



**Enchanted
Expeditions**
Ecuador & Galapagos



Tatjana Angermeyer
Destination Expert
Enchanted Adventures / Enchanted Expeditions

tatjana@enchantedexpeditions.com
<https://enchantedexpeditions.com>



**Galapagos Wildlife Cruise aboard the M/Y Beluga
with Lucy Cooke!**
Aug 13, 2025 - Aug 20, 2025

Trip Summary

August 13 - Wednesday

Arrival in Baltra

Santa Cruz Island: Highlands and Charles Darwin Station

Beluga: First Class Premium Yacht

August 14 - Thursday

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Rabida Island

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Isabela (Albemarle) Island: Elizabeth Bay

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Isabela (Albemarle) Island: Urbina Bay

Isabela (Albemarle) Island: Tagus Cove

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James (Santiago) Island: Espumilla Beach and Buccaneers Cove

Bartolome Island

August 20 - Wednesday

North Seymour Island

Departure from the Beluga

Transfer from Yacht to Baltra Airport

Information & Documents



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.

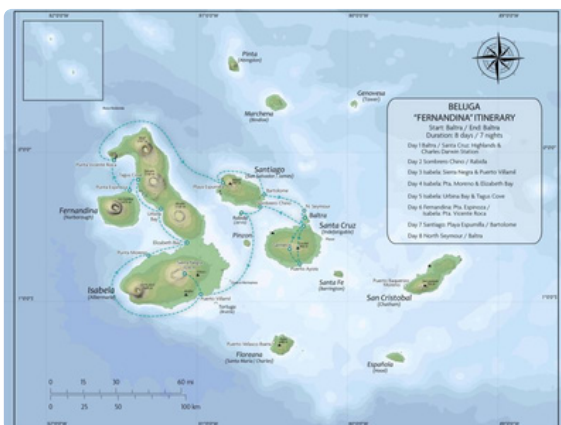
Beluga is fully air-conditioned, has spacious social areas with all the comforts and facilities of a superior first class motor yacht: panoramic windows in the salon / dining area, and a large sundeck for relaxing, sightseeing or sunbathing. The Beluga Galapagos cruise’s friendly and professional crew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



Trip Summary Beluga Fernandina Itinerary

This Beluga yacht trip focuses on the Central and Western Islands, including visits to Western Isabela and Fernandina 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, lava lizards, sea lions, flamingos, penguins, flightless cormorant, brown pelican, Darwin finches, blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, Galapagos hawk, Darwin finches.
- Season: All year
- Included: Flights to and from the Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory Card fee, all meals and snacks while on board, tea coffee & purified drinking water to fill your water bottle, accommodation in double cabins while on board, all excursions and activities while on board, bilingual naturalist guide, wetsuit & snorkeling gear
- Not Included: Any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), tips, personal expenses



August 13 - 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 Island

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

August 14 - Thursday



Sombrero Chino Island

Sombrero Chino Island

Sombrero Chino ("Chinese Hat"), is a small islet situated just off the southeastern coast of Santiago. Its name is derived from its resemblance to a traditional bamboo or rice hat when viewed from the north, although from above, it appears more oval-shaped on satellite imagery. The islet's rugged terrain, characterized by volcanic rubble and lava formations, serves as a stark reminder of the Galápagos' fiery origins.

Morning Walk at Sombrero Chino:

Along its western coast, a short hiking trail offers visitors a glimpse into this harsh landscape. Both Sombrero Chino and the adjacent Santiago shore are frequented by Galapagos sea lions and Galapagos penguins, often seen basking in the sun or seeking refuge from the heat. The skies above may reveal sightings of the Galapagos Hawk.

- *Activities: Walking over lava field*
- *Conditions: Wet landing; white sand beach and lava formations*
- *Fauna: Sea lions, marine iguanas, Galapagos penguins*
- *Flora: Lava cactus, purslane, carpet weed, puncture weed*

Morning Snorkelling at Sombrero Chino:

The highlight of a visit to Sombrero Chino lies beneath the surface, in the turquoise channel that separates it from Santiago. Snorkeling here offers encounters with various species of sharks, penguins, rays, and tropical fish. Access to this area is limited, with permits granted to select boats.

