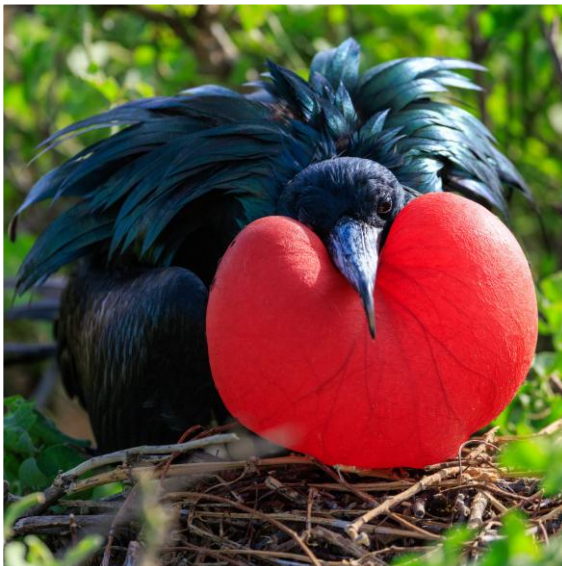


Tour Report

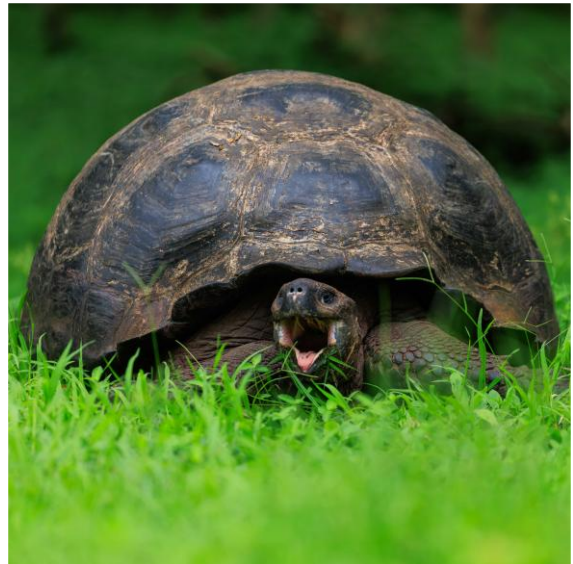
Galapagos with Mark Carwardine & Chris Breen

28 May – 10 June 2026

Great frigatebird



Giant tortoise



American flamingo



Medium ground finch



Compiled by Chris Breen

Our private 12-night charter of the motor-yacht Beluga saw us travelling the eastern, central and western islands in comfort, with our naturalist guide Juan Tapia bringing the remote archipelago's wildlife and geology to life throughout, and with Mark Carwardine and Chris Breen adding photography tips, tricks and workshops, as well as evening presentations and talks.

We explored the islands on land and by sea with highlights including snorkel excursions most days (with penguins, turtles, marine iguanas, sharks, rays, flightless cormorants and an array of colourful fish). We walked across lava fields, discovered pristine sea lion-strewn beaches, and witnessed waved albatrosses' courtship behaviour, bird-rich brackish lagoons, giant tortoises and land iguanas. It was, as it always is, a feast for the senses. Where else in the world is wildlife guaranteed? Where else in the world is it necessary to step over blue-footed boobies in order to continue along a path, and where else can you see your own reflection when photographing the eye of a swallow-tailed gull? There really is nowhere else in the world quite like it.

This is a busy, but hugely rewarding, schedule – we visit 13 islands in 13 days. There are mind-blowing wildlife experiences from the word go!

Day 1:

Thursday 28 May 2026

London Heathrow to Quito

Some of the group were already in Quito having done some pre-trip excursions, and everyone met in the hotel bar café at 6.00 pm. We made our introductions and then some of us headed round the corner to the main square and a lovely restaurant on the first floor overlooking the vibrant plaza.

The food and company were excellent and the mood upbeat and excited in respect of our departure for San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos archipelago first thing tomorrow morning.

Day 2:

Friday 29 May 2026

Quito to San Cristobal, board Beluga & visit El Junco

Everyone was in the hotel lobby shortly before 5 am in order to pick up a packed lunch and board the bus for our departure to the airport. At this time of day (before the rush hour begins), it is a 40-minute journey, and we arrived at the airport in plenty of time. With bags unloaded from the bus, we went through the bio-security check, attached our baggage tags and dropped our bags before heading through security to the airside. There was plenty of time for a (fairly awful!) coffee before boarding the flight.

The journey isn't long – it is 30 minutes or so to Guayaquil followed by 45 minutes on the ground and then just under two hours to San Cristobal. Those sitting by the windows had lovely views of the crystal-clear water as we came in to land. As we disembarked, the air was warm and slightly humid, but it was nice to be back at sea level after having been at 2,800 metres in Quito. We paid our entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park and then waited in the arrivals hall for our bags.

It is an interesting (if unusual) wait because the bags are taken off the carousel and lined up with everyone watching, and then a sniffer dog patrols the bags to check for unwelcome foodstuffs, drugs and other 'undesirables'. Our guide Juan was waiting for us outside the arrivals area and once we had collected our bags, we took them out to a waiting pick-up truck (they were going off to Beluga separately) and boarded our coach for the short ride (5 minutes or so) to the harbour. The tide was in when we arrived and there were plenty of Galapagos sea lions to greet us. Overhead were a few frigatebirds, and the sea was a very inviting turquoise colour. Juan distributed our life jackets and in two groups of eight, we made our way to the water's edge and boarded the zodiacs and headed to Beluga.



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We took our hand baggage to our rooms, our hold bags followed shortly after, and we then sat down for our first on-board meal (salad, rice, beef stew, and of course, both vegetarian and vegan options too). After lunch, Juan (our naturalist guide for the trip) gave us a short briefing on what to expect later today and then we went out to the bow for our lifeboat safety drill.

Then there was a bit of time to relax before we boarded the pangas at around 2.30 pm and went back to port. We walked

to our coach and drove the 30 minutes to El Junco. As we ascended, the temperature became noticeably cooler and the mist began to appear, but it was still dry when our coach stopped in the car park. We walked up the shallow side of the caldera and spent a little time looking at a hawk moth and a grey warbler finch. Juan told us about some of the plants, and we carried on to the caldera rim at around 770 metres. The lake was just about visible below but there was a shroud of mist over it. Some of the group walked down to a viewing platform and had a great encounter with another grey warbler finch, and from the platform it was possible to see white-cheeked pintail and magnificent frigatebird.



We walked back to the top of the caldera and gradually descended to the car park, taking time to photograph a couple of very obliging yellow warblers as we went. Then it was time to return to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno where there was time to explore the town, or photograph some of the wildlife at the water's edge, before we then met at a local bar for a beer as the sun was setting.



At 6.15 pm we donned our lifejackets and went back to Beluga. There was time for a quick shower before we were introduced to Captain Jose and all of the crew and raised a toast to the voyage ahead.

Dinner was served at around 7.30 pm and dessert was a birthday cake made especially for Liz which was brought to the table with lights out and candles ablaze, accompanied by Juan playing the guitar and singing Happy

Birthday.

