oceanSpray

The Ultimate Galapagos Experience

15Days/14Nights

Itinerary

2016

15 Days / 14 Nights
Ocean Spray
Itinerary Outline

Saturday
AM: Baltra Arrival and Transfer
PM: Chinese Hat

Sunday
AM: Isabela – Vicente Roca Point
PM: Fernandina – Espinosa Point

Monday
AM: Isabela – Tagus Cove
PM: Isabela – Urbina Bay

Tuesday
AM: Isabela – Elizabeth Bay
PM: Isabela – Moreno Point

Wednesday
AM: Santa Cruz – Charles Darwin Station
PM: Santa Cruz – Twin Craters (Los Gemelos)

Thursday
AM: South Plaza
PM: Santa Fe

Friday
AM: Española – Suarez Point
PM: Española – Gardner Bay/Gardner Islet/Osborn Islet

Saturday
AM: San Cristobal –Interpretation Center/Galapaguera
PM: San Cristobal – Lobos Island/Kicker Rock

Sunday
AM: San Cristobal - Pitt Point/Pitt Point Islet
PM: San Cristobal – Witch Hill

Monday
AM: Floreana - Post Office Bay
PM: Floreana – Cormorant Point/Devil's Crown

Tuesday
AM: Santa Cruz - Black Turtle Cove
PM: Bartholomew - Pinnacle Rock

Wednesday
AM: Genovesa - Darwin Bay
PM: Genovesa - El Barranco

Thursday
AM: Santiago – Buccaneer Cove/ Espumilla Beach
PM: Santiago - Egas Port

Friday
AM: North Seymour
PM: Santa Cruz – Highlands/Charles Darwin Station

Saturday
AM: Mosquera Islet
PM: Transfer to Baltra Airport

Terms to Know

Landings – Landings are how you arrive to the visitor sites. Each site is visited by dinghy, also known as zodiac or panga.

Panga – Panga is the Spanish term for dinghy or zodiac. You will hear this word often.

Dry Landing –Upon arrival to the visitor site you will not have to enter the water when exiting the zodiac or dinghy.

Wet Landing – Upon arrival to the visitor site you will exit the dinghy by entering the water first, then walking ashore.

No Landing – There will be no landing because activity will consist of panga ride or snorkeling.

Dinghy Ride – The dinghy ride is a simple ride on the water around the visitor area. This is done when there is no landing permitted or to get a better view of nearby wildlife or landscapes.

Possible Activities – All activities are to be ultimately decided by the guide considering weather, sea conditions, and other factors. The activities listed in all itineraries are the final decision made by the Galapagos National Park officials with the best interest of the islands in mind. These cannot be altered in any way.

Day 1 (Saturday) – Arrival and Chinese Hat

ARRIVAL TO BALTRA ISLAND (GALAPAGOS)

Assistance will be provided upon your arrival by An Ocean Spray representative after passing through immigration and baggage claim. When ready, you will be transferred to the yacht. You will then be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before the welcome briefing and lunch.

PM: Chinese Hat

Chinese Hat: This small island is located in the central area of Galapagos, just of the south eastern tip of Santiago Island. It is named after its unique cone hat looking shape formed from volcanic activity many years ago. The visit offers rare, up close viewing of Galapagos wildlife and well preserved remnants of fragile volcanic rock that can't be found in such a unique condition anywhere else. The islet is home to a colony of sea lions on the white coral sand beach.

Chinese Hat

Possible Activities: A hike of 400 meters starting at the beach rising up to 160 feet exploring the different volcanic remnants and rare plant life along with amazing views; Snorkeling among White-Tipped Reef Sharks and various tropical fish.
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: White-cheeked Pintail Ducks, colorful fish, sea lions, Brackish Water Lagoon, penguins, and the Galapagos Hawk.

