



5 DAY CRUISE - CENTRAL ISLANDS & GENOVESA

Start day: MONDAY

End Day: FRIDAY

Islands to be visited:

- Santa Cruz - Santiago - Bartholomew - Genovesa

There are few places that have captivated the minds of both scientists and adventurers as these enchanted islands. Home of creatures that seem to be lost in time, fossils that should only live in our imagination, dwell in the idyllic beaches of this lost paradise. The Galapagos islands are without a doubt the lost world described by Jules Verne in his stories.

Cruise onboard one of the most comfortable catamarans of the islands and discover the untamed beauty, that not only inspired tales of monsters that dwell in the depths, but also inspired one of the greatest minds of the XIX century to conceive his theory of natural selection and redefine our understanding of life on Earth.

DAY 1 MONDAY

The Galapagos islands are full of surprises, from white sandy beaches with turquoise waters, to dense and beautiful cloud forests where life bursts into a million colors.

AM: Baltra Island- Arrival

Landing type: Dry landing, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Possible activities: Walking.

Upon arrival, we clear the Galapagos National Park checkpoint. Customs agents check passports and the transit control card, after check in, we enter the islands (if you have not previously paid your Galapagos entrance fee you will be asked to pay on spot, payments are cash only: \$100 USD for adults and \$50 USD for children under 12 years of age. Please consult rates and conditions before your departure since rates may change without notice from the Galapagos authorities.)

We are welcomed by our naturalist guide and staff at the airport's exit, *please remember to collect your luggage from the belt.*

We take a short coach ride to the Itabaca channel pier to get on a small ferry across to Santa Cruz island, once here we transfer to our first destination, the Santa Cruz Highlands.

PM: Santa Cruz Island - Highlands

Landing type: Dry landing.

Possible activities: Walking, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

The volcanoes present in Santa Cruz might be dormant, but their presence is still one of the defining features of the island. The highlands created by their presence are one of the most intriguing ecosystems of the islands. The elevation of the mountains creates a climatic phenomenon called garua, (an almost constant presence of light rain and fog). This combined with the lower temperatures of the highlands contrasted with its coasts have created a lush cloud forest that is the perfect environment for Galapagos tortoises, mockingbirds, bahama ducks, white-cheeked pintail ducks, Darwin finches and many others.

Our first visit on the Galapagos islands will be to a reserve in the highlands. Created in order to preserve these ecosystems, these private game reserves allow us to see the Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat. A hike through the forest unveils some of the many wonders Galapagos has for its visitors.

After our hike, we continue to the town of Puerto Ayora where our yacht is anchored and awaiting us.

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Day 2 TUESDAY

Be witness to the untamed force of nature, how rivers of lava once ran freely over the young surface of the island creating mesmerizing patterns and shaping what is now one of the most beautiful places on earth.

AM: Santiago Island - Sullivan Bay

Landing type: Dry Landing.

Possible activities: Hiking, snorkeling, swimming.

Early in the morning, we visit the Santiago Lava Fields on Sullivan Bay. We walk over dry rivers of lava and look at the hypnotic swirls of lava that have left their mark on the island's surface. A very curious formation of lava is present in Sullivan bay, the Pahoehoe lava: a ropelike pattern left by the cooling process of the melted rock. This moon-like landscape is a unique sight indeed.

Sullivan Bay's lava fields are not the only attraction of the island, a beautiful beach with turquoise waters lays before you. Here you will be able to enjoy snorkeling in its tranquil waters and swim along schools of colorful fishes, where sometimes rays and penguins come along.

PM: Bartholomew - Pinnacle Rock

Landing type: Dry Landing.

Possible activities: Hike, snorkeling, panga ride.

A red sandy beach is ahead of us in Bartholomew Island, our afternoon stop. We disembark and take a staircase to a lookout point from where we see one of Galapagos most iconic landscapes, the Pinnacle Rock. Be ready for a spectacular photo session from the platform overlooking this iconic bay and its amazing scenery.

After our photoshoot, we prepare for some snorkeling at the bay. Pinnacle Rock is the perfect place to see the exuberant marine life of the Galapagos, the underwater formations have created intricate mazes, perfect for corals and fish to settle in and protect themselves from predators and marine currents. Bursting with a million colors, the underwater world of the Galapagos Islands is one of the most fascinating places you visit during your cruise of the Archipelago.

