

Horizon 8-day Cruise "B"

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



Day 1: Saturday

SANTIAGO 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 Horizon 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: 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Lava flows, small volcanoes

Day 2: Sunday

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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Snorkeling & dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	No Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	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	
Possible Activities:	Hike (approximately 1.2 miles / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'ā lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre".

Day 3: Monday

ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning: Tagus Cove

You will visit Tagus Cove on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views.

Tagus Cove, Isabela Island	
Possible Activities:	Long hike, snorkeling, panga ride, kayaking (depending on weather conditions and time availability).
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, flightless cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

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

Day 4: Tuesday

ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning: Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets, which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.

Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 km) and dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Mangrove forest (unique in Galapagos), sea turtles, penguins, rays, herons and sea lions

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

Day 5: Wednesday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

You will visit "Fausto Llerena" Tortoise Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.

Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, Santa Cruz Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Walking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Giant tortoises, finches, Galapagos rails

In the afternoon: 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Walking and scape viewing
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Pit craters, Scalesia Forest

Afterwards: Highlands

Accessible by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green which contrast beautifully with the dry, lower part of the islands. The predominant vegetation in the highlands are Scalesia trees which create a lush green forest. The lava tunnels, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience. At this place you'll have lunch.

Highlands, Santa Cruz Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Lava tunnels, Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

Day 6: Thursday

FLOREANA ISLAND

In the morning: 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Short hike (less than 0.6 miles / 1km) & snorkeling
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Post office barrel, nice sandy beach

Afterwards: Devil's Crown

You will have a chance to snorkel around Devil's Crown which is the rocky remains of an offshore volcano sticking out of the water. This is a great location to spot a wide range of marine creatures.

Devil's Crown, Floreana Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Snorkeling, panga ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate/Difficult
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	No Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Large array of marine species

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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride & hike (1.25 mi /2 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Flamingoes, green-colored beach

Day 7: Friday

SANTA FE AND SAN CRISTOBAL ISLANDS

In the morning: Santa Fé Island

Santa Fe Island (Barrington) is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails: one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.

Santa Fé Island, Santa Fe Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (5 miles / 8 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Land iguanas, giant Opuntia cacti

In the afternoon: 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 & Animals:</i>	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

Day 8: Saturday

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning: David Rodriguez Breeding Center "La Galapaguera"

Breeding Center David Rodriguez - "La Galapaguera", in Cerro Colorado, is a new visitor site in the southeast part of San Cristobal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. On the trees and shrubs surrounding the site, you may see land birds like warblers, finches and mockingbirds. Giant tortoises can be observed on the trails. They live there wild but in a protected area to ensure their survival by sealing them off from introduced predators like pigs and goats.

David Rodriguez Breeding Center "La Galapaguera", San Cristobal Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Giant tortoises, finches, warblers, mockingbirds

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.

Please note:

Itineraries are unlikely to change significantly but are subject to change. Weather, wildlife breeding, safety concerns, instructions from the Galapagos National Park, specific abilities and interests of guests as well as operational matters may cause your guide or captain to change the time or nature of visits. Your guide and captain will always endeavor to select the best itinerary within these limits.