Day 2 (Sunday) – Vicente Roca Point & Espinosa Point

AM: Isabela Island – Vicente Roca Point

Isabela Island: This is the largest of all the Galapagos Islands, about 120 km long, and is peculiarly shaped like a sea-horse! It is one of the few islands that are populated. The last census that was taken estimated about 2,200 people living on the Southern part of the Island. The island was formed by 6 different shield volcanoes from North to South that erupted continuously, eventually joining together to form on entire land mass. Of all the islands in the archipelago, Isabela is the most active with the latest eruption coming from Wolf Volcano in May of 2015. There are lots of unique wildlife on Isabela such as the pink iguana, and more wild tortoises than any other island with a different type of species near each of the 6 volcanoes.

Vicente Roca Point: On Vicente Roca Point the geological formations are simply outstanding and it is a great place to view various bird species such as blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, gulls, storm petrels, and brown noddy terns. Activities here are all done on the water by either dinghy or panga, or snorkeling. On this western part of the island the Cromwell Current provides cold water and many nutrients. Due to this it is possible to see various feeding frenzies of an assortment of animals such as whales, dolphins, sea lions, and marine birds diving. At times it may also be likely to see fur seals.

Vicente Roca Point

Possible Activities: Snorkeling and dinghy ride
Difficulty: Easy / Moderate
Type of Landing: No Landing
Highlights: Blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, sea lions, fur seals, whales. Snorkel - various tropical fish, sea turtles and other marine animals.

PM: Fernandina Island – Espinosa Point

Fernandina Island: No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. It is one of the most active islands and is the westernmost island in the archipelago. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. The Cromwell Current also flows on the west making the cold and nutrient rich water an ideal habitat for the Galapagos Penguin and Flightless Cormorant that nests here.

Espinosa Point: This area on Fernandina also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos Hawk. Land iguanas are found on the inner parts of the island near the volcanoes caldera and marine iguanas will nest on the coast during certain times of the year. There is only one visitor site to Fernandina which may involve a hike or snorkeling opportunity, making the rest of the island unspoiled in a most natural state.

Espinosa Point

Possible Activities: Hike or Snorkel
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry/Slippery
Highlights: Flightless cormorant, Active Volcano "La Cumbre", various types of impressive lava formations, AA lava, Marine Iguanas, occasional land iguanas, Galapagos penguins, sea lions and sally light foot crabs. Snorkel – marine iguanas, colorful species of fish, eagle rays, sea turtles

Day 3 (Monday) – Tagus Cove & Urbina Bay

AM: Isabela Island – Tagus Cove

Tagus Cove: This visitor site is located on the upper west part of the island and was named after and English war ship that used to pass the islands in the 1800's. This was a famous spot for many pirates and sailors who have even left their names and the names of the ship inscribed on volcanic rock. There are many different characteristics of the island here from various volcanic activities such as large volcanic rocks or small little balls of petrified rain. On the hike the path leads to Darwin Lake with a tuff cone.

Tagus Cove

Possible Activities: Hike, Kayaking, Panga Ride, or Snorkel
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry
Highlights: Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorant, finches, land iguanas, large-billed flycatchers, hawks, land birds and remnants of past pirates and sailors. Snorkel – Galapagos penguins, various species of fish, sea turtles.

PM: Isabela Island – Urbina Bay

Urbina Bay: A bit more south of Tagus Cove is Urbina Bay. Urbina Bay is an interesting site due to the uplifts of the island caused by volcanic and tectonic activity. When it rose, so did the corals and reefs that were under the surface. You can still see them although they are beginning to deteriorate due to air exposure. There are chances of seeing giant tortoises, land iguanas, and more flightless cormorants near the coast.

Urbina Bay

Possible Activities: Hiking and snorkel
Difficulty: Easy /Moderate
Type of Landing: Wet
Highlights: Exposed coral reef, giant tortoises, Galapagos hawk, land iguanas, flightless cormorants. Snorkel – green sea turtles, larger fish, Galapagos penguins.

