

## **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/V Eclipse, where the captain and crew will welcome you aboard.

#### **Santa Cruz Island - Black Turtle Cove**

Black Turtle cove is a complex maze of tranquil salt-water islets, surrounded by three different species of mangroves. Its waters are a nursery site for sea turtles, rays and sharks, as well as a nesting site for sea birds. This site is only accessible by dinghy.

Difficulty level: Easy

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### **DAY 2**

#### **Rábida Island**

Rábida is a small island with red volcanic rocks surrounding a beautiful red sand beach, where there is a colony of sea lions and a pelican nesting site. The trail leads to a salt-water lagoon where shore birds can be seen. Activities include snorkeling, swimming, kayaking or dinghy ride.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate

#### **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

### **DAY 3**

#### **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

#### **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

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#### **DAY 4**

##### **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 – 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

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#### **DAY 5**

##### **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

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#### **DAY 6**

##### **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

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### **DAY 7**

#### **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

#### **Santa Cruz Island - Dragon Hill**

As the name implies, Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) is known for its healthy population of land iguanas. Other locals include common stilts, pintail ducks and occasionally flamingos. A short walk up the hill leads you to a land iguana nesting site, with breathtaking views of the bay. You will have the chance to go snorkeling after the walk.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate

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### **DAY 8**

#### **Santa Cruz Island - Las Bachas Beach**

Las Bachas Beach is located in the north of Santa Cruz Island. Its soft, white sand is derived from decomposed coral, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind the beach there is a small brackish lagoon, where it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels.

Difficulty level: Easy