



15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS

ITINERARY

2016

15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS

PETREL

ITINERARY OUTLINE

FRIDAY

AM: Arrival to Baltra – Transfer to Petrel

PM: North Seymour Island

SATURDAY

AM: Isabela Island – Vicente Roca Point

PM: Fernandina Island – Espinosa Point

SUNDAY

AM: Isabela Island – Tagus Cove

PM: Isabela Island – Urbina Bay

MONDAY

AM: Isabela Island – Elizabeth Bay

PM: Isabela Island – Moreno Point

TUESDAY

AM: Isabela Island – Volcano Chico / Sierra Negro Volcano

PM: Isabela Island – Wall of Tears / Wetlands

WEDNESDAY

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

PM: Santa Cruz Island – Los Gemelos (The Twin Craters)

THURSDAY

AM: South Plaza Island

PM: Santa Fe Island

FRIDAY

AM: Lobos Island

PM: San Cristobal Island – C.C. Jacinto Gordillo Giant Tortoise Breeding Ctr. / Interpretation Ctr.

SATURDAY

AM: Espanola Island – Gardner Bay / Osborn Islet / Gardner Islet

PM: Espanola Island – Suarez Point

SUNDAY

AM: Floreana Island – Devil’s Crown / Cormorant Point

PM: Floreana Island – Post Office Bay / Baroness Lookout Point

MONDAY

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

PM: Santa Cruz Island – Highlands

TUESDAY

AM: Santiago Island – Sullivan Bay

PM: Bartholomew Island – Pinnacle Rock

WEDNESDAY

AM: Genovesa Island – Darwin Bay

PM: Genovesa Island – El Barranco (Prince Phillip’s Steps)

THURSDAY

AM: Santiago Island – Egas Port

PM: Santiago Island – Buccaneer Cove / Espumilla Beach

FRIDAY

AM: Santa Cruz Island – Carrion Point

AM: 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 (FRIDAY)

ARRIVAL TO BALTRA ISLAND (GALAPAGOS)

Assistance will be provided upon your arrival by a Petrel 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.

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

Possible Activities: Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Type of Landing: Dry Landing

Highlights: Land and marine iguanas, frigate birds, Blue-footed Boobies, common noddies, and sea lions. Snorkeling: Rays, reef shark, fish, and garden eels.

DAY 2 (SATURDAY)

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 an 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.

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 (SUNDAY)

Isabela Island – Tagus Cove

Tagus Cove: This visitor site is located on the upper west part of the island and was named after an 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.

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.

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.

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 (MONDAY)

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.

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.

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.

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 sea turtles, sharks.

DAY 5 (TUESDAY)

Isabela Island – Volcano Chico & Sierra Negro Volcano

Volcano Chico and Sierra Negro: These two volcanoes are located on the South of the Island and are two of the oldest of all Isabela's volcanoes. A hike will show different types of vegetation and geological zones and possibly inside the caldera where petrified lava is present. Volcano Chico is easier to reach and recent lava flows from the 70's can even be walked on.

Possible Activities: Hike
Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Various types of vegetation, geological zones, Volcano Chico and Sierra Negro – oldest volcanoes of Isabela Island, panoramic views.

Isabela Island – Wall of Tears/Wetlands

Wall of Tears/Wetlands: The wall of tears is an interesting visitor site where mangroves and a white sand beach are passed on the way. The “wall” was built by previous prisoners kept on the island as a cruel way to keep them busy. The wall is about 3 meters wide, 100 meters long, and 5-6 meters high. The Wetlands are comprised of lagoons, swamps, and various mangroves that are home to unique bird species.

Possible Activities: Hike
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry Landing
Highlights: Various vegetation on hike, flamingo, oystercatchers, ghost crabs, green turtle nesting site, Galapagos penguin.

DAY 6 (WEDNESDAY)

Santa Cruz Island – 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.

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

Santa Cruz Island – 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.

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 7 (THURSDAY)

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.

Possible Activities: Walk

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.

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.

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 8 (FRIDAY)

Lobos Island

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.

Possible 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.

San Cristobal Island – C.C. Jacinto Gordillo Giant Tortoise Breeding Ctr. / Interpretation Ctr.

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.

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.