Day 4 (Tuesday) – Elizabeth Bay & Moreno Point

AM: Isabela Island – Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay: A visitor site on the way down to the southern parts of Isabela Island is Elizabeth Bay. There are a series of islets, a lagoon and mangroves surrounding it. The mangroves provide a great place to observe many birds and at the lagoon it is possible to see sea turtles resting and feeding.

Elizabeth Bay

Possible Activities: Panga Ride
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing: No Landing
Highlights: Sea turtles, red and black mangroves, lava herons, Galapagos penguins, rays, flightless cormorants.

PM: Isabela Island – Moreno Point

Moreno Point: On the South Western point of Isabela Island is Moreno Point. With striking black geological features it is home to endemic species known only to the barren lava flows found here. Various activities are possible such as a hike, a panga ride to better see various sea birds, geological features, and snorkeling to view the vibrant underwater life.

Moreno Point

Possible Activities: Panga Ride, Hike, Snorkeling
Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Common gallinules, flamingos, paint-billed crakes, white-cheeked pintails, sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, pintail ducks. Snorkeling – assortment of fish, sea lions, green

Day 5 (Wednesday) – Fausto Llerena & Los Gemelos

AM: Santa Cruz – C.C. Fausto Llerena Charles Darwin Research Station

Santa Cruz Island: Today Santa Cruz is one of the most popular tourist sites. With a population of about 12,000 Galapagos natives, it has the longest paved road in the entire archipelago. One of the biggest conservation efforts is to eliminate all non-native plants and animals that are destroying native and endemic species on the island. There is no longer any volcanic activity but that does not mean there is no evidence. Santa Cruz means holy cross, but it's English name comes from the British vessel – Indefatigable.

Charles Darwin Research Station: The station conducts many different research projects and provides assistance to other researchers and governmental institutions and agencies, especially the Galapagos National Park. Many of the results are later published online, in magazines, and popular scientific journals. The research station also plays a big part in educating the community and public schools in Galapagos. There is also the longtime running Giant Tortoise restoration program that includes various stages of the giant tortoise from eggs, hatchlings and adults.

CHARLES DARWIN STATION

Possible Activities: Walk
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: See the latest advances in research at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Also see Giant Tortoises and land iguanas.

PM: Los Gemelos (Twin Craters)

Twin Craters: The Twin Craters or Gemelos, meaning twins in Spanish, are two caved in magma chambers of a previous volcano. After years of erosion and extinction, the once full chambers caved in leaving two similar craters that can be seen on a short hike that passes by a Scalesia forest.

Los Gemelos (Twin Craters)

Possible Activities: Hike
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: On the trail to the craters many different land birds can be seen in the Scalesia forest – finches, short eared owls, vermilion flycatchers, and Galapagos doves.

Day 6 (Thursday) – South Plaza & Santa Fe

AM: South Plaza Island

South Plaza: South Plaza is one of the smallest islands with a visitor site, but is home to an incredible amount of diverse flora and fauna. It has a large population of Sesuvium plants like the prickly pear cactus tree that is an important source of food for the land iguana. Just a few years ago mice were finally eradicated from the island, helping the population of land iguanas grow healthily once more.

South Plaza Island

Possible Activities: Short hike, Panga ride, Kayaking
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Cacti native only to South Plaza, land iguana, finches, sea lions, swallow tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds.

PM: Santa Fe Island

Santa Fe: Santa Fe Island is home to the unique Santa Fe land iguana and is the only place to find Opuntia cactus. Giant tortoises were once native to this island but after the many years of pirates and buccaneers visiting the island and taking the tortoises aboard as food, they became extinct. The Island is also called Barrington Island, named after British Admiral Samuel Barrington. Large numbers of sea lions can be found on the landing beach and Galapagos hawks can also sometimes be seen.

Santa Fe Island

Possible Activities: Short Hike, Panga Ride, Kayaking
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Galapagos hawk, Santa Fe land iguana, Opuntia Cactus, sea lions, lava lizards.

