



**Enchanted
Expeditions**
Ecuador & Galapagos



ENCHANTED
ADVENTURES



Tatjana Angermeyer

Destination Expert

Enchanted Adventures / Enchanted Expeditions

tatjana@enchantedexpeditions.com

www.enchantedexpeditions.com



A Journey Through the Wild Galapagos with Lucy Cooke on the Tower Itinerary

December 9-16, 2026

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure aboard the **Beluga**, a first-class 16-passenger yacht, on the **Tower Itinerary** - a route that explores the remote northern and western islands of the Galapagos, rich in biodiversity and dramatic volcanic landscapes.

This special departure is **led by renowned zoologist and author Lucy Cooke**, whose passion and expertise bring the archipelago's unique wildlife to life.

With intimate group size, expert naturalist guiding, and Lucy's insightful commentary, this journey offers a deeper connection to the Galapagos than most tours ever could.



Beluga Yacht

The Beluga is spacious and comfortable "Superior First Class" motor yacht with panoramic windows in the salon and great deck space to enjoy your holiday. This motor yacht Beluga is a fantastic way to cruise the Galapagos Islands in speed and style.

Equipped with the most modern safety and mechanical equipment, Beluga accommodates 16 passengers in 8 double cabins. Each cabin has its own private bathroom equipped with hot and cold water showers.

Beluga is fully air-conditioned, has spacious social areas with all the comforts and facilities of a superior first class motor yacht: panoramic windows in the salon / dining area, and a large sundeck for relaxing, sightseeing or sunbathing. The Beluga Galapagos cruise's friendly and professional crew will make sure to fulfill your every need during your journey making for a once in a life time Galapagos expedition.



Trip Summary Beluga Tower Itinerary

This Belugatrip itinerary focuses on the Central, Southern and Northern Islands, including visits to Tower and Hood Island, two highlights of the Galapagos Islands.

- Duration: 8 days / 7 nights
- Start / End: Baltra / Baltra
- Activities: Walking, hiking, snorkeling, swimming, wildlife watching, bird watching
- Highlights: Land iguanas, marine iguanas, fur seals, lava lizard, Galapagos snake, magnificent frigate bird, blue-footed boobies, red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, lava herons, cactus finch, sea lions, giant tortoise reserve, Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, sea lions, Galapagos hawk, hood mockingbirds, flamingos, Galapagos penguins
- Season: All year
- Included: All meals and accommodation in double cabins while on board, welcome cocktail, all excursions and activities while on board, wetsuits, snorkeling gear, use of kayaks, bilingual naturalist guide
- Not Included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), tips, personal expenses

Dec 9 - Wednesday



Arrival in Baltra

Arrival at Baltra airport.

After you clear the Galapagos entry point, and pay your National Park Fee, please collect your baggage and exit the terminal. Your guide will be waiting for you in the arrivals area.



Santa Cruz Island: Highlands and Charles Darwin Station

Santa Cruz, the second largest island in the Galápagos, holds the distinction of being the most densely populated. Unlike other islands, volcanic activity has long ceased here. Situated at the heart of the archipelago, its name, "Santa Cruz," translates to "holy cross." Settlement of the island commenced in the 1920s and 1930s with the arrival of Americans and Europeans drawn by the island's diverse geography and wildlife.

Aside from the main port of Puerto Ayora, small towns like Bellavista and Santa Rosa emerged in the highlands, benefiting from the more humid conditions ideal for cultivating avocados, bananas, coffee, and citrus. However, this human activity and the introduction of non-native species have altered the landscape.

Today, Santa Cruz serves as the primary tourism hub for the Galápagos archipelago, owing to its proximity to the Baltra airport to the north.

Afternoon Visit to the Highlands of Santa Cruz and Charles Darwin Station

Your first stop will be at a Galapagos tortoise reserve in the highlands of Santa Cruz. You'll have the remarkable experience of walking among some of the oldest animals in the world. The island is home to giant tortoises that can grow up to 500 pounds and live for 175 years or more. Follow your guide along a scenic trail to the tortoises' natural habitat in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

After lunch visit to the Charles Darwin Research Center and National Park Information Center. Here you'll learn all about the incredible species that call the islands home, including some of the oldest animals in the world, the giant tortoise, as well as Darwin's favorite finch. You will also be able to visit the Tortoise and land iguana breeding program.

