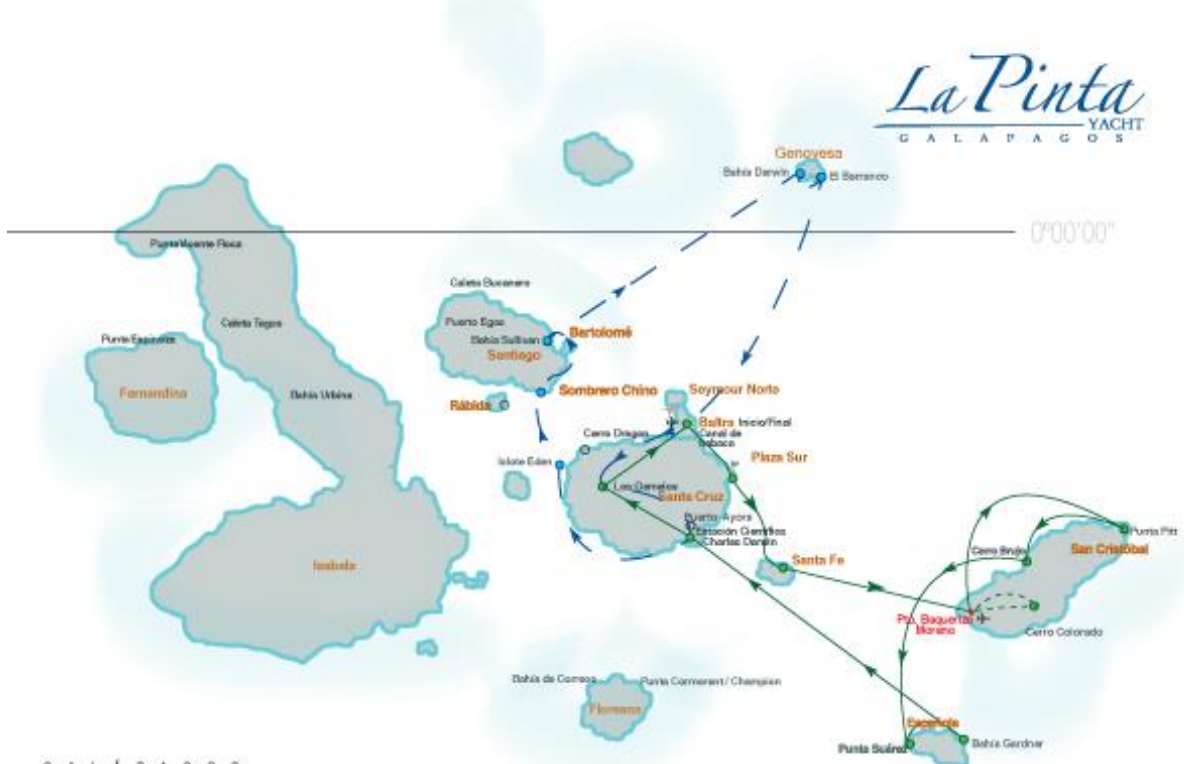


# La Pinta

## Combined Eastern & Northern Itinerary

### 9-Days/8-Nights

Scroll down for Detailed Day-by-Day Itinerary



GALÁPAGOS  
**BIG 15**  
BY METROPOLITAN TOURING



**9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS**  
Eastern Northern Islands

	AM VISITS	ISLAND	Aquatic Activities	PM VISITS	ISLAND	Aquatic Activities
Thursday	Baltra	Baltra		South Plaza	South Plaza	
Friday	Santa Fé	Santa Fé	☞ ☞	Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve	San Cristóbal	
Saturday	Punta Pitt	San Cristóbal	☞ ☞ ☞	Cerro Brujo	San Cristóbal	☞ ☞ ☞
Sunday	Punta Suarez	Española		Gardner Bay	Española	☞ ☞ ☞ ☞
Monday	Charles Darwin Research Station	Santa Cruz		Gigant Tortoise Reserve	Santa Cruz	
Tuesday	Eden Islet	Eden Islet	☞ ☞ ☞	Chinese Hat	Chinese Hat	☞ ☞ ☞
Wednesday	Bartolomé Island	Bartolomé	☞ ☞ ☞ ☞	Sullivan Bay	Santiago	☞
Thursday	Darwin Bay	Genovesa	☞ ☞ ☞	Prince Phillip Steps	Genovesa	☞
Friday	Baltra Airport	Baltra				



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#### Thursday - Day 1 – BALTRA & SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

(-/L/D)

##### Baltra

Our adventure begins with a morning flight to Baltra Island and immediate transfer to the dock to board Yacht La Pinta. There's a welcome introductory briefing, boat drill, cabin assignment and then lunch. We weigh anchor and start sailing for our first afternoon outing.

##### South Plaza Island

The turquoise waters of the channel here contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline, while a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus beyond, populated by yellow-grey land iguanas. Along the coastline one finds sea lion colonies, while sea birds play with the thermals that form along the cliffs of this small but amazing island.



#### Friday - Day 2 – SANTA FE & SAN CRISTOBAL

(B/L/D)

##### Santa Fe Island

We take the dinghy over to this idyllic sandy-white beach populated by colonies of sea lions. Galápagos hawks are often easily observed, perched atop salt bushes. The endemic Santa Fe land iguana, unique to this island, may be spotted during the walk. Following the walk, we can snorkel and swim along a natural wave barrier.