Day 7 (Friday) - Suarez Point & Gardner Bay/Gardner Islet/Osborn Islet

AM: Espanola Island – Suarez Point

Espanola Island: Here lies the southernmost island in the Galapagos, as well as the oldest. It is estimated to be about four million years old. Because it is so far away from the other islands it has the most endemic species. It is a wonderful opportunity for some great photography of endemic bird species that are found only on Espanola and awesome landscapes created by millions of years of erosion.

Suarez Point: This is a phenomenal site where you will get to see many of Espanola Island's endemic species. The trail will pass by the only Waved Albatross breeding site. If you are lucky you might see a young albatross take off for its first flight for up to five years at sea. Older birds stay at sea for months at a time, only coming back to breed. They have the same mate for life and will meet each other each year, only here to reproduce. Other species that can be seen are marine iguanas that stay brightly colored year round, Galapagos doves, Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, and Darwin finches.

Suarez Point

Possible Activities: Hike
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals: Only Waved albatross breeding site, blow hole on the point, Nazca boobies, swallow tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, three different species of finches, Galapagos doves, marine iguanas, sea lions.

PM: Gardner Bay/Osborn Islet/ Gardner Islet

Gardner Bay/Osborn Islet/Gardner Islet: Visit one of the best beaches in the Galapagos. The white sandy beach is home to a large colony of friendly and playful sea lions. Three different types of finches can be seen. The Espanola Mockingbird is very friendly, but probably looking for food. At one point in time, tourists must have given it water or food, which taught them bad habits. The site is also where green sea turtles will come to nest their eggs between January and March.

Gardner Bay/Osborn Islet

Possible Activities: Walk, Snorkel, Panga Ride
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals: Espanola mockingbird, longest beach in Galapagos, three species of Darwin's finches, large colony of sea lions, occasional green sea turtles. Snorkel – coral fish, sea lions, and other marine life.

Day 8 (Saturday) – Jacinto Gordillo/Interpretation Ctr & Lobos Islands/Kicker Rock

AM: San Cristobal Island – CC Jacinto Gordillo/Interpretation Center

San Cristobal Island: This is the fifth largest island in the Galapagos and lies farthest East. It is where Darwin first landed back in 1835 and where the first permanent settlements were founded. Today the main port Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is the capital of Galapagos and houses many government offices, the Ecuadorian Navy, and an airport with daily flights to the mainland of Ecuador. Conservation challenges the island faces include invasive plants like blackberry and guayaba and insects like the blackfly.

Giant Tortoise Breeding Ctr. / Interpretation Ctr.: The Interpretation Center has been open to the public since 1998 and offers extensive information about the history of Galapagos, all ecosystems, geology, and flora and fauna. Giant tortoises are also bred here by the center and roam about in a semi-natural habitat created by the centers employees. Within the center are meeting rooms, interpretational panels, auditoriums, exhibits, and much more.

C.C. Jacinto Gordillo Giant Tortoise Breeding Ctr. / Interpretation Ctr.

Possible Activities: Walk
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Giant tortoises up close and roaming freely, exhibits of various stages of tortoise breeding, learn more about origin, evolution, natural habitat, and threats of introduced animals and plants.

Lobos Island: Lobos Island is an islet about an hour away from San Cristobal. Blue-footed boobies will nest here seasonally. In recent years frigate birds have begun to nest here. Sea lions are abundant, as well as marine iguanas. It is a very calm and tranquil site with beautiful views, including Kicker Rock off in the distance.

Lobos Island

Activities: Short walk, Panga Ride, Snorkel
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Frigate birds, sea lions, blue-footed boobies and nesting sites, views of Kicker Rock, marine iguanas. Snorkel – sea lions, sea turtles, rays.