After the visit at the Charles Darwin Center, you will have some time to walk around the lively town of Puerto Ayora, where you can also pick up some souvenirs. In the late afternoon you will be transferred to the yacht.

- *Activities: Walking, shopping, visitor centre at Charles Darwin Station*
- *Conditions: Dry Landing, easy walking.*
- *Fauna: Tortoises, finches, pintails, land iguanas, sea birds, marine iguanas*
- *Flora: Several endemic, native, and introduced varieties*



Beluga: First Class Premium Yacht

Accommodation in double occupancy cabins

Dec 10 - Thursday



South Plaza Island Plazas Islands

Formed by a geological uplift, separated by a channel, both Plazas exhibit towering cliffs on their southern sides and low-lying shores along their northern coasts. While North Plaza remains closed to visitors, South Plaza stands out as an excellent visitor site in the Galápagos, boasting a remarkable diversity of species within its compact area.

Morning Wildlife Walk at South Plazas:

South Plaza is renowned for its bustling colony of sea lions, accompanied by land iguanas, abundant marine iguanas, and a plethora of seabird species.

Inland, a mosaic of scrubby vegetation and towering opuntia cactus forests sustains the island's iguanas. Following the circular hiking trail leads you to the cliff summit, where you'll find yourself awarded with view of open ocean, and surrounded by myriad nesting seabirds such as the red-billed tropic bird and gulls. Further along the cliff you will come to a sea lion bachelor colony.

- *Activities: Walking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Dry Landing, fairly easy walk on uneven terrain*
- *Fauna: Blue-footed boobies, frigates, marine iguanas, land iguanas, sea lions and sea lion bachelor colony, red-billed tropic birds, gulls, shearwaters,*
- *Flora: Tall opuntias, carpet weed, portulaca, castela, grabowskia*



Santa Fe Island Santa Fe Island

Santa Fe Island, nestled in the center part of the Galapagos, is believed to be one of its oldest volcanic formations, with underwater rocks dating back nearly 4 million years. Once home to its own species of Giant Tortoise, sadly extinct since the 1800s due to hunting, it now hosts two unique species: the Santa Fe Land Iguana and the Santa Fe Rice Rat.

Afternoon Wildlife Walk at Santa Fe:

The excursion begins with a wet landing on the petite beach at Barrington Bay on the island's northeast coast, where abundant sea lions populate the shores. The first walking trail offers an intimate encounter with the towering Santa Fe Opuntia cactus which blanket this island, and which the the Santa Fe land iguanas thrive on. For a more elevated perspective of the island's interior, the second trail ascends a steep cliff, granting panoramic views.

Other notable inhabitants include Galapagos Hawks, Darwin's finches, mockingbirds, a pelican nesting site, and sea lions that are often spotted sunbathing on the beach.

- *Activities: Hiking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography, swimming and snorkelling*
- *Conditions: Wet Landing. Steep and uneven trail.*
- *Fauna: Frigate birds, Galapagos hawks, land iguanas, sea lions, dove, mockingbird, finch, manta rays, schools of fish, sharks*
- *Flora: Tall opuntias, palo santo, salt bush, yellow cordia, blainvillea, maytenus,*
- *thorn shrub*

Afternoon snorkel, kayak, or panga ride at Santa Fe

With an abundance of marine life this is also a great site to go snorkelling, here one can see sea lions swimming, sharks, schools of rays, tropical fish. Your guide will discuss options with you, as this site also permits kayaking and panga rides.

- *Activities: Snorkelling, option to kayak, possible panga ride*
- *Marine life: Rays, sea lions, tropical fish, sharks, marine turtles*

Dec 11 - Friday**SanCristobalIsland: Witch Hill****San Cristobal Island**

San Cristobal, situated as the easternmost island in the Galápagos archipelago, emerged from the convergence of three or four now-extinct volcanoes. Originally named Chatham Island, it was later christened San Cristóbal after the Spanish rendition of St. Christopher, the Patron Saint of seafarers.

Eroded volcanic peaks in the northern part of the island and rich vegetation in the southern portion characterize the island.

This island is home to the only permanent fresh water lake in the Galapagos, El Junco. Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the principal town is the provincial capital and the second largest settlement area in the islands.

