



8DAYS/7NIGHTS "B"

ITINERARY

2016

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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: 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 & 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 turquoise waters that are a joy to swim in and snorkel spotting the tropical fish beneath 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 off 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 & 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 volcano 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 5 (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 6 (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 7 (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 8 (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.