

Santa Cruz Island

Dec 14, 2022 - National Geographic Endeavour II



At Cerro Dragon, we walked along an organic beach. The sand is composed of broken pieces of seashells, coral, snails, and the spines of pencil sea urchins. Photo by Vanessa Gallo



The Galapagos marine iguana is one of the animals that adapted best to the harsh environment of the islands. Here we can see how well the marine iguana evolved to match the color of the surrounding basaltic rocks. Photo by Vanessa Gallo



Unique to the Galapagos archipelago, the Opuntia cactus is huge, and its flowers are yellow. Photo by Vanessa Gallo



Male Galapagos land iguanas are gorgeous. The yellowish color of their heads and front legs stands out. The rest of their body is brownish-red, and the colors are enhanced during mating season. Photo by Vanessa Gallo



Borrero Bay is a wonderful visitors' site surrounded by mangroves. It is a fantastic place to observe seabirds and marine life, including rays and Pacific green sea turtles. The calm and protected waters are awesome for kayaking and paddleboarding. Photo by Vanessa Gallo

We enjoyed a great day on the northern part of Santa Cruz Island. We hiked through a palo santo forest at Cerro Dragon. Our main goal was to find Galapagos land iguanas, and we saw males and females along the dusty trail. In the afternoon, we deployed kayaks, paddleboards, and Zodiacs. Borrero Bay is the perfect spot to have fun. Its calm waters are a great place for wildlife observation, including blue-footed boobies, brown pelicans, spotted eagle rays, and Pacific green sea turtles. Nature is generous in the Galapagos!