

# Natural Paradise 8-day Cruise "B"

(Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina, Isabela, Santiago, Floreana, Española, San Cristobal)



## Day 1: Tuesday

### SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

#### **In the morning:** Baltra Airport Arrival

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos Islands.

You will arrive at Baltra 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:** Eden Islet

Off the western coast of Santa Cruz Island, Eden Islet offers visitors a great chance to see a variety of Galapagos wildlife from the dinghy ride both on shore and under the water.

Eden Islet, Santa Cruz Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride and snorkeling
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Endemic salemas, reef sharks, Nazca and blue footed boobies

## Day 2: Wednesday

### ISABELA AND FERNANDINA ISLANDS

#### **In the morning:** Vicente Roca Point

Comprised of two separate coves, Vicente Roca Point is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sun fish) while you snorkel.

Vicente Roca Point, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling & dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions. Sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

#### **In the afternoon:** Espinoza Point

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinoza Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you will reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

Espinoza Point, Fernandina Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike (approximately 1.2 miles / 2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'ā lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre".

## Day 3: Thursday

### ISABELA ISLAND

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#### In the morning: Urbina Bay

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling.

Urbina Bay, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6mi/1 km), long (1.9mi/3km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land iguanas (the biggest in the Galapagos), hawks, coral reef, giant tortoises; snorkeling: turtles, rays, tropical fish

#### In the afternoon: Moreno Point

Moreno Point is located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

Moreno Point, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 miles / 2km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Flamingos, gallinules, pintail ducks, turtles, white-tip reef sharks.

## Day 4: Friday

### ISABELA ISLAND

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#### In the morning: Sierra Negra Volcano

Visit to the Sierra Negra Volcano, which is the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos with a diameter of 6.2 miles (10 km). The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to seven species of finches and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005.

Sierra Negra Volcano, Isabela Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking, walking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Difficult
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Basaltic caldera, stunning views, finches

**In the afternoon:** Wetlands

The Wetlands of Isabela Island are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. They consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path through the swamps.

Wetlands, Isabela Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Giant mangroves, shore birds, flamingos

**Afterwards:** Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center

Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center is located about one mile (1.5 km) from Puerto Villamil. Here, tortoise populations from South Isabela, Sierra Negra Volcano, Cerro Azul, Cazuela, Cinco Cerros, Roca Union, San Pedro, Tables and Cerro Paloma have been bred in captivity. In total there are 330 juvenile and adult tortoises.

Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center, Isabela Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Walking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Two of the five species of the giant tortoise

## Day 5: Saturday

### SANTIAGO ISLAND

**In the morning:** Chinese Hat Islet

This small islet is located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. Its name comes from the distinct shape of the islet's summit. Chinese Islet is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tunnels and lava flows. Some of the lava flows were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava flow indicates this phenomenon.

Chinese Hat Islet, Santiago Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Lava formations, great site for snorkeling with an abundance of marine species such as sea lions, sharks, rays and penguins.

**In the afternoon:** Mosquera Islet

Mosquera Islet is located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour. This reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) is only 160 meters across at its narrowest width. This island has one of the largest populations of sea lions and is home to many shorebirds. There have been occasional reports at this site of orcas feeding on sea lions.

Mosquera Islet	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride, snorkeling
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Orcas, sea lions, shore birds

## Day 6: Sunday

### FLOREANA ISLAND

**In the morning:** Baroness Viewing Point

Baroness Viewing Point is a fantastic place to absorb the environment of the Galapagos. Once inhabited by an indulgent baroness and her three lovers, the history of this island is intriguing. The legends about this baroness are associated with a fascinating murder mystery. There are easy trails in this area for exploring the flora and fauna of Floreana.

Baroness Viewing Point, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Short hike (0.6 miles/1 km), snorkeling, kayak, panga ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Great view, sea turtles, mysterious story about the first inhabitants of the islands

**Afterwards:** Post Office Bay

You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel used as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home!

Post Office Bay, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Short hike (less than 0.6 miles / 1km) & snorkeling
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Post office barrel, nice sandy beach

**In the afternoon:** Cormorant Point

Cormorant Point hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct: The Green Beach is named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the Flour Sand Beach is composed of white coral.

Cormorant Point, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride & hike (1.25 mi /2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Flamingoes, green-colored beach

**Afterwards:** Champion Islet

Champion Islet, named after the whaler Andrew Champion, is a small island located just offshore Floreana Island in the southern part of the Archipelago. Considered as one of the most beautiful places on Galapagos for all snorkeling and diving fans and an excellent opportunity for dolphin watching.

Champion Islet, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling and dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	See lions, reef fish and Nazca boobies

## Day 7: Monday

### ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

**In the morning:** Suarez Point

On the trail to Suarez Point you will have the chance to spot blue-footed boobies, albatrosses, and Nazca boobies. This island is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You will have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts sea water into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

Suarez Point, Española Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Hood mockingbirds, Nazca boobies, waved albatrosses (approximately from the last week of April until the last week of January), red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, blowhole, amazing landscape and maybe blue-footed boobies.

**In the afternoon:** Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet

This excursion takes you to the spectacular Gardner Bay. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You may also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.

Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet, Española Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, panga ride, short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) and Kayaking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery

## Day 8: Tuesday

### SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

**In the morning:** Lobos Island

You will take an excursion to Lobos Island which means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, playful, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkeling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies.

Lobos Island, San Cristobal Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Short hike (less than 0,6 miles / 1 km), dinky ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

**Afterwards:** San Cristobal airport departure

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