Morning Beach Walk at Witch Hill: Cerro Brujo, located on the Northeast coast of San Cristobal, is characterized by its pristine white sand beach and breathtaking coastal scenery. Translating to "Witch Hill" in English, Cerro Brujo offers panoramic views of the surrounding turquoise waters and rugged volcanic landscapes. Visitors can witness diverse wildlife, including playful sea lions, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds, pelicans and waders. Here visitors can enjoy a beach walk

- *Activities: Walking on the beach, swimming, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Sally Lightfoot crabs, marine iguanas, and sea lions, chatham mockingbird, lava lizards*
- *Flora: Candelabra cactus, chala, carob, Muyuyo, palo santo, hawthorn, arrayancillo*

Morning Snorkelling at Witch Hill:

Cerro Brujo also offers opportunities for snorkelling, swimming and kayaking. Your guide will discuss options with you.

- *Activities: Swimming, snorkelling, kayaking*

- *Marine life: Sea lions, schools of fish, rays*

Morning Sailing around Kicker Rock

Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido), stands as an iconic geological marvel in the Galápagos, captivating visitors with its striking beauty and providing one of the most sought-after photo opportunities in the archipelago.

This impressive formation is the remnant of a volcanic tuff cone, formed by the explosive interaction of hot magma and cold seawater. Erosion over millennia has carved a narrow channel through the rock. Nearing Kicker Rock, visitors are awarded with breathtaking views of this towering monolith, which reaches a height of 490 feet. Blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies and frigatebirds will be seen soaring above.

- *Activities: Circumnavigation, photography, viewing scenery*
- *Fauna: Blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies and frigatebirds*



SanCristobalIsland:Galapaguera and El Junco

Afternoon Visit to El Junco Lagoon:

The lagoon is the only fresh water reservoir in Galapagos and has great views from its altitude of 700m in the highlands of San Cristóbal. Formed within the crater of an extinct volcano, this freshwater lagoon is the largest of its kind in the archipelago. Visitors can embark on a scenic hike to reach the lagoon's rim, and enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Birdwatchers will delight in observing how frigates dive down to the surface of the volcanic crater lake, dipping their wings into the water before flying back up, to wash the salt off their wings. This is also one of the best places to see the San Cristobal mockingbird

- *Activities: Walking trails, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: white-cheeked pintails, common gallinules, frigate birds, Chatham mockinbird*
- *Flora: miconias, ferns, sedges, clubmoss, tree ferns*

Afternoon Visit to la Galapaguera: Inaugurated by the National Park in 2003, the Galapaguera serves as a conservation facility and visitor center dedicated to the preservation of giant tortoises. Here, visitors have the opportunity to observe these majestic creatures in a semi-natural environment while also gaining insights into their evolutionary history, origins, and the challenges they face due to introduced species. Galapaguera is a good area to see tortoises in their natural environment.

- *Activities: Walking*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Giant tortoises, Darwin finches, Lava lizards, Mockingbirds*

Dec 12 - Saturday



Española(Hood) Island: Gardner Bay and Islote Osborn Española Island

Española Island, one of the oldest islands in the Galapagos, is situated in the southeastern part of the archipelago. This remote island is known for its rugged terrain, consisting of volcanic cliffs, sandy beaches, and dramatic rocky formations. Because of its location a unique range of endemic species evolved here. It is also the only island where the waved albatross can be seen during the breeding season, April to December.

Morning Beach Walk at Gardner Bay:

Nestled on the northeast coast of Española Island, Gardner Bay boasts a long and beautiful white sand beach graced with sea lion colonies. Visitors are invited to stroll along the pristine coastline, where playful sea lions play in the surf. This idyllic spot is also perfect for swimming.

- *Activities: Walking, swimming, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Sea lion colony, Mockingbirds, Rocks off the coast offer great snorkeling with*
- *Flora: Salt bush, Prickly pear cactus, Jerusalem thorn, Mesquite, Beach dropseed*

Morning Snorkelling at Islote Gardner / Islote Osborn:

These islets are snorkeling sites where visitors will see an abundance of tropical fish, reef sharks, and turtles

- *Activities: Snorkelling*
- *Marine life: Reef sharks, turtles and many tropical fish.*



Española (Hood) Island: Punta Suarez Afternoon Wildlife Walk at Punta Suarez:

Punta Suárez, located on the western tip of Española Island in the Galapagos archipelago, is renowned for its extraordinary wildlife and dramatic landscapes. The area is a haven for bird enthusiasts, as it hosts one of the largest colonies of waved albatrosses in the world (nesting here from April-Dec), along with nesting sites for Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls. Hiking along the rocky trails, visitors can observe these fascinating birds up close, as well as encounter colorful marine iguanas, Galapagos hawks, and endemic plants such as the vibrant red Sesuvium. Along the cliff visitors can enjoy the blowhole where seawater is forced about 20m into the air.

