

## Bartolome and Rabida Island

Dec 14, 2015 - National Geographic Islander



Kayakers cruising the Iron Oxide Cliff of Rabida Island.

Greater flamingo.

It is our first full day in the Galapagos and we have been astonished by the biodiversity found on each outing. From volcanic landscapes to recent lava flows, flamingos, sea lions and a great variety of land birds.

Our first outing on Bartolome island was an early walk on the flanks of this unique island. Every breath taken away by the wooden steps was rewarded after we reached the summit of the island. The pristine landscape and the remarkable landmark of the Galapagos "pinnacle rock" transported us to the past, like the species found here a couple million years ago.

Later in the morning we headed to the golden sand beach on the north side of the island. We had our first snorkeling experience. The unique geographic location of Galapagos permitted us to have an experience of a lifetime among sea lions, Galapagos penguins and a mosaic of fish that have come to the enchanted islands from different provinces around the Pacific Ocean.

In the afternoon, eager to know more about the Galapagos, we explored the island of Rabida by kayak and naturalist walk. We had close encounters with blue-footed boobies and pelicans diving near the red-sand beach. The path took us to a brackish lagoon where we were surprised by flamingoes, white cheek pintail ducks and many other migratory birds that are common this time a year. The unique and naive animals and the unforgettable sunset at the end of the day left us moved and keen to know more about this outstanding archipelago.