##### Cerro Colorado Tortoise Habitat

After lunch, we land back at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and drive 40 minutes to the island's southern shore. At Cerro Colorado, we visit the breeding centre of highly endangered giant tortoises in the midst of a beautiful deciduous forest, home to dozens of bird species, including the San Cristóbal mockingbird, and the San Cristóbal lava lizard, both island endemics.



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#### Saturday - Day 3 - SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

(B/L/D)

##### Punta Pitt

We land at the eastern tip of San Cristóbal Island this morning. The trail that ascends from the beach provides spectacular views of the shoreline; we can observe frigate birds, plus a colony of bachelor sea lions. After the walk, if conditions are favourable, there is a chance to swim from the beach and snorkel by an islet.

##### Cerro Brujo

In the afternoon following lunch on board, a dinghy ride along the shores of tuff-stone layers takes us to Cerro Brujo's expansive, white coral beach, great for walking, with rewarding bird-watching including seabirds and shore birds. Also, look out for Galápagos sea lions. These are the same shores that Charles Darwin walked upon, back in September 1835.



#### Sunday - Day 4 – HOOD (ESPAÑOLA) ISLAND

(B/L/D)

##### Punta Suárez

Our morning outing at Punta Suárez provides an exciting walk on lava/boulder terrain to visit its unique sea bird colonies, including the waved albatrosses (April - January), boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, and the famous "blowhole", a geological formation. Also, look for red-green-black marine iguanas. Many regard this site as the best in the islands. Back on board for lunch.

##### Gardner Bay

In the afternoon, we set down at this beautiful, white coral beach for a short walk to observe the sea lions, mockingbirds, finches or enjoy the beach. There is great snorkelling in this area, or else there's time to kayak or ride the glass-bottom boat.



#### Monday - Day 5 - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

(B/L/D)

##### Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz Island)

Disembarking in the morning, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the 'rearing in captivity' programme for giant tortoises. Here we witness the efforts and results of Galápagos biology fieldwork. After our visit at the Research Station, we will have some free time to stroll the streets of Puerto Ayora and see the largest town of the Galápagos Islands. For lunch, we will head up to the centre of Santa Cruz and visit its evergreen highlands.

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#### Highlands of Santa Cruz Island

This is a great place to look for the emblematic Darwin's finches and the endemic Scalesia trees. The highlands are also great for exploring the exuberant vegetation where the giant tortoises roam in the wild. This will surely be one of the most remembered visits of the whole voyage.



#### Tuesday - Day 6 - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / SOMBRERO CHINO ISLET

(B/L/D)

##### Eden Islet (Santa Cruz Island)

After breakfast, a panga ride takes us to Eden Islet, located off the coast of Santa Cruz, where we can observe

-footed boobies diving into the water, reef sharks and frigate birds. There's a chance to snorkel and, if weather conditions permit, ride in the glass-bottom boat. The volcanic setting of this area is quite stunning due to its variety of volcanic debris, including cinder cones, tuff cones, and semi-eroded lava flows.

##### Sombrero Chino Islet

The tiny island of Sombrero Chino gets its name from its appearance: a Chinese hat. This islet, only formed fairly recently, makes a beautiful visit as one explores the wildlife along its 400-metre long trail, which begins at a crescent-shaped white sandy beach. The cove offers excellent swimming and snorkelling opportunities with white-tipped reef sharks and Galápagos penguins.



#### Wednesday - Day 7 - BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND / SANTIAGO ISLAND

(B/L/D)

##### Bartolomé Island

This morning, a Galápagos icon awaits: Bartolomé Island. A great way to start the day, with a steep climb up a wooden staircase: the view from the top is worth the effort! Following the walk, we take to the dinghies for a ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock, followed by time to enjoy the beach and some snorkelling. We can also ride in the glass-bottom boat for great views of the underwater world.

##### Sullivan Bay (Santiago Island)

After lunch, we board the pangas to land at Sullivan Bay on the east coast of Santiago, a white coral sand beach great for swimming and snorkelling, and with a trail over a lava field that flowed here less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galápagos while observing its wildlife.

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#### Thursday - Day 8 – GENOVESA ISLAND

(B/L/D)

##### Darwin Bay

In the morning, we begin our exploration of this island with an easy stroll to observe marine and land birds. There is an optional walk over sharp lava and uneven terrain for dramatic views, or else we can return to the beach to enjoy swimming and snorkelling at this beautiful natural harbour. The more adventurous can snorkel along the cliffs or paddle sea kayaks.

##### Prince Philip's Steps

The afternoon starts with a very interesting panga ride along the cliffs before we disembark for a short but steep climb up a wooden staircase. Once at the top, the land is flat, allowing for a captivating walk of about a mile to the other side of this small island, observing large colonies of Nazca boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels and the elusive short-eared owl.



#### Friday - Day 9 - BALTRA - Quito / Guayaquil

(B/-/-)

Our journey ends at Baltra Island where we transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the mainland. This island and its flat substrate (due to its uplifted origin) is the reason why the island was chosen back in the 1940s as the area to build an airport.