

# M / Y ERIC

## Itinerary "A"

### M / Y Eric, Flamingo & Letty Itinerary - A



## M/Y Eric – Itinerary A

### SUNDAY

Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **SAN CRISTOBAL**, our crew is waiting at the airport to escort you by bus to the main deck and then by zodiac to your yacht anchored in the bay. After the welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served. We travel by bus to **Cerro Tijeretas** or "**Frigatebird Hill**" is situated just outside town near to "La Predial" a fishing community present from 1952 to 1960. It is one of two sites where you can spot nesting colonies of both species of Frigatebirds (Great and Magnificent). The trail leads to Playa Mann where there are vistas of beautiful scenery.



We return to the yacht and depart 3PM to cruise around **Leon Dormido** aka **Kicker Rock**, a vertical tuff cone formation that rises abruptly almost 500 feet out of the ocean. On the cliffs, we spot Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies and Magnificent Frigate birds. Join your fellow yacht mates this evening for your island briefing followed by our Captain's welcome cocktail party and dinner prepared by our well-trained chefs.

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### MONDAY

This morning we visit **CERRO BRUJO**, a breathtaking white power-sand beach, said to be one of the most spectacular in Galapagos and have an opportunity to snorkel or kayak right from the beach.

This afternoon, we visit the northeast tip of San Cristobal, **PUNTA PITT**, is a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including blue footed, Nazca and red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls and storm petrels. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for birds and equal to Genovesa (Tower) Island.



### TUESDAY

This morning we have a dry landing at **Punta Suarez, HOOD (ESPANOLA)**, where we witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet us as we land on their beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at our shoelaces.



From April to November, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in "sky-pointing" to show off for potential mates. Nazca (formerly masked) boobies busily care for their young. Stunning swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. We also find Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks. Observe a

unique species of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near the famous "blow hole". This is the scene most people envision when they decide to visit Galapagos. During lunch, we motor to the other side of the Island.

In the afternoon, we have a wet landing on **Gardner Bay, ESPANOLA (HOOD)**. Walk along seemingly endless stretches of this white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore and you may find a Galapagos Hawk, Darwin's Finches or Hood Mockingbird. Swim with sea lions from the beach or just relax on the beach. There's an excellent snorkeling site off Gardner Islet with a colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock in caves covered with invertebrates.

Passengers are also permitted to use the kayaks at this particular site.



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### WEDNESDAY

This morning we step ashore at **Punta Cormorant, FLOREANA (Charles)**, one of the few populated islands in the Galapagos. Floreana presents a rich history with mystery and intrigue.



Set food on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the pintail ducks, common stilts, and the pinkest Flamingos in the world. Wind your way past a rich variety of plants including morning glories, cutleaf daisies, palo verdes and scalesia leading to a beach with power soft sand. Sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and rays swim in the shallow water.

After the walk, we have an opportunity to snorkel at **Champion Islet**.

This afternoon we visit **Post office Bay**, not the most scenic, but probably the most famous sites in Galapagos. Here is where a post barrel was put into use in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century by English whaling vessels. You are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail from your home area.

### THURSDAY

We travel by bus to the **highlands** of **SANTA CRUZ** Island. The scenery gradually changes as we wind our way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Here, we visit the tortoise reserve at "Las Primicias" one of the private farms in the highlands where we encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. We stop at "the tunnels", the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos. We visit *Los Gemelos*, Spanish for "The Twins", a pair of large pit craters where we find the bright red male vermilion flycatcher.



After lunch, we visit the **Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena** (aka the **Charles Darwin Research Station**). See all three tortoise corals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated. Scientists from all over the globe work at the station and conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology. We stop at Van Straelen Hall where there are exhibits and a presentation. Visitors can see the tortoise and land iguana corrals. Puerto Ayora is the social heart of the islands with the largest population of 24,000. This evening you have the option to return to your yacht for a buffet dinner or remain in town on your own account. Those who return to the yacht will be provided zodiacs to return to town to shop for souvenirs or stop in at an internet café. Zodiacs will be provided for your return to your yacht

### FRIDAY

We disembark at **BARTOLOME**, where it seems like we are walking on the moon. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, we pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, we can gaze out across the island for a panoramic view



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of the island and "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos Penguins or take a Zodiac ride. After lunch, we visit **Las Bachas**, (Spanish for "barges"). There is a long stretch of a soft white sand beach and interior lagoons where we find the Greater Flamingo. There is also a wonderful chance to snorkel here from the beach. Located off the Southern tip of Santiago is **Sombrero Chino** aka **Chinese Hat** that owes its name to its shape. After a wet beach landing with sea lion colonies, the trail gives way to a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble including cracked lava formations and lava tubes. We find marine iguanas and pairs of oystercatchers. You can choose to snorkel at a site that is frequented by Galapagos penguins. There is a briefing followed by dinner while we anchor in a calm protected area.

### SATURDAY

This morning, we visit **SOUTH PLAZA**, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views.



After a dry landing, the trails lead us through Prickly Pear cactus or Opuntia and Sesuvium. Here we can find the Galapagos land iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Toward the end of the hill, we encounter a colony of bachelor sea lions. The dominant bulls are in various stages of recovery from battles lost over prime beach territory. We also find swallow tailed gulls, shearwaters and red-billed tropicbirds who build their nests along the cliffs.

After lunch, we have a dry landing at **North Seymour**, a small geological uplift. We follow a trail that leads us to Swallow-tailed gulls, Blue-footed boobies and the endemic Land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of Magnificent Frigate birds found in Galapagos. As we stroll along the beach, we find Marine Iguanas and sea lions body surf the northern swells. We return to the yacht for the Captain's Farewell cocktail party and dinner as well as a special slide show presentation by your guides.

Back on board, enjoy the Captain's Farewell cocktail followed by dinner and a briefing.

### SUNDAY

This morning, we drop anchor in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **SAN CRISTOBAL**. We visit the Interpretation Center opened in 1999. Here we gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands.

Afterwards, we head straight to the airport for our flight back to the mainland departing SCY at 12PM on Aerogal37.