



SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO

TOUR DETAILS:

Highlights:
sightseeing of
volcano,

Departure: Puerto
Villamil

Starting at: 7:00am

Meeting Point: at
Dock

Transportation: chiva
bus, horseback riding
(under request)

INCLUDES: Bilingual
guide, box lunch, land
transportation

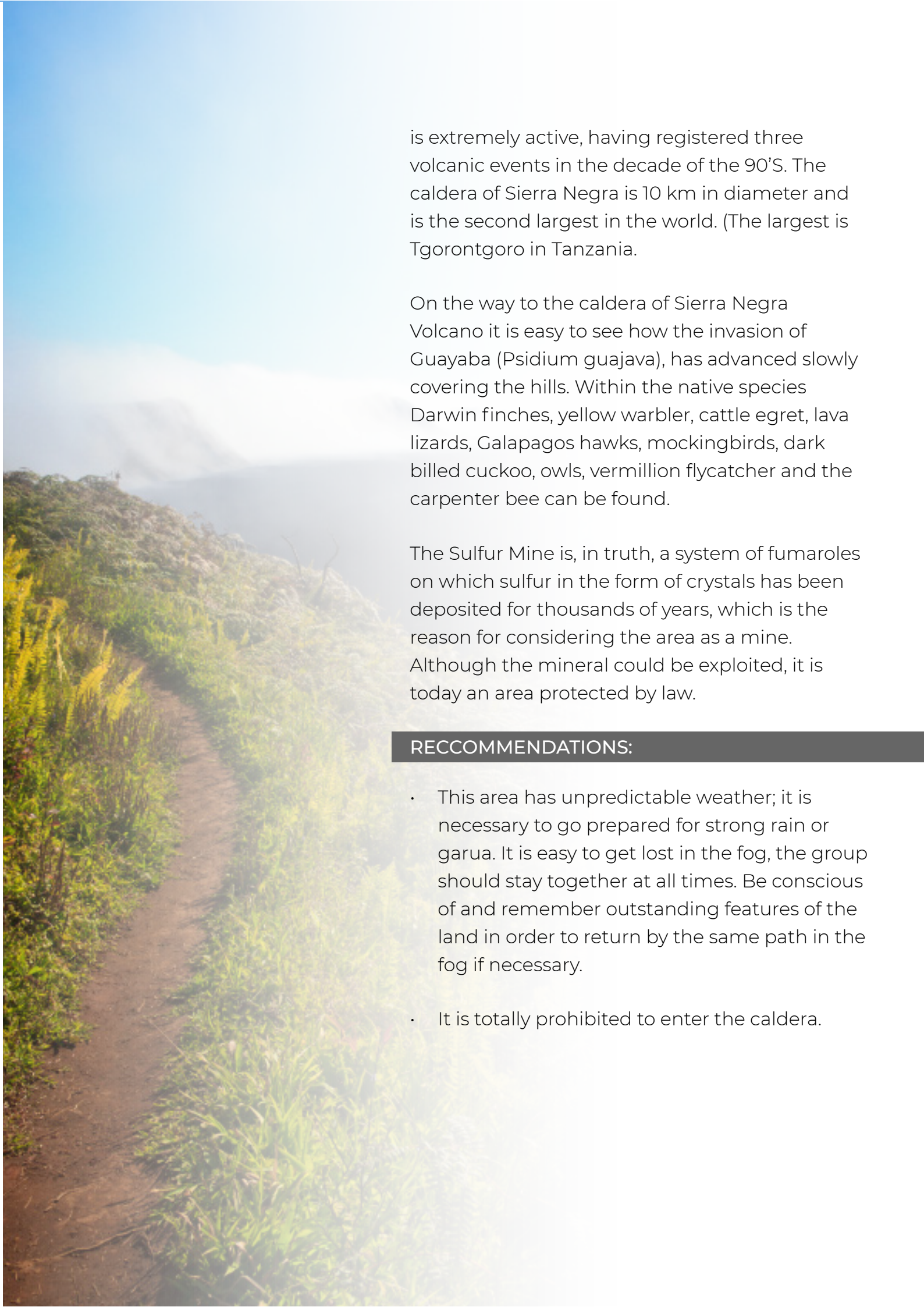
Duration of the tour :
6-7 hours

Activities: moderate
hike

TOUR OVERVIEW

From Puerto Villamil the bus transportation takes about 45 minutes trip to the site of the “El Cura”. Here passengers continue walking by foot on the path up to Sierra Negra caldera for about 3-5 hours, or rent horses to take along the eastern edge of the crater. At the peak of Sierra Negra, if it is clear it is possible to see Volcan Chico to the extreme northwest of the caldera and the Sulfur Mines to the extreme southwest.

Sierra Negra is considered to be the oldest volcano on Isabela Island. According to some geologists, the wider and shallower a caldera is, the older it is. The youngest volcano is Cerro Azul, followed by Wolf, Fernandina, Darwin, Alcedo and Sierra Negra. This area

A dirt path leads up a hillside covered in dense green vegetation. The sky is clear and blue. The path is made of brown earth and is flanked by various green plants and shrubs. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape.

is extremely active, having registered three volcanic events in the decade of the 90'S. The caldera of Sierra Negra is 10 km in diameter and is the second largest in the world. (The largest is Tgorontgoro in Tanzania.

On the way to the caldera of Sierra Negra Volcano it is easy to see how the invasion of Guayaba (*Psidium guajava*), has advanced slowly covering the hills. Within the native species Darwin finches, yellow warbler, cattle egret, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, mockingbirds, dark billed cuckoo, owls, vermillion flycatcher and the carpenter bee can be found.

The Sulfur Mine is, in truth, a system of fumaroles on which sulfur in the form of crystals has been deposited for thousands of years, which is the reason for considering the area as a mine. Although the mineral could be exploited, it is today an area protected by law.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- This area has unpredictable weather; it is necessary to go prepared for strong rain or garua. It is easy to get lost in the fog, the group should stay together at all times. Be conscious of and remember outstanding features of the land in order to return by the same path in the fog if necessary.
- It is totally prohibited to enter the caldera.