- *Activities: Walking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Migrant, resident, and endemic wildlife including brightly colored Marine Iguanas, Sea Lions, Española Lava Lizards, Hood Mockingbirds, Swallow Tailed Gulls, Blue Footed and Nascar Boobies, Galapagos Hawks, a selection of Finch, and the famous Waved Albatross .*
- *Flora: Puncture weed, Shore petunia, Salt bush, Atriplex, Lantana, Purslane, Mesquite, Trianthema*

Dec 13 - Sunday



Floreana Island: Punta Cormorant and Devil's Crown Floreana

Floreana is best known for its colorful history of buccaneers, whalers, convicts, and early colonists. It is one of the oldest islands and Floreana's volcano has been long extinct and is in the advanced stages of erosion that gives the island the nutrients and soils to sustain plant life. The island is populated; Puerto Velasco Ibarra is the main settlement with a few hundred inhabitants.

Morning Wildlife Walk at Punta Cormorant:

Punta Cormorant is characterized by two contrasting beaches: the "Green Beach," aptly named for its green hue derived from a high concentration of olivine crystals in the sand, and the "Four Sand Beach," comprised of pristine white coral. The large inland lagoon is home to flamingos, common stilts and white-cheeked pintails.

- *Activites: Trail walk, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography*

- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Flamingoes, Large billed flycatchers, Small ground finch, Medium ground finch or Cactus finch, Ghost crabs and rays can be seen swimming.*

Morning Snorkelling at Devil's Crown:

Devil's Crown is a renowned snorkeling site teeming with marine, just off the coast from Punta Cormoran. The site is a completely submerged volcano that has eroded to create an appearance of a jagged crown. Snorkellers will encounter a kaleidoscope of colorful fish, including parrotfish, surgeonfish, and angelfish darting among the intricate coral structures. Keep an eye out for larger marine inhabitants such as sea turtles, rays, and even the occasional hammerhead shark.

- *Activities: Snorkeling*
- *Conditions: The water is a bit rough and the current can be strong.*
- *Marine Life: sea lions, schools of colorful king angel fish, balloon fish hawkfish, scrawled filefish, yellowtail grunts, tiger snake eels, white-tipped sharks, eagle rays, amberjacks, wrasses, hammerhead sharks, and sea turtles*



Floreana Island: Post Office Bay **Afternoon Visit to Post Office Bay**

This is one of the few sites that is visited for its human history. Whaling Captain James Colnett established the wooden post barrel in the early 1793. At the time whaling was a big industry, and the Galapagos Islands were a frequent stop for these ships. Outbound ships would drop off letters and the ships returning home would mail them. Visit the wooden mail barrel where letters are dropped off and picked up and remains of the Norwegian fishing village. To keep the tradition alive, make sure to leave an addressed postcard in the barrel and sort through left mail to deliver at home.

- *Activities: Walking, mailing letters*
- *Conditions: Wet Landing*
- *Highlights: Wooden mail barrel where letters are dropped off and picked up*

Dec 14 - Monday



Santa Cruz Island: Dragon Hill **Morning Wildlife Walk at Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill):**

Dragon Hill is characterized by its small lagoon behind the beach which offers the opportunity to see flamingoes and pintail ducks, among other birdlife. The trail continues through arid landscapes adorned with cactus and scrub vegetation, and home to large land iguanas. The walk continues to top of the Dragon Hill, which offers breathtaking views of the surrounding coastline and nearby islands.

- *Activities: Sightseeing, walking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Flamingoes, common stilts, pintail ducks, marine iguanas, land iguanas*
- *Flora: Palo Santo trees, opuntia cactus*

Morning Snorkelling at Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill):

Dragon Hill also has a good snorkelling spot, the snorkelling will usually be done after the walk, depending on conditions.

