oceanSpray

The Ultimate Galapagos Experience

4Days/3Nights

Itinerary

2016

4 Days / 3 Nights
Ocean Spray
Itinerary Outline

Saturday
AM: San Cristobal Arrival and Transfer
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: 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 & Lobos Islands/Kicker Rock

ARRIVAL TO SAN CRISTOBAL 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: Lobos Island/Kicker Rock

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.

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 2 (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 3 (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 4 (Tuesday) – Black Turtle Cove & Departure

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.

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.