

# 1.3. Immersive Galapagos – 5-Day Glamping Adventure

## Day 1

### *Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos Magic Lodge*

Perched high on a hillside overlooking the ocean, Magic Galapagos Tented Camp will be your home for the next two nights. The sounds of nature will serenade you in the evenings, and the Milky Way will be our night light. We'll be able to feast our eyes on the mountains and forests surrounding the Camp and enjoy the peace of having the entire hillside to ourselves, with the exception of seasonal resident giant tortoises.

Watching the colorful sunset from Magic's western perch is the perfect segue into evening. Dinners are sumptuous three course affairs, prepared by expert chefs in an open-air kitchen in the main lodge. A favorite post-dinner activity is a short walk to the reserve's natural lava tubes, for a night cap in the one-of-a-kind 'Lava Lounge' bar. It's the perfect spot to relax around the fire and share stories from the day's adventures.



*Included: Transportation, English speaking assistance, lunch, dinner, and accommodation.*



## Day 2

### *Yacht tour of uninhabited islands*

Embark our motor yacht and enjoy of a daily excursion with a welcoming crew members and knowledgeable naturalist guide as you experience the remote islands in comfort and style.

Our daily excursions will take you to experience the Galapagos Islands in a safe and comfortable manner. We can visit North Seymour and Bachas, South Plazas, Santa Fe Island or Bartolome, and Sullivan Bay. Along the way, we might see leaping rays or other sea life, while enjoying the vastness of the Pacific. The yacht tour lets you see the Islands and their wildlife in their most pristine state. Island visited may vary according to National Park regulations

*Included: Breakfast, transportation, English speaking assistance, excursion, snack during activity, lunch, dinner, and accommodation.*

## Day 3

### *Santa Cruz Island - El Garrapatero beach*

Start the day with a visit to an off-the-beaten-path area of Santa Cruz Island - Garrapatero beach. On the way we will stop to visit the lava tunnels. These tunnels were formed as the outer skin of molten lava solidified but the liquid magma inside continued flowing, leaving behind a series of empty tubes. We will have a chance to explore these underground channels.

From the tunnels, we continue to Garrapatero Beach. Once there, we may see a few local families, but few, if any, tourists.

You can swim or snorkel, or opt for a paddle on a sit-on-top sea kayak (extra cost).



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## Hiking Cerro Mesa

Today you will also visit the Cerro Mesa viewpoint, from where you can admire the whole southern shore of Santa Cruz. Continue towards one of the iconic formations in Galapagos, Cerro Mesa, where you will hike downhill for about 30 minutes to the bottom of this collapsed crater. Explore the fascinating crater floor and relax for a while before starting the hike back (45 minutes - 1 hour). During the hike, you will have excellent opportunities to see endemic species such as the woodpecker finch, or if we are very lucky, giant tortoises. We will stop at a scenic spot to enjoy lunch in the reserve during our excursion.

## Charles Darwin Research Station

The Charles Darwin Research Center is the nexus of all the scientific research in the Galapagos Islands. It is from these headquarters that all of the most sensitive conservation projects are being directed. The conservation and preservation of giant tortoises and marine iguanas is one example of the Center's labor. You will explore the core of the Research Center where you will find the corrals where the giant tortoises are being bred, as well as the corrals where the land iguanas are being studied. The Research Center offers a brand-new Interpretation Center with some of the most important samples of the Center Collection.

The Charles Darwin Reservation is located near Puerto Ayora's port. Along the main street, you can find many restaurants, bars, handcrafted shops. Take your time to explore, enjoy an ice cream or be delighted with an amazing view of the ocean.



*Included: : Breakfast, transportation, English speaking guide, excursion, lunch, dinner, and accommodation.*



## Day 4

### Santa Cruz Island - Academy Bay tour

Transfer to the pier to take a boat tour of Academy Bay. Visit the Loberia, a small island where you can swim and snorkel with sea lions. Navigations through Love Canal, Canal Sharks, Cracks and Playa Los Perros are part of our exploration. Enjoy watching sharks, sea lions, blue-footed boobies, iguanas and stingrays and other species. Lunch is included.

### Tortuga Bay

After walking through a deciduous forest for 2.5 Km (~1.5 miles – approximately 45 minutes' walk) we will reach one of the most beautiful beaches in the archipelago. We will continue walking along this white sand beach for another 1 Km (~0.6 mile) until we reach the Playa Mansa where we can enjoy a special kayaking ride around the Bay.

You can spot marine iguanas, go for a swim, snorkel or just relax on the sandy shore. Turtle Bay is a stunning white sand beach, so named because it is a nesting site for the black turtle. After you have enjoyed time on the beach, we will return the way we came (~45-minute walk). If you do not wish to walk back, you may take a boat transfer (extra cost - pay directly).

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### *Day 5*

#### *Departure day*

Transfer by land to Baltra for your onward journey or flight back home.

*Included: Accommodation, Meals as described above, Transfers & ground transportation, English-speaking naturalist guide, Activities and visits detailed in the itinerary*

*Not Included: Flights (all flights from mainland Ecuador to the Galapagos Islands can be arranged upon request), Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US \$100 per adult/\$50 per child under 12), tourist transit card (US \$20 per person), beverages, laundry service, insurance (prior to your journey please ensure your travel insurance is valid in your country of origin), gratuities, tips.*

