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***ISLAND
HOPPING***

The Mountain and The Sea - 5-day program (Santa Cruz & San Cristobal)

Falling in love with a destination is different for every traveler. Maybe it's a discovery of food, the excitement of getting off-the-beaten-path or meeting and getting to know locals. For those that crave an insider's track to local life, we offer 'The Mountain and The Sea,' a Galapagos love story.

Polo and Jacqui live in the Galapagos; he on Santa Cruz at his giant tortoise reserve and camp, she on San Cristobal at her beautiful and artistic Casa Blanca B&B. He loves his highlands home just as she loves her residence on the shore. Yet they share a deep love for the Galapagos...and each other. Our new 'The Mountain and The Sea' itinerary gives travelers the chance to fall in love with the Islands, as well as with the locals like Polo and Jacqui.

Polo and Jacqui will host your guests and help them get to know the Islands through their eyes. On Polo's island, the Galapagos' most populous, visitors will be guided on adventures that range from kayaking to underground exploration. In the evenings, they will settle into Polo's highlands retreat and get a feel for why he loves his mountain and Santa Cruz Island so much.

After active days on Santa Cruz, travelers will journey to Jacqui where the pace slows to 'island time,' and they can enjoy the luxury of toes-in-the-sand relaxation. On San Cristobal, visitors get a glimpse of Jacqui's artistic spirit and create their own adventures around Jacqui's favorites. She will recommend and guide their journey, making for a totally personalized experience.

'The Mountain and The Sea' will allow travelers to embrace the romance of exploration and discovery in the Galapagos with a true local flavor. We promise they'll fall head over heels.



Day 1

Baltra Island - Santa Cruz Island

Arrival in the Galapagos

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 and share stories from the day's adventures.



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

Day 2

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 make a stop to visit the lava tunnels. These tunnels were formed as the outer skin of molten lava solidified but the liquid



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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).

Hiking Cerro Mesa

From Garrapatero, 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.

Lunch is included in Cerro Mesa reserve.

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 bustling port. Along the main street, you can find many restaurants, bars and shops with locally made items. Take your time to explore and get a feel for the vibe of the largest town in the Islands. Take in the views, stop for a beer, perhaps 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 3

Santa Cruz Island - San Cristobal Island

In the morning, we will transfer to Puerto Ayora where we will board our speedboat for the 2-hour transfer to San Cristobal. On arrival, we will visit the Interpretation Center located at the northern edge of town. The Center provides great information about this fascinating archipelago, including the natural history of the Islands as well as the impact of humans on the ecosystem. You will also learn

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about the efforts to conserve the Galapagos and the challenges facing the Islands. Our next destination is "Cerro Tijieretas" (Frigatebird Hill), located 2 km by car from the Interpretation Center.

The hill is often visited by frigates, hence its name. Here you can see the magnificent frigates on the same hill. This is the perfect place to compare and learn to distinguish between them.

After lunch (on your own account) we will visit El Junco, one of the few permanent freshwater lakes in the Galapagos. Located in the highlands of San Cristóbal, the lagoon has a surface area of 6 ha and a volume equivalent to 35 million liters of water. On the way to El Junco, we will pass through several vegetation zones and the farming community, El Progreso, before reaching a beautiful panoramic site. It is an ideal spot for bird watching as well as enjoying the landscape.

We will do a short walk towards La Loberia. We will grab our bikes or walk along the coast, do a bit more snorkeling, or just sit and watching a playful colony of sea lions while we admire the brilliant ocean sunset.



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



Day 4 San Cristobal Island

Underwater Life

Today we leave early for our transfer to Baquerizo Moreno Port, from which we will take a boat to the impressive Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock. En route, we will try out our snorkeling gear in a small protected bay with calm water and playful sea lions.

Leon Dormido, made of two rocks in the form of an obelisk jutting dramatically out of the sea, is considered one of the top snorkeling and dive sites in the Galapagos, and here we will use our snorkeling equipment to explore a channel between the rocks. Stingrays, white-tipped reef sharks, hammerhead sharks, turtles, tropical fish and eagle rays all live in the waters around Leon Dormido and if you are lucky you may even spot dolphins and whales!

Day 5 Departure Day

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



Included : Accommodation, meals as described above, transfers& ground transportation, English-speaking guide/assistance, 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.