After dinner, Juan gave everyone a briefing for tomorrow, and Mark did the first part of an introduction to the Galapagos... then it was time for bed!

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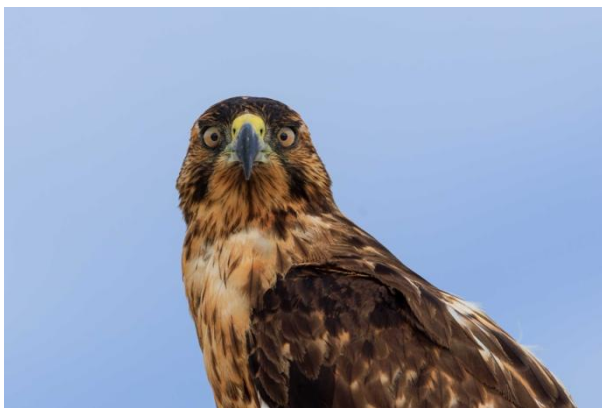
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Day 3:
Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez, Espanola

Saturday 30 May 2026



Everyone was up early; it was a slightly overcast but warm morning and a breakfast of cereals, fresh fruit, ham and eggs was available at 7 am. Then at 8 am we were in the pangas heading towards the beach at Gardner Bay. This pristine white sand beach is home to a (very!) healthy population of Galapagos sea lions, and they were there to greet us on arrival. It was our first wet landing of the trip, too, and Juan demonstrated how it was done as we approached the beach – everyone survived without having, as Juan put it, ‘a very wet landing’!



Once disembarked we headed up to the top of the beach, left our lifejackets and were free to walk along the extent of the beach looking at the wildlife. There were a few Española mockingbirds on the sand looking for titbits to eat, and a few of the group went off to photograph the old whale skeleton at the top of the beach, but most of the group walked along the shore to photograph sea lions. However, we were treated to a beautiful sight of a juvenile Galapagos hawk perched on a dead bough at the top of the beach and he (or she!) wasn't even slightly concerned by us being there. It was perched happily and posing for photos.

Whilst the sea lions on the beach were a constant source of interest, coating their fur in sand as a way of keeping off irritating insects, there were also Española ground finch and small ground finch and at the far end of the beach there were a few marine iguanas amongst the volcanic rocks.

At 9.30 am, it was time to gather on the beach and return to Beluga but of course, there was a wildlife twist as a small flock of ruddy turnstones flew in.



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Back on board, there was freshly made juice waiting for us, together with some snacks. We had a break of 30 minutes or so before Cesar fitted everyone out with a wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins and we upped anchor and headed the short distance to our first snorkelling site of the trip at nearby Islote Gardener.



There were a few in the group who were less confident with snorkelling, but everyone got in the water and as is so often the case in the Galapagos, it was a magical first snorkelling trip. There were plenty of parrot fish, surgeon fish and angel fish, although the visibility wasn't fantastic. But a number of the group were treated to some lovely (and lively!) behaviour from inquisitive sea lions that were playing in a watery cave and swimming out periodically to see us, swirl around like whirling dervishes and then race back into the cave. All too soon, our snorkelling time was up, and it was time to get back into the pangas and back to Beluga for lunch.

After lunch a number of the group were in the salon looking at (and processing) their photos or writing diaries when Captain Jose came in to say that there were dolphins ahead. Cesar rang the bell and most of the group went onto the bow and were treated to a group of 30 or 40 common bottlenose dolphins leaping out of the water and swimming towards our boat. The captain turned the boat and some of the dolphins came to the bow to do one of the many things that dolphins do best – ride the bow wave. It was a great mid-day fiesta!

We were geared up to get in the pangas by 2.15 pm but the size of the swell near our landing site was a cause for concern for Jose and the panga drivers, so they went in the pangas to do a recce to see if they thought we would be able to land – and came back with a 'negative'. We decided to wait for 30 minutes and review the situation, which was by then very different. Although there was still a swell, it was a much calmer sea and we were able to make our way over to our landing site. Once there, it was a bit of a challenge disembarking the pangas, but everyone managed it safely. There were a couple of other groups that had disembarked just before us so we waited on the beach photographing sea lions, marine iguanas, Galapagos gulls and Espanola mockingbirds.

The sea swell had created a challenge along the path as we had to cross what had become a fairly torrential boulder-strewn stream, but slowly and carefully everyone crossed and it was rather easier going from there on.

A Galapagos dove with two chicks was right by the path and probably less than a metre away. Espanola lava lizards, Espanola ground finch, small ground finch and more mockingbirds were along the path, and then as the path widened and we came to a more open area there were swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies and blue-footed boobies.



But it was the waved albatrosses that stole the show this afternoon. Most of them sat in pairs amongst the vegetation; occasionally one or two of them would get up and begin a courtship dance. Some of them were bill clapping, but all of them will have eggs – they lay them from April to June – which won't appear for a couple more weeks.

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At the furthest point on our walk, we sat on the cliff edge, looking at the menacing dark clouds and the sea below us being forced up through a blowhole in the rocks as albatrosses and blue-footed boobies cruised past as the light got better and better.

At 5.20 pm Juan called time on our stop at the blowhole as it was going to take a while to get back to our landing beach, which by the time we reached it was almost impassable due to a huge number of sea lions.

There were one or two feisty males, but it wasn't too long before we were aboard the pangas and heading back to the Beluga. The sunset sky was a rich orange colour which reflected beautifully in the water and was a very apt way to end what had been our first full day in the Galapagos.



Dinner was followed by Juan's briefing for tomorrow and the second part of Mark's introduction to the archipelago, after which (at 8.30 pm!) everyone retired to bed and Jose started the engines and began heading over to Floreana for tomorrow's activities.

Day 4:

Sunday 31 May 2026

Punta Cormorant & Post Office Bay, Floreana

We departed for Punta Cormorant at 8 am this morning - the sky was overcast but it was warm and quite humid. Surprisingly, there were no sea lions on the beach to greet us on the dark sandy volcanic beach.

We walked off the back of the beach along the sandy path and the first of the birds we saw was a yellow warbler and a young Galapagos flycatcher, followed by some small ground finches and then the first of the male Floreana lava lizards. As we passed the brackish lagoon, there were black-necked stilts, white-cheeked pintail, and in the distance, a group of 11 American flamingoes. We moved on from the lagoon to a slightly raised vantage point overlooking the lagoon from where there was a slightly better view of the flamingoes, and also a couple of cattle egrets.



Then we walked over a small 'isthmus' to the other side of the island and to a completely different beach, this time made from oceanic material. Whilst this is sometimes a good beach to see stingrays feeding very close to the shore, there weren't any today. But there were plenty of Sally lightfoot crabs, we had ruddy turnstones on the rocks, magnificent frigatebirds overhead and blue-footed boobies diving into the sea at high speed. Everyone was amazed that in such a short distance there could be such a contrast. Sadly, our time was up and we returned to our landing beach and waited for the pangas to arrive before heading back to Beluga.

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hammerhead (though he was the only one to see it), but very quickly there were sightings of green turtles, giant sea stars and of course sea lions!