- *Activities: Snorkelling*
- *Marine life: Galapagos penguins, sharks, various schools of tropical fish, rays*



Rabida Island

Rabida Island

Rabida Island, formerly known as Jervis, stands out with its small yet striking landscape characterized by steep slopes and red-sand beaches. Its rich iron lava deposits lend the sands and soils their vibrant red hue, making it one of the most distinctive islands in the Galápagos.

Afternoon Wildlife Walk/Hike at Rabida:

Exploring Rabida begins with a wet landing on its unique maroon beach along the northern coast, where marine iguanas and sea lions often seek shade in nearby caves. Rabida is renowned for its pelican colonies, which nest in the saltbushes along the coastline, offering visitors an intimate view of these majestic birds. Above the cliffs, blue-footed and Nazca boobies grace the skies.

Adjacent to the beach lies a saltwater lagoon, occasionally serving as a feeding and breeding ground for flamingos. These vibrant birds, known for their pink hue, thrive on a diet of pink shrimp larva and water boatmen. While their presence on Rabida fluctuates, pintail ducks and common stilts are frequently spotted in the lagoon.

Following the path inland, abundant Opuntia cacti and Palo Santo trees create habitats for various land birds, including Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, and Galapagos mockingbirds, offering a glimpse into the island's unique ecosystem. The hiking path leads to a wonderful viewpoint where one can really appreciate the color palette of this island.

- *Activities: Walking and hiking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, swimming, snorkeling*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Sea lions, sea lion bachelor colony, pelican nesting sites, blue-footed boobies, flamingos, white-cheeked pintails*
- *Flora: Palo Santo trees, opuntia cactus, scrubby bush*

Afternoon Swim or Snorkel at Rabida:

Depending on time and conditions, there may be the option to snorkel at Rabida. The snorkelling is usually done from the beach .

- *Activities: Swimming, snorkeling*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Marine life: Rays, schools of fish, sharks*

August 15 - Friday



Isabela Island: Sierra Negra and Puerto Villamil

Isabela Island

Originally known as Albemarle Island by early Galápagos explorers in 1684, Isabela Island stands as the largest of all the islands, stretching 120 kilometers in length and surpassing the combined area of all other islands in the archipelago. Its northwestern edge harbors Tagus Cove, historically frequented by pirates, buccaneers, whalers, and fishermen alike.

Formed by the fusion of six shield volcanoes; Alcedo, Cerro Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf; Isabela Island, one of the Galápagos' youngest, remains predominantly active, with the famed Wolf Volcano claiming the archipelago's highest summit. Despite a gradual increase in population to over 1,750 residents, primarily residing in Puerto Villamil along the southern coast, the island's rugged terrain and nascent soils challenge agriculture.

Nonetheless, Isabela boasts an unparalleled richness of wildlife, housing more wild tortoises than all other islands combined, each volcano nurturing distinct species. The nutrient-rich Cromwell Current along the west coast sustains a thriving ecosystem, attracting a diverse array of marine life, making Isabela a premier destination for whale watching, with 16 species sighted in its waters.

Morning Hike to Sierra Negra:

Sierra Negra stands as the Galápagos' most awe-inspiring volcano, boasting a crater stretching over 6 miles in diameter, ranking as the world's second-largest. Accessible via a 45-minute drive from, hikers can then trek along a path leading to and running along part of the rim of the Volcano. The journey also offers an option to traverse recent lava flows from the 1979 eruption of the parasitic cone, Volcan Chico.

The trek rewards adventurers with breathtaking vistas from Sierra Negra's rim, offering sweeping panoramas of Isabela's other volcanoes and extending views across to Fernandina, making the journey well worth the endeavor.

- *Activities: Hiking*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Galapagos hawks, Darwin finches, mockingbird, Galapagos dove, lava lizards*

Afternoon Visit to Puerto Villamil town and sites:

The bulk of Isabela's population resides in Puerto Villamil, a charming village that retains its quaint fishing port allure, often regarded as the most picturesque in the entire archipelago. With its stunning, palm-fringed beach adorned with bright white coral sand, Villamil epitomizes tropical beauty. Nestled behind the beach are saltwater lagoons harboring pink flamingos, pintail ducks, and various other species. Depending on conditions, visitors may visit Los Humedales, the Tortoise Breeding Center, the flamingo lagoon or the Tintorerías.

