morning you will be transfer to Baltra Airport, Baltra Island for your flight back to the continent



### INCLUDED:

- Transfer from Puerto Ayora Town pier to chosen hotel in Puerto Ayora / Santa Cruz Island with local language driver.
- Four nights of lodging at chosen hotel in Santa Cruz Island, in a double/twin room with breakfast and taxes
- Three full day shared excursions to Seymour, Santa Fe or Plazas Islands with bilingual guide, box lunch, snorkel equipment, and transport
- Transfer out to Baltra Airport, Baltra Island from Puerto Ayora / Santa Cruz Island (takes 1 ½ hours) with local language driver.

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare Guayaquil / Galapagos / Guayaquil
- Meals and services not mentioned above
- Galapagos National Park Entrance fee – paid in cash upon arrival to the island
- TCT - paid at Guayaquil/Quito Airport
- Gratuities to guides and crew
- Expenses due to mishaps and situations outside of the control of Bambutravel



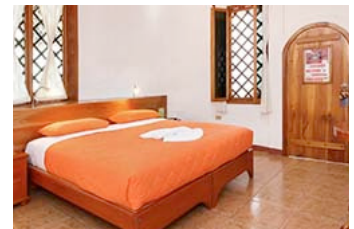
*Hotel Deja Vu*



*Hotel Deja Vu*



*Hotel Mainao*



*Hotel Mainao*



*Hotel Solymar*



*Hotel Solymar*



*Finch Bay*



*Finch Bay - Finch Room*



*Finch Bay - Garden view*



*Finch Bay - Ocean View Suite*