



FLOREANA

The old Galapagos way of life

Over the last ten years the Galapagos Islands have experienced a dramatic surge in tourism. Local economies have boomed, and as a consequence the old Galapagos way of life has been disappearing. Floreana, the smallest of the inhabited islands is the exception. The first of the islands to develop tourism back in the 1930's, this time Floreana has been less affected, a real advantage for the visitor, the environment and the population, who are determined to learn from the experiences of other more popular Galapagos destinations.



A visit to this peaceful island, whose history abounds with extraordinary characters and enigmatic disappearances, is something special. Floreana is slow tourism at its best, about Galapagos as it was, about fully experiencing this marvelous world rather than rushing from one island to the next. Exploring this serene area is about taking in the surroundings, meeting the local people, relaxing and, in the process, helping this small community develop sustainably.



Floreana

Lava Lodge

Floreana's fascinating story and the desire of the local people to offer a more relaxed, more enjoyable and environmentally sensitive kind of tourism, is why TROPIC has chosen to launch its new Galapagos adventure here. Together with the local community and the owners of 'Floreana Lava Lodge', and under the supervision of the Galapagos Authority, Tropic has created this new destination designed for visitors who are looking for something out of the ordinary, who will understand the value of slow tourism.

Located in Puerto Velasco Ibarra (named after a five times president of Ecuador) Lava Lodge is owned by a member of the Cruz family, one of the Floreana's oldest. The hotel is a comfortable lodge with top class service and the best of friendly local hospitality, built on black lava sands at the ocean's edge: one of the best sites on the island.



Situated only 5 minutes walk from the centre of the village, Lava Lodge is also only a few steps from the 'lobería' where visitors can watch the islands famous sea lions in their natural surroundings.



Services

The 10 independent cabins are each equipped with 2 twin beds (bunk beds for up to 3 people are also available).

Each ocean front cabin has its own bathroom, front porch, a reading and shady area to provide privacy and enjoyment of the outdoors.

The lodge also has a common area where guests can relax together and savor a welcome drink while enjoying the striking Galapagos sunsets.

Services & Amenities

All rooms contain air conditioning, reading lamps, clock radio, hot water, hair dryer, night tables, Individual safe deposit boxes and Wi-Fi!!

The lodge also has a laundry and snack bar.



Activities

The lodge has kayaks, snorkel gear and Stand Up Paddle boards for the use of guests. There is no charge for this equipment when booked on all inclusive programs.

For B&B clients a small charge of \$50 will be made for use of the equipment per day.



Floreana

Walking Tour 3D/2N

As part of this exclusive program you will visit four different Galapagos Islands, where you will spend time with the unique wildlife the islands are rightly famous for: the sea lions, the world renowned giant tortoises, the marine iguanas, the blue footed boobies, and much, much more. Galapagos is also one of the planet's few World Heritage Marine Reserves. This is truly a matchless environment.



Day 1

Floreana Arrival

Arrival on Baltra: This peaceful island is home to the Galapagos' smallest population, only 150 people, and is also the least developed and most natural of the four inhabited islands. Once a pirates' lair, Floreana was the first inhabited island in the Galapagos and descendants of the original population still live here together with the mysterious tales and legends that surround their ancestors.

On Floreana we will be hiking, learning about the fascinating history of the local people, and seeing some of the Galapagos special wildlife (giant tortoises, frigate birds, Darwin's finches, sea lions, and petrels).

We check in at our lodge overlooking the Galapagos' most beautiful and secluded bay. After that we will walk for 30 minutes towards La Loberia (a sea lion breeding ground) and then for our first marine encounter, snorkeling and swimming in the warm bright water with sea turtles, sea lions, spectacular rays and lots of shimmering fishes.

In the afternoon we return to the lodge for a nice warm shower and recommend dinner in the village.



FLOREANA

The smallest of the inhabited islands Floreana was the first to be populated; the local people consequently have a very strong sense of community and a real desire to see their more relaxed way of life preserved. A visit to this enchanted island is all about slow tourism, about Galapagos as it was, about pirates, love and mysterious legends. A trip to Floreana is about meeting the local people, relaxing and, in the process, helping this small community survive intact while protecting this precious area and its unique environment.

Night Activity (weather permitting):
star gazing

Overnight stay in Lava Lodge

Meals: Not Included

Day 2

Exploring the Floreana Highlands

After breakfast we leave to explore the Floreana highlands on our open-air bus (chiva), an unbeatable, historic, and comfortable way to see the island. On the way our Naturalist Guide will point out the wildlife and give us an idea of the colorful history of some of Floreana's first inhabitants, such as the Wittmers (whose descendents still live on the Island), the 'Baroness', and the pirates that once visited here.

They will also tell you about the "Enigma of Floreana", involving the mysterious deaths of several of the Island's inhabitants, a riddle that has never been solved.

After driving into the highlands, we reach Asilo de la Paz (Peace Haven) where our hike begins. We walk up to this historic site, explore pirate caves, and visit the freshwater spring that provides water for the entire Island. Along the way, you can expect to see giant tortoises lumbering around in the vegetation or even on the trail. We leave Asilo de Paz walking down through a rural area where the local people grow produce for their own consumption: this is a fascinating example about how these island people survived in this remote place and over the years were able to develop an understanding of the local environment and now work to preserve their unique agricultural knowledge. Once back on the coast we

will be able to watch the extraordinary behavior of the frigate birds who 'dance' as they wash their salty wings in the fresh water. With a little bit of luck, we may be able to see males puffing up the red pouches on their chests in an attempt to attract females.

From La Primavera we continue by Chiva down towards Las Palmas, where the Island's first permanent inhabitant, the eccentric Dr Ritter, lived and is buried. Arriving in 1926, this German physician believed that with a combination of exercise and the right vegetarian diet he would live to be 150 years old. He didn't, but his story is one of the many strange episodes that still abound on the island.



On the way we will see spectacular views of the Floreana shoreline, and on arrival sit down to a special BBQ.

Overnight stay in Lava Lodge

Meals: **B** Special BBQ



Day 3

Today is time for some marine exploration, snorkeling, kayaking and stand up paddling, SUP, our newest water activity. It is lots of fun, so come and learn how to walk on water.

There is time for a quick lunch (not included) on your preferred restaurant in the community and return via speed boat towards Puerto Ayora.

Please note that you may need to consider additional services in Santa Cruz before your flight back to the continent via Baltra.

Meals: **B**

INCLUDED:

- Double Accomodation at Floreana
- Lava Lodge
- Special BBQ
- Breakfast
- Local Spanish Speaking Guide
- Activities described on Itinerary

NOT INCLUDED:

- Transfer in and out of Floreana (aprox US\$40,00 per way per person)
- Meals not describe don itinerary, we recommend exploring Floreana small community and share with the locals.
- Roundtrip flight to Galapagos
- Galapagos entrance fee and Transit Card
- Tips for guides and staff
- International aiport tax
- Alcoholic beverages * Personal expenses
- Evacuation or medical expenses