We had been in the water for 30 minutes or so when Juan instructed everyone back to the boats as he wanted to take everyone back to the original drop in point in order that we could snorkel around the other side of Devil's Crown – and with the current it would have been difficult and tiring to swim all the way round. Once again, we jumped in, and once again we were back in the giant fish tank. This time the star of the show was a large white-tipped reef shark cruising along the seabed below us, and shortly before we returned to the pangas a few of the group encountered a large male sea lion.

Back on board, there was time for a shower before a late lunch and then a siesta.

Everyone was ready to depart Beluga at 3 pm so we headed out to Baroness Bay. It was still sunny, but there was a bit of a wind, and the sea conditions offshore were dramatic with high rolling waves which made for some good photo opportunities. We took time to explore the shore around some of the islets and discovered what appeared to be a family group of sea lions sleeping amongst a 'woodland' of large cacti. We then went into a more sheltered bay where there were a number (no, many!) green turtles – large and small, before returning past Beluga and landing on the beach at Post Office Bay.

This wonderful bay is home to the very first post office in Ecuador, a place where sailors would leave their letters in a box for them to be collected by other passing sailors and taken to their destination. The tradition continues, and there is a barrel where people leave postcards to be collected by passersby and hand-delivered on return to their home country.

From there we walked further inland and most of the group walked down into a lava tunnel. There are fairly steep steps down, and in parts it is a bit slippery, but it opens out into a large cave which connects (perhaps a kilometre or two further on) to the sea. It is an interesting place to visit.



So, after another excellent day, we walked back to the beach and boarded the pangas. Back on-board Beluga, we took a drink and sat on the sundeck as the light faded. After dinner, Juan gave us a short briefing for tomorrow's activities and then turned the lights down to recount the story of the toothless dentist and her sexual slaves that lived on the island many years ago – and then it was time for bed.

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Day 5:

Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz & Sullivan Bay, Santiago

Monday 1 June 2026



Today got off to a great start with breakfast at 6 am and a landing on the north-west side of Santa Cruz (at Dragon Hill) at 7 am. A dry (but quite slippery) landing brought us to a small white sand bay – no sea lions, amazingly! Through and past a small ‘woodland’ of cactus, and we were onto a long sandy beach with rocky outcrops.

The first ‘spot’ was of a couple of marine iguanas at the back of the beach in the scrub. Juan pointed out some of the smaller fish in one of the nearby rockpools and we

watched as the blue-footed boobies dived into the sea hunting fish just offshore. As we walked along the path past the lagoon, there were a couple of marine iguanas moving slowly and stealthily, their reflections mirrored in the water.

There were a number of yellow warblers in the trees, and we also had a good sighting of a dark-billed cuckoo. This was shortly followed by three or four smooth-billed anis – birds introduced to the Galapagos in order to remove ticks from cattle. Unfortunately (as is often the case), it has been fairly disastrous as they prey on the smaller nesting birds as a result of which they are now in the process of being eradicated. We continued along the trail and as we passed the lagoon, there were white-cheeked (Galapagos) pintails and nearby a small ground finch.



Slowly and quietly we continued along the path, past a land iguana hole on the right and then came across our first female. She was in the path bobbing her head up and down in a territorial display, suggesting that there was another female nearby – which there was, further along the path. The light was good and everyone was able to get some great images. There were carpenter bees and both monarch and saffron butterflies in the bushes as we carried on to the ridge which had magnificent views to the north towards the smaller Guy Fawkes islands and Santiago.

As we paused here, a yellow warbler flitted about the trees and then there was pandemonium as a large land iguana came at high speed up the path, ran right over the top of Rachel’s feet and then disappeared down the other side of the ridge. Presumably, it had been spooked by something, but we were none the wiser as to what it was that had spooked it. We carried on down the trail and returned to the lagoon and the beach and then back to our landing spot where we were collected and returned to Beluga at around 10 am. It had been an absolutely fabulous morning... but it wasn’t over.

20 minutes later, most of the group were in their swimming gear and had leapt into the sea for a swim – the water was clear and warm, and it was irresistible! Phil organised a ‘diving competition’, and everyone performed their best dives, which were marked by nearby judges (!). The winner was undoubtedly Juan who jumped from one pontoon of the zodiac to the next pontoon and then launched himself into the sea in a very dramatic dive where both a wetsuit and a balaclava! It was a great, fun interlude in the middle of the day.

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There was time for a shower and some image processing before our slightly earlier lunch at 11.40 am, and then we had two whole hours to write diaries, siesta, birdwatch from the sundeck or process images before we got ready for our 3 pm snorkelling excursion. The sun was shining, it was a warm afternoon, and we headed over to the fringe of Sullivan Bay to take to the water. With the island on our left, we worked our way along the shallows, looking at some beautiful schools of colourful fish – once again it was like snorkelling in a tropical fish tank, although the visibility wasn't nearly as good as it had been yesterday. A couple of people saw a white-tipped reef shark, and most of the group saw one or two Galapagos penguins. Everyone also managed to see a Galapagos snake eel, which was a first for the trip.

Our snorkel ended as we approached the beach and we returned to Beluga to prepare for our final landing of the day on the lava fields. The lava is from an eruption that took place 127 years ago – of course well after Charles Darwin's time (he arrived in 1835). But the beautiful rope-like ribbons of lava make an intense and striking black colouration that sets off anything that grows nearby, or that lands on it. In fact, there are only two pioneer plant species that are beginning to colonise the lava – one is a type of grass and the other a cactus. And, apart from the pioneer species the



only living things that we saw from the lava flow were a Galapagos dove and a Galapagos hawk. That isn't to take anything away from the site at all because in fact that is undoubtedly part of its fascination.



As the sun began to go down, we lay on the warm pahoehoe lava (the name for the rope-like lava) and took a group photo. That done, we headed back to the pangas and back to Beluga and most of the group took a drink to the sun deck for sundowners.

Dinner was served at 7 pm – the best meal so far (!), which was a spaghetti bolognese in various forms (vegetarian and non-vegetarian), after which Juan ran through the plan for tomorrow. The evening concluded with a presentation from Mark about wildlife photography.

Finally, as our captain Jose began the engines and set us on course for the island of Genovesa to the north-east of the archipelago, it was time to retire for the night, exhausted after another excellent day.



Day 6:

Darwin Bay & Prince Phillip's Steps, Genovesa

Tuesday 2 June 2026

We woke up in Darwin Bay and by 5.50 am everyone was up ready for breakfast. By 7 am we were in the pangas and heading over to the beach for the beginning of one of the very best days of all on the trip. The distance we cover and the area we visit is minimal, but it is arguably one of the finest landings in the whole archipelago.

Sea lions on the beach (of course), and lots of swallow-tailed gulls, red-footed boobies, some Nazca boobies and plenty of Galapagos doves. It is impossible to accurately describe the scene, but the volume of wildlife

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and the proximity of wildlife is exceptional.



With no one else on the island, we spread ourselves out on the beach and spent the best part of an hour photographing gulls (swallow-tailed and lava gulls), Nazca boobies and sea lions. We walked to where the great frigatebirds were nesting - plenty of them at low level on the bushes, males, females and young, and overhead was a cacophony of frigatebirds, boobies and gulls. It really is quite extraordinary being at eye-level with such large birds that don't have any fear or concern about us being present.

