



TINTORERAS ISLET

TOUR DETAILS:

Highlights: Snorkel with Galapagos Penguins, sea lions, marine turtle. Observation of white Tipped Sharks, blue footed boobies, Sally light foot crabs

Departure: Dock of Puerto Villamil

INCLUDES: Bilingual guide, boat transportation, snorkel gear

NOT INCLUDES: wetsuit, food/ drinks

Duration of the tour: 3 hours

Activities: walking, snorkeling

TOUR OVERVIEW

A dinghy is necessary to reach the site. The access is easy, visitors may land in high tide as well as in low tide. It takes approximately 10 minutes from Puerto Villamil to arrive at The Tintoreras. The islet of the Tintoreras is situated to the south of Puerto Villamil. It has a small bay of completely tranquil turquoise water, where it is possible to appreciate sea lions, sea turtles, marine iguanas, rays, etc. This bay is connected to a shallow crevice of crystalline waters whose entrance closes when the tide is low. In this crevice, it is possible to see how sharks swim with other small fish and sea lions.

The major part of the trail is of type lava, with the exception of the two white sandy beaches



and the one beach of black rocks. There are colonies of sea lions in the first beach; in addition, this is a nesting site for the marine iguana. In the second beach it is possible to see a few plants of the *Nolana galapageia*, an endemic plant that is very uncommon to this area. The second beach is totally surrounded by mangroves, including: the button and white mangrove.

All over the trail it is possible to see many marine iguanas amongst the rocks and under the mangroves. The Tintoreras is one of the few sites where the reproduction of iguanas is successful, due to the absence of introduced animals that kill the young. Sharks have the habit of feeding at night, for this reason they stay in the ocean crevice in the day where they find an excellent refuge for resting.