Kicker Rock: Kicker rock or León Dormido as it is called in Spanish is a huge structure formed of two eroded volcanic cones that tower over the sea at about 104 meters and sits in the middle of the open water. It is one of the most well-known landmarks in Galapagos with many popular sea birds that surround the area. This is also perhaps one of the best sites in the Galapagos see incredible underwater life.

Kicker Rock

Possible Activities: Snorkeling, Dingy Ride
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: No Landing
Highlights:
Deep water snorkeling: Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead sharks, and spectacular rock formations. Sea Birds: Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies & frigate birds. Second best place to snorkel in the Galapagos.

Day 9 (Sunday) – Pitt Point/Pitt Point Islet & Witch Hill

AM: San Cristobal Island – Pitt Point/Pitt Point Islet

Pitt Point: Pitt point on San Cristobal is on the easternmost side of the Galapagos Islands. It's also one of the only places that red-footed boobies, blue-footed boobies, and Nazca's can be found all at the same place. The visitor site is interested as the formations of old volcanic rock are profoundly unique and the hike to the top of the site provides incredible views of the surrounding area.

Pitt Point

Possible Activities: Hike, Kayaking, Panga Ride, Snorkel
Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Volcanic landscape, sea lions, three species of Boobies.

PM: Witch Hill

Witch Hill: This is home to a popular beach in the Galapagos with powdery white sand and turquiose waters that are a joy to swim in and snorkel spotting the tropical fish benauth the surface. The occasional sea lion may stop by to swim with you or you'll find them snoozing on the shore. On a panga ride you can explore the many crevices in the eroding rocks, leaving you in awe of the sheer power of erosion.

Witch Hill

Possible Activities: Hike, Panga Ride, Snorkel & Kayaking
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, and land birds such as finches and mockingbirds. Snorkel – sea lions, tropical fish, anemones, and sponge coral.

Day 10 (Monday) – Post Office Bay & Cormorant Point/Devil's Crown

AM: Floreana Island – Post Office Bay

Floreana Island: This Island is one of the most interesting when it comes to human history. The first Galapagos resident was an Irishman who lived on Floreana from 1807 to 1809. It is the site of the first post office within the islands created by whalers in the 1700's. Later it became the first island to be colonized by Ecuadorians, but to this day is still very isolated. Surrounded by mystery, in the 1930's various disappearances occurred and is thought to be because of tension between a baroness and her three servants who arrived after an already settled husband and wife, who gave birth to the first to be born in Galapagos and another couple of a doctor and female companion who lived of the land from their garden. The small population of today lives off the land with home grown farms and gets their water from rain filled ponds during the rainy season. There is one hotel with the only phone in the port of Velasco Ibarra where most residents live, the rest live up in the highlands. Transportation is limited and is only available every two weeks

Post Office Bay: A completely human influential site, Post Office Bay is the first official post office created by passing whalers in the 1700's. To this day visitors continue the tradition as many leave addressed messages on post cards in the barrel to be sent by future visitors while picking up post cards left behind by previous visitors to send when they return home. It is a fun exchangeable activity many visitors enjoy.

Post Office Bay

Possible Activities: Short hike (less than 0.6 mi / 1km) & snorkeling
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Barrel Post Office and beautiful sandy beach.

PM: Cormorant Point/Devil's Crown

Cormorant Point: Another fun and interesting visitor site. Two beaches can be visited and flamingoes can be seen wading through brackish lagoons looking for shrimp, which gives them their bright and vibrant colors. One of the beaches look green because of olivine crystals and the other is appropriately called Flour Beach a powdery white, made from fine pulverized coral.

Devil's Crown: Devil's Crown is a visitor site that boasts the best snorkeling opportunities. Below the surface are amazing volcanic structures that have submerged over time. Hundreds of different colorful fish species can be found here among the coral reefs. Sharks, rays, sea turtles, hammer head sharks and sea lions are also common visitors. It is an underwater spectacle that cannot be missed.