On the greenery were two of the three species of Darwin's finch that are found on the island – Genovesa ground finch and large ground finch, and there were Genovesa cactus finches on the cacti!



As we moved on we had sightings of a young, yellow-crowned night heron near the volcanic wall and on the other side of the path, the mangrove was 'home' to scores of red-footed boobies. Most of the group continued the walk up to the cliff top to enjoy the view of Darwin's Bay while others photographed the almost biblical scenes of flora and fauna.

We were incredibly lucky because whilst there was one other group that visited the site for a short period, for most of our landing we were the only visitors in this incredibly special place. A few of the group returned to Beluga at around 10 am, but the

remainder of the group returned just before 11 am after a staggering four hours of simply exceptional wildlife viewing. The sea was quite choppy, but we were keen for a swim so one of the zodiacs was mobilised and eight of the group went a short distance by zodiac (to get away from the moving Beluga) and had a swim in the balmy waters of the bay.

Lunch was at noon and after a brief siesta (or a session processing images, enjoying the sundeck or reading!) we once again boarded the pangas to head over to El Barranco (Prince Phillip's Steps). Another of the great highlights of any trip to the Galapagos.

The panga took us across the bay from Beluga, and as we approached the landing site, we drove close to the cliff face and saw a Galapagos fur seal in the water and another sleeping in the crevice of the rocks. Nesting Galapagos shearwaters were flying around above us, as were red-billed tropicbirds, great frigatebirds and Nazca boobies.



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Once at the top of the steps, Juan gave us a quick briefing, and we made our way along the trail. This is an exceptional site, a feast for the senses from the moment you get to the top of the steps. There are scores of nesting great frigatebirds, and the Nazca boobies are bringing their partners gifts of sticks and small stones or flying low overhead. And the air is full of the sound of birds – Galapagos mockingbirds, boobies, swallow-tailed gulls and red-billed tropicbirds.

We walked as far along the trail as we could, past the bushes and out onto an open, rocky area where the air was alive with wedge-rumped (or Galapagos) storm-petrels, tropicbirds and frigatebirds, and our mission here was to find the Galapagos short-eared owl.



It didn't take much looking as there was an owl near the path nestled in a rocky canyon. There was a second owl out on the rocky plateau further along the trail and this one was hunting. The photographers had a field day and those not so keen on photography simply enjoyed the spectacle.

As the light level was dropping, we returned to the landing site, boarded the pangas and returned to Beluga. Back on board, there was

time for a shower and sundowners on the upper deck before another delicious dinner, after which Juan gave everyone a briefing in respect of tomorrow and Mark did a short presentation of photographic tips and tricks.

It was the end of another fabulous day.



Day 7:

Black Turtle Cove, The Highlands & Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz

Wednesday 3 June 2026



It was a great start to the day with a panga ride into Black Turtle Cove at 6 am. As we entered the cove, there were blue-footed boobies and brown noddies on the rocks and diving pelicans fishing for their breakfast.

The water was flat calm (unlike our crossing to Santa Cruz last night!) and the reflections of the mangroves were stunning.

As we went deeper into the mangroves, we turned the panga engines off, everyone went quiet and we paddled silently past the mangrove roots. There were a few green turtles, and plenty of black-tipped reef sharks. We also had a nice view of lava heron, and as we began to return to Beluga there were more and more pelicans fishing. And, each time a pelican dived and came back up with fish, brown noddies landed on its head and its back in a most unusual 'commensural' relationship

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that is unique to these two species – and only in the Galapagos. All too quickly, we had to leave the tranquillity of the cove and head back to Beluga.



We had breakfast and at 8.30 am headed to shore, where a bus was waiting at the jetty to take us up into the highlands and to El Chato Ranch to see giant



tortoises in the wild. Photographing them and enjoying their proximity, we learnt about their life cycles and passed a pond where a couple were partially submerged. We lay on the grass photographing them and after an hour or so

we heard that a barn owl had returned to its lava cave home so we quickly headed in that direction and were rewarded with incredible views of yet another Galapagos endemic subspecies. It was pretty humid, so we went to the nearby café for a cool drink and then the hardy few returned to the field to photograph more tortoises.



Tortoise session over, we went to the restaurant and had an excellent lunch before boarding our coach again and driving to Puerto Ayora and the Charles Darwin Research Centre. Some of the group visited 'Lonesome George', the last La Pinta giant

tortoise who died in 2012 and who is now preserved for all to see at the centre. We also visited the Information Centre, where many of the conservation projects currently being worked on are detailed on billboards and include minimising ship collisions with turtles, the removal of invasive species, monitoring sharks and re-wilding areas.

Everyone was free to wander through the centre and enjoy it at their own pace, and afterwards some of the group ended up in the handmade chocolate shop and bought some delicious treats.

There was plenty of time to explore Puerto Ayora, some retail therapy, and a beer or two before gathering at the dock, boarding the bus and driving back to the north side of the island where the pangas were waiting to return us to Beluga.

Back on board, we enjoyed dinner and then retired for an early night after an excellent day.



Day 8:

Sombrero Chino & Rabida

Thursday 4 June 2026

Every day on this wonderful Galapagos voyage is very different from the last – and today is no exception. Everyone was delighted to have a slightly later breakfast today at 7 am rather than 6 am, which we've had for the previous few days – a whole extra hour in bed! The sea was quite choppy, and it was overcast but we boarded the pangas at 8 am and landed on Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat) – so called because the island is

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shaped like a Chinese hat. Although there isn't a huge amount of wildlife to see here, there is plenty to enjoy and photograph. From the beautiful sandy beach we walked along a short trail and sat on the rocks looking at hundreds of Sally lightfoot crabs. They seemed to be commuting from one area to another as they were all busily heading in the same direction. The prize for the photographers was to catch the crabs in mid-air, leaping from one rock to another. Not everyone succeeded.



Along the trail were a couple of lava lizards, and at the top of the beach stood a great blue heron, resplendent and relaxed. We commented on the subtle greens, oranges and reds of the salt bush and tried to use them as a backdrop for some of the photographs. At the end of the trail there is a fairly flat open area with some large flat boulders on it, and on one of those was a big collection of marine iguanas, and moving around amongst the iguanas was a lava lizard which made

for some great photos. In the Galapagos there is never only one thing to look at, and overhead were magnificent frigatebirds, Galapagos shearwaters and the occasional lava gull. And as we returned to the beach there was a penguin in the water busying itself with some fishing.



As the morning light was overcast the photography was tremendous, but it was time to return to Beluga for a short break before heading back out to snorkel in the channel.



Sombrero Chino lies very close to the north-west side of Santiago – and the warmish sea is a spectacular turquoise colour. We were only onboard Beluga for about 30 minutes – just enough time to get prepared for the snorkelling activity and then we were off. The crystal-clear water in this part of the archipelago is home to a myriad of fish, and snorkelling here is really like snorkelling in a gigantic tropical fish tank. The waters are relatively shallow with a sandy floor.

There were some large schools of colourful fish, but it was the penguins that caught everyone's imagination. There were only a few – a couple in the water and two or three resting on a rock towards the end of the snorkel, but their activity and their antics generally outcompete everything else nearby.

