

# Natural Paradise 5-day Cruise "A"

(San Cristobal, North Seymour, South Plaza, Rabida, Bartholomew, Santiago, Santa Cruz)



## Day 1: Tuesday

### SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

**In the morning:** San Cristobal airport arrival

You will arrive at San Cristobal Island in the morning.

After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Natural Paradise staff member and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.

**In the afternoon:** Kicker Rock

This striking rock formation is located a couple hours off the western shore of San Cristobal. Jutting out of the water, the rocks stand vertically at hundreds of feet above the ocean divided by a small channel. Although there are no landing areas, circumnavigation and dinghy rides allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.

Kicker Rock, San Cristobal Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead sharks, spectacular rock formations; sea birds: blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies & frigate birds.

**Afterwards:** Witch Hill

Located on the northern coast, this eroded hill and its surroundings present one of the most picturesque beaches in the Galapagos with its white powdery sand and the abundance of animals. Wildlife includes sea turtles, rays, and various types of booby birds. The clear water provides an excellent opportunity for enjoying swimming and snorkeling.

Witch Hill, San Cristobal Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike, dinghy ride, snorkeling & kayaking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, finches and mockingbirds; Snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponges, coral

## Day 2: Wednesday

### NORTH SEYMOUR AND SOUTH PLAZA ISLANDS

**In the morning:** North Seymour

In North Seymour you may see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on this island. North Seymour was formed by a series of submarine lava flows containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

North Seymour Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.

**In the afternoon:** South Plaza Island

This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

South Plaza Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

## Day 3: Thursday

### RABIDA AND BARTHOLOMEW ISLANDS

**In the morning:** Rabida

You will visit Rabida Island (or Jervis) which is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. We will start on Rabida's famous maroon/red sand beach, and after an easy hike, you will arrive to a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes. The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some species are abundant such as a few varieties of finches, Galapagos vermilion flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.

Rabida Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, panga ride & short hike (0,6 miles / 1km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Snorkeling: white-cheeked pintail ducks, colourful fish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon, pelicans

**In the afternoon:** Pinnacle Rock

You will head to Bartholomew Island where the famous Pinnacle Rock is found. Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. We will take a trail of stairs to the summit of the volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you will enjoy one of the best views of the islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation found on this barren island. The beach is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see and swim with Galapagos penguins.

Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry & Wet Landings
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.

## Day 4: Friday

### SANTIAGO AND SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS

---

**In the morning:** Sullivan Bay

You will visit Sullivan Bay located on the southeast part of Santiago. This place is interesting for its geology because the area is covered by lava flows. This place has elevations in the form of small volcanoes formed by the lava flows.

Sullivan Bay, Santiago Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Lava flows, small volcanoes

**In the afternoon:** Dragon Hill

The visitors' site at Dragon Hill is located in northwestern Santa Cruz Island and consists of a 1,600 m long trail that runs through three different environments. The beach is very rocky. At high tide it's a nice place for snorkeling. At this visiting site you can find vegetation of the typical intertidal zone and dry zone.

Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Panga ride & short hike
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Frigatebirds, herons, blue-footed boobies, rays, reef sharks

## Day 5: Saturday

### SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

---

**In the morning:** Twin Craters

You will visit the Twin Craters located opposite to each other on both sides of the road leading from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. The name is only figurative; not real craters, these formations were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The view is breathtaking.

Twin Craters, Santa Cruz Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Walking and scape viewing
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Pit craters, Scalesia Forest

**Afterwards:** Baltra Airport Departure

After this final visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.