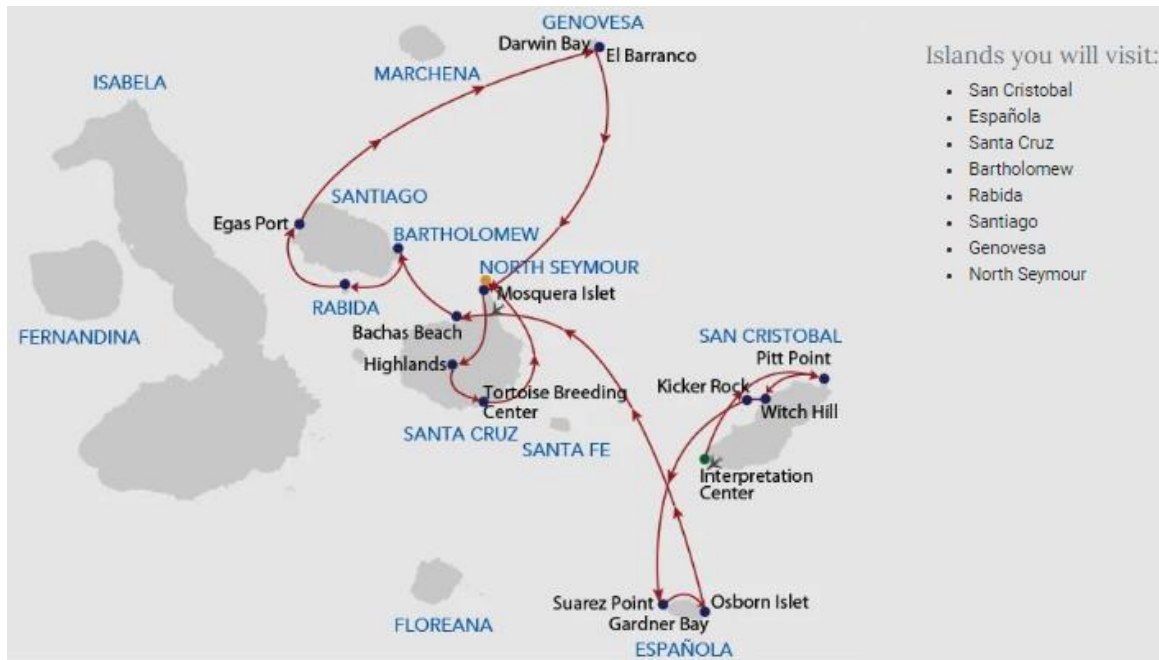


ITINERARY 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS "A"



DAY 1: SATURDAY

AM: SAN CRISTOBAL AIRPORT

Departure to the Galapagos Islands, arrival at San Cristobal Airport, where our naturalist guide of the National Park will be waiting for you.

PM: SAN CRISTOBAL – INTERPRETATION CENTER

The Gianni Arismendy Interpretation Center was opened in 1998 as a phase of the project "Interpretation and Environment Education Project." Visitors enjoy expositions on natural history, human history, and conservation. The conservation efforts represent the movement to protect the wildlife and natural environment through means of population and tourist control. The Gianni Arismendy Interpretation Center has an outdoor stadium, audio-visual equipment, and meeting rooms.

DAY 2: SUNDAY

AM: SAN CRISTOBAL – PITT POINT

Pitt Point, situated on the northeastern tip of the island, hosts frigatebirds, storm petrels, and all three types of booby birds: The Nazca, blue-footed and red-footed boobies. A steep trail goes up a cliff and through a ravine leading visitors to an area with an abundance of birds. This site is also great for snorkeling and scuba diving.



PM: SAN CRISTOBAL – WITCH HILL – KICKER ROCK

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.

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.



DAY 3: MONDAY

AM: ESPAÑOLA ISLAND – SUAREZ POINT

This area is great for spotting blue-footed boobies, albatrosses and Nazca boobies. A beautiful site on the ocean front, the large waved albatrosses use the cliff as a launching pad. The famous attraction is the magnificent blowhole, spurting water high into the air. This site presents wonderful photograph opportunities.



PM: ESPAÑOLA ISLAND – GARDNER BAY / GARDNER ISLET

Gardner Bay, on the eastern side of the island, is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. It has an ample white sandy beach with a myriad of sea lions, perfect for relaxing. Its rocky shores make this site a great place for diving and snorkeling.



DAY 4: TUESDAY

AM: SANTA CRUZ – BACHAS BEACH

Located on the north shore of Santa Cruz, Las Bachas is a swimming beach. 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 off the beach.



PM: BARTHOLOMEW ISLAND

Home of the famous Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. A trail of stairs leads to the summit of the volcano, boasting one of the best views of the islands. The beach is perfect for snorkeling and possible sightings of the Galapagos penguin.



DAY 5: WEDNESDAY

AM: RABIDA ISLAND

Rabida Island (Jervis) is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago and a great snorkeling site. Its famous maroon sandy beach and stunning lookouts provide wonderful landscapes. The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some of the rarest species are in abundance, such as nine varieties of finches, large-billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.



PM: SANTIAGO ISLAND – EGAS PORT

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

DAY 6: THURSDAY

AM: GENOVESA ISLAND – DARWIN BAY

This white sand coral beach heads a half mile trail (0.75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can be spotted here. Further down the path are tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view off a cliff.

PM: GENOVESA ISLAND – EL BARRANCO

Also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, El Barranco's steep, rocky paths leads up to a high cliff-face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to palo santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves.



DAY 7: FRIDAY

AM: MOSQUERA ISLET

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.

PM: SANTA CRUZ – HIGHLANDS OR TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER

Reached by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green contrasting beautifully with much of the dry, lower islands. The dominant vegetation in the highlands is the forest of *Scalesia* trees creating the lush green color. The lava tubes, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience.

The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to turtles ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-foot long. Subspecies of turtles interact with one another and many of the older turtles 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.



DAY 8: SATURDAY

AM: NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND AND TRANSFER TO BALTRA

Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