Lunch was nearly ready when we boarded Beluga after which we motored for an hour or so over to Rabida for our second snorkelling excursion of the day. Rusty-red coloured rock wall and a dark, sandy sea floor is how this snorkelling site appears. It wasn't as vibrant a snorkel as our earlier one, but it's always worth

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getting in the water when you can. We saw a single sea lion, piles of surgeon fish and quite a few sea stars.



Back on board, Cesar had prepared hot chocolate for us which was a very nice touch.

Our last excursion of the day was to the dark red sandy beach on Rabida and the brackish lagoon that sits just behind it. As we boarded the pangas we could see a few Galapagos shearwaters circling and both brown pelicans and brown noddies flying low over the water. We passed the promontory and along the rocky wall that we had just snorkelled and landed on the beach. We walked along the beach for 100 metres or so, stopping to photograph an

American oystercatcher that was foraging in the surf. Then we turned in towards the lagoon – a couple of white-cheeked pintails



were on the lagoon, and on the shoreline were two or three semi-palmated plovers. In the far corner of the lagoon there were a dozen (or more) American flamingoes.

The subtle light was great, and we spent

the rest of our landing in and around the lagoon photographing the birds. As the light faded, it was time to return to the pangas and re-board Beluga. After dinner, we enjoyed looking at images from almost everyone in the group and reminisced about some of the incredible sightings that we have had over the course of the past week.

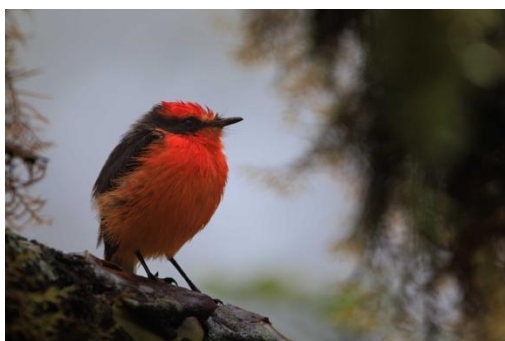
Another wonderful day.



Day 9:

Sierra Negra & Puerto Villamil, Isabela

Friday 5 June 2026



Today we were up for breakfast at 7 am and by 8 am we had boarded the pangas for the short journey through the boats moored in the harbour to the jetty. There were sea lions on a couple of nearby benches as we walked from the jetty to our waiting pick-ups for the 30-minute ride to the park headquarters near the rim of the caldera at Sierra Negra. Two of the group decided that they would prefer to spend the morning in Puerto Villamil rather than coming up to the crater and so spent a relaxing morning walking along the beach, having a look around the (few) shops, and then having a very nice lunch.

It was pretty cool, quite drizzly and rather cloudy on arrival at the park HQ for the rest of the group, but within minutes of getting out of our vehicles, we saw a beautiful male vermilion flycatcher. In fact, it was perched in a tree almost at eye level just behind the toilet block, from where it was hawking insects. We were with it (there was no obvious female nearby) for half an hour or so as it caught insects and returned

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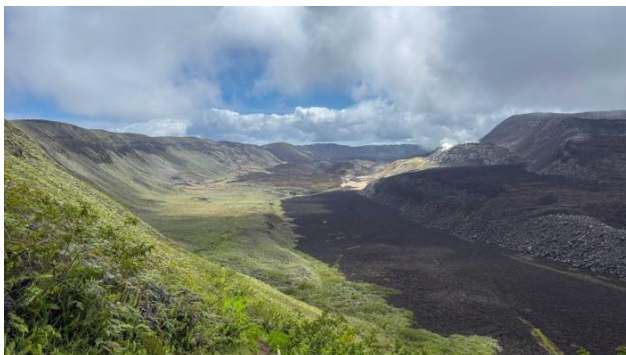
to its perch, bashed them on a branch and ate them.

We wandered back to our vehicles and headed off to a track 12 kilometres to the north-western side of the caldera. It was shrouded in cloud, but we parked and all walked down to the crater floor. The walk to the crater floor, and then up to the smoking fumaroles took around an hour.

The landscape was fascinating – as we descended the crater side, we were walking through fields of ferns, and seeing occasional small ground finches as we went, and once at the bottom of the crater we were amongst gigantic dark-coloured volcanic boulders. We could see the smoke coming out of the rocks higher up, so we walked across the magnesium and ash-covered crater floor and then ascended to just below where the fumaroles were. Continual plumes of cloudy smoke were coming from the rocks, and all around the area the rocks were covered in a sulphur yellow coloured sheen. By now, the sky was a rich and deep colour blue and the day had significantly brightened up.



We spent a little time here before beginning our descent to the crater floor again and back up the side of the crater to where we began. Overall, our walk was a couple of hours and completely different from anything that we have done on the trip so far. Back at the top, we all sat under a tree (the drizzle had begun again) and had a picnic.

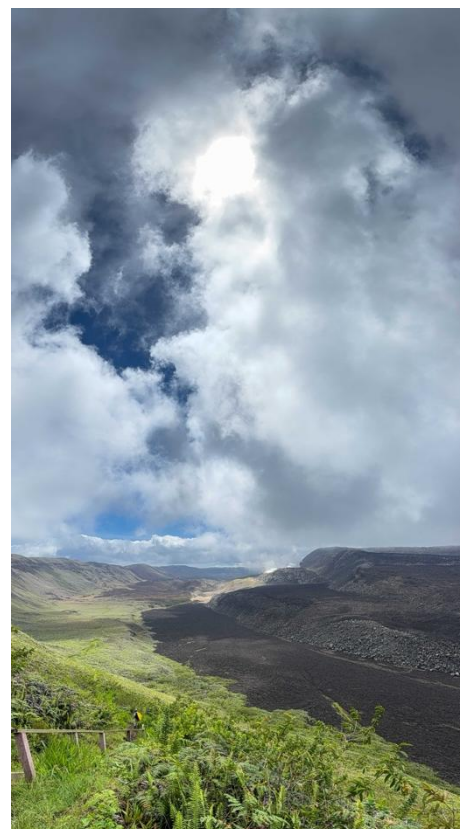


Our picnic over, we jumped back into our vehicles and began to head back to the park headquarters. However, it quickly became apparent that it was going to take rather longer than planned because the rainy weather in the area from the previous few days had completely

churned up the road and a whole section of it was almost impassable (despite the fact that we had come along the same road on the way to our picnic spot). It wasn't just our vehicles that were being prevented from getting along the road; there were three ahead of us and a couple behind. And there were plenty of 'experts' offering advice as to how it was best to get through the thick muddy tracks. There was lots of digging, pushing, jumping up and down on the back of pick-up trucks, and towing, but eventually, an hour and a half later, all of the vehicles were through. It was quite an adventure!

30 minutes or so later we were down to sea level and Puerto Vilamil where we spent the rest of the afternoon – walking along the beachfront, exploring the small town, or drinking beer and Cocoloco in a beachside bar.

When it was time to go, we walked back to the jetty by bus and boarded the pangas for the short journey across to Beluga.



