

Grand Majestic 8-day Cruise "B"

(San Cristobal, North Seymour, Santa Cruz, Bartholomew, Santiago, Isabela, Fernandina, Isabela, Santiago, Santa Cruz, San Cristobal)



Day 1: Monday

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 Grand Majestic 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: 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	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises, finches, warblers, mockingbirds

Day 2: Tuesday

NORTH SEYMOUR AND SANTA CRUZ 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	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.

In the afternoon: Black Turtle Cove

Visit Black Turtle Cove in the northern part of Santa Cruz. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.

Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy Ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	No Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds.

Day 3: Wednesday

BARTHOLOMEW AND SANTIAGO ISLANDS

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

In the afternoon: Egas Port

Egas Port, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos furseals bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

Egas Port, Santiago Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Snorkeling, hiking (1.2 miles/2 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Furseals, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

Day 4: Thursday

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 5: Friday

FERNANDINA AND ISABELA ISLANDS

In the morning: 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".

In the afternoon: 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	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling & dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	No Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions. Sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

Day 6: Saturday

SANTIAGO ISLAND

In the morning: Espumilla Beach

In Espumilla Beach marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could come face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish.

Espumilla Beach, Santiago Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Snorkeling and swimming
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Snorkeling

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 7: Sunday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Bachas Beach

Bachas Beach is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz and is a beach for swimming. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach.

Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	World War II remnants. Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles.

In the afternoon: 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

Day 8: Monday

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning: 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	No Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead sharks, spectacular rock formations; sea birds: blue- footed boobies, Nazca boobies & frigate birds.

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.