

Natural Paradise

5-day Cruise "A"

(San Cristobal, South Plaza, Santa Cruz, 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 allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.



Kicker Rock, San Cristobal Island

Highlights & Animals:	Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead sharks, spectacular rock formations; sea birds: blue- footed boobies, Nazca boobies & frigate birds.
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	No Landing
Possible Activities:	Circumnavigation

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

Highlights & Animals:	Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, finches and mockingbirds; Snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponges, coral
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayaking, paddle board

Day 2: Wednesday

SOUTH PLAZA AND SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS

In the morning: 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

Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, dinghy ride, kayaking, paddle board

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

Highlights & Animals:	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds.
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	No Landing
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride

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

Highlights & Animals:	Snorkeling: white-cheeked pintail ducks, colourful fish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon, pelicans
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayaking, paddle board

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! A beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see and swim with Galapagos penguins.



Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew Island

Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry & Wet Landings
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

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

Highlights & Animals:	Lava flows, small volcanoes
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

In the afternoon: Dragon Hill

Situated on Santa Cruz Island, Dragon Hill is one of the newest visitor sites accessible to tourists in the Galapagos Islands. One of the lengthier Galapagos walking trails will lead visitors along a beach and up a trail to the lagoon lookout where bright flamingos, pintail ducks, and land iguanas can be spotted.



Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz Island

Highlights & Animals:	Land iguana nesting spot, Galapagos flamingos, common stilts, palo santo trees and cacti forest
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling

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

Highlights & Animals:	Pit craters, Scalesia Forest
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking

Afterwards: Baltra Airport Departure

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

5-day Galapagos Cruise Itinerary "A"



Please note:

Itineraries are generally stable but may change due to weather, wildlife, safety, park regulations, guest abilities, or operational needs. Images shown are referential, and not all listed activities on each visitor point may be completed. Your guide and captain will always aim to choose the best possible itinerary.