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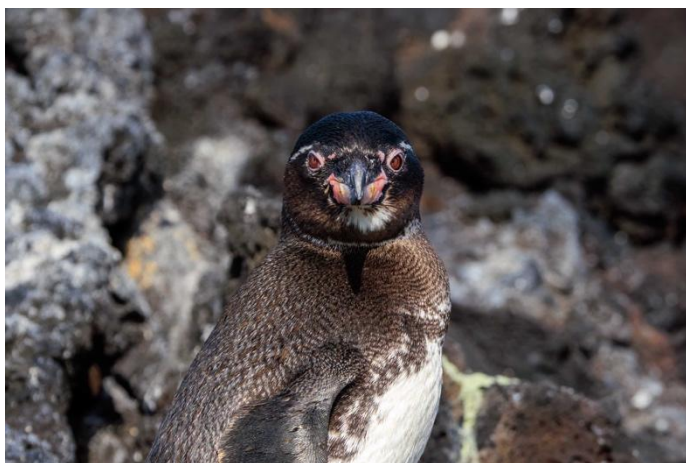
Dinner was followed by part two of the images and reminiscing that we began yesterday evening. It was certainly a different day from all of the others we've had on the trip!

Day 10:

Punta Moreno & Elizabeth Bay, Isabela

Saturday 6 June 2026

Today was pangas, a very short walk, snorkelling, and more pangas – and it turned out to be a great day!



Our first excursion was around Punta Moreno, which is on the central south-western coast of Isabela. It is a fairly desolate landscape of pristine brackish lagoons which are a magnet for wildlife.

The sky was bright and blue; it was a little windy and there was obviously quite a current. In the distance we could see Sierra Negra, which we had been to yesterday, and also Cerra Azul. To our north we could see the outline of the island of Fernandina, which we will visit the day after tomorrow.

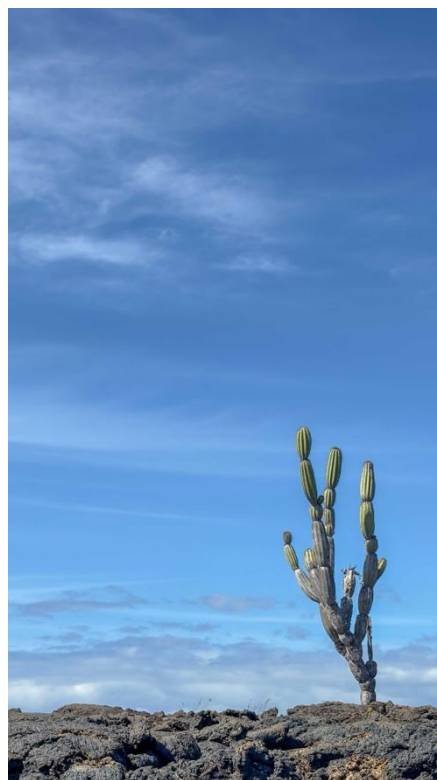
Breakfast at 7 am seemed almost luxurious by comparison with some of our earlier starts, and we were in the pangas by 8 am and heading towards the mangroves.

We cruised around the mangroves keeping our voices as low as possible in order not to disturb any wildlife and had some great sightings of Galapagos penguins and our very first sightings of flightless cormorants – which are a special feature of this cooler side of the archipelago. We even saw a pair of flightless cormorants on a nest – though they weren't very well positioned for photography. We had stunning views of a huge congregation of (possibly) hundreds of marine iguanas sunning themselves on a rock, many of them with their tails hanging loosely over the water.



After we had been in the panga for about an hour, we went to land and had a short walk across the volcanic plain to a desolate lagoon (connected to the sea) where we saw a squadron of golden crown-nosed rays. When we got to the lagoon, the water

was mirror-like and we were able to sit and watch them patrolling the lagoon for a magical half an hour or so.



With the panga ride over, we got ready for our first snorkel on this western side of the archipelago. Here, the Cromwell Current brings cooler water, so our snorkelling excursion was a little cooler than the snorkelling of the previous days but by no means cold – the visibility wasn't too good though... which is of course due to the nutrients in the cooler water. However, the snorkelling was wonderful – we had fabulous

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turtles, penguins, sea lions and even a couple of pelicans to keep us entertained.



We were back onboard Beluga for lunch at 12.30 pm and then we motored the short distance to Elizabeth Bay where we once again boarded the pangas and headed off into the mangroves.



However, we were stopped in our tracks not only by a Galapagos penguin on a rocky outcrop, but also by a couple of flightless cormorants, and then a very large male marine iguana swimming into the mangroves.

Once we were deep in the mangroves, the panga drivers turned off their engines and we silently paddled looking at birds (the ubiquitous, though no less beautiful, yellow warblers, lava herons, brown pelicans) and seeing green turtles in the waters below us. We also came across a sea lion lying on the bough of a large tree deep in the mangroves (a tree lion!), and then a group of five penguins on some very sheltered rocks.



We were back on-board Beluga at 6 pm and were able to enjoy a couple of drinks before dinner. After dinner, and after Juan had briefed us on tomorrow's activities, Mark did part one of a presentation about Charles Darwin. Then it was finally time for bed after another wildlife-packed day.

Day 11:

Urbina Bay & Targus Cove, Isabela

Sunday 7 June 2026

Well, there is no doubt that every day is different to every other, and today we had planned to land at 6 am to catch the first light, do some exploring, come back for breakfast and then return to land for another couple of hours. But... high waves and a significant swell scuppered that plan, unfortunately. Chris, Juan and Captain Jose went by panga to investigate at 6 am and it was clear straight away that it wasn't going to be possible, so the crew prepared an early breakfast and Chris and Juan went out again at 7.30 am to check a second time – the waves and the swell were even bigger. The beach is very steep and with the waves crashing right at the top of the beach and a huge swell it just wasn't safe to land.

The group were disappointed of course, but very understanding given the dangerous conditions. However, being in the Bolivar Channel, we thought we would take the opportunity to motor super slowly northwards looking for whales and dolphins. Our first sighting even before the anchor was lifted, was of a young hammerhead shark swimming around the boat, and then as we cruised first west and then north there were mobula rays jumping – though nothing especially close. There were plenty of Galapagos petrels and plenty of white-vented storm petrels, lots of magnificent frigatebirds overhead, blue-footed boobies, and even a huge manta ray



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that came incredibly close to Beluga. But, before lunch, sadly, no whales.

The lunch bell went at noon and at about the same time we arrived at Targus Cove where we anchored for the afternoon. At 2.30 pm we were all 'wetsuited' and ready to go for our snorkel excursion which on this occasion was in extremely murky conditions. That having been said, we managed to see penguins, sea lions and turtles. Back on board, we had 30 minutes to get ready for the final act of the day which for some was a walk and for others it was a panga ride, largely focusing on photography.



It was a treacherous landing for the walkers because of the three-metre swell but a wonderful walk once they were underway. This is an historic site rather than a wildlife site as Charles Darwin is known to have landed here in 1835. As we walked up the steps towards the viewpoint, there were the names of ships and the year they arrived etched into the rocks – historic graffiti! As we climbed higher, we had a good view of a rather skittish land iguana.