DAY 9 (SATURDAY)

Espanola Island – Gardner Bay/Osborn Islet/Gardner Islet

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.

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.

Possible Activities: Walk, Snorkel, Panga Ride

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Type of Landing: Wet Landing

Highlights: 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.

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.

Possible Activities: Hike

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry Landing

Highlights: 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.

DAY 10 (SUNDAY)

Floreana Island – Devil's Crown/Cormorant Point

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.

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: 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.

Possible Activities: Snorkel, panga ride, hike

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Type of Landing: Wet Landing

Highlights: Devil's Crown - a wide array of colorful fish species – king angel fish, balloon fish, yellow tail grunts, white-tipped sharks, hammerheads, eagle rays, sea turtles, sea lions and more. Cormorant Point – flamingoes, green olivine crystal beach, coral beach, pintail ducks, large-billed fly catchers, several finches, green turtle nesting area, and stilts.

Post Office Bay/Baroness Lookout Point

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.

Baroness Lookout Point: On the northern part of the island, Baroness Lookout Point has a beautiful landscape and historic view. It was named after the supposed Austrian Baroness that was the subject of many mysterious disappearances and well-known stories of loathing by those on Floreana before her.

Possible Activities: Walk, kayak, panga ride, snorkel

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Type of Landing: Wet Landing

Highlights: Barrel Post Office – leave/pick up post cards, remnants of Norwegian settlement, beach, sea turtles, amazing landscapes. Snorkel – Sea turtles, corals, rays, colorful assortment of fish species.

DAY 11 (MONDAY)

Santa Cruz – C.C. Fausto Llerena Charles Darwin Research Station & Highlands

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

Highlights: See the latest advances in research at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Also see Giant Tortoises and land iguanas.

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.

Possible Activities: Hike

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry

Highlights: All Galapagos life zones, vermilion flycatcher, Darwin finch, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails, paint-billed crakes, short eared owls, wild Giant Tortoises.

DAY 12 (TUESDAY)

Santiago Island – Sullivan Bay

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.

Sullivan Bay: Sullivan Bay is a satellite island of Santiago. This is one of the best places to see the Galapagos fur seal. There is not much wildlife to see here, but the old lava formations are quite a site to see with tuff cones, pyroclastic cones, and other volcanic landscapes.

Possible Activities: Hike and snorkel

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry Landing

Highlights: Various volcanic landscapes and formations.

Bartholomew Island – Pinnacle Rock

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.

Possible Activities: Hike, snorkel, panga ride

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: Wet Landing

Highlights: Galapagos penguins, Pinnacle rock, swimming, awesome photography opportunities. Snorkel – Sea lions, rays, sea turtles, sharks, many different fish.

DAY 13 (WEDNESDAY)

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.

Possible Activities: Hike, kayak, panga ride, and snorkel

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Type of Landing: Wet Landing

Highlights: Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, mangroves. Snorkeling – various sharks, colorful fish, sea turtles, sea lions, occasional rays.

Genovesa Island – El Barranco (Prince Phillip’s Steps)

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.

Possible Activities: Hike, kayak, panga ride, and 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 14 (THURSDAY)

Santiago Island – 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.

Possible Activities: Hike and Snorkel

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Type of Landing: Wet Landing

Highlights: Fur seals, sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawk, salt water lagoon with flamingoes. Snorkeling – sea turtles, rays, sharks and amazing underwater geological formations.

Santiago Island – Buccaneer Cove/Espumilla Beach

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.

Possible Activities: Hike, kayak, panga ride and snorkel

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: Wet Landing

Highlights: Historical pirate/buccaneer shelter site. Snorkeling – sea turtles, rays, sharks and amazing underwater geological formations.

Espumilla Beach: We will also visit Espumilla Beach where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally-Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons and perform the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could find yourself face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark, or a variety of other species of tropical fish.

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.

DAY 15 (FRIDAY)

Santa Cruz Island – Carrion Point

Carrion Point: There is no place to land here so either a panga ride or snorkeling will take place. It is a sheltered lagoon with beautiful turquoise water on the Northern coast of Santa Cruz at the entrance of the Itabaca Channel.

Possible Activities: Panga ride and snorkel

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Type of Landing: No Landing

Highlights: Various species of fish, white-tipped reef sharks, rays, and sea turtles.

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.