- *Activities: Visit to tortoise breeding centre, flamingo lagoon, "Muro de las Lagrimas", and various other options*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Marine iguanas, flamingos, whimbrels, gallinules, stilts, lava gulls*
- *Flora: Mangroves*

August 16 - Saturday



Isabela Island: Punta Moreno

Morning Nature Walk at Punta Moreno:

Punta Moreno, situated on Isabela Island's western coast, offers a captivating excursion. Following a scenic panga ride along the rugged shoreline, you'll encounter a vast lava field that stretches towards the distant Cero Azul volcano.

Traversing this otherworldly terrain you will come across several tidal lagoons, pools, and mangroves teeming with diverse wildlife, particularly bird species. Keep an eye out for marine turtles or sharks in the larger tidal pools, where the crystal-clear waters afford unique viewing opportunities from the shore.

During your hike back to the panga pick up point, expect sightings of Galapagos penguins on the rocky shores, along with various bird species like herons and flamingos. This excursion offers a perfect blend of wildlife encounters and scenic hiking through impressive lava landscapes.

- *Activities: Panga ride, lava walk, wildlife viewing*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: flamingos, blue herons, pintail ducks, brown pelicans, Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants*
- *Flora: Mangroves, pioneer plants*

Morning Snorkelling at Punta Moreno:

Snorkelling at Punt Moreno is done from the panga. After the morning walk you will return to the ship to change into snorkelling gear. Snorkelling here offers the chance to swim with marine turtles, sea lions, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins. If you keep an eye out you may even see a sea horse!

- *Activities: Snorkelling*
- *Conditions: Water can be cold*
- *Marine life: marine turtles, sea lions, marine iguanas, Galapagos penguins, schools of fish, rays*



Isabela (Albemarle) Island: Elizabeth Bay

Afternoon Panga ride at Elizabeth Bay:

Situated along Isabela's eastern coast, Elizabeth Bay offers a tranquil refuge for diverse wildlife. Its shoreline features mangrove areas that stand out against the surrounding lava fields, while numerous small islets and rocky reefs dot the bay, contributing to its rich biodiversity.

Accessed only by panga, an exploration of Elizabeth Bay offers an intimate encounter with Isabela's inhabitants. During the boat ride, you'll have the chance to observe rays, sharks, green sea turtles, Galapagos penguins, pelicans, and an abundance of sea lions. Closer to the shores and mangroves, sightings of Galápagos flightless cormorants and marine iguanas are common.

- *Activities: Wildlife observation from panga*
- *Fauna: marine turtles, rays, flightless cormorant and Galapagos penguins, blue-footed booby, pelicans.*
- *Flora: White and black mangroves*

Afternoon Kayaking at Elizabeth Bay:

Depending on conditions, there may be the option to kayak in this bay. Your guide will discuss options with you.

- *Activities: kayaking*
- *Fauna: marine turtles, rays, flightless cormorant and Galapagos penguins, blue-footed booby, pelicans.*
- *Flora: White and black mangroves*

August 17 - Sunday



Isabela (Albemarle) Island: Urbina Bay

Morning Wildlife Walk at Urbina Bay:

Urbina Bay rests on the western shores of Isabela, nestled at the base of Alcedo Volcano. Remarkably, this area emerged from the sea during a dramatic uplift event in 1954. Its terrain, relatively level, showcases corals and marine formations lifted from the depths by this geological upheaval.

Upon landing, a relatively long hiking path leads you inland, traversing the island's arid zone. Here, you'll encounter Galapagos land tortoises and land iguanas in their natural habitat. Returning towards the coastline, you'll encounter colonies of the distinctive and endemic flightless cormorant.

- *Activities: Trail walks along shore and inland, walk along uplifted area, swimming, snorkeling*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Tortoises, land iguanas, marine iguanas, flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguins, blue-footed booby, pelicans.*
- *Flora: Palo Santo trees, Darwin's shrub, thorn shrub, cotton, yellow cordia, petunia*

Morning Snorkelling at Urbina Bay:

The snorkelling at Urbina Bay is usually done from the beach. This spot offers delightful snorkeling opportunities, where you may find yourself swimming next to a Galapagos penguin! It's also a great spot to observe the marine iguanas feeding beneath the surface.