We return to our yacht for a relaxing afternoon and set sail to our next destination.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 3 WEDNESDAY

Located in the northern part of the Archipelago far away from human intervention, Genovesa is a safe haven for marine birds. A dream come true for all bird enthusiasts.

AM: Genovesa Island - Darwin Bay

Landing type: Wet Landing.

Possible activities: Snorkeling, walking, kayaking, panga ride.

One of the most pristine islands in the archipelago, Genovesa is a sanctuary for many marine birds, especially for red-footed boobies whose largest colony is settled here. We disembark at Darwin Bay. From its white-sand beach we are able to spot nests of nazca bobbies, blue-footed boobies, and perching in the close by mangrove, red-footed boobies. We walk following a trail that brings us deep into the island to an amazing lookout from where we will be able to appreciate the astounding beauty of Genovesa.

After gazing at the magnificent cliffs of the island, and the quiet Pacific Ocean that surrounds it, we head back to the yacht and set sail to our next destination.

PM: Genovesa Island - El Barranco, Prince Phillip's Steps

Landing type: Dry Landing.

Possible activities: Hiking, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

At first, the ravine that rises before our eyes seems to be an insurmountable obstacle, but a close exploration on board the pangas reveals a series of steps within the ravine that lead to the top of this magnificent formation. We will climb these steps as Prince Phillip did when he visited the islands in 1965. The steps take us to a trail that leads to a palo santo forest. During our hike, we are able to see the nesting sites for boobies and other bird species.

After our hike we return to the yacht and enjoy the comfort of the facilities onboard

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 4 THURSDAY

A beautiful white-sand beach is ready to welcome you to Santiago Island. Be ready to cross over natural bridges and discover the abode of the Galapagos fur seal.

AM: Santiago Island- Puerto Egas

Landing type: Wet Landing.

Possible activities: Hike, snorkeling.

After disembarking at Puerto Egas, you notice in the horizon an old abandoned building. This building was once part of a salt mining undertaking by Humberto Egas, hence the name of the port. Nowadays, some rusty equipment and ruins are all that remain from this early attempt to colonize Santiago (James) Island.

We disembark and start the adventure walking from the black sands of Puerto Egas to the volcanic formations known as the grottos. Small ponds that have formed over the years are now home for sea lions, marine iguanas, and the unusual Galapagos fur seal. At first glance they are not very different from sea lions, the keen eyesight of your guide will help you to spot the difference between these two species.

After our hike we return to our yacht to enjoy a delicious lunch and to get ready for our next visit.

PM: Santiago Island - Espumilla Beach, Buccaneer's Cove

Landing type: Wet Landing.

Possible activities: Snorkeling, swimming, panga ride.

In the afternoon we disembark on the small beach of Espumilla, named after the white foam that forms at its shore. This paradisiacal beach gives us the opportunity to snorkel in turquoise waters surrounded by colorful fishes and swim along the magnificent green marine turtles. Espumilla is one of the predicted nesting sites for the green marine turtles, so we might be able to spot their nests. Be observant and pay close attention to your guide, you could take a unique memory back home.

Our next destination is Buccaneer's cove. An anchorage point for some of the fiercest pirates of the Pacific Ocean, this protected cove was the perfect place for buccaneers to resupply their ships. We snorkel in this cove and discover the underwater world that is hidden below.

We return to the yacht and prepare for our last day.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 5 FRIDAY

The calm waters of the Pacific Ocean will give us a farewell after our visit to Punta Carrion.

AM: Santa Cruz Island- Punta Carrion, Baltra Airport

Landing type: No Landing.

Possible activities: Early Dinghy ride.

Before we depart to Baltra Island airport, we visit Punta Carrion, home to white tip sharks, rays and many colorful fishes. We take a dingy ride to visit this small cove and enjoy the wonderful views of the island and the Itabaca channel.

After our panga ride, we transfer to our ground transportation to the airport, the guide and a member of the crew will assist you during the check-in process and accompany you to the security gates, they will say goodbye and wish you a safe trip back home. Please remember to show your transit control card when requested.

Meals included: Breakfast.