- *Activities: Panga ride, snorkelling*
- *Marine life: Schools of fish, rays, sharks*



James(Santiago) Island: Sullivan Bay **James Island**

James Island is located between Isabela and Santa Cruz Islands. The island, which consists of two overlapping volcanoes, is the fourth largest in the archipelago. A favorite island for pirates and whalers, Santiago has a long human history as well as outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing. The island has a wide variety of seabirds, marine iguanas, fur seal grotto, a chance to see Galapagos Hawks, and some amazing lava formations such as Sullivan Bay.

Afternoon Walk at Sullivan Bay:

Sullivan Bay offers a captivating insight into the geological history of the Galapagos Islands. Here, visitors can explore vast lava fields created by previous volcanic eruptions, with the most recent occurring just over 100 years ago. These fields are characterized by smooth, rippled textures known as pahoehoe lava, and a surreal black coloration. The stark beauty of the lunar-like terrain provides a dramatic backdrop for hiking and photography enthusiasts alike. Along the coastline, visitors may also encounter marine iguanas basking in the sun and seabirds soaring overhead.

- *Activities: Lava walk, photography*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Marine iguanas, marine turtles, Sally Lightfoot crab*
- *Flora: Lava cactus, Mollugo*

Afternoon Snorkel at Sullivan Bay:

Depending on conditions, there may be a chance to snorkel at Sullivan Bay.

- *Activities: Panga ride, snorkelling*
- *Marine life: Rays, schools of fish, possibly sharks, marine turtles*

Dec 15 - Tuesday



Tower(Genovesa Island): Darwin Bay Tower Island

Tower Island, also known as Genovesa, is a remote and pristine volcanic island in the Galapagos archipelago, located to the northeast of the main cluster of islands. It is home to a vast array of bird species, including the iconic red-footed and Nazca boobies, frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls, and storm petrels. One of its most distinctive features is Darwin Bay, a natural harbor formed from a submerged volcanic caldera, offering unparalleled opportunities for birdwatching and snorkeling.

Darwin Bay:

In the morning you will visit Darwin Bay, for a picturesque walk that winds through diverse landscapes. The steep cliffs of this area dominate the island. This area is home to thousands of frigate birds, red-footed boobies, Noddy terns, lava gulls, tropicbirds, doves, storm petrels and Darwin's finches.

- *Activities: Walks along shoreline and walks along the edge of the caldera, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography, swimming*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Colonies of red-footed boobies, masked boobies and great frigate birds, swallow-tailed gulls, herons, large cactus finch, sea lions*
- *Flora: Prickly pear cactus, incense tree, chamaesyce, salt bush, heliotrope*
-

Snorkelling at Darwin Bay:

Snorkelling will either be done in the morning or the afternoon, depending on conditions, the exact snorkelling spot will be determined by the naturalist guide.

- *Activities: Snorkelling*
- *Marine life: rays, colorful reef fish, and hammerhead sharks occasionally*



Tower (Genovesa) Island: El Barranco **Afternoon Wildlife Walk at El Barranco (Prince Phillip's Steps):**

A scenic panga ride along the rocky cliff ledges will bring you to the base of the steep rocky steps named after his Royal Highness Prince Philip who visited the island in the 1960's. This site is abundant with bird life. Here there is a good possibility of seeing the unique "Short eared owl" at this site. During the dinghy rides along the cliffs fur seals and several species of seabirds can be spotted.

- *Activities: Steep walk, trail walk, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Dry land and steep walk for first part of the trail*
- *Fauna: Nasca booby colony, red-footed booby, storm petrels, short-eared owls, doves, finches*
- *Flora: Palo Santo trees, lava cactus, chamaesyce*

Dec 16 - Wednesday



Santa Cruz Island: Caleta Tortuga **Early Morning Panga Ride at Caleta Tortuga (Turtle Cove):**

Caleta Tortuga is a red mangrove lagoon on Santa Cruz and a perfect example of how mangroves alter the marine environment to create a rich and unique habitat. Early in the morning you will embark on a quiet and peaceful dinghy ride to spot sharks, rays, marine turtles and other marine and land life and inhabit this mangrove ecosystem.

- *Activities: Dingy ride, wildlife viewing in a peaceful environment, photography*
- *Conditions: Calm waters*
- *Fauna: Spotted eagle rays, diamond shaped mustard rays, sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, pelicans, herons and egret*
- *Flora: Mangroves*



Departure from the Beluga



Transfer to Baltra Airport **Morning transfer to Airport:**

At the end of the cruise, disembark, and transfer to Baltra Airport for your ongoing flight.