We continued to the highest point on the trail and looked out to the north at three previously unseen volcanoes – Darwin to our right, Wolf (home to the pink land iguanas) to the left and Ecuador further left still. And across the narrow stretch of water, we could see Fernandina where we are planning to land tomorrow. It was a nice walk (if a little hot!), but before too long we were back down to sea level and into the pangas heading back to Beluga.

It was Richard's birthday today and the chef had made a cake which was brought out by our waiter Cesar and naturally we all sang Happy Birthday. Then Juan got his guitar and the singing continued – he even sang the timings and agenda for tomorrow! It was a tremendous way to end the day, and a great end to Richard's birthday.

After dinner, we showed a four-minute clip from Planet Earth 2 of the racer snakes at Punta Espinoza attacking marine iguanas.

Tomorrow will be a busy day!



Day 12:

Monday 8 June 2026

Punta Espinoza, Fernandina & Punta Vincente Roca, Isabela

Today was a busy day – the busiest and probably the best of all so far! Even though all of the visitor sites on our trip are amazing, Punta Espinoza on Fernandina is somehow even more incredible than all of the others. This is where the BBC filmed the racer snakes attacking young marine iguanas – perhaps the most amazing piece of wildlife film ever made – and landing here feels as if you are landing on a film set.

We made an early start with breakfast at 5.30 am and arrived at our landing site just after 6 am. It was high tide, so we walked through a short stretch of mangroves before arriving onto the sand-covered rocks. A short (20-metre) walk to the shore found us with hundreds of marine iguanas all



facing the same direction (actually facing away from the sun in this case) to heat up their naturally cold bodies. They are the most fascinating animals huddling together and climbing over one another – there is no concept of ‘personal space’.



Within a few minutes, we had also seen Darwin's racer snake – first one and then a second. One or two in the group were a little uneasy with them at first, but soon realised that (to us at least) they are completely harmless, and apparently fearless as they moved past us with only a few inches to spare.

It was fascinating to watch as lava lizards worked their way through the group of iguanas. We sat and watched them, photographed them and admired them until Juan told us we had to move on and that we had already been in this one spot for the best part of an hour.



Phil pointed out a Galapagos hawk in the tree behind the landing site, but we didn't see it hunting and our focus was very much on the ground. We moved on again to another group of marine iguanas and then went across a very narrow stretch of water to another huge group of iguanas that were all facing the sun. Amongst this group was a pair of oystercatchers (which quickly disappeared as we arrived) and a lava heron hunting both baby iguanas and crabs right by our feet – sometimes so close it was impossible to photograph it.

We carried on our (very short) walk past some colonising cacti on the old lava flows, and past old, calcified bones of a Bryde's whale that washed ashore many years ago. It was a spectacular landing which after nearly four hours, felt like only a few minutes. But sadly, we had to return to Beluga because it was time to don our wetsuits and get in the water for what is also the very best snorkelling excursion of the trip.

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The water at our snorkelling site was quite simply full of life. Feeding turtles, colourful fish and... marine iguanas feeding on the sea grass – one of the most extraordinary feeding habits in the natural world. They occur nowhere else on earth and to see them feeding on algae underwater as if it were on land is a most extraordinary (and utterly wonderful) experience. But there were Pacific green turtles too – and many of them. Large and small, mostly black morph, but there were also two or three yellow morph Pacific green turtles, too, and they are the most beautiful of all.



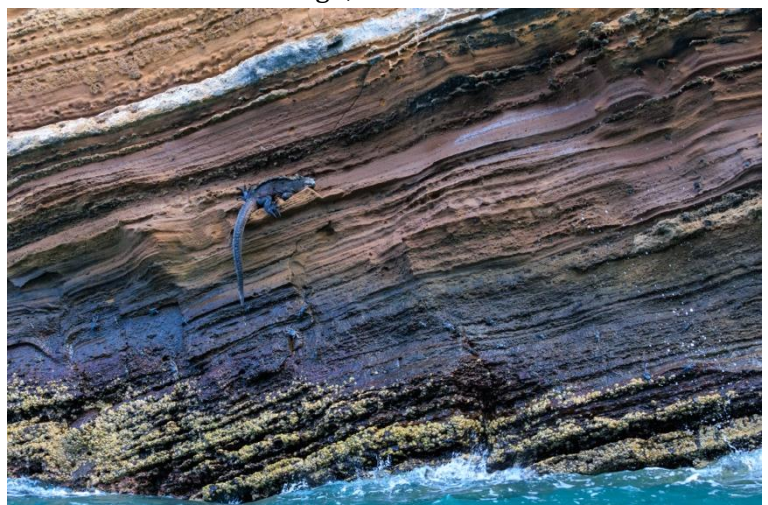
The snorkelling conditions were quite challenging with some serious swell and in certain places fairly poor visibility, but it didn't detract from the wonder of the experience – the best snorkelling on the trip so far and arguably the best hour's snorkelling in the world.

But of course, our snorkel trip came to an end too soon and we were back aboard Beluga for lunch, and almost immediately headed further north to Punta Vicente Roca where we anchored down, got ready for our final panga excursion of the day. This

time the pangas went along the nearby cliff wall - brown noddies, blue-footed boobies, the occasional sea lions, brown pelicans and a female magnificent frigatebird were all on the cliffs, and in the rather murky sea, plenty of turtles.

As the conditions were fairly rough, and the swell was a few metres high, we decided to abandon the idea of snorkelling here and returned to Beluga from the panga ride ten minutes or so before we had planned, but in an hour or so we were on the bridge with Juan and the captain who was slowing Beluga down as we were about to cross the equator heading north. As we hit 0.00.00 we had a cocktail to celebrate, and Juan immediately burst into song and played the guitar – this is one of the moments that we will all remember!

As the sea conditions were likely to be 'rolly' this evening, we had our briefing before dinner, and Mark chatted more about Charles Darwin, then we had an early dinner



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and retired early ready for our final full day in the Galapagos tomorrow.

Day 13:

Puerto Egas, Santiago & Bartolome

Tuesday 9 June 2026



Today was our final full day and we were determined to make it a good one! We were up at 5.30 am for breakfast and off Beluga at 6 am in order to land on the black sandy beach at Puerto Egas. We walked along the beach for half an hour, photographing pelicans and the unusual scenery of this particular site.

We then headed along the inland path – there was a huge amount to see, including a couple of large land iguanas on the path and of course, the customary yellow warblers and small ground finches. Continuing on, we came out to the volcanic

‘platform’ and walked along to the various crystal-clear water pools. There were a couple of Galapagos fur seals resting on the rocks and a very tame yellow-crowned night heron.

Looking out to sea there were brown pelicans, more night herons and blue-footed boobies diving into the water at high speed, catching fish. As we returned to the beach, we had an excellent encounter with another large and colourful land iguana that was walking through some low vegetation and eating all of the pink flowers. Finally, we had a cracking sighting of a Galapagos hawk that had landed on a low-lying rock but was made especially dramatic by the deep colours of the rainbow that had formed behind it.

We returned to Beluga and got ready for our snorkelling excursion off the beach. White-tipped reef sharks, pelicans, boobies, snake eel, surgeon fish, sea stars and plenty of other colourful fish. It was a really great end to the morning.