Cormorant Point/Devil's Crown

Possible Activities: Snorkeling & dinghy ride & hike (1.2 mi / 2km)
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals: Flamingoes, green olivine crystal beach, and Devil's Crown: The best snorkeling site in Galapagos Islands with sharks, rays, rock formations, and lots of tropical fish.

Day 11 (Tuesday) – Black Turtle Cove & Bartholomew

AM: Santa Cruz - Black Turtle Cove

Black Turtle Cove is located on the north side of Santa Cruz Island and is only accessible by boat and with a guide. This shallow inlet is surrounded by mangroves and provides natural protection for a variety of marine life, attracting the vulnerable juveniles of many species. Below the surface of the water, you can see both black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, golden cow-nose rays, spotted eagle rays, and an occasional hammerhead shark. Pelicans and Boobies hunt here, diving gracefully into the water.

Black Turtle Cove

Possible Activities: Panga Ride
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: No Landing
Highlights: White-tipped sharks, rays, sea turtles, and shore and sea birds.

PM: Bartholomew

Bartholomew Island: Bartholomew is another satellite island that derives from Santiago Island. It is home of the famous Pinnacle Rock and is named after James Sullivan, a friend of Charles Darwin who was also aboard the *HMS Beagle.* Of all the islands, this is the most photographed and is also featured in the 2003 movie "Master and Commander".

Pinnacle Rock: Pinnacle Rock is a volcono cone formed by magma expelled by an underwater volcano. The sea cooled the hot lava and as it exploded from contact, the pieces formed together this huge rock of many, many layers of basalt. The huge rock also has a beach where a small population of green sea turtles will nest. Galapagos penguins gather here and swimming can offer beautiful sights of colorful schools of fish and curious sea lions.

Bartholomew Island

Possible Activities: Hike, Snorkel, Panga Ride
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Pinnacle Rock, Galapagos penguins, panoramic views, awesome photography opportunities, swimming. Snorkel – sea lions, rays, sea turtles, sharks, many different fish.

Day 12 (Wednesday) – Darwin Bay & El Barranco

AM: Genovesa Island – Darwin Bay

Genovesa Island: This horse-shoe shaped island was formed by the eruption of a shield volcano with large slopes formed by gradual lava flows. It is known as "Bird Island" due to the wide variety of birds that can be seen. The only reptile on the entire island is the marine iguana and it is one of the very few places red-footed boobies gather in one large mass.

Darwin Bay: Darwin Bay is the result of the shield volcano where one of the sides of the caldera collapsed after years of erosion. It is one of the places in the Galapagos where red-footed boobies can be guaranteed to be seen. Over 200,000 red-footed boobies are estimated to be living in the trees and bushes of Genovesa.

DARWIN BAY

Possible Activities: Hike, Kayak, Panga Ride, Snorkel
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Nazca Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Mangroves, Coral Pebbles Beach. Snorkel - Rays, colourful reef fish and hammerhead sharks.

PM: El Barranco

El Barranco: Better known as Prince Phillip's Steps, a steep and rocky path leads up to a cliff with a marvelous view. There is also a Palo Santa forest that is home to nesting red-footed boobies and other birds.

EL BARRANCO (*Prince Phillip's Steps)*

Possible Activities: Hike, Kayak, Panga Ride, Snorkel
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Spectacular view, red-footed boobies, wedge-romped storm petrels, Galapagos doves, short-eared owls, Palo Santo forest. Snorkel – fish, sea turtles, rays, sharks, and sea lions.

Day 13 (thursday) – Buccaneer Cove/Espumilla Beach & Egas Port

AM: Santiago Island - Espumilla Beach / Buccaneer Cove

Santiago Island: The second Island visited by Charles Darwin was originally named after England's King James the second. The island was a good source of salt, water and food for whalers and buccaneers passing. There was a salt mine inland that was used to salt fish and tortoise meat. Land iguanas used to populate the island but are now extinct. From Darwin's own notes he wrote that land iguanas were thriving quite well since there was no place to even pitch a tent. Santiago Island today is now one of the most visited islands.