- *Activities: Swimming, snorkeling*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Marine life: Marine turtles, rays, penguins, schools of fish*



Isabela (Albemarle) Island: Tagus Cove

Afternoon Hike at Tagus Cove:

The waters around Tagus cove are the coldest and most productive in the Galapagos because of the the upwelling of the Cromwell Current, and dolphins and whales are frequently seen. Tagus Cove was used historically as an anchorage for pirates and whalers. One can still find the names of the ships carved into the rock above the landing (a practice now prohibited).

A steep yet brief hiking trail leads to the saltwater Darwin Lake, nestled within a volcanic cone. Further ascending from Darwin Lake, a series of 160 steps brings you to a breathtaking viewpoint offering panoramic vistas of the Galápagos. Here, you may encounter unique wildlife such as Galapagos hawks, vermilion flycatchers, and various species of Darwin's finches.

The coves quiet waters make for an ideal panga ride beneath its sheltered cliffs.

- *Activities: Trail walk along caldera filled with salt water, views*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, darwin finches, Galapagos hawk.*
- *Flora: Palo Santo trees, castela, cotton, lantana, waltheria, macraea*

Afternoon snorkel, panga ride or kayak at Tagus Cove:

The coves quiet waters make for an ideal panga ride beneath its sheltered cliffs. This is also a place where both kayaking and snorkelling area permitted, depending on conditions. Your guide will discuss options with you.

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

August 18 - Monday



Fernandina Island: Punta Espinoza Fernandina Island

Fernandina, the youngest island of the Galápagos Islands, stands as a highlight in the archipelago. Surrounded by rich, cold water currents, it hosts a diverse array of species, including flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins, and both land and marine iguanas.

Noted for its dramatic landscape changes, smoking craters, and tales of volcanic eruptions, Fernandina sits atop the volcanic hotspot that birthed the entire Galápagos archipelago. Its main volcano, La Cumbre, boasts a massive 6.5km summit crater. Recent eruptions, both within the crater and on its outer slopes, have seen lava flows reaching the sea.

Home to a significant land iguana population, Fernandina's volcanic crater serves as a nesting ground, where they nest both in and out of the crater. Its surrounding waters, influenced by the cold water Cromwell Current, teem with life, offering a superb feeding habitat for species like the flightless cormorant and Galapagos penguins.

Morning Wildlife Walk at Punta Espinoza:

Fernandina island has a single visitor site, Punta Espinoza located on the northeastern tip of the island just across from Tagus Cove. Punta Espinoza is a narrow ledge of lava and sand that extends from the base of the volcano to the sea and is teeming with wildlife.

- *Activities: Trail walk along beach, lava and shoreline;*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Large colony of marine iguanas, sea lions, flightless cormorant nesting site, lava herons.*
- *Flora: Lava cactus, shore petunia, red, white and black mangrove*

Morning Snorkelling at Punta Espinoza:

If conditions are good, snorkelling will be done around the bay of Punta Espinoza, the exact location will be determined by the guide.

- *Activities: Snorkelling*
- *Conditions: Water can be cold*
- *Marine life: Penguins, sea turtles, rays, iguanas feeding underwater, cormorants feeding underwater, schools of fish*



Isabela (Albemarle) Island: Punta Vicente Roca

Afternoon Snorkelling and Panga Ride at Punta Vicente Roca:

There are no designated landing spots here; instead, snorkeling is done directly from the boats. The surroundings of the Point boast stunning scenery, shaped by the remnants of two ancient volcanoes, with cliffs and caves providing a breathtaking backdrop to the bay.

Protected from ocean swells, the bay offers an ideal snorkeling experience. Cold-water currents attract a diverse array of marine life, often resulting in feeding frenzies that include whales, dolphins, Galápagos Sea Lions, tuna, Blue-footed Boobies, and other seabirds, creating spectacular sights.

Additionally, there is the option to go on a panga ride along the shore, allowing visitors to explore caves and encounter other species such as Galapagos flightless cormorants and a small colony of Galapagos fur seals

- *Activities: Snorkeling and panga ride*
- *Conditions: Water can be cold*
- *Marine life: Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, marine turtles, noddy terns, blue footed boobies, flightless cormorants, frigatebirds, sea lions and fur seals, rays, mula mula*

August 19 - Tuesday



James (Santiago) Island: Espumilla Beach and Buccaneers Cove 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 archipiélago. 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.

