

## **GENOVESA ITINERARY**

### **DAY 1**

#### **Arrive at Baltra Island**

Upon arrival at Baltra airport, you will clear immigration and be met by your guide, who will escort you on a short bus ride to the harbor. A motorized dinghy will then transfer you to the M/C Athala II, where the captain and crew will welcome you aboard.

#### **Mosquera Islet**

This tiny islet is home to a huge population of sea lions, as well as many shorebirds. Keep your eyes peeled, as there are occasional reports of dolphins and orcas around Mosquera.

Difficulty level: Easy

### **DAY 2**

#### **Santiago Island - Sullivan Bay**

Sullivan Bay is renowned for its spectacular volcanic formations, relatively young pahoehoe lava flows and unique geological scenery. Due to Sullivan's relatively recent volcanic activity, few plants have been able to take root here, much less be successful, so pay particular interest to the low-lying pioneer plant known locally as "mollugo", as well as the lava cactus.

Difficulty level: Moderate

#### **Bartolomé Island**

Bartolomé, one of the most iconic sites in the Galapagos, is a small island with two very different visitor sites: on the beautiful beach you can hang out with sea lions and snorkel, while the hike up to the peak offers jaw-dropping scenery.

Difficulty level: Moderate

### **DAY 3**

#### **Isabela Island – Urbina Bay**

Located in the west of Isabela, at the foot of Alcedo volcano, this site is famous for its large land iguanas, and keep your eyes peeled for Galapagos tortoises, flightless cormorants and penguins.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate

#### **Isabela Island – Tagus Cove**

Tagus Cove was historically used as an anchoring place for pirates, buccaneers and whalers. The trail up from the cove goes through an area of vegetation, leading to a spectacular view of Darwin Volcano Lake. Activities include snorkeling, kayaking and dinghy ride.

Difficulty level: Easy to Difficult

## **DAY 4**

### **Fernandina Island - Espinoza Point**

Fernandina Island is one of the most pristine and dynamic ecosystems in the entire world. La Cumbre Volcano, which last erupted in April 2009, dominates the landscape, with lava fields stretching towards the ocean from its base. Espinoza Point is home to unique Galapagos species such as the Galapagos penguin, flightless cormorant, Galapagos snake and huge marine iguanas.

Difficulty level: Moderate

### **Isabela Island – Vicente Roca Point**

Punta Vicente Roca is a wonderful snorkeling site, where you can usually see turtles as well as all kinds of fish. For those who don't snorkel, a dinghy ride will give you the opportunity to study some of the Galapagos spectacular geography. Nazca boobies, pelicans, swallow-tailed gulls, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants and penguins are often seen in the area.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate

## **DAY 5**

### **Santiago Island - Puerto Egas**

The trail leads to tidal pools that are home to a variety of invertebrate organisms, including sea urchins, octopus and starfish. You will also see marine iguanas, finches and possibly the Galapagos hawk, as well as the less common Galapagos fur sea lion. After the walk, you will have time to swim or snorkel from the beach.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate

### **Santiago Island – Espumilla Beach**

In addition to a beautiful beach, which is a nesting site for sea turtles, there is a palo santo forest that boasts some of the tallest specimens in the islands. Later, Buccaneer Cove's awe-inspiring scenery will take your breath away. Activities include snorkeling, kayaking and a dinghy ride.

Difficulty level: Easy

## **DAY 6**

### **Santa Cruz Island - Puerto Ayora & Highlands**

On your visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station you will gain insight into the extensive efforts underway to preserve the Galapagos Islands. You will also encounter the famous Galapagos tortoises that are the islands' namesake. After the visit we will drive to the lush highlands of Santa Cruz to search for giant tortoises in their natural surroundings. In the afternoon you will have free time for shopping or mingling with the locals, or you can simply relax on board.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate

***For those on our 5-night itinerary, this will be your departure day. In the morning you will visit the highlands of Santa Cruz to see giant tortoises in the wild, followed by a transfer to Baltra airport for your flight back to the mainland.***

## **DAY 7**

### **Genovesa Island – El Barranco**

El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, is a steep path with stairs carved into the rock, which leads to a plateau full of bird life among a palo santo forest. You will see Nazca boobies, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds and petrels. With some luck, you may spot a short-eared lava owl.

Difficulty level: Moderate

### **Genovesa Island – Darwin Bay**

Darwin Bay's soft, coralline white sand is only the beginning of a spectacular excursion. A trail from the beach takes you into lush mangroves where red footed boobies nest. Other locals include sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls and frigatebirds. Kayaking or snorkeling are a must here, since sharks, colorful reef fish, rays and sea turtles are often seen.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate

## **DAY 8**

### **North Seymour Island**

North Seymour may very well be the perfect way to say goodbye to the Galapagos Islands. Although the island is characterized by arid vegetation, fauna abounds and you will soon find yourself surrounded by sea lions, blue-footed boobies, marine iguanas, frigatebirds and more.

Difficulty level: Moderate