Buccaneer Cove: This cove is better known for excellent snorkeling opportunities and was once known as a refuge for British buccaneers or pirates. The underwater formations are amazing and many different species of fish gather here.

ESPUMILLA BEACH/BUCCANEER COVE

Possible Activities: Snorkeling and swimming, short walk along the beach (less than 0.6 mi / 1 km)
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Snorkeling, sea birds, historical site, and rock formations.

PM: Egas Port

Egas Port: Egas port is also known as James Bay. It is home to quick footed Galapagos lava lizards, Galapagos fur seals along the grottos and tide pools and is a great snorkeling site.

EGAS PORT
Possible Activities: Snorkeling, hike (1.2 mi / 2km)
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing: Wet Landing
Highlights: Fur sea lions, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and "Grottos", Galapagos Hawk, Oyster Catchers, marine iguanas, and finches. Snorkeling: Reef sharks, turtles, rays, and beautiful underwater formations.

Day 14 (Friday) – North Seymour & Highlands/Charles Darwin St.

AM: North Seymour Island

The island was named after English nobleman Lord Hugh Seymour. Formed by uplifted submarine lava, the island is home to a huge colony of about 2,500 land iguanas and large populations of sea lions, blue-footed boobies, common noddies and frigatebirds. Along the coast it is possible to see land and marine iguanas and the biggest colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds.

North Seymour Island

Possible Activities: Snorkeling, Panga Ride, Hike
Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals: Land and marine iguanas, frigate birds, Blue-footed boobies, common noddies, and sea lions. Snorkel – Rays, reef shark, fish, garden eels.

PM: Highlands/Charles Darwin Stations

Highlands: The Highlands of Santa Cruz is a very interesting site due to the rich wildlife, hills, ferns, volcanoes and lava tubes present. Exploring the lava tubes is a surreal and unique experience. Here you can see all the different agricultural zones that are present in the Galapagos in one place. The variety of birds makes this a bird watchers delight.

Highlands

Possible Activities: Hike
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Lava tunnels, interaction with wild turtles, and Tortoise Breeding Center.

Charles Darwin Research Station: The station conducts many different research projects and provides assistance to other researchers and governmental institutions and agencies, especially the Galapagos National Park. Many of the results are later published online, in magazines, and popular scientific journals. The research station also plays a big part in educating the community and public schools in Galapagos. There is also the longtime running Giant Tortoise restoration program that includes various stages of the giant tortoise from eggs, hatchlings and adults.

Possible Activities: Walk
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: See the latest advances in research at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Also see Giant Tortoises and land iguanas.

Day 15 (Saturday)- Mosquera Islet & Departure/Transfer to Airport

AM: MOSQUERA ISLET

Mosquera Islet: This islet is located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour. It is a reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) and a great white sand beach. Its narrowest width reaches about 160 meters and has an estimated length of 600 meters. In most of the perimeter there is a base of lava rocks, as evidence of the lava uprising, except in the southwest side where the landing occurs.

This island has one of the largest populations of sea lions. You can also observe several species of shorebirds. There have been occasional reports at this site of Orcas (Orcinus orca) feeding on sea lions.

Mosquera Islet

Possible Activities: Walk
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet Landing (This may be complicated by low tide or when there is heavy swell, during the months of December to March mainly)
Highlights: sea lions, shorebirds

Transfer to Baltra Airport

Your cruise has officially come to an end. We hope you enjoyed your Galapagos Cruise! We will now transfer you to your scheduled departure from Baltra Airport to mainland Ecuador. Safe travels!

IMPORTANT:

Itineraries and activities are subject to change without prior notice depending on weather conditions, water currents, and sea conditions.

The wildlife described above is not guaranteed to be seen during your visit. Please remember to respect your distance between any and all wildlife.

Please stay on marked trails and heed the directions of your Naturalist Guide.