Morning Wildlife Walk at Espumilla Beach:

Espumilla Beach sits at the northern tip of James Bay, a vast bay on the northwest coast of Santiago Island. It boasts a picturesque shoreline bordered by lush green forests. The beach is a habitat for marine iguanas, commonly spotted feeding along the rocky edges. Additionally, Espumilla Beach serves as a nesting ground for Galápagos green turtles. Inland, a hiking trail winds past a seasonal lagoon, often tinted bright green by algae, where Galápagos flamingos and Pintail ducks can be observed. The trail then meanders through the arid zone, offering glimpses of various bird species, including Galapagos Hawks.

- *Activities: Trail walks, swimming, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography*
- *Conditions: Wet landing*
- *Fauna: Darwin finches, marine iguanas, flamingoes, Pintail ducks, Galapagos hawk, marine turtles*
- *Flora: Mangroves, Palo Santo trees*

Morning snorkel, panga ride or kayak at Espumilla Beach / Buccaneers Cove

Very near Espumilla Beach is Buccaneers Cove, which earned its name because it was once a haven for pirates, privateers, buccaneers, and whalers who anchored here and ventured ashore. Today, the towering cliffs serve as a habitat for various Galapagos seabirds, sea lions, and fur seals. The geological formations are captivating, characterized by layers of compacted tuff volcanic material shaped by wave and wind erosion. Boobies, pelicans, and gulls frequent these ledges for feeding and nesting, while Galapagos fur seals seek shelter among the rocks to escape the heat, and sea lions swim playfully along the coastline.

With an abundance of marine life this is also a good site to go snorkelling where moray eels, octopi and sometimes even sharks can be seen. Your guide will discuss options with you, as this site also permits kayaking and panga rides.

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



Bartolome Island

Bartolome Island

Bartolome Island, though lacking in lush vegetation and diverse wildlife, captivates visitors with its awe-inspiring landscape, centered around the iconic Pinnacle Rock. Named after Sir Bartholomew Sullivan, a Beagle lieutenant and friend of Charles Darwin, this barren island showcases the Galapagos' renowned geological formations.

Afternoon Hike at Bartolome:

A hike will take you to the highest point on Bartolome for one of the most spectacular views in the whole archipelago.

- *Activities: Hiking, snorkeling, swimming, view point with beautiful views of other islands*
- *Conditions: Dry landing*
- *Fauna: Galapagos penguin, blue footed boobies, pelicans*
- *Flora: Lava cactus, thorn bush, white and red mangrove*

Afternoon Snorkelling at Bartolome:

Depending on conditions, the snorkelling may be done before or after the hike.

Despite its sparse terrestrial inhabitants, Bartolome boasts a colony of Galapagos Penguins and serves as a prime snorkeling destination, teeming with marine life. Alongside penguins, snorkellers may also encounter marine turtles, sea lions, and white-tipped sharks. There is also a sandy beach with great swimming and snorkelling.

- *Activities: Snorkeling, swimming*
- *Marine life: Galapagos penguin, marine turtles, sea lions, tropical fish, sharks*

August 20 - Wednesday



North Seymour Island

North Seymour Island

North Seymour, a small islet situated near Baltra in the Galápagos, differs from typical volcanic formations, having emerged from a seismic uplift of the ocean floor, reaching a modest elevation of 90 feet at its peak. Originally named after an English nobleman, the island stands as a vibrant hub of biodiversity, attracting nature enthusiasts and photographers alike.

Early Morning Wildlife Walk at North Seymour:

Renowned for its abundant wildlife, North Seymour hosts an array of iconic Galápagos species, notably boasting one of the largest nesting colony of Blue-Footed Boobies. A popular one-mile visitor trail traverses the island, offering immersive encounters with land iguanas, marine iguanas, Galapagos sea lions, frigatebirds, and pelicans, among other fascinating inhabitants.

- *Activities: Walking, bird watching, wildlife viewing*
- *Conditions: Dry landing; flat easy trail*
- *Fauna: Nesting frigatebirds, swallowtail gulls, blue-footed boobies, land iguanas, marine iguanas, sea lions,*
- *Flora: Prickly pear cactus, palo santo, salt bushes, croton, yellow cordia*



Departure from the Beluga



Transfer from Yacht to Baltra Airport

Morning transfer to Airport:

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