Over lunch the captain moved the ship and anchored off Bartolome Island at 2.30 which was exactly the time we had planned our last landing of the day - a dry landing on Bartolome. Everyone came for the visit to this most iconic of landing sites and walked up the 365 steps to the top of the island to see the most famous view of the Galapagos and Pinnacle Rock below. We looked over at Sullivan Bay where we had snorkelled last week, and Sombreo Chino which had also visited, and looked south-east to our final landing site tomorrow. It was another – very different - landing and it was incredible to see many of the islands that we had been travelling around.



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We returned to Beluga for a (final) quick turnaround, got into our wetsuits and then went straight back out for the final snorkel of the trip. Juan and the panga drivers took us as far away from Pinnacle Rock as we could get in order to begin the snorkel and we swam north, with Bartolome on our right-hand side. And the snorkelling was great... three adult white-tipped reef sharks, a sting ray, young black-tipped reef sharks, a few penguins and of course plenty of colourful fish! After over an hour in the water, we finally got back in the pangas and returned to Beluga for the end of our last full day in the Galapagos.

At 7 pm Captain Jose and all of his crew came to thank us for joining them on the voyage. Juan said a few words, Chris thanked the crew and Juan, Mark said a few words as did Phil, Rachel, Meindert, and Sarah and then it was time for dinner.

Juan then gave us our final briefing with respect to tomorrow and then got his guitar out. He played a few songs which everyone enjoyed, sang along with and danced to – it was quite a final night!

Day 14:

Wednesday 10 June 2026

North Seymour, Baltra & on to Guayaquil

Although it was our last day and the landing was only going to be a short one, everyone wanted to be up in time to spend an hour on North Seymour departing at 6 am. At our landing site we were greeted by a pair of swallow-tailed gulls that were nesting on the steps (they didn't seem especially pleased to see us!) and in the sky, there was a swirling mass of both great and magnificent frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies and brown noddies.

With only a short period of time on land, we had a simple mission which was to see courting blue-footed boobies, and that meant doing our best to ignore the suckling Galapagos sea lions, the nesting frigatebirds and the lava gull... which wasn't easy! But after ten minutes, we found a pair of blue-footed boobies doing their fabulous courtship dance. The male (who had just landed) tipped his beak, his tail and his wing-tips to the sky ('sky pointing') while making a rather haunting whistling call and pacing around with his feet as high as possible, showing them off to the female. This is a ritual that can go on for a long time and as much as we would have loved to stay for longer, sadly, we had to draw ourselves away and get back to Beluga.

Although it was an early start, at the beginning of a very long travel day for everyone, we all agreed that it was a fabulous way to end our trip.

We were back on Beluga for breakfast shortly after 7 am and then after gathering our belongings, we said our final goodbyes to the captain and crew and departed on the pangas at about 8.30 am. There was a bus

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waiting to take us to the airport on arrival at the jetty on Baltra. It was a short (ten-minute) transfer to the airport. We said goodbye to Juan, dropped off our bags, went through security and browsed the shops before walking out to the plane. But it wasn't over yet, as the Galapagos always has a little extra to give, and a couple of the group saw land iguanas lying in the grass by the runway as we were taxiing for take-off.



We watched the Galapagos disappear into the background as we gained height and headed to mainland Ecuador for our homeward flights.

The Galapagos Islands are a truly remarkable place, with outstanding wildlife, and everyone agreed that it had been a wonderful trip.

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Checklist for Galapagos with Mark Carwardine & Chris Breen



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14
	BIRDS														
1	Galápagos penguin	<i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	
2	Waved albatross	<i>Phoebastria exulans</i>		✓											
3	Galápagos shearwater	<i>Puffinus subalaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
4	Elliot's (white-vented) storm petrel	<i>Oceanites gracilis (galapagoensis)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Wedged-rumped (Galapagos) storm petrel	<i>Hydrobates tethys</i>	✓				✓								
6	Red-billed tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>		✓			✓								
7	Flightless cormorant	<i>Nannopterum harrisi</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Magnificent frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Great frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>					✓								✓
11	Red-footed booby	<i>Sula sula</i>					✓								
12	Nazca booby	<i>Sula granti</i>		✓	✓		✓								
13	Blue-footed booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	White-cheeked pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓						
15	American (Galapagos) flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber (glyphorynchus)</i>			✓				✓	✓					
16	Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>							✓					✓	
17	Cattle egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>			✓			✓		✓			✓		
18	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>									✓				
19	Lava heron	<i>Butorides sundevalli</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Yellow-crowned night heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>					✓	✓						✓	
21	Galápagos hawk	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>		✓		✓				✓				✓	
22	Common gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>						✓							
23	Hudsonian whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>											✓	✓	
24	Wandering tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanum</i>							✓				✓	✓	
25	Black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>			✓										

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26	Ruddy turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓	✓					✓				✓	
27	Semi-palmated plover	<i>Chadrius semipalmatus</i>							✓						
28	American (Galapagos) oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus (palliatu)s galapagensis</i>		✓					✓	✓				✓	
29	Lava gull	<i>Larus fuliginosus</i>					✓		✓						✓
30	Swallow-tailed gull	<i>Larus furcatus</i>		✓			✓								✓
31	Brown noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
32	Galápagos dove	<i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓
33	Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
34	Galápagos short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus galapagoensis</i>					✓								
35	Galápagos barn owl	<i>Tyto alba punctatissima</i>						✓							
36	Vermillion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>								✓					
37	Galápagos mockingbird	<i>Mimus (parvulus) parvulus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
38	Espanola mockingbird	<i>Mimus macdonaldi</i>		✓											
39	Galápagos martin	<i>Progne modesta</i>											✓	✓	
40	Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
41	Large ground finch	<i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>					✓								
42	Medium ground finch	<i>Geospiza fortis</i>						✓				✓	✓		
43	Small ground finch	<i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
44	Espanola ground finch	<i>Geospiza conirostris</i>		✓											
45	Genovesa cactus finch	<i>Geospiza propinqua</i>					✓								
46	Genovesa ground finch	<i>Geospiza acutirostris</i>					✓								
47	Grey warbler finch	<i>Certhidia fuscus</i>	✓	✓			✓								
	MAMMALS														
1	Galápagos sea lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Galápagos fur seal	<i>Arctocephalus galapagoensis</i>					✓							✓	
3	Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>		✓										✓	
	REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS														
1	Santa Cruz giant tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis porteri</i>						✓							
2	Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>			✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			
3	Marine iguana	<i>Amblyrhynchus cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
4	Galapagos land iguana	<i>Conolophus subcristatus</i>				✓						✓		✓	✓
5	Galapagos (Isabela) lava lizard	<i>Microlophus albermarlensis</i>										✓		✓	

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6	Espanola lava lizard	<i>Microlophus delanonis</i>		✓											
7	Floreana lava lizard	<i>Microlophus grayii</i>			✓										
8	Santiago lava lizard	<i>Microlophus jacobi</i>				✓									
9	Darwin's racer	<i>Pseudalsophis darwini</i>											✓		
10	Western Galapagos racer	<i>Pseudalsophis occidentalis</i>											✓		

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