



Futuro
Valdivia
Travel

XAVIER

Type:	Motor yacht
Category:	Tourist Superior
Capacity:	16 passengers
Crew:	7 + 1 naturalist guide
Accommodation:	8 double cabins with twin beds, private bath (hot water), airconditioning
Departure days:	Wednesday
Length:	26 m. / 86 ft.
Beam:	7 m. / 24 ft.
Speed:	12 knots



DETAILED ITINERARY A 5 days / 4 nights

WEDNESDAY: Baltra Airport – Santa Cruz Highlands

AM Depart from Quito or Guayaquil to Galapagos. Upon arrival at San Cristobal Airport, our naturalist guide will assist you. Transfer and board the Xavier yacht. Welcome and briefing.

PM Afternoon excursion to the Santa Cruz highlands. Here we may have the opportunity to see giant land tortoises in the wild.

Accommodation aboard Xavier /including lunch and dinner

THURSDAY: Rabida - Santa Cruz (Bachas Beach)

AM Morning excursion to Rabida Island, where we will land on a red sand beach. From here a short trail leads to a salt water lagoon, often home to wading flamingos. Another trail goes past the lagoon to the interior, where the revered palo santo trees grow. When burned, the branches of this tree give off a pleasing aroma and ward off mosquitoes. Back on the beach among low-lying bushes nest the prehistoric-looking pelicans. This is the best area for close viewing of these nesting birds, and it's a rare treat to watch parent pelicans return with gullets full of fish for the squawking youngsters.

PM Afternoon excursion to Bachas Beach, a beautiful beach where sea turtles lay their eggs. You can also observe sea lions and plentiful bird life.

Accommodation aboard Xavier / including breakfast, lunch and dinner

FRIDAY: Floreana (Cormorant Point, Devil's Crown, Post Office Bay)

AM Today we will explore Floreana island. In the morning we will make our way to Cormorant Point on the northern part of Floreana. The landing is on a beach of

green sand, coloured by olivine crystals, volcanic-derived silicates of magnesium and iron. The trail leads to a lake normally inhabited by flamingos and other shore birds, and continues to a beach of fine white sand particles known as "Flour Beach", an important nesting site for turtles. Around the point, Devil's Crown derives its name from the broken remains of a partially submerged volcanic cone. This is a perfect spot to go snorkelling from the boat, as the waters are home to a multitude of colourful fish and sea lions. Please make sure you are a good swimmer, however, as despite the protection from the open sea provided by the "crown," the water here can be rough and the currents strong.

PM In the afternoon we stop at Post Office Bay which has an older history. A barrel was placed here in the late 18th century by English whaling vessels to be used as a post office. Passing ships would stop to leave mail for loved ones, collecting at the same time any mail destined for ports on their itineraries. Today the box is used mainly by tourists, who may drop off and pick up unstamped letters to be carried to far destinations. The remains of a Norwegian canning factory are the only evidence of the Island's history prior to its designation as a protected area. A short hike up past the post barrel takes you to an interesting lava cave. With the aid of a flashlight, you can descend about 80 m (262 ft) to the point where the sea enters the cave.

Accommodation aboard Xavier / including breakfast, lunch and dinner

SATURDAY: Española (Suarez Point and Gardner Bay)

AM Arrive at Española, the southernmost island which is home to many wildlife species, including masked and blue-footed boobies. A hike to the top of the cliff makes for spectacular photo opportunities. Suarez Point on the western side of Española Island (also called Hood) is spectacular: gargantuan waves break on jagged cliffs and large bird colonies thickly populate the interior of the island; there is a distinct feel of desolate wilderness here. The waved albatross is seen here from April to December during its mating/nesting season. This bird leaves land between January and March each year to make its annual odyssey far out to sea. Amazingly, Española is the nesting site to virtually the entire world population of this species, with more than 12000 pairs residing here. Large numbers of masked and blue-footed boobies are also found here, red-billed tropic birds dash madly through the air, and both Marine Iguanas and sea lions are common. A huge blowhole, where the surf is forced through a natural rock formation spouting seawater 15 to 20 m (49 - 66 ft) into the air, adds to the island's impression of untamed beauty.

PM The afternoon excursion will take us to Gardner Bay, which has a beautiful beach for relaxing, swimming and snorkeling.

Accommodation aboard Xavier / including breakfast, lunch and dinner



CABIN XAVIER

SUNDAY: San Cristobal (Interpretation Center and Airport)

AM Arrive at San Cristobal where we will visit the Interpretation Center. Transfer to the airport for return flight to Guayaquil / Quito.

including breakfast

Please note that itineraries can be subject to changes without previous notice due to operational purposes, policies of the Galapagos National Park authorities, weather conditions, and for comfort of our passengers.